

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund

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January 18, 2011

The Honorable Paul LePage
Office of the Governor
1 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0001

Dear Governor LePage,

I am pleased to submit the following information as the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund's fourteenth 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-five Heritage Fund lottery tickets have been issued. Two tickets were issued this year: "Loony Loot" and our current ticket "Road Kill Cash." **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-eight grant cycles, in which the Heritage Fund received **1,203 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*
Acting Commissioner Eliza Townsend, *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 \$15.7 million in grants to 720 conservation projects. The grant sizes have ranged from \$561 to \$110,000 with the average grant size being \$22,500. A brief description of the 48 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 - 2010 - Session 1 and Session 2

Category 1 Fisheries & Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

102-01-09	Measuring Wintering Conditions and Mortality for White-tailed Deer in Maine	Amt Funded: \$906	State wide
IFW Dept. of IF&W	Purchase 24 data loggers that measure ambient temperatures in 24 deer wintering areas (DWS's) across the state of Maine and employ their use from Dec-April annually.		
101-01-23	Farm Tools: Cultivating ME's Agriculture Future	Amt Funded: \$5,500	Statewide
AGR Maine Farmland Trust	Print and distribute 2000 copies of "Farm Tools" a web-based handbook with searchable appendices for towns, land trusts and Maine citizens to obtain the information they need to protect farmland and support local agriculture to all town offices and libraries in Maine.		
102-01-06	Assessing the successful reintroduction of rehabilitated black bears	Amt Funded: \$5,836	Statewide
IFW Second Chance Wildlife Inc.	Monitor bears with real time satellite fixes of the animals location to evaluate the effectiveness of techniques used to rehabilitate orphaned black bear cubs and the appropriateness of releasing orphaned cubs/yearlings to the wild.		
102-01-04	Maintain Maine's Biodiversity	Amt Funded: \$6,500	Statewide
IFW The Trust to Conserve Northeast	Provide training opportunities for Loggers, Landowners, Field Verifiers and Board Members through certification, collaboration and continued education so that Maine's working forest can maintain its biodiversity and distinguish Maine in global markets.		
102-01-01	Wild Friends in Wild Places	Amt Funded: \$7,500	York
WNERR Center for Wildlife	Create an innovative school program for students in K-2 that introduces children to wildlife and their habitats, fostering respect and a deepened connection to animals and the natural world.		
101-01-19	Bird Migration Stopover Sites	Amt Funded: \$12,500	Monhegan & Manana Islands
IFW BioDiversity Research Institute	Support a study to establish the migration ecology of diurnal and nocturnal raptors using Monhegan Island in the fall of 2010.		
102-01-13	Restoring Fish Passage and Habitat to a Salmon Falls River Tributary	Amt Funded: \$14,210	South Berwick
WNERR The Wells Reserve	Design and implement cost-effective hydrologic alterations to allow full use of the Shorey's Brook drainage for reproduction and growth by as many of the native diadromous species as possible.		
101-01-12	Prioritizing Wildlife Road Crossing Hotspots	Amt Funded: \$14,430	Statewide
IFW Maine Audubon Society	Identify key stretches of Maine roads where certain wildlife species are attempting to cross and then prioritize those sites where mitigation would be helpful to improve passage and decrease impacts to local and/or state populations.		
102-01-08	Migratory Bird Education	Amt Funded: \$15,000	Statewide
IFW Viles Arboretum	Coordinate a statewide education program for grade 3-8 students in Maine to provide an increased understanding of the role migratory birds play in Maine's fauna.		

