



PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORT

For Submission to
The Joint Standing Committee on
Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Paul Davis
Senate Chair

Michelle Dunphy
House Chair

November 1, 2017

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Authorizing Legislation or Other Relevant Mandate:

The Department was established by 7-A MRS §201. The powers and responsibilities assigned to it are described in 7-A MRS, 7 MRS, and 12 MRS Pts. 1, 2, 8, and 11.

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry fulfills its natural resource stewardship mission by supporting the work of Maine citizens who derive their livelihood from agricultural, forest based and recreation interests and by assisting those who enjoy state parks and activities on other publicly held lands; by protecting the public health and guiding the management of healthy domestic animals; by assisting individuals and public interests in applying the most beneficial long term land use planning and by overseeing many of the most widely recognized, publicly owned state natural resource assets. Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry staff and management work to accomplish their department's mission by skillfully and patiently engaging constituencies and the public through educational information, technical assistance, research, regulatory guidance, and public policy formation, and by creating rural economic stability with value added, land derived and forest derived products as well as outdoor-based recreation experiences in local, national, and international markets.

Brief History

The first state regulation of commerce began in 1839, when the Legislature established the Sealer of Weights & Measures to ensure fair and accurate transactions of agricultural products. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry still serves as the State Sealer.

The State Board of Agriculture was established in 1852 to receive and review the extensive annual report of the Secretary of Agriculture. Published volumes of the Secretary of Agriculture's annual summary included reports of the many county agricultural societies, minutes of important agricultural association meetings, crop reports and the most up-to-date research on numerous significant rural subjects. In 1902, the Board of Agriculture was succeeded by the Department of Agriculture and the Secretary of Agriculture became the Commissioner of Agriculture.

The Maine Forest Service was established in 1891 "to ensure for Maine's citizens the greatest economic and social benefits from trees and forestlands of the State". The first fire tower was erected in 1905 and the first state entomologist was hired in 1921.

The State Parks Commission was created in 1935. Aroostook and Sebago Lake State Parks were established in 1938 as the first state parks. As additional parks were created, the Commission later became the Department of Parks & Recreation in 1971.

Following the elimination of the Governor's Executive Council and reorganization of state agencies to create an executive cabinet, the Department of Conservation was established in 1973 by the merger of the Department of Parks & Recreation, the Maine Forest Service, the Maine Geological Survey, and the Land Use Regulation Commission.

Over the past 40 years, numerous attempts have been made to more formally link the activities of various state natural resource agencies into a single department. Across-the-board budget cuts by several previous administrations disproportionately affected smaller state agencies, particularly those with natural resource management responsibilities. After extensive public and legislative discussion, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry was established on August 30, 2012 by combining the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and the Department of Conservation, which included various legacy programs of the former State Planning Office. Details of the merger were finally approved by the Legislature and the current organizational structure became effective on October 9, 2013.

Brief Description of the Agency

Office of the Commissioner – The Office of Commissioner provides oversight in development and implementation of rules and directives necessary for the Department to meet its statutory obligations. It provides policy leadership, human resource coordination, and financial

management to assist the four Bureaus in delivery of services. The Commissioner and Commissioner's Office staff act as state, regional, national and international representatives on issues relating to agriculture, recreation, forestry, and land management. The Commissioner's Office oversees the Department's legislative program, and coordinates the Department's public information and education efforts.

Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources – The Bureau is responsible for animal and plant health, farm and consumer quality assurance, agricultural product marketing, and partnerships that promote rural educational events. The Bureau is also charged with developing the public understanding of Maine agriculture's importance to the state's economy, the vitality of rural communities and Maine's quality of life. The Harness Racing Commission, Maine Milk Commission, and Board of Pesticides Control are located within the Bureau. Maine's 16 Soil & Water Conservation Districts are administratively assigned to the Bureau.

Bureau of Forestry – The Bureau is responsible for promoting sound forest management on Maine's private and public forest lands to optimize the benefits from the forest, protecting the forest resource from destructive elements including fire, insects, and diseases, providing forest management advice and assistance, promoting improved marketing and utilization of forest products, collecting and maintaining up-to-date data, including a forest inventory, promoting sound forest policy, and administering the Forest Practices Act.

Bureau of Parks and Lands – The Bureau manages and administers programs on 85,721 acres in designated park lands including 35 state parks, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, and 13 state historic sites; 631,175 acres of Public Reserved and Non-Reserved Lands; 382,414 acres in conservation and recreation easements including easements along the Appalachian Trail and the Penobscot River Corridor; 625,000 acres in public access easements including the West Branch easement in Somerset County and the Typhoon LLC easement in Washington County; 2.3 million acres of submerged lands; 1,333 coastal islands; 310 miles of former rail bed managed as multi-use trails; and other public lands. The Bureau also administers special programs related to boat access sites, navigational hazards marking on inland waters, snowmobile and ATV trails, the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreational Trail Program, and the Maine Conservation Corps.

Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning – The Bureau provides science for resource management and land use planning. The Bureau includes the Maine Geological Survey, Municipal Planning Assistance, the Land Use Planning Commission, Floodplain Management, and the Land For Maine's Future Board and the Maine Natural Areas Program. The Legislature transferred the Maine Coastal Program to the Department of Marine Resources in July 2017.

Commissioner's Office

Walter Whitcomb, Commissioner 287-3419

Randy Charette, Deputy Commissioner 287-7550

Mission – The Commissioner's Office staff lead the Department's ongoing association with agricultural, forestry, outdoor recreation, and other natural resource management interests. In directing the Department, the Commissioner's Office provides administrative support and guides policy implementation to ensure the efficient operation of programs and the effective delivery of services to natural resource constituencies and the public.

Programs & Services:

Policy and Program Development – The Commissioner's Office guides policy development and responses to natural resource issues as identified by the Governor's Office and other components of the Executive Branch, the Legislature, interest groups, and the public. The Office ensures consistent responses to statutory and financial requirements.

Regulatory/Legislative Coordination and Oversight - The Commissioner's Office manages DACF legislative initiatives and the review and response to all proposed legislation. The Office interacts with other state and federal agencies, as well as the assigned Assistant Attorneys General who provide legal oversight and representation on natural resource management issues. The Office also guides the Department's rulemaking, reviews contracts, develops new programs as directed by changes in statutes, and responds to all Freedom of Access Act requests.

Financial Management – The Commissioner's Office oversees Department accounts and spearheads the creation of the Department's budget. A budget analyst from the Natural Resources Service Center is located with the Commissioner's Office to provide close coordination and support to the Bureaus.

Human Resources -- The Office provides support to the Bureaus and works with the Natural Resources Service Center to meet staffing and human resource requirements

Public Information – The Commissioner's Office develops all forms of media outreach, news releases and responses, in addition to coordinating Departmental presence at public events. The Office provides oversight and assistance to the Bureaus on public information and educational materials and maintains the Department's website and electronic subscription services.

Accomplishments:

Improving Public Service

The Commissioner's Office is improving the quality of DACF public service with a greater concentration of support for Bureau Directors and program managers by adding skilled assistance with the technicalities of conducting state business.

Valuing the intensely competitive, time/seasonally sensitive climate surrounding the natural resource workplace, DACF now operates with an understanding that state government requirements need to be clear, concise and as easy as possible to navigate while making certain that the rules and regulations precisely encompass the underlying statutory requirements.

The Department continues to upgrade its internal and external guidance documents for accuracy to reflect both statutory change and the many real world developments impacting natural resource spheres of influence. Managers are assisted in drafting, editing, reviewing statutory reference, meeting public notice and filing deadlines and with the series of additional requirements associated with contracts, memorandums of understanding, substantive rules, requests for proposals, Freedom of Access Act requests, deeds, easements, purchase and sale agreements, legislative reports, etc.

The Office directs the constant coordination necessary between DACF and other Executive Branch agencies on matters important to rural constituencies. The Commissioner and staff have expanded Maine's involvement in federal policy development advocating for the specific interests of Maine.

Financial management

The Commissioner's Office established a position of Business Operations Manager to direct and coordinate Resource Administrators in each of the four Bureaus. The Business Operations Manager ensures that State of Maine purchasing requirements and budget limitations are met and that the Department manages its financial, human, and capital resources efficiently. The Business Operations Manager coordinates the work of Resource Administrators who support the day-to-day operations of the four Bureaus.

The Commissioner's Office has reviewed and consolidated program accounts through the biennial budget process. This consolidation process increases the flexibility of program managers in each Bureau to efficiently use available resources and decreases the need to track and report on multiple small accounts. In 2015 (FY 2016), the Legislature approved reduction of the Bureau of Forestry's program accounts from 5 to 2. In 2017 (FY 2018), the Bureau of

Agriculture’s program accounts were reduced from 15 to 7. Additional consolidation of program accounts for the remaining bureaus is planned for the 2020 and 2022 budget cycles.

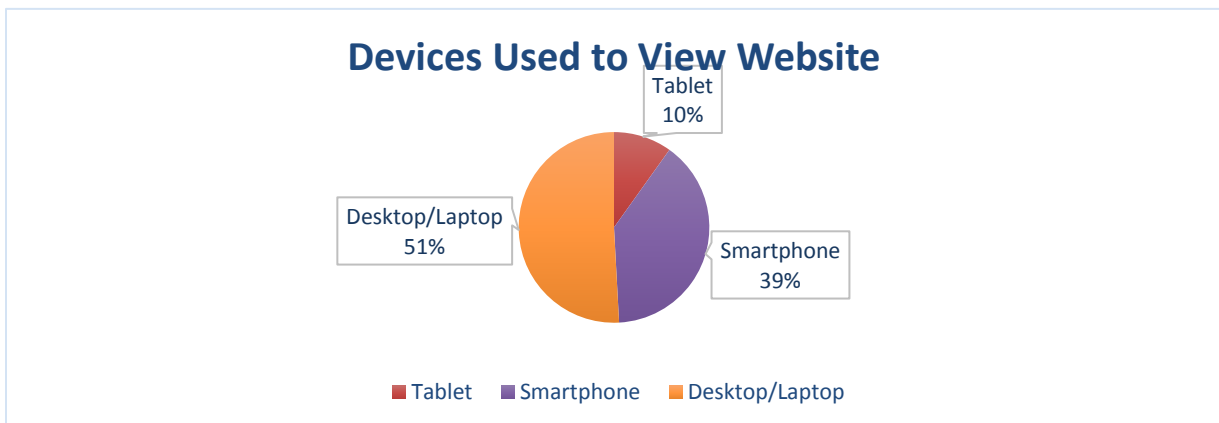
Public Information

The Commissioner’s Office has centralized the Department’s many public information and outreach efforts to provide consistency in branding and messaging. Dramatic growth and improvements in communications have occurred since creation of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The addition of a dedicated communications professional and a webmaster, combined with advancements in communications technology, has enabled the Department to expand communications and public outreach in ways that were not previously envisioned.

Press Releases & Public Notices – The statewide press/media distribution list has grown from under 270 to over 3,605 recipients in the last three years. Communications reach the public through a new and enhanced website, two different statewide distribution systems, and through the social media. The annual number of press/news releases has more than quadrupled since 2012/2013.

