

## Forward



Maine is many things; the state encompasses bald, windswept peaks, almost endless stretches of sprawling forest lands, bucolic small towns, rolling fields, spruce-clad ocean shores, island-studded harbors, mill towns, working ports, and a whole host of other environments.

This physical beauty, rooted in the allure of deep woods, clean rivers, clear lakes, and crashing surf is intertwined with a sense of place - a tempo, a way of life. Outdoor recreation is central to this way of life. Outdoor recreation's contribution to Maine is more than a collection of swimming pools or soccer fields, though they too have their role. Outdoor recreation is a broad umbrella under which Saturday morning baseball games behind the local middle school and ten day canoe expeditions both belong - along with countless other activities. Maine life is richly imbued with opportunities to get outside and experience the benefits of nature, movement, and traditions.

Maintaining the special character of Maine's places helps protect economic, environmental, and community values. Thus, protecting "quality of place" is a major concern as Maine seeks to ensure that its woods and waters, along with its outdoor recreation infrastructure such as trails and parks, continue to recharge residents and inspire visitors.

It is intended and hoped that this plan helps identify the areas in which outdoor recreation efforts can be undertaken to best serve the people of Maine and the visitors who come here to experience the outdoors. It is also hoped that the information on trends, demand, supply, and issues will be of interest to and support the work of the many diverse people and organizations that play a role in providing outdoor recreation experiences in Maine.

-Maine SCORP Planning Team.

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## Introduction

### Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF) & Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)



The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program (LWCF) provides matching funds to states for statewide outdoor recreation planning and for acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Since 1965, approximately \$39.5 million of LWCF money has been used for projects in Maine (**Table 1**).

Administered at the federal level by the National Park Service and at the state level by the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) in the Maine Department of Conservation, LWCF grants can provide up to 50% of the allowable costs for approved acquisition or development projects. Municipalities, schools, the State of Maine, and tribal governments are eligible to apply for local LWCF grants through BPL.

*State participation in LWCF requires preparation of a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), and approval of the plan by the National Park Service (NPS).*

### SCORP Planning Requirements

#### **Federal Requirements**

The LWCF Act requires SCORP to include the following requirements of Chapter 630.1 of the National Park Service LWCF guidelines.

- *evaluation of the demand for and supply of outdoor recreation resources and facilities in the state;*
- *a program for implementation of the plan;*
- *certification by the Governor that ample opportunity for public participation has taken place in plan development; and*

The minimum requirements of the plan are:

1. *inclusion of a description of the process and methodology chosen by the state;*
2. *inclusion of ample opportunity for public participation in the planning process, involving all segments of the state's population;*
3. *comprehensive coverage - it will be considered comprehensive if It:*
  - A. *identifies outdoor recreation issues of statewide importance based upon, but not limited to, input from the public participation program. The plan must also identify*

*those issues that the state will address through the LWCF, and those issues which may be addressed by other means;*

*B. evaluates demand or public outdoor recreation preferences, but not necessarily through quantitative statewide surveys or analyses; and*

*C. evaluates the supply of outdoor recreation resources and facilities, but not necessarily through quantitative statewide inventories.*

*4. inclusion of an implementation program that identifies the state's strategies, priorities and actions for the obligation of its LWCF apportionment. The implementation program must be of sufficient detail to demonstrate that projects submitted to the NPS for LWCF funding implement the plan; and*

*5. inclusion of a wetlands priority component consistent with Section 303 of the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986. At a minimum the wetlands priority component must:*

*A. be consistent with the National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan, prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;*

*B. provide evidence of consultation with the state agency responsible for fish and wildlife resources; and*

*C. contain a listing of those wetland types which should receive priority for acquisition.*

SCORP may consist of a single document or be comprised of multiple documents, as long as the LWCF planning guidelines in chapter 630.1 are met.

### **State Requirements**

Prior to 2001, Maine state law required BP&L to periodically report to the governor on the supply of and demand for outdoor recreation facilities and how these might be met (12 MRSA 1817). Submittal of the SCORP to the Governor accomplished this reporting requirement. In 2001, the Maine Legislature amended this law to require the BP&L director to submit a state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state parks and public lands matters every 5 years. The amendment specifies that a plan meeting the federal SCORP requirements will also satisfy legislative requirements, further formalizing the role of SCORP in state government.

### **Planning Process**

The planning process for the 2009-2014 Maine SCORP included a robust public process to shape a vision for outdoor recreation needs and opportunities in Maine for the next five years. Details on the planning process can be found in **Appendix A**.