Category 1 Fisheries & Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

102-01-10	Uncovering Maine's Hidden Biodiversity	Amt Funded: \$15,000	Statewide
DOC Maine Natural History Observatory	Create a state of the art user friendly guide for the ecologically important Sedge family of plants to enable a diverse group to recognize 215 species of Sedges in Maine.		
101-01-24	Sebasticook River Conservation Plan	Amt Funded: \$15,500	Sebasticook River Watershed
AGR Friends of Unity Wetlands/Sebasticook Regional Land	This project will promote the conservation of the wild and working lands along the Sebasticook river in coordination with the river restoration efforts other agencies have under way.		
101-01-25	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management	Amt Funded: \$16,250	Presumpscot River Watershed
DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation &	Create a short documentary style video that will highlight three landowners within the Presumpscot watershed who are carrying out responsible forestry operations through the production of three video "stewardship profiles" and show the public and Maine landowners what types of decisions are involved in responsible forestry.		
102-01-11	Identifying Opportunities for Wetland Mitigation in Maine	Amt Funded: \$17,929	Statewide
DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Continue field surveys to identify wetland restoration and preservation opportunities, expand the geographic area for surveys in response to need, increase the emphasis on outreach to identify survey sites and leverage voluntary protection, enhance MNAP's ILF database and web-based mapping application to complement other state restoration initiatives, and continue to provide technical support to the MNRCP.		
101-01-16	Maine's Landowner Incentive Program	Amt Funded: \$19,737	Statewide
DOC Dept. of IF&W	Provide assistance to landowners with Maine's landowner incentive program by protecting over 1,000 acres of land supporting rare, threatened and endangered species and rare and exemplary natural communities through conservation easements. Provide outreach and technical assistance to landowners statewide on land use impacts on at-risk species and associated habitats.		
101-01-11	Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture	Amt Funded: \$20,264	Statewide
IFW Dept. of IF&W	This project will directly benefit native eastern brook trout and other native freshwater diadromous fish populations by significantly influencing local land use planning decisions, and guiding where local public works funds are invested based on scientifically sound statewide native fish habitat data.		
101-01-03	Online, Coastal and Marine Atlas Interface	Amt Funded: \$20,819	Statewide
MSPO Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Produce a publicly available, web-based coastal and marine data portal for dissemination of a wealth of relevant spatial data for the State of Maine		
102-01-12	Identifying and Tracking Wetland Loss in Maine	Amt Funded: \$23,119	Statewide
DEP Dept. of Environmental Protection- Land	Conduct an analysis of historic aquatic resource loss in Maine, with an emphasis on wetlands.		

Total Amount Funded for Category: 1 \$231,000

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

101-02-15	Volunteerism, Environmental Ed & Recreation	Amt Funded: \$3,000	Pownal, Falmouth, Turner
DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Increase volunteerism, environmental education, and recreational opportunities at Bradbury Mountain State Park, Mackworth Island, and Androscoggin Riverlands State Park by using three AmeriCorps members to provide volunteer management, education and interpretation; and develop/improve partnerships with user groups to address issues and needs.		
101-02-05	Recreation on the St. Croix Intl. Waterway	Amt Funded: \$5,000	St. Croix River & Spednic Lake
DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Address long term recreational needs on the Maine side of the waterway without degrading the remote recreational experience that defines the St. Croix Waterway.		
102-02-01	Anasagunticook Lake Dam Replacement	Amt Funded: \$5,000	Canton
IFW Town of Canton	Replace the dam on the outlet brook to Lake Anasagunticook located in Canton, Maine		
101-02-03	Northwest River Tract Acquisition	Amt Funded: \$10,000	Sebago
IFW Dept. of IF&W	Permanently protect 1,410 acres named the Northwest River Forest Project. The property is one of the last large undeveloped blocks of forestland in Cumberland County; connects to other conserved parcels; is identified as a high priority in the State Wildlife Action Plan due to its high quality wetlands and wildlife species of concern; and has nearly 3 miles along the Northwest River, the second largest tributary to Sebago Lake.		
102-02-02	Ramsar Wetlands Designation for Schoodic Peninsula	Amt Funded: \$10,000	Hancock County
DOC Frenchman Bay Conservancy	To obtain a designation for the coastal and freshwater wetlands of the Schoodic Peninsula, Downeast Maine, as a site in the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (www.ramsar.org)		
101-02-11	Merrymeeting Trail	Amt Funded: \$13,500	Topsham, Bowdoinham, Richmond
DOC Midcoast Council of Governments	Develop a comprehensive plan for implementing the creation of a regional rail-trail that will serve as a recreational and transportation linkage between Topsham, Bowdoinham, Richmond and Gardiner, as well as the City of Augusta and Town of Brunswick.		
102-02-03	Maine Trail Finder-Downeast Expansion	Amt Funded: \$13,683	Washington County
DOC Quebec-Labrador Foundation/Center for Community GIS	Integrate at least 20 trails from 10 priority sites in Washington County to the Maine Trail Finder website, www.mainetrailfinder.com .		
101-02-18	Private Conservation Easements	Amt Funded: \$15,000	Statewide
DOC Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and	Work with in-state conservation partners to facilitate the inclusion of Maine's private conservation easements in a state and national data set to include providing technical assistance for the digitization and documentation of parcel data in a standard format.		
102-02-05	Planning for the Arrival of Exotic, Invasive Pests in Maine's Urban and Community Forests	Amt Funded: \$15,052	Statewide
DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation &	Raise sensitivity, incorporate EAB risk into street tree censuses and the planning and execution of replacement planting efforts.		