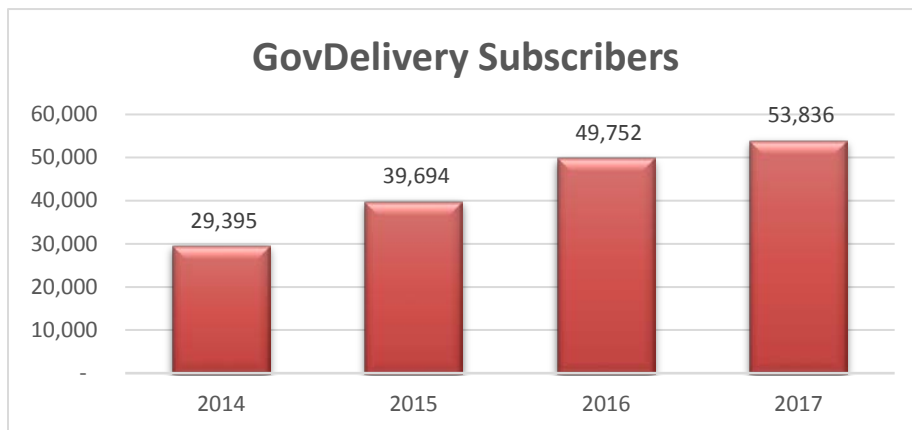
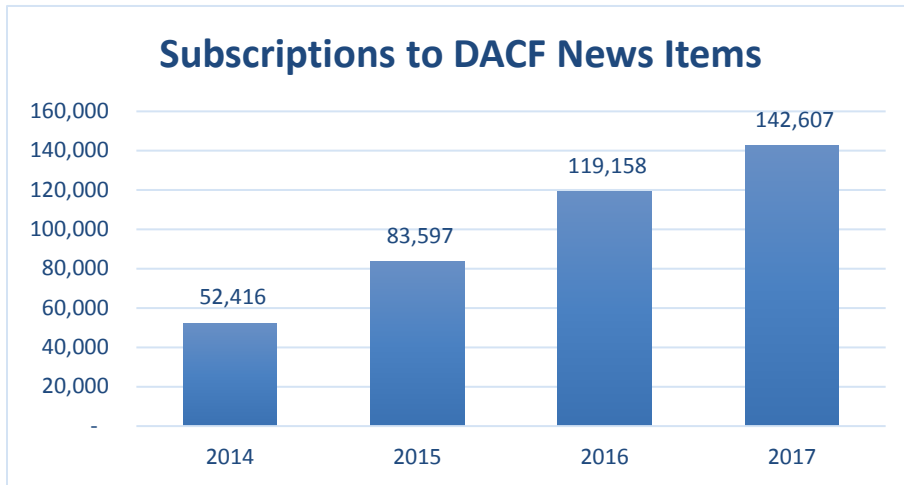
DACF Website –

- The mobile responsive website makes it easier for the public and constituency groups to access state services through enhanced graphics, accessibility and a more user-friendly presentation. (Mobile users account for 46% of page views.)
- Web traffic has greatly increased and is monitored (Unique page views are up 18% since 2014)
- DACF’s Fall Foliage Website is one of the most visited pages in state government (574,000+ hits)
- Online services – The Department is increasing availability of online services designed to better serve Maine citizens in a more cost-effective manner



GovDelivery System – Provides online newsletter and public notice options for DACF Bureaus to directly engage and communicate with the public, eliminating the costs and bottlenecks of delivering printed information regarding natural resources:

- Constituent electronic newsletters - Over 130,238 subscriptions, 51,806 subscribers
- Bulletins – Over 744 were sent in 2016
- Content areas – Over 121 different topics and growing
- Text notifications about trail conditions and access to state parks and public lands



Social Media – DACF use of social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, etc.) is expanding.

- Department maintained Facebook pages (DACF, Forest Rangers, Maine Bug Watch, Maine Agriculture in the Classroom, Project Canopy, Hunters for the Hungry, Maine Fall Foliage, Integrated Pest Management, Board of Pesticides Control, Maine Conservation Corps, Maine Off Road Vehicles, Snowmobile and ATV Trail Programs and Get Real Get Maine) have over 55,000 followers.

Internal Communications – Internal communications have been enhanced, to take advantage of the size and depth of expertise in Maine’s largest natural resource agency:

- A Department newsletter goes to over 400 full-time DACF employees
- Several internal communications-related groups meet regularly to ensure the free flow of information within the Department, including the: DACF Communications Team (9 members), Webmasters (6), Information Systems Technology Committee (20), and the senior management team, which includes the Bureau Directors and staff from the Commissioner’s Office.

Promotion of natural resource tourism

Drawing upon marketing expertise and data from the Bureau of Agriculture and mapping capabilities from the Bureau of Resource Information & Land Use Planning, the Commissioner’s Office developed and published a map of Agricultural Tourism Destinations. The initial map lists several hundred destinations for visitors interested in Maine food and farming experiences. The project is being expanded with additional listings and an [on-line interactive component](#).

The Commissioner’s Office is working with the Bureau of Parks & Lands to establish purchasing procedures for short-term business licensing agreements in Maine State Parks. These agreements will provide new visitor amenities, such as food trucks, gift shops, and kayak rentals in appropriate locations. Use of park facilities for weddings, events, and custom tours will also broaden the appeal and enhance recreational experiences to maintain and increase public use of the State Parks.

Grassroots conservation education and outreach

Maine’s 16 Soil & Water Conservation Districts are independent, special-purpose agencies of the state, administratively assigned to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry. The Commissioner’s Office has actively promoted the integration of Soil & Water Conservation Districts with Department projects to expand the Department’s capabilities to provide localized technical assistance, education, and outreach on a variety of natural resource management issues. With funding from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, each of the 16 Districts has developed a local Natural Resources Assessment to identify priority management issues. Recently, the Department has developed agreements with Soil & Water Conservation Districts to assist with forest pest outreach, agricultural water use surveys, Food Safety Modernization Act compliance training, and invasive plant mapping.

Invasive species monitoring, prevention, and management

The increasing presence of invasive species (non-native terrestrial and aquatic plants, insects, and other animals) requires more coordinated prevention and management efforts. Invasive

plants are becoming more prevalent in the southern half of Maine and present significant challenges to private and public land managers. Insect pests are a significant threat to natural resources overseen by the Bureaus of Agriculture, Forestry, and Parks & Lands. The Department's efforts to address invasive species has required closer communication and cooperation among all four of its Bureaus.

Coordination of Boards and Commissions

The Commissioner's Office oversees and supports 24 Boards and Commissions. The Office tracks members' appointments and makes recommendations on candidates to the appropriate appointing authorities.

Agriculture in the Classroom Council	Maine Milk Commission
Allagash Waterway Advisory Council	Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Board
All-Terrain-Vehicle Advisory Board	Maine Seed Potato Board
Animal Welfare Advisory Council	Maine State Harness Racing Commission
Board of Pesticides Control	Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission
Geologic Mapping Advisory Board	Nutrient Management Review Board
Harness Racing Promotional Board	Pull Events Commission
Integrated Pest Management Council	Snowmobile Advisory Board
Land For Maine's Future Board	Water Resources Planning Commission
Land Use Planning Commission	Maine Agricultural Bargaining Board
Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine	Maine Agricultural Water Management Board
Maine Arborist Advisory Council	Soil & Water Conservation District Advisory Council

Program Coordination

Creation of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry required substantial effort to coordinate systems, policies, procedures, and organizational cultures of the former Departments of Agriculture and Conservation. This is an ongoing effort, and Department managers and employees are encouraged to forge cooperative working relationships with their peers. The Commissioner's Office assists the various program managers in maximizing the value of service to the natural resource community.

Since final approval of the Department, the Commissioner's Office has developed flexible organizational management to better address issues that require cooperation among Bureaus. Public lands management (involving Forestry and Parks & Lands) and invasive species inventory and control (involving all 4 Bureaus) are primary examples of the Department's development of collaborative relationships among staff.

Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources

Ron Dyer, Bureau Director 287-3491

Mission – The Bureau has the primary responsibility for animal and plant health, on-farm and consumer quality assurance, agricultural product marketing, and partnerships that promote rural educational events. The Bureau is also charged with developing the public understanding of Maine agriculture’s importance to the State’s economy, the vitality of rural communities and Maine’s quality of life.



Authorizing Legislation or Other Relevant Mandate

The Bureau was established by 7 MRS §1. The powers and responsibilities assigned to it are described in 7 MRS, 10 MRS c. 501, 12 MRS c. 1, 22 MRS c. 551 and c. 562-A, 32 MRS c. 27 and c. 28,

The Bureau is the State’s lead agency dealing with all aspects of the food system from the field to the table. The Bureau maintains a mission of fostering opportunities for the agriculture community and of promoting stewardship of Maine’s natural resources.

The Bureau has the primary responsibility for: Animal and Plant Health, Farm and Consumer Quality Assurance, Agricultural Product Marketing, and partnerships that promote rural educational events. The Bureau also is charged with developing the public understanding of Maine's agriculture's importance to the State of Maine's economy, the vitality of rural communities and Maine's quality of life.

Brief History

Agriculture has been a focus of state government from early statehood. In 1839, the Legislature established the office of the Sealer of Weights & Measures, a position that continues in the Department today. In 1852, the Maine Legislature created the Board of Agriculture; the Secretary of the Board provided annual reports on harvest results and improvement of crops. It was essentially the first time that a representative group of leading farmers began to study their common problems from a statewide point of view.

The Maine Department of Agriculture came into being on January 1, 1902, with Augustus Gilman as the first Commissioner of Agriculture. The agency was later re-named as the

Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources. DAFRR became the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources in the newly formed Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in 2012.

Brief Description of the Bureau

Animal and Plant Health – The Division is responsible for a variety of programs pertaining to animal and public health, as well as production and quality; works to prevent the introduction and spread of contagious, infectious, and parasitic diseases among poultry and livestock, especially those diseases transmitted to people either directly or indirectly; tests all milk and milk products for compliance with federal law; works with farmers to resolve problems and to improve milk quality and production; oversees the Animal Welfare Program and all laws pertaining to animal welfare; administers the Nutrient Management Program and Livestock Operations Permits; and administers the deer farm licensing program and the licensing of commercial large game shooting areas.

The Division is also responsible for preventing the introduction and spread of injurious insects and diseases to Maine crops; protecting the public from the sale of weak, diseased, or insect-infested commercial plant stock; testing and licensing arborists who wish to practice in the State of Maine; inspecting honeybees to ensure freedom from regulated pests; surveying for insects and diseases of economic importance to Maine's plant industries; certifying seed potatoes and other crops that meet disease and insect tolerances; and ensuring an adequate supply of high quality, disease-free seed potatoes for Maine's seed potato industry. It also houses the Board of Pesticides Control.

Agricultural Resource Development -- The Office works with producers to improve crop production. It also assists in the research into and demonstration of the feasibility of new crops. It provides producers with marketing assistance through displays, packaging and source directories. It works with agricultural associations to develop joint marketing ventures. It provides oversight of and assistance to the agricultural fairs. Finally, it oversees the Agricultural Trades Show and the state's participation at the Eastern States Exposition.

Quality Assurance & Regulations – The Division provides public health, safety and sanitation inspections at all levels of Maine's food supply. It provides unbiased inspection services to assure that food, various agricultural products and other commodities reaching the market place are safe to eat, of a known, standardized quality, and are accurately weighed, measured and presented prior to being entered into commerce. The Division ensures that weighing and measuring devices used in commerce are correct. It enforces method of sale laws, packaging and labeling laws, and fuel quality standards for all fuels.

Animal and Plant Health



The Animal and Plant Health Division was formed in 2010 to eliminate the need for two division directors and to combine the functions of animal and plant health to align with the USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). This is a very large division with a wide variety of programs, several of which are not included in the APHIS model.

The Animal Health portion of the Division is responsible for a variety of programs pertaining to animal and public health, as well as production and quality; works to prevent the introduction and spread of contagious, infectious, and parasitic diseases among poultry and livestock, especially those diseases transmitted to people either directly or indirectly and administers the deer farm licensing program and the licensing of commercial large game shooting areas. Also included is the Animal Welfare Program and all laws pertaining to animal welfare; and the Agricultural Compliance Program responsible for Nutrient Management, Right to Farm issues and Livestock Operations Permits.

