



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week ending March 27, 2009

State law assigns four core duties to the State Planning Office that include: 1) conducting continuing economic analysis, including economic forecasting, 2) coordinating the development of the State's economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources; 3) providing technical assistance to towns and regions; and 4) providing technical assistance to the Governor and Legislature by undertaking special studies and plans and preparing policy alternatives.

THE MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Senate Passes Historic Bipartisan Expansion of National Service. Following House action last week, the United States Senate voted 79–19 to pass the most sweeping expansion and reform of national service programs in a generation. The legislation was renamed the “Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act.” The Senate’s action follows the 321–105 House vote last week in support of H.R. 1388, the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act. The Senate passed a substitute that largely mirrors the House bill, and differences between the versions are minor. House leaders are planning for a vote on the Senate–passed bill as early as Monday. The bill contains a wide range of provisions to expand service opportunities including: growing AmeriCorps from its current level of 75,000 to 250,000, enhancing service opportunities for veterans, increasing the amount of the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award from \$4,725 to the Pell Grant amount of \$5,350, providing incentives for middle and high school students to serve, and expanding service opportunities for older Americans. **CONTACT: Maryalice Crofton at 287–8931 or Maryalice.crofton@maine.gov .**

The Maine Commission for Community Service hosts annual AmeriCorps Member Conference. Nearly 100 AmeriCorps members from across the state came together on Wednesday, March 25 in Belfast to share stories and skill sets centered on national service. Maryli Tielmann started the day with a very thought provoking keynote speech, which flowed immediately into Civic Reflection exercises for all of the AmeriCorps Members present. The Civic Reflection exercises were made possible thanks in part to

the Maine Humanities Council, and provided participants with the opportunity to reflect on some of the underlying principles of their service with AmeriCorps. Members spent the rest of the day attending and providing trainings on a variety of topics. **CONTACT: Pam Zeutenhorst at 287-5313 or Pam.Zeutenhorst@maine.gov .**

The Maine Commission for Community Service solicits proposals for AmeriCorps grants. AmeriCorps is a national service program, which engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in community service. All proposals must be submitted electronically using the federal eGrants systems and copies of required attachments received for opening by the Division of Purchases no later than 2:00 p.m. EST on Friday, April 24, 2009. **CONTACT: Harold Shaw at 287-1588 or harold.shaw@maine.gov .**

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Floodplain mapping project update: The Maine Floodplain Management Program, through its 'Map Modernization Project', is involved in revising floodplain maps for Maine communities. The revised floodplain maps are projected on aerial photographs, allowing for easier and more correct floodplain boundary identification. Since floodplains are a topographic feature, new accurate elevation data is critical to the development of more accurate floodplain delineation. The most inexpensive method for obtaining high resolution topography is through the use of LiDAR technology. This is very important for many of the states programs as detailed in our [Special Report on Interagency Cooperation for Floodplain Mapping](#). Unfortunately, only a small fraction of Maine has been surveyed using LiDAR. In an effort to obtain LiDAR mapping for Maine, the Maine Floodplain Management staff initiated a conference call with their counterparts in the other New England states to discuss a [conceptual proposal](#) for joining together to acquire high resolution topography for use in meeting floodplain mapping needs of all New England States. The proposal envisions the establishment of a multi state, multi agency partnership that would collaborate and pool funding to leverage some of the \$12 million dollars of stimulus funding which has been allocated to acquire LiDAR data along the nation's coasts. The draft proposal was developed as a collaborative effort between Maine Floodplain Management Program staff, Maine's Geospatial Liaison from USGS, staff from the Office of Information Technology, and Maine Department of Transportation. **CONTACT: Joseph Young at 287-8051 or Joseph.Young@maine.gov.**

DIRECTOR'S POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TEAM

New Grant Program for Preserving Maine's Quality of Place. [The Environmental Funders Network \(EFN\) is launching a grant program](#) to support Maine-based organizations and partnerships working to preserve the state's quality of place. Through financial support and learning opportunities, EFN's *Quality of Place* Initiative seeks to advance projects that strengthen the link between the natural and built environments, emphasize public engagement, and, in the case of collaborations, recognize the elements required to build and sustain them. EFN will award a limited number of grants in varying amounts up to \$100,000, potentially renewable for two additional years. Letters of Inquiry must be submitted electronically to grants@mainecf.org no later than April 17, 2009.

