

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund

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January 30, 2007

The Honorable John E. Baldacci
Office of the Governor
1 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0001

Dear Governor Baldacci,

I am pleased to submit the following information as the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund's tenth annual report. Submission of this information is required under TITLE 12, MRSA part 13, chapter 903, subchapter 6, section 10308.

By way of history, the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund was established in July, 1995 after a campaign by Maine Audubon Society and the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine generated more than 53,000 signatures on petitions to place the lottery issue on the November, 1995 ballot. Due to the strong support among Maine residents, the Legislature enacted the proposal into law, bypassing the need for a referendum.

The Fund's sole purpose is for "maintaining, improving and expanding state and local natural resource conservation programs and associated compatible public uses." Revenue is generated exclusively by a dedicated instant lottery ticket distributed by the Maine State Lottery.

The Heritage Fund law requires that funds raised by the lottery be expended in four general categories: for fisheries and wildlife, and habitat conservation projects (35%); for acquisition and management of public lands, parks, and wildlife conservation areas (35%); for endangered and threatened species conservation projects (15%); and for natural resources law enforcement (15%). Priorities within each of the four funding categories are described in the enclosed Strategic Plan.

Since the program began, twenty-seven Heritage Fund lottery tickets have been issued. Two tickets were issued this year: "Big Bass Bucks" and our current ticket "Bring in the Bucks." Voided tickets of this year's designs are enclosed.

Approximately 76 percent of Heritage Fund lottery ticket revenue is allocated toward winnings and ticket distribution and advertising expenses. The remaining 24 percent is transferred to the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund. This profit figure has totaled approximately \$12 million since the program's inception.

Grants are awarded semi-annually to natural resource agencies in response to grant proposals. To date, there have been twenty grant cycles, in which the Heritage Fund received 842 grant applications. Applicants include state natural resource agencies in partnership with non-profit conservation organizations. In response, the Heritage Fund has awarded approximately \$12 million in grants to 504

Board Members/Staff

Richard B. Anderson, *Chairman* • Charles F. Beck • Edye Cronk, *Sportsman's Alliance of Maine*
Molly Docherty, *Maine Natural Areas Program* • Commissioner Roland D. Martin, *Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife*
Commissioner Patrick K. McGowan, *Department of Conservation* • Sally Stockwell, *Maine Audubon Society*
Staff: Carol Gay, *Secretariat*

conservation projects. The grant sizes have ranged from \$561 to \$110,000. A brief description of the 40 grants awarded this year is enclosed.

Since the Heritage Fund program began, grant recipients have included the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife; the Department of Marine Resources; the Department of Conservation; the Department of Environmental Protection; the Department of Agriculture; the State Planning Office; the Land for Maine's Future Board; the Maine Conservation Corps; the Atlantic Salmon Commission (and formerly the Atlantic Salmon Authority); the St. Croix International Waterway Commission; York, Cumberland, Oxford, Piscataquis, Washington and Central Aroostook Counties Soil and Water Conservation Districts; the Wells Reserve; and the Saco River Corridor Commission. These state natural resource agencies have partnered with scores of non-governmental organizations to accomplish their projects, so the impact of these grants reaches well beyond the scope of these agencies alone.

The Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund is continually building public awareness of the Program. In the past year, it has worked with Ursus Productions to produce more than 50 television segments highlighting specific conservation projects funded by the Heritage Fund. These segments are airing regularly on commercial stations throughout Maine as well as on public television. Two television ads featuring Harry Vanderweide and Cate Pineau were run on Channel 13 and cable television. Approximately 700 ad spots were run statewide.

The Heritage Fund Board continues to implement its Strategic Plan by ensuring that all funded projects substantively address one of the four funding categories established in the Fund's enabling legislation. I am confident you will find that the projects funded to date, whether evaluated individually or as a group, make a substantial contribution to the protection of the State's natural resources.

The Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Board looks forward to its ongoing role in providing an alternative source of funding for innovative conservation projects. If you would like any additional information, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Carol Conant Gay
Secretariat

Enclosures

Grant Awards Summary by Category

Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund - 2006 - Session 1 and Session 2

Category 1 Fisheries & Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

<p>062-01-01</p> <p>IFW</p> <p>Sportsman's Alliance of Maine</p>	<p>Deer Yarding Ecology Publication</p> <p>Gerry Lavigne, retired DIF&W deer biologist will compile scientific information into a non-technical publication on the ecology of wintering habitat for white-tailed deer in Maine. The publication will inform landowners, agency regulators, and the public about the nature and importance of wintering habitat to deer survival in Maine. The deer yarding publication will prove useful for providing a common source of information as DIFW works with landowners to devise habitat protection strategies for deer.</p>	<p>Amt Funded: \$3,400</p>	<p>Statewide</p>
<p>061-01-03</p> <p>SWCD</p> <p>City of Presque Isle</p>	<p>Phase 2, Kennedy Brook.Mantel Lake:Trout Habitat & Water Quality Improvement</p> <p>Improve brook trout habitat and children's fishing experience by removing nutrient rich bottom sediments from Mantle Lake and redesigning Mantle Lake recreation trails to meet erosion and sediment control standards.</p>	<p>Amt Funded: \$10,000</p>	<p>Presque Isle, Aroostook County</p>
<p>061-01-09</p> <p>IFW</p> <p>Dept. of IF&W</p>	<p>Chamberlain Lake Wild Brook Trout Study</p> <p>This is a study to evaluate the expansion of the winter refuge area for brook trout in Chamberlain Lake.</p>	<p>Amt Funded: \$10,500</p>	<p>Chamberlain Lake Area</p>
<p>061-01-06</p> <p>DOC</p> <p>Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&</p>	<p>Stopping Invading Plants in their Tracks: Early Detection & Rapid Response</p> <p>The purpose of the project is to locate and evaluate sites infested by newly arriving invasive plant species. It will focus on species that are likely to become a blight in our natural systems, and perform control at sites that are practical and cost effective.</p>	<p>Amt Funded: \$15,000</p>	<p>Southern and Central Regions of the State</p>
<p>061-01-07</p> <p>DOC</p> <p>Dept. of IF&W</p>	<p>Expanding Incentives for Land Conservation: Maine's Landowner Incentive Program</p> <p>Develop and implement a landowner outreach program in conjunction with land trusts and State and Federal conservation groups to promote the voluntary conservation of at-risk species and associated habitats in 20 Beginning with Habitat Focus Areas</p>	<p>Amt Funded: \$15,000</p>	<p>Statewide</p>
<p>061-01-10</p> <p>IFW</p> <p>Dept. of IF&W</p>	<p>Preservation of the Allagash River Ecosystem</p> <p>The Allagash River ecosystem drains in an area of 1,240 square miles. An engineering study is necessary to ascertain if Allagash Falls will prevent upstream passage of muskellunge and smallmouth bass.</p>	<p>Amt Funded: \$15,413</p>	<p>Allagash Falls, T15, R11 WELS, Aroostook County</p>
<p>061-01-04</p> <p>IFW</p> <p>University of Maine 4-H Camp & Learning Center</p>	<p>Maintaining the Maine Guide Heritage through Youth Education</p> <p>The purpose of this project is to increase enrollment in the three-tiered Junior Maine Guide program at the Maine Conservation School by providing scholarship assistance to Maine youth who may not otherwise have access to such unique experiential training opportunities.</p>	<p>Amt Funded: \$16,487</p>	<p>Bryant Pond, Oxford County with statewide impact</p>
<p>062-01-12</p> <p>IFW</p> <p>Ursus Media Group</p>	<p>Maine Woodlot Wildlife Makeover</p> <p>This grant will enable creation of an educational tool to assist Maine's small woodlot owners between five and 5,000 acres to better manage their land for Maine wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. Two products will be produced using this grant. The first will be a DVD video distributed statewide through the membership and public outreach functions of the Small Woodlot Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM). The second is creation of a half-hour television program that will be broadcast multiple times over two years on the statewide television network operated by Ursus Productions of Waterville.</p>	<p>Amt Funded: \$19,100</p>	<p>Statewide</p>