The Plant Health portion of the Division is responsible for preventing the introduction and spread of injurious insects and diseases to Maine crops; protecting the public from the sale of weak, diseased, or insect-infested commercial plant stock; testing and licensing arborists who wish to practice in the State of Maine; inspecting honeybees to ensure freedom from regulated pests; surveying for insects and diseases of economic importance to Maine's plant industries; certifying hemp; certifying seed potatoes and other crops that meet disease and insect tolerances; and ensuring an adequate supply of high quality, disease-free seed potatoes for Maine's seed potato industry. It also houses the Board of Pesticides Control.

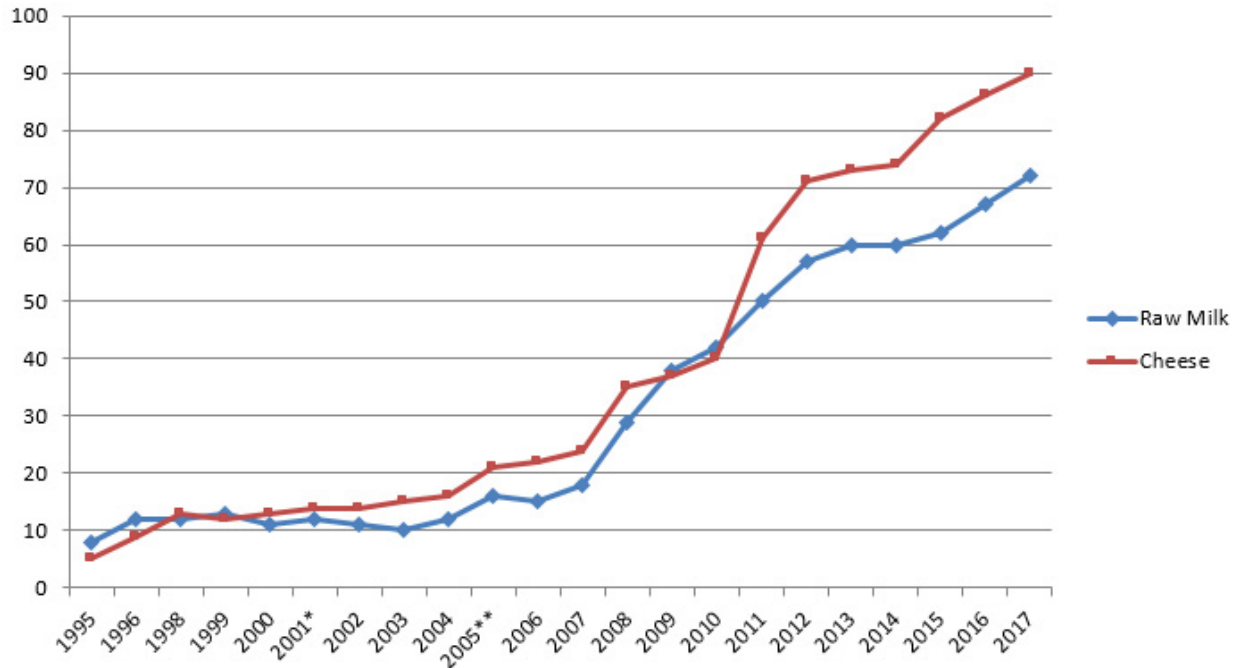
Animal Health Programs & Services:

State Veterinarian - Responsibilities include oversight of certification and testing programs to ensure compliance with interstate and international requirements for the movement of animals, with a focus on animals raised for consumption. The goal of these programs is to prevent the introduction and spread of contagious, infectious, and parasitic diseases among poultry and livestock, especially those diseases transmitted to humans either directly or indirectly.

Licensing and Permitting Programs - The Division issues a variety of licenses covering poultry and livestock dealers, deer and elk farm operations, commercial large game shooting areas, pulling events, and milk and milk products processors. Licenses are contingent upon the licensee adhering to State and Federal animal health requirements. It issues permits to dairy farms that allow them to ship their milk. Inspections are made to assess compliance.

Livestock Specialist - The Livestock Specialist assists producers with animal health, management, and marketing needs. This includes collaboration with the state’s livestock organizations and individual producers to increase the value of their products through individual and cooperative marketing, improving animal health and performance, applied research, and assistance in locating and applying for state and federal agricultural grants.

Maine's Small Dairy Industry Growth



Animal Welfare Program - In December 2007, the Division assumed oversight for the Animal Welfare Program. The Program’s mission is to provide for the licensing of dogs and the humane and proper treatment of animals. This is accomplished through dog licensing, Animal Control Officer certification and training, companion animal sterilization program (Help Fix ME) and licensing of domesticated animal facilities (breeding kennels, animal shelters, pet stores, boarding kennels, and research facilities). The Program has six humane agents to enforce the animal welfare laws. Hundreds of complaints are received each year related to neglect, abandonment, physical abuse, sexual abuse, blood sports, hoarding, illegal sales, failure to provide veterinary care, and unclean living conditions.

Nutrient Management Program - Since the inception of the Program in 1998, pursuant to 7 MRS 4201, almost 900 nutrient management plans have been developed to specify how farm nutrients are stored, managed, and utilized on farms. The Program issues Livestock Operations Permits, and works cooperatively with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on waste discharge permits and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). The Program also coordinates the development of Compost Management Plans.

Agricultural Compliance Program - This Program was developed to investigate and resolve complaints from the public concerning farms, farm operations, or agricultural composters that involve threats to human or animal health and safety, and to the environment. Complaints investigated include, but are not limited to: flies/insects, improper carcass disposal, manure handling, odors, and water quality. An important aspect of the Program is that it helps operators to comply with best management practices (BMPs), which are the basis for a farmer's "Right-to-Farm" protection as established in the Maine Agriculture Protection Act. Essentially, this law specifies that farms may not be considered a "nuisance" if the operations comply with applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations, and BMPs. The Program also works to mitigate potential sources of pollution related to cull potatoes, carcass disposal and water quality issues in conjunction with other state agencies.

Accomplishments:

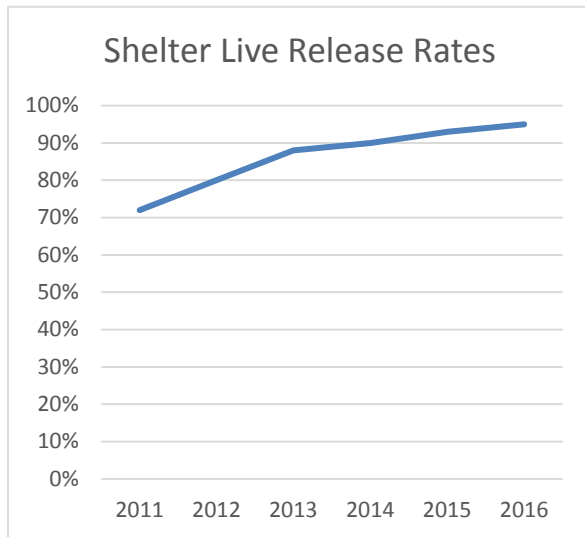
Evaluation system for animal health management at Maine agricultural fairs - The Division has designed a new evaluation system for animal health management at Maine agricultural fairs. The Division's veterinarians, livestock specialist and poultry health technician have conducted evaluations at 25 fairs, in coordination with Agricultural Resource Development's Agricultural Farm Program liaison to integrate this public health safety tool into current fair licensing structure.

Poultry/Farm "Swaps" oversight - Animal Health staff, particularly the poultry health technician, attends Poultry/Farm "Swaps" from April through July, ensuring compliance with state laws (required health certificates and tags for animals traveling interstate post-sale; scrapie tags for any small ruminants sold at swaps) and providing farm biosecurity information for poultry sellers and buyers.

Veterinarian Expertise lists - The Division has created or updated Veterinarian Expertise lists for Farm Animal Veterinarians (Maine has added approximately 10 mixed and large animal practitioners to the state's veterinary ranks in the past two years), Poultry Veterinarians (Maine is a large and still growing backyard poultry producer community), and Bee Veterinarians (a new Federal law now necessitates a veterinarian be involved when bee keepers use medications for their hives). Staff have presented at numerous producer education workshops at the Agricultural Trade Show, Winter Agriculture School in Aroostook County, Maine Dairy

Seminar, Animal Control Officer biannual trainings, Maine Center for Disease Control Infectious Disease Annual Conference, and many industry association meetings.

Cervid farm and commercial large game shooting facility outreach - The Division hosted the first gathering of its kind for cervid farm and commercial large game shooting facility licensees to connect this group to expert resources in cervid emerging diseases and safe handling methods for treatment and husbandry (specifically tagging and disease testing). Over half of all licensed facilities attended. The chronic wasting disease surveillance program was adopted by rule in 2006 and is mandatory for all deer and elk farms and all commercial large game shooting areas in Maine.



Dog importation from the south has increased as Maine’s spay/neuter programs have decreased the number of adoptable local animals. Many “rescue groups” began flooding Maine with animals that were not healthy or too aggressive from southern shelters. Since 2015, all animal rescue groups have been required to be licensed with the Animal Welfare Program as animal shelters and follow the same rules. This has reduced the number of sick animals coming into the State of Maine.

Shelter ME program - The Animal Welfare Program in cooperation with Bolduc Correctional Facility in Warren began the Shelter ME program to help older, unadoptable horses in State custody find housing and care from prison inmates. The program is limited to four horses, worked with each day by selected inmates. These inmates have shown great improvement in their recovery and truly appreciate the opportunity to work with the animals.

Compost Schools - The Division sponsors two, week-long Compost Schools annually with DEP and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The Maine Compost School is the nation’s longest continually running compost education program (21 years) and has been internationally recognized.

Maine Cattle Health Assurance Program - Since its inception in 2003, the Maine Cattle Health Assurance Program obtained over \$250,000 in grant funds for on-farm risk assessment and follow-up herd plans, which address animal health and welfare, environmental stewardship, food safety, and production. More than 170 farms have enrolled. The program gained \$700,000 in additional funding in 2011 to assist dairy farms with herd health improvements. With expiration of federal funding in 2013, the Program has been dramatically scaled back. In

2016, two large animal veterinary continuing education meetings focused on advancements in transition cow health and dairy animal welfare. Staff also organized Cattle Hoof Health Workshop and Practical Labs - one for veterinarians and one for New England cattle foot trimmers. The Division is seeking funds to support a "Quality Milk" program to connect dairy producers, particularly those producing raw products for human consumption, to the best science and techniques for achieving optimal quality dairy products from healthy animals.

Emerging Issues:

Avian influenza, swine brucellosis, pseudorabies virus and scrapie - Due to the threat of severe damage to Maine poultry and livestock from these diseases, the Division has received federal (USDA, APHIS) cooperative agreement funds the past several years to enhance surveillance; to offer continuing education programs for large animal veterinarians; and to promote and implement an animal identification program consistent with the national program.

Animal traceability and identification is fundamental to controlling any disease. A system that can identify individual animals and herds, the premises where they are located, and the date of entry to that premises is critical to quickly provide essential information in the event of a suspected or confirmed disease outbreak. The Division is expected to educate and enforce the USDA APHIS Veterinary Services' Animal Disease Traceability Rule, established in March 2013. The Division continues to work with Maine producers to clearly communicate the importance of disease traceability in animal movement and empower them to learn the requirements for legal and appropriate ways to move animals, particularly those in exhibitions or commerce.