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

101-02-21	Head of Tide Park	Amt Funded: \$16,581	Topsham
DOC Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust	Establish a formal public "gateway" to both the tidal and non-tidal portions of the Cathance River that will serve the greater Brunswick-Topsham region and area visitors through the acquisition of approximately five acres strategically located at the scenic Cathance falls.		
101-02-12	Ecological Monitoring in the 21st Century	Amt Funded: \$19,919	Statewide
DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Implement the Ecological Reserves Monitoring Plan at Moose River/No.5 Bog, a 2009 addition to the state Ecological Reserve system. Draw on emerging GIS-based techniques to revise and update its methods for using remote imagery to detect long term changes in Reserves.		
102-02-04	Ecological Planning for Maine's Public Lands	Amt Funded: \$24,556	Various
DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Conduct landscape analysis, field inventory, long-term monitoring, and conservation planning on public land units.		
101-02-17	Maine State Parks 75th Anniversary Campaign	Amt Funded: \$25,000	Statewide
DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	To publicize, promote and provide first class events and initiatives to celebrate 75 years of outdoor & cultural heritage with focus of attracting more attendance at Maine State Parks and Historic Sites.		
102-02-06	A Coastal Public Access Guide For The State of Maine	Amt Funded: \$26,500	Statewide
MSPO Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Create a hard-bound publication for free distribution to coastal municipalities in Maine, effectively disseminating federal and state owned coastal public parks, paths to the shore, boating access points, beaches with lifeguards, wildlife refuges, scenic views, and recreational fishing access.		

Total Amount Funded for Category: 2 \$202,791

Category 3 Endangered & Threatened Species Conservation Projects

102-03-03	Increase Survival of Endangered Atlantic Salmon	Amt Funded: \$9,000	East Machias
DMR Downeast Rivers Land Trust	This project will improve the success of Atlantic salmon restoration efforts on the East Machias River by creating a streamside rearing facility.		
101-03-02	Foresters and Landowners Biodiversity Training	Amt Funded: \$9,804	Statewide
DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Introduce two new products for foresters and landowners interested in managing for biodiversity.		
101-03-04	Least Tern Nesting	Amt Funded: \$11,000	Stratton Island
IFW National Audubon Society Seabird Restoration	Implement recommendations listed in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan to increase the number of nesting Least Terns, increase productivity, and protect Essential Habitat.		
101-03-01	Facilitating Rare Plant Conservation in Maine	Amt Funded: \$14,841	Statewide
DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Provide the most accurate and current data on endangered and threatened plant species to the citizens of Maine, and it will enhance decisions being made for land development and conservation		
102-03-01	Safeguarding Ecological Resources from Climate Change - a Roadmap for the Northeast	Amt Funded: \$15,000	Statewide
DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Maximize the value of Maine's climate change vulnerability efforts by working collaboratively with other northeastern states in identifying Maine's role in future regional species conservation priorities. Also determine the most beneficial adaptive actions Maine can provide for resident and migratory species, with emphasis on those species that are endangered and threatened.		
102-03-02	Identification and Conservation of Ecologically Significant Forests in Maine	Amt Funded: \$19,000	Statewide
DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Engage a stakeholder group of certified landowners, certification auditors, and forest ecologists to begin to develop practical, voluntary, scientifically credible, Maine-based recommendations for how to use MNAP information in identifying and conserving ecologically important sites on working forestland.		
102-03-04	Restoring Early Successional Habitat for New England Cottontail in Maine	Amt Funded: \$20,000	Statewide
IFW Wildlife Management Institute	Aid the recovery of NEC by restoring early successional habitat on over 300 acres of public and private lands.		
Total Amount Funded for Category: 3 \$98,645			