Category 1 Fisheries & Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

062-01-13	Kennebec River Initiative Educational DVD	Amt Funded: \$19,900	Mainstem Corridor
DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Produce a DVD profile of the Kennebec River Corridor Initiative that will provide as an educational tool that the staff can use to disseminate to community leaders and the general public providing an awareness of the Kennebec River Corridor's value and need for protection.		
061-01-11	Penobscot: Restoring sea run fish & lost ecological connections to Maine's largest river.	Amt Funded: \$20,000	Veazie to Howland - Penobscot County
ASC Penobscot River Restoration Trust	Restore self-sustaining runs of all native, sea-run fish to 500 miles of the Penobscot watershed by reconfiguring hydropower production on the river.		
062-01-14	Increasing Capacity and Collaboration for Conservation Planning and Conserved Lands Management Along Maine's Downeast Coast	Amt Funded: \$21,000	Washington County Coast
DOC Maine Coast Heritage Trust	To accomplish more strategic and sustainable land conservation along Maine's Downeast Coast by working on a common regional conservation vision, conservation plan, and land stewardship policies and practices.		
062-01-08	IFW Displays at the Rangeley Outdoor Sporting Heritage Museum	Amt Funded: \$22,000	Rangeley
IFW Rangeley Lakes Region Historical Society	This grant will fund displays at the Rangeley Outdoor Sporting Heritage Museum that illustrate the history, current programs and future plans of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries.		
061-01-12	The Kennebec River Initiative	Amt Funded: \$25,000	Mainstem Corridor, entire Kennebec River
DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	This Project will initiate a new River-wide effort to increase public access to the River and to protect and enhance those River corridor lands with significant public values.		
062-01-16	Upper Saco River Invasive Mapping Project, Phase I	Amt Funded: \$25,193	Upper Saco River Flood Plain
SWCD Oxford County SWCD	This is a three-year project that will survey and map infestation of invasive plants focusing on ten invasive terrestrial species in the upper Saco River flood plain and adjacent uplands in Maine.		
062-01-09	A Large-Scale Assessment of Wild Brook Trout Populations and Habitat in Maine	Amt Funded: \$44,000	Statewide
IFW Dept. of IF&W	This project consists of conducting fishery, macroinvertebrate, geomorphic, habitat and stream bank stability surveys at approximately 3000 sites within 400 watersheds in Maine over two years, focusing on agricultural and commercial forest lands that currently lack baseline assessment.		

Total Amount Funded for Category: 1 \$281,993

Category 2 Acquisition & Mgmt of Public Lands, Parks, Wildlife Conservation Areas & Public Access