The **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Influenza** outbreak in 2014-2015 was devastating to the domestic layer hen industry in North America and was the costliest animal disease response in USDA history. While the disease has not been detected in Maine, the Division is developing plans to prepare for and respond to a potentially catastrophic event. The Division has been working with Maine's backyard poultry and commercial layer industry to heighten awareness of preventative measures that can be taken on the farm ("Backyard Biosecurity" campaign) and continues to conduct outreach and education at poultry shows and at the 26 Maine agricultural fairs to train "citizen scientists" to be able to recognize warning signs in their birds and report these signs to Division personnel for assistance. Division personnel also conduct HPAI surveillance at important commingling points for birds, like the livestock auctions, and educates sellers and buyers alike about the disease and the reasons to conduct proactive testing while collecting the samples.

Animal control - Many communities in Maine do not have an animal control officer on duty at all times and local law enforcement does not meet public demands to address local issues with animals. One solution to resolve these issues may be to regionalize animal control under the supervision of the Sheriff's Departments or County Commissioners. Lincoln County has done this with some success over the past few years and provided a good example of what can be

accomplished. The Program's goal over the next few years is to build the resources and support for counties to take on this task.

Microchipping of pets is the quickest way to reunite a pet with its owner. The implanted microchip acts like a VIN number on a car, once registered it will always tie back to that person and it can never be lost. A microchip on every spay/neuter surgery in the Help Fix ME program would better track the animals coming through the program.

Animal Control Database - A statewide database for dog licensing, dangerous dogs, and cruelty investigations could be developed for all municipalities. A program like Maine Online Sportsman's Electronic System (MOSES) would help improve dog licensing, and track dangerous dogs and people with animal possession bans.

Plant Health Programs and Services:

Horticulture Inspection Program – This program prevents the introduction and spread of plant pests in nursery and greenhouse operations through licensing, inspection, certification, and education. Over 1,320 establishments were licensed in 2016, and nearly 826 inspections were conducted at nurseries, greenhouses and plant dealers across the state. More than 110 different insect, disease or environmental conditions were identified as the causal agents in 696 observations of pest infestation or plant damage during these inspections. 30 incidents of pest infestations required immediate corrective action. The Horticulture staff also certifies that ginseng, a federally threatened species, exported from Maine meets Federal and State requirements. Sixteen ginseng producers were licensed by the Division in 2016.

Maine Horticulture Growth (2009 – 2014):

Horticulture Sales - Increased 43.6 % (from \$49.1 to \$70.5 million)

Licensed Horticultural Operations – Increased 28% (250 to 320)

Source: USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

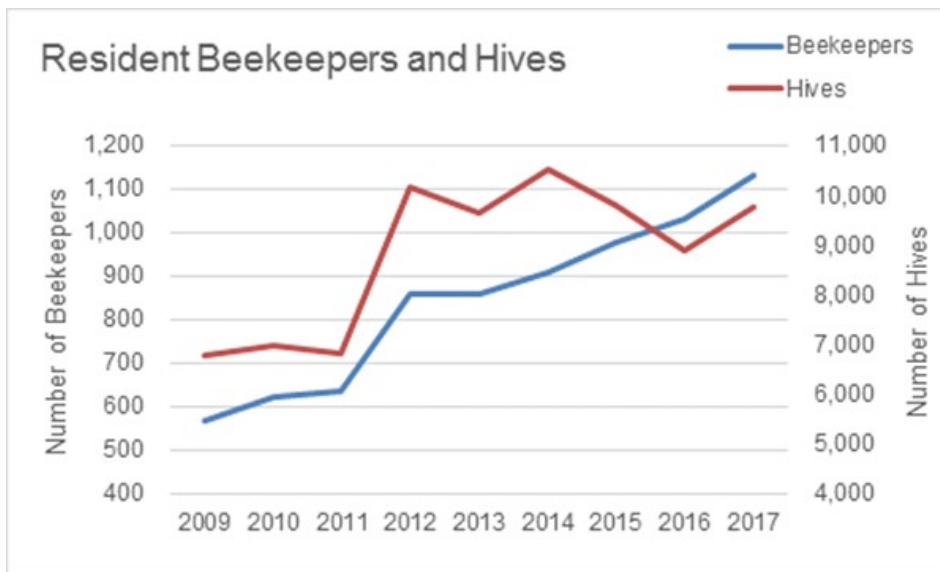
Arborist Licensing Program – All individuals performing arborist work in Maine must be licensed pursuant to 7 MRS Section 2173-2191. To become a Maine licensed arborist, individuals must pass an exam demonstrating proficiency in arborist techniques, safe use of arborist tools and equipment, tree identification and pest identification. Licenses and exams are offered in two categories, landscape and utility. 114 people took and 100 passed the arborist exam in 2016. A total of 964 arborist licenses were issued by the Division in 2016.

Integrated Pest Management – The purpose of the Integrated Pest Management Program is to assist farmers and communities to minimize reliance on pesticides by adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. The Division's IPM entomologist provides technical support for

Maine organizations, agencies, communities, farms, schools and citizens to promote IPM adoption aimed at reducing pesticide impacts. The entomologist serves as coordinator of the Maine School IPM Program, an educational program to assist schools in adoption of IPM toward minimizing risks of pests and pesticides in compliance with state regulations, and as co-coordinator of the Maine IPM Council, a broad-based group whose mission is to define, promote and enhance implementation of IPM practices that reduce or minimize environmental and human health impacts of pesticides and other pest management practices. The IPM Council hosts the GotPests.org website as a public resource for pest identification and management. Approximately 20,000 colorful bookmarks promoting the website have been distributed at a wide variety of events and venues. Other guidance documents on invasive pests, woodland IPM, IPM for beginning farmers, and more are published on the Council's [website](#). The IPM Program continues to promote and support efforts to minimize risks of pests and pesticides through adoption of integrated pest management tactics in all settings.



Apiary Inspection Program – This program includes regulatory, outreach, and cooperative research efforts concerning honeybees and beekeeping. Program staff license resident and migratory beekeeping operations and certify beekeeping operations that meet established tolerances for regulated diseases, mites, and freedom from Africanized honeybees. In 2016, the Division licensed 8,857 hives managed by 1011 beekeepers, representing a 30% and 120% increase respectively since 2008. In addition, 58,833 migratory hives entered Maine for crop pollination in 2016, a 16% increase since 2008. Approximately 544,530 hives were used for blueberry pollination between 2009 and 2016. Of the nearly 59,884 resident and migratory hives situated in Maine in 2016, approximately 3,707 were surveyed at random with nearly 700 opened and inspected for disease, parasites and Africanization.



Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program – The CAPS Program provides an early warning system for pest detection and response to safeguard Maine’s plant resources. Early

detection of exotic pests is critical for the protection of Maine's agricultural, forest and natural resources. Through funding from cooperative agreements with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine Program (USDA APHIS PPQ), the CAPS Program employs a full-time State Survey Coordinator to evaluate the risk of specific exotic and invasive plant pest species. Components of this program include pest surveys, training and outreach, development of pest fact sheets, and networking with other states' counterparts to coordinate a regional approach to pest detection. A steering committee meets annually to determine the pest survey priorities for each year.

Industrial Hemp Program – This new program licenses industrial hemp growers. There were only three applicants during the 2016 growing season, two with signed grower agreements. Only one grew hemp and produced around 125 pounds of seed. That grower has been successful selling much of that seed to 2017 licensees. For the 2017 growing season, there were 35 completed applications. Thirty-three grower agreements have been signed. If all applicants complete grower agreements, there will be over 150 acres of hemp planted on 47 different sites in 35 towns and 14 counties. The major challenge for this program is fitting in the late summer/early fall crop sampling to verify that the plants are indeed hemp and not marijuana. All crops must be analyzed for tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content to determine that the plants contain less than 0.3% THC.

Seed Certification Program – This program conducts field and shipping point inspection of seed potatoes for regulated diseases, conducts post-harvest testing of seed potato samples, and certifies seed oats and barley. In 2016, 9,917 acres of seed potatoes were inspected and certified in Maine. One thousand forty-one seed potato samples were then evaluated for post-harvest disease levels, with 97.1% of the samples meeting the established tolerances for designation as certified seed. Additionally, 162 acres of barley and oats were certified as seed in Maine in 2016. This program is funded from user fees.

Phytosanitary Certification – Division staff also inspect and certify plant products to be exported to other countries by issuing phytosanitary certificates, which are international documents required by the receiving countries that attest to the pest-free status of the products shipped. 461 phytosanitary certificates were issued in 2016 to support the forestry, nursery and potato industries in exporting commodities for international sales through a Memorandum of Understanding with USDA. In addition, the Division certifies the shipment of healthy plant material to other states. In 2016, 28 businesses operated under compliance agreements with the Division and were approved to ship nursery stock to other states; 2 businesses had firewood kilns certified to produce heat-treated firewood for shipment out-of-state.

National Organic Program – Since 2001, the Division of Animal and Plant Health has had cooperative agreements with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service for distributing federal cost-share funds to organic producers and processors who meet the standards of the National Organic Program. The Division relies primarily on MOFGA Certification Services, LLC to certify organic operations and report on the qualified producers and expenditures. The Division then reimburses up to 75% of an operator's organic certification costs up to a maximum of \$750. In

2008, the Division reimbursed 303 producers a total of \$97,176.66. In 2014, the grant changed to allow for a \$750 maximum cost-share reimbursement per certification scope (crops, livestock, wild crops and processor/handler). Operations can be awarded funding for multiple scopes. In 2016, 478 operations received a total of \$325,216.89.

Board of Pesticides Control - The Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) is the lead agency under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) for pesticide use in Maine. Under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Board serves as the occupational licensing and regulatory agency for pesticides and pesticide use in Maine. The Board registers pesticides for use in Maine, licenses pesticide applicators, investigates allegations of pesticide misuse, and provides education on pesticide use, pest management, and related issues to the regulated community and the public, both individually and through organized training sessions. By statute, the Board is charged with minimizing reliance on pesticide applications to provide effective control of agricultural, public health, landscape and structural, and other pests in the state. Robust education, licensing, and enforcement programs, attention to the specific needs of Maine communities, and the promotion of IPM techniques are the mechanisms by which the Board meets these requirements. The Board's current policies, rules, and the underlying statutes can be found on its website at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org. The Board of Pesticides Control offers a variety of programs and services as follows:

Pesticides and Applicators:

- 1) Pesticide registration** - All pesticides used in Maine must first be registered with the Board. The registration process includes a review of the product label and use pattern to make sure that the product is appropriate for use in Maine and does not pose an unreasonable adverse risk to human health or the environment.
- 2) Pesticide classification** - Pesticides sold in Maine are classified as restricted use pesticides (RUPs), unclassified or general use, or limited use. Limited use is a state-level classification; persons applying these products must have a Maine pesticide applicator's license.
- 3) Pesticide dealers** - Almost all establishments distributing pesticides in Maine are required to hold either an RUP or general use dealer license.
- 4) Pesticide applicators** - There are 24 categories of commercial applicator licenses in a two-tiered licensing system in Maine, plus a private applicator's license for the use of RUPs in agriculture, and an "agricultural basic" license for applying general use products in commercial agriculture.

Compliance and enforcement:

- 1) Inspections and compliance-assistance** - The Board's field staff conducts both routine compliance and complaint-based inspections. Routine inspections focus on registration, record-keeping, storage, and related requirements at dealers, applicators, and schools in support of Maine's School IPM regulations. Complaint inspections are investigations of alleged pesticide misuse. Documented misuse of a pesticide or other non-compliance with Maine pesticide regulations can result in enforcement action.