Category 4 Natural Resources Law Enforcement and Protection of Public Health

101-04-01	Trails Maintenance & Emergency Response	Amt Funded: \$3,437	Rangeley Lakes Region
DOC Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust	To develop a program to help in the more efficient maintenance of several safe and healthy Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust Multi-Use trail systems and provide a versatile remote access capability to staff of our Regional State Natural Resource Agencies with the purchase of a side x side 4x4.		
101-04-06	Surveillance Tracker	Amt Funded: \$3,437	Statewide
DMR Dept. of Marine Resources	To obtain 1 Surveillance Tracking devices for use by the Department of Marine Resources law enforcement, manufactured by Coleman Technologies. To be used to track suspected violators. Whom are violating resource law.		
101-04-07	Maine Warden Service Outdoor Partners Program	Amt Funded: \$3,437	Statewide
IFW Dept. of IF&W- Maine Warden Service	To obtain a trailer for the Maine Warden Service Outdoor Partners Program to enhance statewide educational awareness for youth and adults related to our mission, community policing, community partnerships and public relations goals.		
101-04-02	Trash Mitigation Clean Up and Education	Amt Funded: \$4,520	Statewide
ACF/IFW Dept. of IF&W	Conduct an educational campaign of land abuse problems and loss of access because of trash dumping of white goods (appliances,) tires, household furniture and miscellaneous trash.		
101-04-03	Allagash Wilderness Waterway Technology	Amt Funded: \$6,169	Piscataquis & Aroostook
DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Purchase GPS units, Digital cameras and Satellite phones for staff in the AWW to increase effectiveness, capabilities and safety in responding to requests for emergency assistance within and adjacent to the AWW.		
102-04-04	Pickering Commission Review of Hunting Laws and Rules	Amt Funded: \$8,000	Statewide
IFW Sportsman's Alliance of Maine	Organize a new Pickering Commission to review hunting laws, rules, and publications including rulebooks.		
102-04-02	Northern Forest Canoe Trail Emergency Preparedness Plan	Amt Funded: \$10,000	NFCT
DOC Northern Forest Canoe Trail	Develop an Emergency Preparedness Plan along the water trail route that will provide for the public safety of recreational paddlers through both prevention and effective response.		
102-04-03	Monitoring of Forestry Best Management Practices in Critical Drinking Water Supplies	Amt Funded: \$15,255	Presumpscot Watershed
DOC Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Purchase and program 2 Geo XT GPS data recorders needed to collect field data used in monitoring and reporting on forestry BMP's on all timber harvests in the Presumpscot watershed.		
102-04-01	Bridging the Gap	Amt Funded: \$19,100	Statewide
DOC Depart.of Conservation - BPL	Employ one Americorps environmental educator and one project position to continue to advance the Bureau's capacity and efficiency in meeting its legal responsibilities to monitor and enforce a number of legal agreements		
101-04-05	Bench Top FlowCam® VS-IV	Amt Funded: \$25,000	West Boothbay
DMR Dept. of Marine Resources	Help support the purchase of a FlowCAM® VS-IV to automate the processing of phytoplankton samples that have been an integral part of the "red tide" monitoring program at the DMR.		

Category 4 Natural Resources Law Enforcement and Protection of Public Health

Total Amount Funded for Category: 4 \$98,355

Total All Categories: \$630,791 # of Grants Awarded: 48