062-02-02	Thanking Landowners	Amt Funded: \$3,600	Statewide
IFW Sportsman's Alliance of Maine	This project will bring new outdoor recreationists into SAM's new landowner thank you program. This program was established in 2005 to facilitate thank you notes and gifts from sportsmen to landowners who allow access to their property for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. It is a web-based program available through SAM's website (www.samcef.org). Specifically, this project will use free and paid media to publicize the program, Thanking Landowners, expand its reach into all Maine fish and game clubs and state associations that represent land users, and add participants to the program		
061-02-02	International Appalachian Trail Upgrading in T5R8	Amt Funded: \$4,900	T5R8 Penobscot County
	Improve the trailway by pruning adjacent shrubbery, constructing water bars and construction of mud bridges along 2.5 miles of trail section.		
061-02-01	Where Can I Hunt?	Amt Funded: \$7,500	Statewide
IFW Sportsman's Alliance of Maine	Provide info on SAM website where people can hunt & the policies & rules that govern hunting in those places. Also importance of getting permission, and info about landowner relation programs.		
062-02-04	Appalachian Trail Rehabilitation	Amt Funded: \$10,268	Statewide
Maine Appalachian Trail Club	This project will stabilize the Appalachian Trail at three wilderness locations where the trail is undergoing severe erosion. The outcome will be that some of the most rugged sections of Maine's Appalachian Trail will be protected from human impact and environmental degradation.		
062-02-08	Grafton Notch Acquisition	Amt Funded: \$10,268	Grafton Township, Oxford County
DOC	The Grafton Forest Legacy Project seeks to purchase 3,688 acres of forest land in Grafton Township from Bayroot LLC.		
061-02-08	Mt Agamenticus Resource Mgmt for Recreation, Outreach, Wildlife, and Water	Amt Funded: \$11,000	Mount Agamenticus Wildlife Management Area
IFW York Parks & Recreation Department	Outdoor Heritage Grant fund would contribute to the salary of the Mount Agamenticus Conservation Coordinator		
061-02-04	Focus Species Forestry Approach to the Farm Cove Community Forest: Integrating Timber Mgmt with Biodiversity Conservation	Amt Funded: \$23,103	T5 ND and T6 ND (Washington County)
DOC Downeast Lakes Land Trust	MA's Focus Species Forestry approach will be integrated into DLLT's community forest management plan to help DLLT achieve its goals for biodiversity conservation, wildlife habitat enhancement, and FSC certification. The project will serve as a model for other landowners		
062-02-11	Rebuild of Access Road to Recreation Facilities of the 10th Mountain Center	Amt Funded: \$25,000	Statewide
DOC Maine Winter Sports Center	Create reliable year round access to the 10th Mountain Center particularly during thaw periods in March & April - the premier time for skiing, snowshoeing, and major events such as the Biathlon World Cup in 2009.		
061-02-03	Burnt Island Education Center	Amt Funded: \$25,820	Burnt Island - Serving Statewide
DMR Dept. of Marine Resources	Complete construction of Burnt Island Education Center. Provide housing for students & teachers participating in programs & prof dev courses. Final outcome will be a citizenry who makes better judgments regarding ocean & ecological resource future.		

Category 2 Acquisition & Mgmt of Public Lands, Parks, Wildlife Conservation Areas & Public Access

061-02-06	Ecological Planning for Maine's Wildlife Management Areas	Amt Funded: \$27,338	Statewide
Dept. of IF&W	This project addresses natural resource inventories of MDIFW Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's) and baseline monitoring of MDIFW lands designated as Ecological Reserves. Under MDIFW's guidance, the MNAP will conduct landscape analysis, field inventory, conservation planning, and resource allocation on these lands. MNAP's field work will be conducted according to standards developed for all state-owned lands and will enable MDIFW to safeguard ecological hot spots on public lands. Moreover, collaboration between MNAP and MDIFW will enhance management required under forest certification programs		
061-02-09	Seal Cove Richardson Tract Acquisition	Amt Funded: \$27,500	South Bristol, Lincoln
DOC Damariscotta River Association	Acquire 33 acre parcel on shore of Seal Cove with 2000' of shoreline and exceptional habitat values. DRA will own property and DOC will hold easement.		
062-02-06	Forest Certification for MDIFW's Wildlife Management Area Lands	Amt Funded: \$30,000	Statewide
IFW Dept. of IF&W	This project will help fund Forest Certification efforts for IFW and Wildlife forest management lands to help meet the Governor's Forest Certification Initiative.		
062-02-05	Additions to Maine's Wildlife Management Areas	Amt Funded: \$50,000	Statewide
IFW Dept. of IF&W	This acquisition project would make important additions to MDIFW WMA's. This project would add crucial road frontage to Vern Walker WMA in Newfield, eliminate three inholdings within the Garcelon WMA and connect two previous LMF acquisitions at Cobscook Bay WMA - Morong Cove in Lube. This project would add 234.3 acres to three existing Wildlife Management area.		
Total Amount Funded for Category: 2 \$256,297			