- 2) **Worker Protection Standard** - The Federal Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a set of regulations which seek to protect agricultural workers from occupational exposure to pesticides. The Board staff conducts training as well as compliance and complaint-based inspections related to WPS.
- 3) **General compliance assistance** - The Board staff answers daily questions from the regulated community and the public.

Public and environmental health:

- 1) **Toxicologist** - The Board toxicologist is involved in virtually every aspect of the Board's regulation of pesticides, including daily informal expert consultations with Maine citizens.
- 2) **Water quality activities** - Pesticide residues in Maine groundwater are not unknown but occur at very low levels. The blueberry herbicide hexazinone has been detected in areas where it has historically been used, but levels have remained low, generally at least two orders of magnitude or more below health advisory levels. A specific management plan was developed for hexazinone in 1994, and since 1996 the use of this product has required special training and licensing
- 3) **Obsolete pesticides and pesticide containers** - The Board runs an annual program, usually in October, to collect unusable or otherwise waste pesticides around the state for proper disposal. The Board also encourages a voluntary recycling program for empty pesticide containers.
- 4) **Public outreach** - The Board maintains web sites at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org and www.gotpests.org. The Board staff also routinely participates in training and education directed at the regulated community and the public.
- 5) **Endangered species** - The Board also administers the pesticide-related provisions of the federal Endangered Species Act.

Figure 1 Obsolete pesticides messaging

Accomplishments:

The Division has made several significant accomplishments for insect and disease control in Maine crops, and staff have provided services that allow the export of Maine products to other countries and provide reimbursements to organic growers for some of their expenses to become certified.

Horticulture legislation – State statutes have been amended to consider horticulture in the same category as agriculture for taxes on equipment or supplies. Greenhouse operations may now get rebates on the sales taxes paid for winter fuels. Additional amendments provide relief from taxes on equipment used to grow ornamental crops.

Invasive Plants - Division staff amended State Rules to include a list of 33 invasive plant species that may no longer be offered for sale in Maine. The list of plants was developed by a specially convened group of horticulture professionals, land managers, foresters, wildlife biologists and other scientists. Maine businesses have until the end of 2017 to sell of remaining stock of the listed species.



Figure 2 Hemlock woolly adelgid

Insect and Disease Control –

Division staff amended the hemlock woolly adelgid quarantine rules in 2013 to reflect the expanding infestation of this pest in Maine. Quarantine revisions added 3 entire counties to the quarantine area (Lincoln, Sagadahoc and York Counties) and portions of 3 additional counties (Androscoggin, Cumberland and Kennebec Counties)

Quarantines - Division staff also developed rules concerning gypsy moth and European larch canker quarantines. These rules establish interior state quarantines that mirror the federal quarantine for

these federally regulated pests and prevent the movement of potentially infested material from moving into un-infested parts of the state. Gypsy moth is found in all Maine counties except for northern portions of Aroostook, Franklin, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis and Somerset Counties. European larch canker is only found in portions of Hancock, Lincoln, Knox, Waldo and Washington Counties.

A federally regulated disease, *Phytophthora ramorum*, was found at a Maine retail nursery on several rhododendrons which originated from a west coast nursery. The find necessitated the implementation of the federal confirmed retail nursery protocol, which requires survey and testing of soil and host plant material on site. Unfortunately, positive soil test results led to the nursery undertaking soil remediation efforts, which included removing infested soils and creating an impermeable barrier (paving a portion of the nursery). Survey and testing of plant material also led to additional positive finds, resulting in the destruction of a significant number of plants. After almost six years of survey, the nursery was determined to be free of *P. ramorum* free in 2016.

Apiary Inspection Program – The State Apiarist worked cooperatively with USDA’s Agricultural Research Service beekeeping labs to seek solutions to pest issues facing the bee industry. Cooperative efforts include the identification, documentation and abatement of antibiotic resistant strains of American foulbrood; identification and documentation of *Varroa* mite strains with resistance to registered miticides; a *Nosema* survey of commercial beekeeping operations and evaluation of treatment protocols; investigation of the potential causes of bee mortality attributed to pesticide applications during crop pollination; and compiling data on honey bee decline and recovery. The state apiarist was a member of the US EPA’s Pollinator Protection Work Group from 2012 to 2015 and sat on the Best Management Practices sub-committee. Between 2009 and 2015, the state apiarist presented nearly 200 lectures and workshops on a variety of beekeeping topics to civic groups, educators, beekeeping associations and beekeeping short courses offered by Cooperative Extension and local adult education programs.

Cooperative Agricultural Pest Surveys (CAPS) -- With cooperation from the Maine Forest Service and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, over 30 commodity and federal line item (e.g. European gypsy moth) surveys have been conducted since 2009 to help detect 75 different exotic and invasive plant pests. Some of these include the Corn Commodity Survey, Nursery and Retail Plants Pest Survey, Pine Commodity Survey, Small Fruit Commodity Survey, and Exotic Wood-boring and Bark Beetle Survey. Through these surveys and monitoring efforts, approximately ten plant pests have been confirmed as new finds for Maine, although none were on any of the official CAPS target lists.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – State regulations were amended in 2014 to mandate school IPM training and reporting by each of the public and private K-12 schools in Maine. Since then, the IPM Program has conducted 26 workshops, providing training for approximately 800 participants. Training continues to be offered for new staff and as a refresher for returning participants. In addition, the IPM Entomologist provides one-on-one consultation and pest problem-solving to schools. Between 2009 and 2017, the School IPM program was awarded six grants, totaling almost \$118,500 to support education, outreach and demonstration of IPM methods to schools and to support collaboration and resource-sharing regionally and nationally.

Community and Public Health IPM - In 2014, the Legislature authorized the Department to conduct mosquito management activities in the event of an outbreak of mosquito-borne disease. The IPM Program co-authored the *Plan to Protect the Public Health from Mosquito-Borne Diseases* and initiated a mosquito monitoring program. The IPM Program is currently collaborating with experts to apply statistical and geographic information tools to maximize effectiveness of vector monitoring programs and enhance the State’s preparedness to protect the public from vector-borne disease.

National Organic Program – The Division has worked cooperatively with the USDA to distribute federal reimbursement funds to organic growers who have been certified as meeting the national standards for producing, handling, and labeling for organic agricultural products. In 2004, 251 eligible producers were awarded a total of \$67,902.13. Interest in the program has

grown over the years, and this past year, 478 eligible producers were awarded a total of \$325,216.89.

Seed Potato Certification – Program staff work closely with the seed potato industry to ensure all varieties and acreage meet all the requirements for certified seed and maintain the State’s reputation for producing high quality seed. Due to crop losses in 2014 and 2015 in areas where Maine exports seed potatoes, rules were amended in May 2016 to reduce the number of generations of the seed that can be certified and to restrict tolerance for blackleg to between 0.1 and 2.0% depending on the generation of the seed. This new tolerance was adopted to help limit the spread of *Dickeya sp.* and *pectobacterium*, bacteria associated with potato blackleg disease.

The Seed Potato Certification Program was required to participate in the Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) National Survey in 2016. No seed potatoes could be shipped out of Maine unless they came from fields that have been sampled and tested for PCN and Golden nematode (GN). Over 150 seed lots were sampled, which yielded over 2,642 samples. Samples were analyzed at the USDA APHIS Nematode Lab in Avoca, NY, and no PCN or GN were found.

Board of Pesticides Control - Substantial progress has been made in developing and implementing business management software which will process and retain a database of virtually all interactions between outside entities and the Board staff. The system will also provide internal tracking, reporting, and data management for the staff activities mentioned previously in this report. The system is well into the implementation phase, and should be fully operational by the end of FY 2018.

The Board’s Environmental Risk Assessment Committee continues to make progress in evaluating scientific literature on effects of pesticide use on the Maine lobster fishery. There is some year-to-year variability in the lobster population, but the committee has not identified a correlation between that variation and pesticide use.

The Board has provided a detailed review of specific environmental risks of several pesticides and application methods used to control brown tail moth and hemlock wooly adelgid in Maine. The Board has also reviewed herbicides with second-year “plantback” restrictions, with a focus on cover crops used in Maine agriculture.

Compliance-assistance and enforcement activities tend to cluster around incidents that focus public attention on non-compliance and staff response. Cases involving landlord-tenant disputes (especially bed bugs), unregistered products in the non-traditional pesticide or minimum risk pesticide marketplace, and pesticide misuse in medical marijuana production have increased in recent years. The Board has updated its rules to provide revised standards for pesticide applications in schools, increased accountability, and clarified important pesticide-storage issues.

Emerging Issues:

Exotic plant pests - As global trade increases movement of agricultural and non-agricultural commodities, exotic plant pests (insects, diseases, and plants) have increased opportunity to enter the state. These pests can have major economic impacts on agricultural production and the environment through reduced crop yield and/or quality, destructive eradication efforts, and restricted trade opportunities. The State must efficiently survey and control new pests to ensure they do not become established and cause economic harm to agricultural and forest products industries. Maine's fragile ecosystems must also be protected from exotic pests.



Figure 3 Asian longhorn beetle

Public outreach and education on movement of pests, especially through nontraditional pathways such as wooden pallets and firewood, is expanding. Invasive wood-boring beetles, such as the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) and the emerald ash borer (EAB), have not been detected in Maine to date, but can be spread by transporting firewood from an infested area. The State's out-of-state firewood ban is one method to help keep these beetles out of Maine. The Division has also received federal funds to enroll in Firewood Scout, an online database that encourages local acquisition of firewood to reduce the risk of dispersing invasive wood-boring insects.

Nursery inspection - Nationally, states are rethinking nursery inspection to better utilize resources and ensure that only healthy plant material is certified for shipment to other states. Traditionally, regulatory plant inspection consists of spot-checking a growing operation once or a few times a year to look for plant pests. The National Plant Board's Systems Approach to Nursery Certification Pilot Program (SANC) improves the inspection process by developing an audit-based program that has the inspector and grower take a closer look at the entire plant growing process to identify practices that prevent or minimize the risk of developing pest problems. While no Maine businesses are currently participating in the pilot program, Maine is now receiving plant material certified through SANC. Many of the tools developed for nurseries participating in SANC can be utilized by Maine growers and inspectors to help improve plant growing practices.

Giant hogweed Sensationalist stories circulating on social media about giant hogweed fueled a noticeable increase in reports and questions about the plant. While contact with sap can cause painful burns, giant hogweed is found only sporadically throughout the state. Most reports of giant hogweed turn out to be more common look-a-like plants. The Division has improved its [giant hogweed webpages](#) and other outreach efforts to provide better plant identification information and correct misleading information circulating on social media.



Figure 4 Giant hogweed

Increased use of biological controls in greenhouses has led to questions about obtaining wildlife possession/release permits from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) for these “good bugs”. Division staff have obtained approval from IF&W to add 11 species of common biological control insects that pose little threat to Maine’s flora and fauna to the list of species that do not require a permit. The Division continues to work with IF&W to add more biological control species that may be appropriate to exempt from permitting.

Industrial hemp and medical marijuana statutes and regulations need to be reviewed to provide more consistency in the control of *Cannabis sativa*. Many industrial hemp growers are seeking to produce plants that contain high levels of cannabidiol (CBD) which is used as a treatment for seizure disorders, pain and other medical conditions. Currently growers can produce unlimited amounts of these crops with no controls on what pesticides may be used and no requirements to test the crop for impurities such as mold or pesticide residues.

