

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund

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January 2, 2009

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 twelfth 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, by passing 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, thirty-one Heritage Fund lottery tickets have been issued. Two tickets were issued this year: "Critter Poker" and our current ticket "Big Bucks." Voided tickets of this year's designs are enclosed.

Approximately 74 percent of Heritage Fund lottery ticket revenue is allocated toward winnings, ticket distribution, advertising and operating expenses. The remaining 26 percent is transferred to the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund for distribution to grants.

Grants are awarded semi-annually to natural resource agencies in response to grant proposals. To date, there have been twenty-four grant cycles, in which the Heritage Fund received 1,010 grant applications.

Board Members/Staff

Thomas Urquhart, *Chairman* • Aram Calhoun, *Maine Audubon Society* • 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* • Staff: Carol Gay, *Secretariat*

Applicants include state natural resource agencies in partnership with non-profit conservation organizations. In response, the Heritage Fund has awarded approximately \$14.3 million in grants to 608 conservation projects. The grant sizes have ranged from \$561 to \$110,000. A brief description of the 56 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 Board looks forward to its ongoing role in providing an alternative source of funding for innovative conservation projects that make a substantial contribution to the protection of the State's natural resources. 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 - 2008 - Session 1 and Session 2

Category 1 Fisheries & Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

| | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 082-01-13 DOC Entomology Lab, ME Forest Service | Leave your firewood Home-Stop the Spread of Invasive Forest Pests Education and Outreach Program Develop, produce and distribute materials promoting the message "Leave Your Firewood Home" to protect the forests of Maine from invasive pest. | Amt Funded: \$3,300 | Statewide |
| 082-01-01 WNERR The Wells Reserve | Community Planning for Kennebunk and Mousam River Restoration Plan and seek funding for a Kennebunk and Mousam River watershed resource survey and assessment. | Amt Funded: \$4,500 | Kennebunk |
| 082-01-09 IFW Sportsman's Alliance of Maine | Where Can I Fish? Create the "go-to" website for Maine anglers, educating them about fishing issues, empowering them to participate in fisheries management and rule-making processes, and informing them about all of Maine's fishing opportunities. | Amt Funded: \$4,500 | Statewide |
| 081-01-10 DOC Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands | Researching, Documenting and Enacting Special Areas Management: A Training Series for Forest Product Harvesters The Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands will develop and carry out a series of trainings on identifying, using and documenting the implementation of resources for special areas, wildlife habitat and biodiversity management among Maine's Master Logger certified companies. | Amt Funded: \$5,550 | Statewide |
| 081-01-13 DOC Ursus Media Group | Northern Maine & Can-Am Crown 250 Promotional Project Provide a significant increase in event exposure for both the Can-Am 250 race and the region, leading to increased participation by sled teams and spectators by developing a 52 minute documentary video, television ads, trade show materials, handouts and streaming video content for the Internet marketing from select websites. | Amt Funded: \$7,443 | Fort Kent Region |
| 082-01-11 IFW Maine Association of Conservation Commission | Hands on Support for Municipal Level Environmental Protection Foster the development of municipal land use, habitat, wetland protection, and land acquisition ordinances/policies in at least ten communities across Maine. | Amt Funded: \$7,940 | Statewide |
| 081-01-18 IFW | Upper St. John Valley Community Forest Project, Year 2, 2008 This project will seek to increase knowledge of local forest resources, provide information (opportunities) and guidance for sustainable forest management, and expand opportunities for sustainable forest uses including outdoor recreation and sustainable forest-based business. | Amt Funded: \$10,000 | Upper St. John Valley |
| 081-01-20 IFW Dept. of IF&W | Re-establishing fish passage on Jam Black Brook Reconnect this fragmented habitat and create an educational video and program to inform local road managers on correctly installing culverts and small bridges to economically address fish passage and transportation needs | Amt Funded: \$10,000 | Searsmont |
| 082-01-12 SWCD Somerset County SWCD | Unleaded Loons: Preventing Lead Poisoning in Maine's Water Birds Educate lake users and the general public about wildlife lead poisoning through the use of lead fishing tackle and increase demand for/build confidence in the user of non-toxic lead fishing tackle alternatives. | Amt Funded: \$11,825 | Statewide |