### **SCORP's Relationship with Other Recreation and Conservation Funds**

As stated previously, states are required to submit a SCORP for approval by the National Park Service in order to be eligible for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. However, the intended purpose of the SCORP goes beyond the LWCF program in that it

serves as an assessment of outdoor recreation issues and recommends priorities for a broad range of programs and actions related to outdoor recreation opportunities in Maine. The following describes a few programs of note that are not directly linked to a SCORP through legal mandate (as is the LWCF program), many of which assess potential projects in light of the SCORP. **Table 2** (at the end of this section) includes additional details associated with these programs.

<b>County</b>	<b>\$ (Millions) LWCF Requests 1966-2009</b>	<b>\$ Local Project Match (Millions) 1966-2009</b>
Androscoggin	2.31	2.37
Aroostook	1.75	2.82
Cumberland	7.67	8.43
Franklin	1.39	1.9
Hancock	.79	2.24
Kennebec	2.88	3.32
Knox	1.57	1.75
Lincoln	.96	1.02
Oxford	1.45	1.45
Penobscot	3.57	4.15
Piscataquis	3.42	3.74
Sagadahoc	.94	.97
Somerset	.94	2.07
Waldo	1.55	1.70
Washington	2.03	4.49
York	3.173	3.51
Statewide (Planning)	2.75	2.86

**Other Federal Grants and/or Programs of Note**

**Recreational Trails Program (RTP)**

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users (SAFETEA-LU) transfers a percentage of gasoline taxes paid on non-highway recreational use in off-highway vehicles from the Highway Trust Fund into the Recreational Trails Program for trail development, improvement and maintenance.

The Bureau of Parks and Lands has been designated as the state agency to administer the program in Maine. Within the Bureau, the Division of Grants and Community Recreation provides day-to-day supervision of RTP matters. The state uses these funds directly on trail projects on state lands and also provides funds received under this program as grants-in-aid to municipalities, other qualified subdivisions of state government and to

qualified non-profit organizations under guidelines established by the Bureau of Parks and Lands in conjunction with the Maine Trails Advisory Committee.

**Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program**

The Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program is a federal/municipal match program (typically 80/20) offering a funding opportunity to help communities expand their transportation and livability choices. Maine's program principally supports enhancements in connection with Maine Department of Transportation's *Explore Maine*, pedestrian & bicycle, environmental mitigation, and downtown revitalization initiatives

that create a more enhanced transportation system focused on the community. The bike/pedestrian category is particularly relevant, as it deals with pedestrian and bicycle facilities, pedestrian and bicycle safety and education activities, and conversion of abandoned railway corridors to trails.

### **Forest Legacy Program**

The USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy program protects “working forests” that protect water quality, provide habitat, forest products, opportunities for recreation and other public benefits. The Maine Forest Legacy Program focuses on acquiring conservation easements or fee interest in lands in order to protect the traditional uses and public values of Maine’s forests. The Maine Forest Legacy Committee advises the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands on program policy and recommends projects to be presented to Congress for funding through the national Forest Legacy program.

### **State Grants and/or Programs of Note**

#### **Land for Maine’s Future Program (LMF)**

In 1987, the Maine Legislature created the LMF Program within the State Planning Office to secure “the traditional Maine heritage of public access to Maine's land and water resources or continued quality and availability of natural resources important to the interests and continued heritage of Maine people.” Since then, four bonds supporting the LMF Program with a total of \$117 million have passed by overwhelming margins.

The Program has assisted in the acquisition of more than 490,000 acres from willing sellers, including 247,000 acres protected through conservation easements. The lands protected through the [LMF Program](#) include more than 1,000 miles of shorefront and 158 miles of rail-trails as well as valuable wildlife habitat, entire islands, and working forests and farms.

#### **Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund**

The Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund conserves wildlife and open spaces through the sale of instant Lottery tickets. With proceeds from ticket sales, grants are awarded twice a year, totaling approximately \$700,000 annually. The seven-member Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Board chooses projects in four categories that promote recreation as well as conservation of Maine's special places, endangered species and important fish and wildlife habitat.

#### **Snowmobile Grants**

The Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands provides *Municipal Grants* to municipalities or counties for sharing the cost of the construction and maintenance of snowmobile trails. *Snowmobile Club Grants* are made available to all snowmobile clubs who are on file with the Snowmobile Program (BPL) and wish to participate. It is intended to help defray some of the expenses incurred in snowmobile trail preparation, including pre-season

work and winter grooming. This differs from the municipal grant in that it is made directly to a club and does not require municipal involvement. *Capital Grants* (for grooming equipment) are available to clubs or municipalities.