Honey bee demands for crop pollination have increased during the last thirty years, rising from 12,472 in 1984 to 50,000 – 70,000 colonies in recent years, depending upon crop potential and specific commodity market conditions. Over the past twenty years, the number of resident beekeepers has increased by 175%. Both the need for honey bees for crop pollination and the increasing number of resident beekeepers continues to increase demands on the Apiary Program. The Program addresses pest problems associated with parasitic bee mites, transmission of the viral complex vectored by parasitic bee mites, spread of unwanted genetic material (Africanized honey bees from southern states and the Asian honey bee from overseas), emergence of antibiotic resistant strains of American foulbrood bacteria (a highly contagious honey bee pathogen that affects both bees and beekeeping equipment), and emergence and spread of strains of the Varroa mite with complete resistance to registered miticides. In addition, the Department has experienced an increase in the number of nuisance **complaints concerning honeybees and hobby beekeepers in urban and suburban areas**. The Department has worked with several municipalities to address these issues and has promoted best management practices for beekeeping in residential areas to be incorporated in local zoning ordinances. Over the last decade, there has been increased awareness and concern for bees and other pollinators, which has increased demands on the Apiary Program for public presentations on bees, participation on working committees, and legislative analysis.

Resources for school IPM may need to grow to provide required training to local schools which have frequent staffing turnover. Additional challenges are anticipated if current law is amended to require schools to submit their pest management records to the Board of Pesticides Control, and the Board to post those records and school inspection results on the BPC web site.



Figure 5 Bed bug

Bed bug populations are increasing, resulting in increased requests for consultation and training in the structural pest management sector. New diseases, new vectors, and expanded ranges of insect and tick vectors are expected to continue to place demands on the Department’s IPM staff. **Mosquito monitoring and management** have stretched resources.

In the last few growing seasons, a new challenge has emerged for seed potato growers in Maine. ***Dickeya sp.*, a bacterial disease associated with potato blackleg**, has caused yield problems for some potato varieties. Seed exported from Maine has been associated with yield losses in the Mid-Atlantic States due to potato blackleg. The Seed Certification Program has been working closely with industry stakeholders and researchers from other seed-producing states to better understand the pathogen so that it may be properly managed.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service recently listed the rusty-patched bumble bee *Bombus affinis* Cresson as an endangered species. This bee forages on fallow fields, barrens, and meadows, and could overlap with Maine's wild blueberry production areas. The Board of Pesticides Control will closely monitor the **endangered species requirements for protection of the rusty-patched bumble bee**.

Maine is currently experiencing an **outbreak of the brown tail moth *Euproctis chrysorrhoea* L.** Native to Europe, *E. chrysorrhoea* was accidentally introduced into Massachusetts in 1897. Its populations are cyclical, though they have been a consistent problem in south-coastal Maine since the 1990s. Adults and larvae have urticating hairs which can cause an uncomfortable and intensely itching rash. The problem is exacerbated by the hairs remaining on cast skins after each larval molt. Larvae congregate at the ends of branches in the tops of trees, making control by chemical or mechanical means very difficult. The insect can also be a significant defoliator of hardwoods during the peaks of its population cycle.



Figure 6 Browntail moth caterpillar

Several municipalities have enacted **local pesticide-regulatory ordinances** over the last few years. These regulations must be registered with (but are not approved by) the Board of Pesticides Control. A proposed state pre-emption bill (LD 1505) was defeated in the 2017 legislative session. Issues of State and local responsibilities for pesticides control will be an ongoing concern.

Universal pesticide-use reporting is a perennial issue for interest groups and constituents of the Board of Pesticides Control. While applicators and dealers are required to keep records, record-keeping is not standardized, and the quality and completeness of that data is at best highly variable. In addition, most records are handwritten, making their collection and compilation into even the most rudimentary usable format difficult. The Board is implementing an improved database system to address some of these issues.

Agricultural Resource Development



Agricultural Resource Development (ARD) provides technical production and marketing assistance through promotional events and resource materials, business planning, labor resource coordination, farm viability and financial support, publications, and several federal programs. This unit has had continued change since 2009, including legislative and administrative consolidation of programs and staffing.

Mission: To encourage agricultural development and sustainability through education, annual industry events, technical assistance, research, economic development and environmental stewardship of Maine's existing and future farm businesses.

Programs and Accomplishments:

Agricultural Resource Development key program areas include Technical Production and Marketing Assistance; Financial Assistance; Promotions, Events and Education; and Federal Assistance.

Technical Production and Marketing Assistance includes the following programs:

International Trade – ARD staff act as Maine's liaison with the Maine International Trade Center in assisting companies to export agricultural products and access foreign markets. Maine is a partner in Food Export USA, a non-profit organization composed of ten northeastern state agriculture departments. Each state works with their food companies to promote their products in foreign markets. These activities include buyers' missions, food shows, exporter education, focused trade missions, a market builder program and even financial branded incentives for exporting. The funding for this collaboration comes from the Market Access Program (MAP), which is a market development program administered by the USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service. MAP creates partnerships between the USDA, State Regional Trade Groups (SRTG), non-profit agricultural trade associations, agricultural cooperatives, and small businesses. Each year, MAP helps launch and expand sales of food and agricultural products overseas.

Market Development - Since 2009, Department staff have helped facilitate market research and market development activities around food hubs and small scale food processing. Staff produced a wholesale buyer's guide and have facilitated various wholesale networking and outreach efforts to connect farmers to wholesale market opportunities.

Farmland Registration and Property Tax Programs – ARD supports farmland owners applying to the Farmland Property Tax Program. Pursuant to MRS Title 7, Chapter 2-B & Title 12, Chapter 6-A, the Farmland Registration Program allows farmers to voluntarily register their farmland.

Any farmland owner electing to register their farmland may prohibit incompatible uses within 50 feet of their registered farmland. The 123rd Maine Legislature also enacted 7 MRS Chapter 2-B to allow towns to create their own local, non-permanent agricultural conservation easement programs. On May 9, 2016, the Winslow Town Council adopted Maine's first Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program ordinance. Staff are now providing Winslow's guiding documents to other municipalities to assist in similar programs within established technical support guidelines

Maine Farms for the Future Program – ARD manages the Maine Farms for the Future competitive grant and development program. This program assists farms that have been in commercial operation for 2 or more years with researching, planning and implementing changes to improve the profitability of their business. The 119th Legislature authorized the initiation of the Maine Farms for the Future Program through 7 MRS, Chapter 10-B.

Maine Farm Labor Link – Pursuant to 7 MRS §219, ARD maintains the Maine Farm Labor Link, an agricultural jobs network linking farms and facilities processing agricultural products grown in the State with available workers who wish to work on a farm or in a local food industry. The program involves cooperation with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, the Maine Community College System, the Department of Labor, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Maine FARMS™ Recognition Program – A new qualitative and quantitative research initiative was established by the Legislature in 2017 to develop recognition of farms for their resource management and sustainability. Industry and consumer research is being compiled to determine the next steps for implementation. The Department has received positive feedback from the agricultural industry and consumers, and a formal project report is expected as soon as staffing is available.



Soil & Water Conservation Program – The Department oversees Maine's 16 local Soil & Water Conservation Districts and employs a soils scientist to provide technical assistance and project reviews to state agencies, municipalities, and private land owners. Soil & Water Conservation Districts provide locally-led conservation planning and education on a voluntary basis in conjunction with the Department and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Department has contracted with Districts for agricultural water use surveys, forest pest outreach, and Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) training.

The **Promotions, Events and Education** program area includes:

Agricultural Training and Educational Resources – Staff partners with local agencies and organizations who offer training opportunities for farmers and producers. Technical support

and one-on-one training is provided through the Maine Farms for the Future program and several marketing events.

NxLevel® Business Planning Program – ARD has underwritten hundreds of farms to participate in the NxLevel® “Tilling the Soil of Opportunity” business planning course. The Maine Farms For The Future program requires participating farmers to take the course and staff have been involved with teaching the course and provide technical assistance to many farmers. Because of training needs of the industry and popularity of the program, the Department has contracted with an outside training management program to offer an extensive NxLevel® curriculum for farmers both in and out of the program. Through this program, twenty farms (most often small or beginning farms) will receive comprehensive business planning each year.

Promotions –ARD markets and promotes the benefits and availability of local products and of Maine agriculture through in-store promotions, regional promotions through the Harvest New England Program, and commodity-specific promotions throughout Maine, the United States, and internationally. ARD partners with businesses, trade associations, local and national organizations, and other state and federal agencies to promote Maine products. Current promotional efforts are focused on the growing public demand for local products and promoting Maine products beyond its borders to provide new agricultural markets. The Department promotes the availability of products at farmers’ markets, farm stands, and local retail food stores. ARD utilizes social media and digital marketing channels in addition to the various targeted promotion efforts.

Special Events – Three major events promote Maine agriculture and educate the public about this vital industry.

The Maine Agricultural Trades Show brings together all facets of Maine’s diverse agricultural community. The annual event features over 150 booths showcasing new and innovative agricultural products and services. There is also a full three-day agenda of educational seminars and workshops on a wide variety of topics of interest to farmers. The 75th anniversary of this event took place in 2016 and resulted in new program efforts, increased promotions and coordination efforts, and greater public engagement.

Open Farm Day is an annual on-farm event on the fourth Sunday in July. Farms across the state open their doors to allow the public to visit their farms and learn more about Maine agriculture. Participating farms represent virtually every type of farm that exists in Maine. DACF staff organize promotional efforts through an annual



publication around participation in this event, with nearly 200,000 newspaper inserts, social media, e-promotions and outreach at tourism outlets and direct poster distribution throughout the state.



Figure 7 State of Maine Building at "The Big E"

Maine participates in **the Eastern States Exposition "The Big E"**, a 17-day annual event which showcases Maine agricultural products and heritage to over 1.4 million visitors from throughout New England and beyond. The Department manages the State of Maine Building, which houses nearly twenty small Maine companies and commodity groups and provides access for 850,000 people within the building annually at this event. In recent years, ARD has managed multiple building renovation efforts, collaborated with

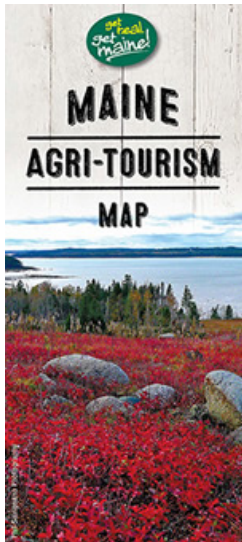
other states around participation policies and initiatives, and has enhanced the operating budget for the building. Staff serve ex-officio on the Big E Board of Trustees, the Harvest New England Day Committee, the Avenue of States Building Managers board, and interface with Eastern States Exposition staff.

Commodity Event Promotion - ARD assists commodity groups that are looking to develop events or promotions to showcase their segment of the industry. The staff works closely with the commodity groups to produce Maine Maple Sunday, the Maine Cheese Guild's Open Creamery Day, and the Maine Winery Guilds' Open Winery Day. The staff has also been involved with other industry areas and has supported the growth of events such as the Maine Fiber Frolic and Maine Harvest Festival.

Agricultural Fairs – ARD supports Maine's 26 licensed agricultural fairs with marketing and promotion. The staff also provide technical assistance to the individual fairs in the areas of policy development and contracting for services, and assist the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs in developing their annual training sessions. ARD staff work with representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Public Safety, and other DACF programs, and serve as the liaison between these agencies and the management teams of the various agricultural fairs.

get real. get Maine! Program – This signature marketing initiative has been in existence since early 2000. The current program consists of point-of-purchase and other signage and labeling that can be purchased by Maine producers for their products. These efforts are reinforced by the inclusion of the logo on all print media developed by the Department.