Category 1 Fisheries & Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

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|--|--|------------------------------------|--|
| <p>081-01-07 DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&</p> | <p>Identifying Wetlands of Statewide Significance for the In Lieu Fee Program Create a readily accessible database of ecologically significant wetland sites for use in the In Lieu Fee program</p> | <p>Amt Funded: \$15,000</p> | <p>Statewide</p> |
| <p>081-01-08 DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&</p> | <p>Sounding The Alarm: Preventing The Spread of Invasive Species Through Public Awareness Provide needed public outreach and coverage of invasives with relevant groups at high vis bility public events.</p> | <p>Amt Funded: \$15,000</p> | <p>Statewide</p> |
| <p>081-01-09 DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&</p> | <p>Innovative Approaches for Small Stream Crossings in Maine-Forestry Bridge Loaner and Educational Program Develop a three pronged educational and outreach effort for small stream crossing restoration that will benefit fisheries habitat and stream integrity</p> | <p>Amt Funded: \$15,000</p> | <p>Southern Maine</p> |
| <p>082-01-15 DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&</p> | <p>Identifying Wetlands of Statewide Significance for the In Lieu of Fee Program Create a readily accessible database of ecologically significant wetland sites for use in the In Lieu Fee program.</p> | <p>Amt Funded: \$17,282</p> | <p>Southern and Central Maine</p> |
| <p>081-01-19 IFW Carnegie Museum of Natural History</p> | <p>Conservation Assessment and Bioinventory of Maine's Cave Biota (with an Emphasis on Invertebrates) This project will survey species of arthropods and mollusks at caves throughout the state, assess their rarity and suggest conservation measures for resource managers, illustrate and publish new finds to other scientists, and build a website to inform the public about cave ecosystems and their value. In addition, while surveying the caves for invertebrates, a bat census will be conducted to determine the number and types of bats present, and determine if "white nose fungus" is present in any populations.</p> | <p>Amt Funded: \$19,500</p> | <p>Statewide</p> |
| <p>082-01-14 DOC Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands</p> | <p>Translating Biomass Harvesting Standards to Harvest Practices Effect positive outcomes in forest ecosystems as well as local and regional economies by translating Biomass Harvesting Guidelines in development for the state of Maine into harvest planning and business model tools for the state's forest products harvesters.</p> | <p>Amt Funded: \$20,000</p> | <p>Statewide</p> |
| <p>082-01-18 DOC Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences</p> | <p>Road Map for Conserving Old Forests in Maine Convene land owners and managers, natural resource agencies, conservation groups, and other key stakeholders to build awareness and understanding of the critical nature of the issue and collaboratively formulate a road map to conserve old growth and other old forests across Maine.</p> | <p>Amt Funded: \$20,000</p> | <p>Statewide</p> |
| <p>081-01-22 IFW Dept. of IF&W</p> | <p>A Large-Scale Assessment of Wild Brook Trout(Salvelinus fontinalis) Populations and Habitat in Maine This project consists of conducting fishery, macroinvertebrate, geomorphic, habitat and stream bank stability surveys at approximately 3000 sites within 400 12 digit-HUC watersheds in Maine over two years, focusing on agricultural and commercial forest lands that currently lack baseline assessment.</p> | <p>Amt Funded: \$21,400</p> | <p>Statewide</p> |
| <p>082-01-22 IFW Dept. of IF&W</p> | <p>Grassland Bird Response to, State Acres For Enhancement (SAFE) Practice under Conservation Reserve Program, Phase I Establish then conduct monitoring of at least 20 (SAFE) State Acres for Enhancement contracts and adjacent non-enrolled lands to determine if the SAFE practices on enrolled lands create the desired habitat, (grassland type specified in contract) and if target wildlife species, (Grassland birds) respond positively to SAFE practices on the enrolled parcels.</p> | <p>Amt Funded: \$24,394</p> | <p>Aroostook/Penobscot</p> |

Category 1 Fisheries & Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

081-01-15 **Protecting Maine's Coastal Waters from Nitrogen Pollution** **Amt Funded: \$25,000** **Casco Bay**
DEP
Friends of Casco Bay Reduce the amount of nitrogen flowing into Maine's coastal waters, by helping DEP to develop nitrogen criteria for Casco Bay and beyond.