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ECONOMICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Census Workers Hit the Streets! Census employees will be visiting communities around the state during [Address Canvassing](#) operations. Beginning in April 2009, census employees will use hand-held computers to verify the location of housing units in the community, confirming where the US Census Bureau will send questionnaires and enumerators for the 2010 Census. Address Canvassing is an important part of the 2010 Census. Its results will:

- Help the Census Bureau build an up-to-date Address List and maps to serve as the backbone of the decennial census.
- Lay the groundwork for a more cost-effective and accurate decennial census.
- Pave the way for success of other 2010 Census operations that follow.

CONTACT: Amanda Rector at 287-1475 or Amanda.K.Rector@maine.gov .

LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE

Land for Maine's Future Program Update. The program was established to help secure the future economic and social well being of the citizens of Maine by maintaining the quality and availability of productive lands and natural areas including recreation, working farms and forests, hunting, fishing, conservation, wildlife habitat, vital ecological functions, and scenic beauty. Since 1987 over 230 projects have been completed. This work has protected some 498,000 acres with roughly 60% being by easement and 40 % being in fee interest. The program has recently completed work on the following projects:

Bald & Ragged Mountains, Camden and Rockport, Knox County. Working in partnership with the Coastal Mountains Land Trust, the 18 acre Oxton parcel has been added to the conservation lands surrounding Bald and Ragged Mountains. The Oxton parcel is next to the Town of Camden's Ragged Mountain Recreation Area and will become the linking parcel or the *Gateway to the Mountains* with four season trails for hiking, mountain biking, and cross country skiing that will also connect to the Georges Highland Path. The protected lands surrounding Bald and Ragged Mountains are an important part of the midcoast's quality of life that attracts both visitors and residents. Click [here](#) for more information.



Bog Brook and Moose Cove, Cutler and Trescott, Washington County. Working in partnership with the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, two parcels were added to existing conservation lands. The 500 acre Meadows and Mountains parcel is just to the east of the Maine Department of Conservation's Bold Coast unit. The property has two significant brooks that provide fishing opportunities as well as providing a connecting link to the 873 acre Bog Brook Farm parcel. This parcel has tremendous recreational potential, scenic and habitat diversity. Click [here](#) for more information.



Kennebec Highlands, New Sharon, Franklin County and Vienna, Kennebec County. The [Kennebec Highlands](#) unit of public reserved lands was created between 1998–2004 through a joint effort of the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, the Maine

Department of Conservation and the Land for Maine's Future Program. The original 25 parcels with over 5,400 acres of protected lands have just been expanded with the addition of five parcels of land that add over 375 acres to the project area. The Kennebec Highlands is managed for diverse recreational uses including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, and ATV riding. Click [here](#) for more information.



Seboomook – Carry Brook, Big W Township, Somerset County is located strategically at the north end of Moosehead Lake and is almost entirely surrounded by the Bureau of Parks and Lands Seboomook Public Lands Unit. This very special property includes almost one mile of water frontage split between Moosehead Lake and the Carry Brook inlet. The property offers the only [campground](#) on the northern portion of the lake



and possesses important ecological and cultural resources. The property has been acquired by the Maine Department of Conservation. Click [here](#) for more information.

South Pond, Buckfield, Oxford County. The 14 acre parcel acquired with LMF funds is part of a larger 1,300 acre South Pond Conservation Area project by the [Western Foothills Land Trust](#). The project area protects the entire frontage along South Pond and includes wetlands, agricultural fields, over 3,000 feet of frontage on Outlook Brook and 15,000 feet of frontage along other small brooks with a combination of fee and conservation easement ownership by the Trust. The land includes 2.5 miles of ITS 89, a multi use trail along a former rail bed that offers year round recreational use.



Seboeis Lake – Northwest Pond, T4 R9 NWP, Piscataquis County. This is the second Land for Maine's Future project that adds significantly to the Seboeis Public Lands Unit of the Maine Department of Conservation. In 2004 LMF supported a 789 acre addition. The current project has just added another 2,256 acres including almost 12 miles of shorefront on the main portion of Seboeis Lake and Northwest Pond. This most recent



addition also includes 4.8 miles of island shoreline. This project is part of the largest contiguous conservation land block in the State of Maine. From the Seboeis Lake Unit you can travel north through the Katahdin Forest Project to the Nahmakanta Reserve, through the 100 Mile Wilderness to Baxter State Park and on to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and be on State of

Maine conserved lands every step of the way. The Maine Department of Conservation worked in cooperation with the Trust for Public Land to acquire this important addition to the [Seboeis Public Lands Unit](#). **CONTACT: Steve Brooke at 287-6736 or steve.brooke@maine.gov or Tim Glidden at 287-1487 or tim.glidden@maine.gov.**