The Program maintains a strong “get real” presence on the [get real. get maine! website](#). The website has had recent updates, including new enhanced listings and customized user links, navigational improvements, and a new Service Provider directory search feature. Additional attention for the brand will include continued brand research, brand positioning, and development of a style guide and marketing strategy. Key components will include mobile applications of the *get real. get Maine!* brand, new features for members to help increase sales, and user interfacing options.



Agritourism – The Department works cooperatively with several other state agencies and the State Office of Tourism to promote Maine at various trade shows and events. Agritourism activities are being promoted through *get real. get Maine!*, and in 2017, the Department published its first State of Maine agritourism map. In addition to the printed map, the Department has published [Maine Agri-Tourism Map Online](#) to allow easier access and additional destinations to be included. Additional promotion, training and outreach is expected to develop this growing area of state promotion.

Maine Ag in the Classroom – The Maine Agriculture In The Classroom Council (MAITC) works to foster agricultural education in all schools in Maine from K -12. Work is done not only in the classroom, but also in teacher training programs and workshops. The Council is also responsible for the oversight and expenditure of revenues realized from the sale of the Maine Agriculture-themed license plate. ARD houses Maine Ag In The Classroom staff, as well as the spin-off organization, the Maine School Garden Network.

Farmers’ Markets – Support is provided to individuals, communities and other organizations that want to start a farmers’ market in their community. Collaboration with the Maine Farmers Market Federation has allowed for more accurate online listings of farmers’ markets locations, dates, and hours of the nearly 130 farmers’ markets around the state.

Farm to School – The Maine Farm to School Network (MFSN) has grown from significant farm-to-school efforts and interests throughout the state. ARD’s role is to ensure that farms and producers’ interests are represented. Staff help make connections between producers and school food service personnel at the local level, and facilitate communications to dispel myths that farmers and school food personnel may have regarding the use of local products in the schools. ARD hosts monthly MFSN meetings and actively collaborates on industry grants, projects, outreach, and the annual farm-to-school conference.

Maine Agricultural Pavilion – Initial research and efforts into the Maine Agricultural Pavilion began in 2015, with the first Maine Agriculture tradeshow pavilion debuting at the Produce Marketing Association’s *Fresh Summit* in October 2016. Coordinated efforts for Maine agribusinesses to participate in this show connected Maine producers to domestic and international buyers. A three-year commitment has been made to this initiative, with all but one vendor returning for the second year. ARD plans to replicate this program at other targeted tradeshow to assist producers in various industries and market segments.



Figure 8 Maine Agricultural Pavilion

The **Financial Assistance** program area includes several grant and loan programs available to agricultural producers and food processors:

Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund and Grant Program –This program was created by the Legislature in 1996 and has been capitalized by bonds for \$7.5 million. The loan activity began in 1998, and there have been 124 loans through 2016, for an investment of state funds of \$11.4 million. In 2012, an annual request for grant proposals was initiated, which has resulted in \$964,887 in cost-share grants to conduct market promotion, market research and development, value-added processing, and new technology demonstration projects in agriculture.

USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant – Since 2006, the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, which is administered by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), has awarded over \$4 million dollars to the Department to support the growing number of Maine specialty crop producers who are selling into local and regional markets. ARD manages sub-grantee contracts and projects associated with this program, including an annual application for funds. Interest in

grant announcements for this program has grown significantly, with a 56% increase in grant inquiries since 2015 to an annual notification pool of over 3,100 individuals and organizations.

Farms for the Future – The Farms for the Future (FFTF) program has provided nearly \$3.5 million in grants to 249 farms for professional and technical assistance in putting together business plans for modernizing, improving, expanding, and diversifying their operations to increase profits. Over 121 farmers have developed business plans and received additional implantation funds in exchange for a 5- or 7-year conservation easement. Over 22,775 acres of farmland have been protected through the program’s 7-year Non-Development Agreement. The program provides technical experts who provide input and guidance on business plan development and the staff works with farmers on the development of conservation easements.

Rural Rehabilitation Trust Fund – Historically, the Department of Agriculture managed this dedicated revenue fund to provide scholarships for farm families to assist their children in attending college. Due to resource restrictions, this program has been redirected to a competitive grant program for youth, associated with the Future Farmers of America organization in Maine. This Fund can also provide low-interest loans to farmers for purchasing land or feeder cattle as well as capital improvement loans to agricultural fairs. ARD is responsible for policy and loan-making decisions of this fund.

Agricultural Water Management Program - Water is the agricultural production input that is the hardest to manage and has the most potential to improve or harm market quality, yields, and consistent production. The Department administers bond funds for water source development to help farmers mitigate drought impacts. The Legislature has authorized four bond issues since 2001 to assist in new source development totaling \$5.5 million dollars. ARD has managed these funds and has provided over \$5.3 million to develop 179 projects for new water sources for farms. The program has protected over 11,000 acres of farmland with crop value of over \$33 million. Because of the 2016 drought, the Department has proposed a new bond package for water resource development for consideration in 2018.

Potato Market Improvement Fund – Administration of this fund has been transferred to the Maine Potato Board.

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program – The Senior Farmshare program is a federal assistance program which has been administered by the Department since its inception in 2000. The program provides \$50 worth of free local produce each year to eligible seniors. Over 75 Maine farmers currently serve over 16,500 seniors. The benefit is available statewide and brings in nearly \$1 million annually.

Emerging Issues:

Business Needs -

Farmers and producers continue to seek access to capital, as well as land, water, and labor to expand their businesses, manage risk, diversify, meet new regulations, and modernize. The

Department continues to adapt its programs to provide meaningful assistance. As increased competition reduces returns from local farmer's markets, there is a need to find new innovative markets for small-scale farmers. There is also a need to develop new growth opportunities for farmers whose business capabilities have surpassed the needs of the local market. The Department will continue to grow its promotion of Maine products in local, regional and international markets.

The Department will need to be at the forefront of marketing and promotion of Maine's various agricultural marketing segments to sell the excess production that has resulted from ongoing market and production efficiencies. The interest in farming continues and the average age of Maine farmers has finally started on the decline. Thus, there is a continuing need to find new farming opportunities to ensure the profitability and viability of existing and beginning farmers. The Department's outreach efforts include reinvestment in the programs which have been successful with modest funding, and growth of new programs that will support farms looking for long-term sustainability.

Additionally, ARD will partner with other Department teams such as the Quality Assurance Program, the Bureau of Parks & Lands, and the Maine Forest Service to align opportunities and training programs for farm safety, agritourism, and new product development opportunities.

Quality Assurance and Regulations

Mission: The Division provides public health, safety and sanitation inspections at all levels of Maine's food supply. It provides unbiased inspection services to assure that food, various agricultural products and other commodities reaching the market place are safe to eat, of a known, standardized quality, and are accurately weighed, measured and presented prior to being entered into commerce. The Division ensures that weighing and measuring devices used in commerce are correct. It enforces method of sale laws, packaging and labeling laws, fuel quality standards for all fuels, and samples and test fertilizers for guaranteed analysis. The Division provides USDA grading services for eggs and produce through cooperative agreements, and runs a meat and poultry inspection program approved by USDA as meeting equivalent standards to federal inspection services.



Programs & Services:

Food Safety/Sanitation Public Health Inspections

–The Division is responsible for licensing and inspecting food establishments such as retail food stores, bakeries, food processors, and beverage plants. The licensing and inspection activities ensure that food is processed, prepared, packaged, stored, and offered for sale in a sanitary and safe manner to protect public health. The Division works closely with Maine Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Maine Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in a cooperative effort to investigate food-borne disease outbreaks and product recalls.



DACF and DHHS have jointly adopted the “Maine Food Code” as regulations for retail food establishments. Adoption of the “Maine Food Code” eliminated several duplicative rules and gives the Division and food establishment owners a comprehensive reference guide which is uniform throughout all segments of the retail food industry.

In 2016, the Division licensed 6,422 food establishments, and performed 2,042 retail food inspections, 655 food processing inspections and 55 warehouse inspections.

Feed and Fertilizer Inspection

– In the early 1990s, the Feed/Seed & Fertilizer inspection program was eliminated through budget cuts and 3 inspector positions were eliminated. In 2003, the Division recognized the need to revitalize the fertilizer inspection program due to the number of complaints that were being received. Although there was no funding mechanism for this program, investigations revealed many valid complaints about commercial growers and homeowners receiving fertilizer products that

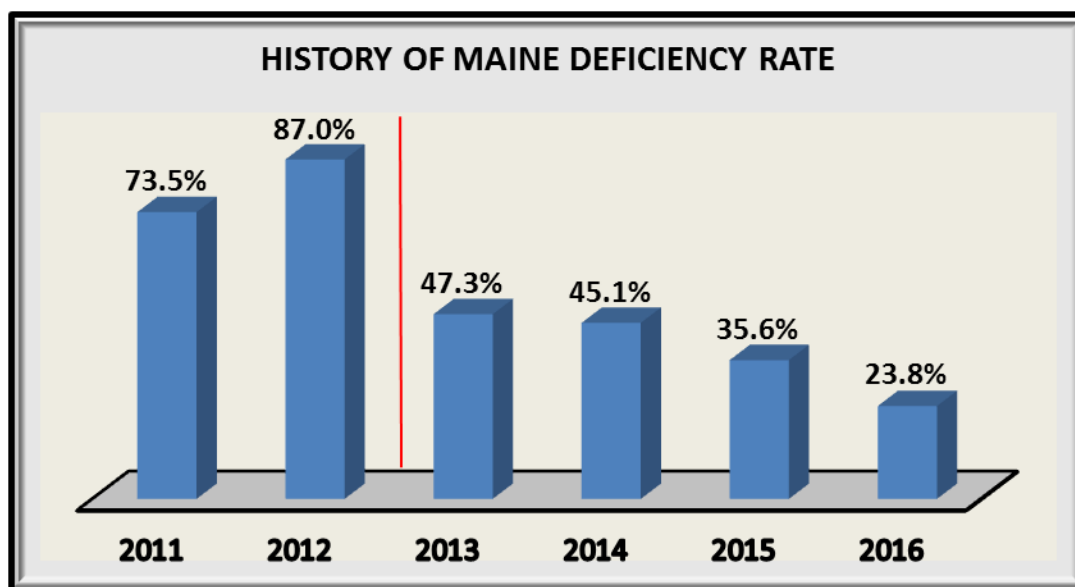


had significant deficiencies in the “guaranteed analysis”. The Division began an unofficial sampling and testing program in 2006 and documented the fertilizer deficiencies that were found. Subsequently the 124th Legislature passed a bill to fund a fertilizer program. The program was initially funded through tonnage fees paid by fertilizer companies. In 2015, the tonnage fee was repealed by the Legislature.

In 2016, the Division registered products from 976 companies. The product breakdown is as follows:

- 106 - Agricultural Liming Material
- 3536 - Fertilizers
- 640 – Plant and Soil Amendments
- 87 – Seed Labelers
- 8700 – Pet Foods
- 1822 – Commercial Feeds

FERTILIZER INSPECTION TRENDS



Deficiency rates have been steadily trending downward since product sampling was reintroduced. Deficiencies are now within acceptable range with other states’ programs. The Division is now poised to administer penalties for shortages.