081-01-21 **Assessing Deer Wintering Area Spatial Dynamics in Maine's Working Forest** **Amt Funded: \$30,000** **Statewide**
IFW
Dept. of IF&W Determine spatial dynamics (stand and landscape level habitat selection) of wintering deer in relation to forest composition and winter severity. Characterize seasonal movements across the landscape and spatial distribution of deer onto summer range.

Total Amount Funded for Category: 1 \$287,634

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

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|---|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 081-02-15 | Sportsmen's Clubs' Conference | Amt Funded: \$3,000 | Augusta |
| IFW Sportsman's Alliance of Maine | A day-long conference of fish and game, snowmobile, ATV and other clubs' leaders about issues of prime importance to the success of these clubs, including membership recruitment and retention, developing club leaders, fundraising, programming, facilities management, conservation projects, landowner relations programs, and other specific topics such as insurance and firing ranges. | | |
| 082-02-03 | Take It Outside First-time Campers Program | Amt Funded: \$5,000 | Statewide |
| DOC University of Maine 4-H Camp & Learning Center | To repeat and expand the very successful, yet unfunded, "pilot" Take-It-Outside First-Time Camper weekend program. | | |
| 082-02-07 | Improved Parking and ITS & ATV Spur Connector Trail | Amt Funded: \$5,576 | Greenville |
| DOC Piscataquis County Economic Development | Provide a safe and secure "park& ride" parking lot and provide proper signage. Improve the slope of the spur trail to provide better erosion control. | | |
| 082-02-10 | Management Guidelines for Maine's Most Unique Natural Areas on Public Lands | Amt Funded: \$8,450 | Statewide |
| DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-& | Work proactively with state and federal land managers to develop management recommendations for rare and exemplary natural communities occurring on public lands. | | |
| 081-02-16 | Mount Agamenticus Resource Management for Recreation, Outreach, Wildlife and Water | Amt Funded: \$9,990 | Mount Agamenticus |
| IFW York Parks & Recreation Department | Protect the natural resources of the Mount Agamenticus area by managing recreational impacts, educating the public and taking preventative measures with access improvements by contributing to the salary of the Mount Agamenticus Conservation Coordinator. | | |
| 081-02-10 | Caretaker and Ridgerunner Education Program | Amt Funded: \$10,000 | Statewide |
| Maine Appalachian Trail Club | The project will develop human stewardship and provide a management presence on heavily traveled sections of the AT in Maine to lessen environmental impact. | | |
| 082-02-02 | Roberts Farm Preserve Trail Project | Amt Funded: \$12,000 | Norway |
| DOC Western Foothills Land Trust | The Western Foothills Land Trust (WFLT) proposes to establish a 6km system of non-motorized multi-use recreational trails on the 150-acre former dairy farm that commands the southerly viewscape of Lake Pennesseewassee in Norway, known as Roberts Farm Preserve. | | |
| 081-02-02 | Management Guidelines for Maine's Most Unique Natural Areas on Public Lands | Amt Funded: \$15,000 | Statewide |
| DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-& | Work proactively with state and federal land managers to develop management recommendations for rare and exemplary natural communities occurring on public lands. | | |
| 081-02-11 | Bald Mountain Trail Rehabilitation and Habitat Protection Project | Amt Funded: \$15,000 | Camden |
| Coastal Mountains Land Trust | Rehabilitate, reconstruct and reroute sections of the Bald Mountain trail in Camden, Maine in order to reduce trail erosion problems and protect ecological sensitive habitats of statewide significance. | | |