Category 3 Endangered & Threatened Species Conservation Projects

061-03-02	Status and Conservation Biology of Rusty Blackbirds in Maine	Amt Funded: \$9,594	Northwestern Maine
IFW	University of Maine We propose a study, which involves a baseline inventory of the current distribution and abundance of Rusty Blackbirds in northwestern Maine		
061-03-04	What Factors Constrain Breeding Success and Population Viability of the Gulf of Maine's threatened and Endangered Seabirds?	Amt Funded: \$17,000	Maine Coastal Islands NWR
IFW	Dept. of IF&W Determine what factors may be influencing the breeding success and population recovery of Arctic terns in Maine. We will examine sex hormones, indicators of foraging activity and energy use, environmental factors, and breeding success throughout the summer.		
062-03-02	Taxonomic and Population Status of Clayton's Copper Butterfly	Amt Funded: \$22,121	Penobscot, Piscataquis, Aroostook Counties
IFW	University of Maine - Dept. of Wildlife Ecology This is a 2.5 year MS research assistantship at the University of Maine to study the taxonomic status of Clayton's Copper butterfly, a state-listed endangered species known from only 9 sites in Maine.		
061-03-03	Beginning with Habitat: the Next Phase	Amt Funded: \$25,000	Statewide with an emphasis on Southern and Midcoast Maine
IFW	No Longer Works for State MDIFW, MDOC, MAS, TNC, USFWS, SPO, and MCHT continue to work together to conserve high value wildlife habitat in Maine by integrating important natural resource information into ongoing town and land trust planning efforts.		
062-03-05	Wetland Dieback: Are We Losing Maine's Coastal Wetlands?	Amt Funded: \$25,803	Maine's Coastal Zone: Kittery to Lubec
DOC	Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-& Visit documented occurrences of tidal wetlands in Coastal Maine, baseline and monitor their health, provide the results to the respective landowners and incorporate the data into tools for conservation and protection in coastal Maine		
Total Amount Funded for Category: 3 \$99,518			

Category 4 Natural Resources Law Enforcement and Protection of Public Health

061-04-05	Bug Proof Garments	Amt Funded: \$1,750	Statewide
IFW Dept. of IF&W- Maine Warden Service	To enhance the safety of game wardens via protective clothing.		
061-04-04	ATV for Milbride Police Department	Amt Funded: \$8,389	Milbride, Washington County
IFW	Obtain an ATV for Milbride Police Department for ATV law enforcement; Shellfish conservation enforcement; assistance to other conservation law enforcement and search and rescue.		
061-04-01	Enhancing Maine's Bow Hunting Safety and Education	Amt Funded: \$8,580	Statewide
IFW Dept. of IF&W	Enhance the current Bow Hunter Safety Education program with updated equipment and to provide opportunity for Maine's youth to receive archery education thru the National Archery in the Schools Program		
062-04-07	Training at State Parks	Purchase and Amt Funded: \$10,097	State Parks
DOC Bradbury Mountain State Park	To provide the proper equipment and training for a user who has had a heart attack and is in cardiac arrest in Maine State parks.		
061-04-06	Emergency Rescue Boat	Amt Funded: \$11,523	Jay, Leeds, Livermore, Farmington, Turner, and Wilton
IFW	To obtain an emergency rescue boat for Jay, Leeds, Livermore, Farmington, Turner & Wilton.		
061-04-03	Maine Warden Service: Recruiting and History Videos	Amt Funded: \$15,000	
IFW Dept. of IF&W	To create a video history of the first 125 years of the Maine Warden Service and to attract more high-quality candidates whenever openings on the Warden Service roster occur.		
062-04-06	Preventing Lyme Disease in Maine	Amt Funded: \$30,500	Statewide
IFW Ursus Media Group	The project will distribute an animated DVD video to give specific information to state health care providers and the public on ways of how to prevent being bitten by Lyme disease carrying ticks to Maine's health care professionals.		

Total Amount Funded for Category: 4 \$85,839

Total All Categories: \$723,647 # of Grants Awarded: 40