### **ATV Grants**

As with snowmobile grants, ATV grants to clubs or municipalities are available through the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands. Additionally, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife manages the ATV Enforcement Grant and Aid Program. Grants from this program are intended to maintain, improve, and expand ATV enforcement and training for state, county, and municipal enforcement officers. Grants are available for three different project types: General ATV Enforcement, Multi-Jurisdictional Enforcement, and Training & Equipment.

### **Boating Facilities Fund**

The Boating Facilities Fund funds development and acquisition projects providing access to the waters of Maine for public recreational boating. The Boating Facilities Fund Grant Program, administered by the Department's Bureau of Parks and Lands, assists towns, cities, districts and other public and private agencies in the acquisition, development, enhancement, or rehabilitation of boat launching facilities available to the general public. Sites on both tidal and non-tidal waters are eligible. Funding is available to assist in the development of hand-carry as well as trailered boat launching facilities. However, since the Fund derives its revenue from a portion of the gasoline taxes generated by recreational motor boaters, priority is given to funding launching facilities that can be used by both motor and non-motorized watercraft.

### ***SCORP's Relation to Recreation and Conservation Efforts involving Private Philanthropy***

It is hoped that the SCORP plan may help inform the outdoor recreation planning efforts undertaken by a broad spectrum of planners, advocates, and fundraisers. One way in which a SCORP document can expand its value and impact is by serving as support for organizations seeking private funds for recreation and conservation projects. Therefore, fundraisers and grant writers are strongly encouraged to use the 2009-2014 Maine SCORP as they seek support for outdoor recreation projects.

### ***SCORP & the Federal Energy Regulation Commission's (FERC)***

FERC licensing procedures require that recreation facilities and needs are evaluated as part of licensing process for hydroelectric facilities. Furthermore, 6 year recreation updates (Form 80) are also required. An approved SCORP is one source of insight as these plans and updates are produced between dam owners and stakeholder groups.

<b>Table2: Select Programs/Funds Associated with Outdoor Recreation in Maine</b>			
<b>Program/Fund</b>	<b>Administered By</b>	<b>Types of Projects</b>	<b>Details</b>
<i>Land and Water Conservation Fund</i>	Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands	Statewide recreation planning, acquisitions with recreation values, outdoor recreation facilities development	<a href="http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/community/lwgrants.html">www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/community/lwgrants.html</a>
<i>Recreational Trails Program</i>	Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands	Restoration, construction, acquisition, and education associated with recreational trails	<a href="http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/community/trailsfund.html">www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/community/trailsfund.html</a>
<i>Snowmobile/ATV Club and Municipal Grants</i>	Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands	Construction, maintenance, and capital expenses associated with snowmobile and ATV trails	<a href="http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/snowmobile/index.html">www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/snowmobile/index.html</a> <a href="http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/ATV/atv.html">www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/ATV/atv.html</a>
<i>Boating Facilities Fund</i>	Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands	acquisition, development, enhancement, or rehabilitation of boat launching facilities	<a href="http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/boating/grants.html">www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/boating/grants.html</a>
<i>Transportation Enhancements Program</i>	Maine Dept. of Transportation	pedestrian and bicycle facilities, pedestrian and bicycle safety and education activities, and conversion of abandoned railway corridors to trails	<a href="http://www.maine.gov/mdot/community-programs/enhancement-program.php">www.maine.gov/mdot/community-programs/enhancement-program.php</a>
<i>ATV Enforcement Grant and Aid Program</i>	Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	maintain, improve, and expand ATV enforcement and training for state, county, and municipal enforcement officers	<a href="http://www.maine.gov/ifw/grants/atv.htm">www.maine.gov/ifw/grants/atv.htm</a>
<i>Forest Legacy Program</i>	Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands	working forests conservation for public benefits	<a href="http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/forestlegacy.shtml">www.maine.gov/doc/parks/forestlegacy.shtml</a>
<i>Land for Maine's Future Program</i>	Maine State Planning Office	Protection (fee & easement purchase) of conservation, recreation, and farm land.	<a href="http://www.maine.gov/spo/lmf/index.htm">www.maine.gov/spo/lmf/index.htm</a>
<i>Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund</i>	seven-member board	projects that promote recreation, conservation of Maine's special places, endangered species and important fish and wildlife habitat.	<a href="http://www.maine.gov/ifw/grants/outdoorheritagefund/index.htm">www.maine.gov/ifw/grants/outdoorheritagefund/index.htm</a>