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

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|---|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 082-02-13 | Your Maine Land Map & Web Development: 100 Best Outdoor Recreation Opportunities | Amt Funded: \$15,000 | Statewide |
| DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-& | Promote the vast recreational opportunities available on Maine public land | | |
| 082-02-06 | Mapping Best New Thinking | Amt Funded: \$17,800 | Jay, Canton, Livermore and Livermore Falls |
| DOC Androscoggin Land Trust | Develop and advance a new framework for the state that can guide recreation and tourism mapping for and with underserved communities. | | |
| 082-02-09 | Serving Maine's Conservation and Recreational Needs: Enhanced Digital Information for State Lands | Amt Funded: \$19,915 | Statewide |
| DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-& | Provide current and accurate GIS parcel records for state lands to meet conservation business needs; standards required for inclusion of parklands in the statewide conservation land layer; and brochures and other public information about recreation opportunities on state park lands | | |
| 081-02-08 | Amherst Mountain Project | Amt Funded: \$20,000 | Amherst |
| DOC Forest Society of Maine | Purchase 5,000 acres to protect containing remote ponds, stunning granite ridges, important woodlands and fish and wildlife habitats, vital water quality research areas, and a history of back country public recreational use, all within just a short drive from Bangor or Ellsworth. | | |
| 081-02-17 | Additions to Wildlife Management Areas | Amt Funded: \$20,907 | Statewide |
| IFW Dept. of IF&W | Assist with acquisition of parcels of land for protection and conservation of identified wildlife habitat. | | |
| 081-02-07 | Ferry Beach State Park Nature Center | Amt Funded: \$25,000 | City of Saco |
| DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-& | Expand nature education opportunities for park visitors by designing and constructing the Ferry Beach State Park Nature Center. | | |
| 081-02-13 | Linking Land Conservation and Economic Development: Making Information on Maine's Natural Lands More Accessible to Residents and Visitors | Amt Funded: \$26,000 | Washington Cty |
| LMF Land for Maine's Future Program | To integrate state and local tourism marketing efforts with land conservation management and promotional efforts in Washington County as a pilot effort for statewide replication. | | |
| 081-02-03 | Androscoggin Riverlands State Park Development | Amt Funded: \$29,000 | Turner & Leeds |
| DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-& | Support the development of a new state park on 2,588 acres of state-owned land along the Androscoggin River: secure facilitation services for public and stakeholder meetings; prepare a natural resources inventory for the entire property; and secure landscape architecture/planning services for preparation of conceptual park designs. | | |
| 082-02-12 | Reconstructing the Appalachian Trail in Maine | Amt Funded: \$30,000 | The Appalachian Trail (AT) in Maine |
| Maine Appalachian Trail Club | Stabilize six sections of eroding trail in rugged back country environments on the Appalachian Trail. | | |

Total Amount Funded for Category: 2 \$287,638

Category 3 Endangered & Threatened Species Conservation Projects

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|--|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 082-03-02 | Preserving a Regional Chimney Swift Roost | Amt Funded: \$5,000 | Brunswick |
| IFW Dept. of IF&W | Promote the conservation of Chimney Swifts through the construction of a replacement roost during the demolition of the current chimney at the Old Brunswick High School and build public awareness of and appreciation for this rapidly declining species. | | |
| 081-03-01 | Interactive Ecology of Atlantic Salmon and Exotic Smallmouth Bass in Maine Rivers | Amt Funded: \$8,000 | Statewide |
| DMR University of Maine, Dept of Wildlife Ecology | Assess the overall threat posed by small mouth bass to Atlantic Salmon in terms of changes in habitat, quality, and production potential of nursery streams. | | |
| 081-03-06 | Comparisons in Physiological and Behavioral Response of Atlantic Salmon Reared in Episodically Acidified and pH Mitigated River Water in Eastern Maine | Amt Funded: \$8,000 | Columbia Falls |
| DMR Downeast Rivers Land Trust | Further our understanding of Maine river chemistry, pH mitigation and impacts on Atlantic salmon development. Identify potential mitigation strategies suited to episodically acidic river conditions in eastern Maine. | | |
| 082-03-01 | Blueback Trout Restoration at Big Reed Pond, Phase II | Amt Funded: \$12,840 | T8R10 |
| IFW Dept. of IF&W- Fisheries Biologist | Continue to restore the native fishes (brook & blueback trout) at Big Reed Pond. | | |
| 081-03-02 | Protecting the Last of Least: Strategies for Conserving Maine's Imperiled and Critically Imperiled Natural Communities | Amt Funded: \$15,000 | Statewide |
| DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-& | Assessing the status of Maine's Imperiled and Critically Imperiled Natural Communities and developing strategies for their protection. | | |
| 082-03-04 | Meeting the 21st Century Conservation Challenges of the St. John, Maine's Most Unique River | Amt Funded: \$15,425 | St. John River Valley |
| DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-& | Expand the primary ecological focus of the upper St. John River To include numerous rare plants and unique riverine habitats that have remained largely unstudied and to give a comprehensive ecological assessment of the St. John including evaluating current alterations to habitat from catastrophic flooding events and future changes from potential development. | | |
| 082-03-03 | Restoring piping plover and least tern population in southern Maine | Amt Funded: \$15,481 | Southern Maine |
| IFW Rachael Carlson NWR | Increase both piping plover and least tern productivity by implementing a predator management plan. | | |
| 081-03-05 | Geographic Structure and Landscape Connectivity of New England Cottontail Populations in Maine | Amt Funded: \$21,684 | Southern Maine |
| IFW University of NH - | Identify landscape features that facilitate or impede dispersal of New England cottontail on a regional scale in Maine. Determine regional population structure, dispersal and connectivity of New England cottontails in Maine. | | |
| 081-03-03 | An Ecological Inventory of the Central and Western Mountains | Amt Funded: \$25,000 | Central Mountains |
| ACF/IFW Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-& | Natural Resource inventory efforts in the three ecoregions across the central and western portion of Maine. Co-sponsored project with DOC. | | |

Total Amount Funded for Category: 3 \$126,430

Category 4 Natural Resources Law Enforcement and Protection of Public Health

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|---|--|-----------------------------|---|
| 081-04-03 | Northern Maine Veterans Cemetery Retaining Pond/Goose Management Project/Foliage Berm | Amt Funded: \$5,000 | Caribou |
| IFW Northern Maine Veterans Cemetery Corp. | Our goal is to construct a foliage berm around a watershed retaining pond in order to discourage Canadian geese from making the Maine Veterans Cemetery-Caribou a permanent home | | |
| 082-04-03 | Maine Warden Service Dive Team Computers and Ambient Breathing Valves | Amt Funded: \$5,000 | Statewide |
| IFW Dept. of IF&W-Maine Warden Service | Obtain dive computers with console and ambient breathing valves for AFA masks for the warden service dive team to improve safety and effectiveness of recovery dive team operations. | | |
| 081-04-01 | Recreational Access and Landowner Relations Educational Outreach | Amt Funded: \$10,000 | Statewide |
| IFW Dept. of IF&W | Creation of a website explaining landowner relations and a question & answer section for users to get information in a easy to read format. | | |
| 082-04-06 | Adapting to climate change in Maine: a forum for the natural resource community | Amt Funded: \$10,000 | Statewide |
| DOC Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences | 1-Produce a spring 2009 workshop on climate change adaptation for natural resource professionals(agency staff, scientists, farmers, foresters, guides, and key stakeholder groups) in Maine. 2- Create an access ble report summarizing the meeting and diverse responses of participants; and 3-"kick-start" the adaptation dialogue for natural resource professionals in Maine. | | |
| 081-04-05 | Wildlife Chemical Immobilization Training | Amt Funded: \$10,500 | Statewide |
| IFW Dept. of IF&W | Provide chemical immobilization training to approximately 30 field wildlife technicians and biologists. | | |
| 082-04-01 | Enhanced Protection of Piping Plover and Least Tern Essential Habitats | Amt Funded: \$16,886 | Scarborough, Wells, Ogunquit and Kennebunk |
| IFW Dept. of IF&W | Implement recommendations of Maine's Wildlife Action Plan to increase Piping Plover and Least Tern productivity by enhancing law enforcement efforts and outreach at key Piping Plover and Least Tern Essential Habitats to reduce human and pet-induced losses of nests, eggs, chicks, fledglings, and adults. | | |
| 082-04-05 | A Conservation Easement Database for Monitoring and Compliance Records and Reporting | Amt Funded: \$16,886 | Statewide |
| DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-& | Enable the Bureau of Parks and Lands to develop a database to hold all data, reports, maps and correspondence needed to cost-effectively and credibly monitor the 46 conservation easements it holds (including 300,000 + acres), while maintaining a complete legal compliance record for these easements. | | |
| 081-04-04 | Project Night Hawk | Amt Funded: \$24,000 | Statewide |
| IFW Dept. of IF&W-Maine Warden Service | Provide the warden service with an aircraft that can allow night time operation from lighted, and instrument approach equipped airports. | | |
| 081-04-02 | Monitoring State-Held Working Forest Conservation Easements | Amt Funded: \$25,000 | Statewide |
| DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-& | This project will enable the Bureau of Parks and Lands to acquire the technical capacity to monitor its working forest conservation easements; and to apply that capacity to 7 easements with a total of 55,450 acres by the end of 2009. | | |

Total Amount Funded for Category: 4 \$123,272

Total All Categories: \$824,974 # of Grants Awarded: 56