Fruit and Vegetable Inspection – This program provides agricultural industries with an unbiased, nationally recognized and uniform grading service for agricultural products. This uniform grading is a key component in accessing local, national, and international markets. The current mandatory potato inspection program is an example of what can be accomplished when industry and government work together. Inspections are provided through a cooperative agreement with USDA. In 2016 the following inspections were performed:

- 2882- Shipping point inspections
- 1182- Processing inspections for school lunch program.
- 541- Inspections for trucks going to Canadian destinations
- 697- Broccoli Inspections
- 70- Market samples
- 162- USDA GAP/GHP Audits¹



In total, these inspections impacted the following weight of products (weights are hundred weights):

- Shipping point potatoes 1,239,700 Cwt. or 61,985 tons
- Potatoes for processing 517,664 Cwt. or 25,883 tons
- Broccoli 147,697 Cwt. or 7,385 tons
- Exports to Canada 288,882 Cwt. or 14,444 tons

The Division of Quality Assurance and Regulations has emerged as a leader in the eastern United States with 9 certified USDA GAP/GHP auditors and two certified lead auditors. The Division annually conducts more than 150 audits on various commodities. The Department will begin Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) inspections for produce in cooperation with the FDA. The Division is well-positioned to provide the needed assistance and auditing.

State/Federal Diagnostic Laboratory - The State/Federal Diagnostic Laboratory performs serological testing on all species of animals for Brucellosis monitoring (including milk samples), for interstate and export requirements, for diagnostic purposes, and for breeding purposes. The lab complies with the State Federal Brucellosis Eradication program, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, and the National Poultry Improvement Plan. The lab trains and certifies independent field testers for surveillance of backyard poultry flocks. The laboratory conducts over 20 different diagnostic tests of livestock (cattle, horses, sheep, goats, and llamas) and poultry. In 2016, the following tests were performed:

- Bluetongue: 174
- Brucellosis (all species): 1651
- Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis: 174
- Equine Infectious Anemia: 2330
- Johnes: 62
- Avian Influenza: 1826
- Pseudorabies: 541

¹ Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) are voluntary audits that verify that fruits and vegetables are produced, packed, handled, and stored as safely as possible to minimize risks of microbial food safety hazards.



Maine Milk Quality Laboratory - The program provides Maine’s dairy processors with State-regulated and FDA-certified testing of their products and State certification of their analysts, which allows their milk and milk products to be sold across state lines and within Maine. The laboratory tests all milk and milk products produced in Maine a minimum of four times in any six-month period, according to the Interstate Milk Shippers requirements as put forth in the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance. The lab conducts bacterial and chemical testing as required by Maine statute. Laboratory staff provide technical assistance to dairy farmers to improve milk quality and production. For 2016, the lab performed:

- 2631 dairy samples
- 375 dairy water samples
- 7 on-site laboratory/analyst evaluations

Milk Quality Program - In conjunction with the Milk Quality Laboratory, three dairy inspectors inspect plants and farms to ensure a safe supply of milk for the public. This work involves sanitation and sampling, as well as troubleshooting with farmers to find solutions to high bacterial counts and improve the product. For 2016, the Dairy Program:

- issued 187 licenses
- permitted 245 Farms (11 lost, 7 gained)
- conducted 533 Dairy Farm Inspections
- conducted 215 Plant Inspections
- conducted 73 Equipment Inspections
- conducted 68 Driver Inspections
- conducted 2 Tanker Inspections

Maine Meat and Poultry Inspection Program – The Maine Department of Agriculture worked with the Maine Legislature, and the Maine meat and poultry industries for nearly ten years to pass legislation enabling the implementation of a meat and poultry inspection program in the State of Maine. On October 2, 2002, Maine entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the USDA’s Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) and became one of only two of the New England states to have its own meat and poultry inspection program.

The first “state inspected” meat establishments began production in June of 2003. The Maine Meat and Poultry Inspection Program (MMPI) has been instrumental in increasing access to

slaughtering and processing facilities for Maine livestock producers. This increased accessibility has resulted in greater availability of locally-grown meat and poultry products for Maine residents. The jurisdiction of the Maine Meat and Poultry Inspection Program is limited to product that is produced and sold within the State. The program is involved in several areas of food safety and quality assurance and must operate equal to the high standards established by USDA.



2016 work performed:

- 34 Total samples tested for antibiotic residues
- 79 Total samples tested for microbial pathogens
- 16 Reviews of Custom Exempt establishments performed by MMPI inspectors
- 5 Licensed slaughterhouses
- 25 registered custom exempt establishments
- 17 registered 1K poultry establishments
- 2,870 red meat animals slaughtered, meat dressed weight 953,272 pounds
- 10,130 chickens, certified chilled weight 26,161 pounds

In-Commerce Compliance – Consumer Protection Inspectors (CPIs) from the Division of Quality Assurance and Regulations engage in surveillance of all meat products offered for retail sale within state commerce. When needed, they are trained to conduct investigations, embargo meat and poultry products, and gather evidence regarding non-compliance. They are also trained to review operations occurring at custom slaughter/processing establishments that handle products for private use labeled “Not for Sale” and to verify that these “Not for Sale” products stay out of commerce.



Poultry and Shell Egg Inspection – This program provides the poultry and shell egg industries with an unbiased, nationally-recognized and uniform grading service for poultry and shell eggs. The Division of Quality Assurance & Regulations, through a cooperative agreement with the USDA, provides inspection staff and program supervision for grading services of the USDA. This uniform grading is a key component in accessing local, national, and international markets. In 2016, the program inspected 5,835,576 dozen eggs and performed 40 surveillance inspections.

Quality Assurance – This program (commonly referred to as “the branding law”) enhances marketing opportunities for Maine companies and producers by ensuring that agricultural commodities produced in Maine meet or exceed minimum quality standards. This assurance results in increased consumer confidence fostering an increase in business and profitability. The enforcement of the minimum standards of the “potato planting” law is carried out under this program. This is accomplished by ensuring that commercial potato growers plant certified seed, thereby reducing disease content and improving the overall quality of the Maine potato crop.

Metrology Laboratory - The Metrology Laboratory came into existence to support the State Office of Weights and Measures, which was first authorized in 1839. The laboratory’s mission has evolved over the years from providing the basis for accurate measurements for weights and measures and law enforcement, to include the basic technical foundation for accurate measurements in manufacturing and research in the private sector.



This laboratory program provides calibration (assigning actual precise values) and tolerance testing (comparing actual precise values to an allowed tolerance set by law, convention, or regulation) in mass, volume, length, time, dimensional measures (used for enforcement of natural resources laws), and wheel load scales (used for DOT commercial vehicle enforcement). For the 2016, the Metrology Lab had:

- 1769 - Artifacts Tested
- 223 - Calibration Certificate Reports Issued
- \$20,615 - Fees Collected

Weights and Measures Program - The Office of State Sealer of Weights and Measures was first authorized in 1839 and the Commissioner of Agriculture was named to serve as the State Sealer *ex-officio*. Several of the Division’s Consumer Protection Inspectors have been cross-trained to conduct some weights and measures inspections (mainly testing and sealing small scales in retail establishments). Specialized equipment, licenses, and skill sets are required for testing retail and wholesale fuel meters, retail gasoline dispensers, large and medium capacity scales, wood measurement, LPG meters, and several other inspection activities. Presently, six inspectors within the Division focus on weights and measures activities. The State Sealer also has jurisdiction over appointed or elected local sealers who perform inspection work on retail motor fuel dispensers (gas pumps) and small capacity retail scales.

The importance of weights and measures enforcement in the marketplace is recognized not only for consumer protection, but also to maintain a level playing field among competing businesses. Inspection activities include testing small, medium, and large capacity scales, retail fuel dispensers, home fuel and wholesale meters, checking contents of packages, verifying the

accuracy of electronic price scanners, and fuel quality. Presently the Program needs to develop a database system to track inspections, generate inspection numbers, provide statistical data, and evaluate trends.

Professional Licenses – The Division licenses 790 commercial wood scalers and 542 scale and meter repairpersons/dealers and public weighmasters.

Emerging Issues:

Consumer Food Inspection – There has been an increased demand for locally produced food, which has spawned an industry of small commercial food processors in the State of Maine. With this industry comes the need for increased education and inspection. The Division is continually challenged to develop and disseminate updated information on good manufacturing practices, personnel safety, food safety, and biosecurity for the manufacturing and retail communities to raise awareness and reduce threats to the food supply.

Electric charging stations, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Hydrogen, Bio-diesel and bio-oils for automobile use and home heating will present challenges in the coming years. Methods must be found to provide testing and calibration of these emerging metering systems quickly and adequately, as well as a way to determine the density of some of these products to assess the accuracy of metered deliveries. Testing for enforcement against fraudulent labeling is very expensive. Emerging technology currently being used in larger metropolitan areas nationally will spread to Maine.



Ethanol fuels - Currently there is no E85 (85% ethanol) engine fuel in the marketplace in Maine, but it may well be coming. Proper labeling will be an issue, as will engine damage, if improper fuel is used. Consumers will need to be educated and protections against accidental purchasing may be demanded by the public. E10 fuels have become commonplace and E15 has been proposed and has considerable support. Engine manufacturers have stated that warranties will be voided for engines operated with ethanol

concentrations levels above certain levels (currently 10 percent for most engines) unless the engine is designated for flex fuel use. Enforcement of the fuel quality regulations will require testing and analysis of gasoline at regular intervals to ensure the fuels are properly labeled. Currently no state laboratory capability exists for fuel quality testing in Maine. The costs associated with external contracted testing are very expensive. Prices range from approximately \$700 to \$1000 per sample depending on test parameters, (octane, ethanol content, biofuel concentrations, product identity).

Specialized equipment to test the meters is required for the delivery systems for compressed natural gas or hydrogen fuel. Additionally, field staff need to be trained and, due to the expense of the equipment and specialized training required, the testing process will be expensive.

Measurement technology is rapidly evolving. Formal training is needed to keep the inspection staff's knowledge and skills current with the devices they are expected to evaluate and test for accuracy and compliance. The newer electronic measuring systems, while giving the impression of being failsafe and modern, are much more complex and require a much higher skill set to provide meaningful evaluation. The more complex the measuring systems become, the easier it has become to hide fraudulent practices in the marketplace.

Coordination and Cooperation:

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry and the Department of Health and Human Services continue to work under a Memorandum of Agreement which defines regulatory jurisdiction and outlines procedures to eliminate dual licensing and inspections wherever possible. By doing so, the two Departments have made a commitment to reduce duplication of effort, streamline state government wherever possible, and to minimize the impact of regulatory oversight to the businesses who must work with both agencies. DACF and DHHS have found ways to utilize the strengths of each agency and realize cost savings through reduced travel and duplicative services. This reduction in redundancy has also allowed each agency to utilize valuable personnel resources to provide more timely inspections for food processing and food service to protect public health.

The Maine Meat and Poultry Inspection employees report any positive laboratory findings regarding state inspected product to DHHS, the Maine Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the Human Alert Network (HAN). This information may be useful in tracking any existing clusters of food-borne illness, both within the state and nationally.

The Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Air Quality Control subcontracts with the Division for the qualitative analysis of air quality monitoring filters for the statewide Air Particulates Monitoring Program. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires a mass calibration laboratory operating at the highest precision level with strictly controlled and monitored environmental conditions. The Maine Metrology Laboratory is the only government-operated laboratory in Maine that meets these conditions.

The Department of Defense (Portsmouth Naval Shipyard), the Maine Departments of Transportation, Marine Resources, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and National Guard rely on the Metrology Laboratory to provide traceable mass and volume measurements.

The Division works cooperatively with USDA and FDA on several food inspection and auditing programs to provide services to the Federal Government and the business constituents of Maine to assist with maintaining compliance with Federal regulations.

Maine Milk Commission

Mission:

The Maine Milk Commission was established to exercise economic control over the purchasing, distribution and sale of milk within the State, while taking into consideration the public health and welfare and ensuring an adequate supply of milk. It has the power to conduct hearings, subpoena dealers, and examine their records, books and accounts. The Commission is authorized to have access to all records relating to milk to enable it to administer the law.

Organization:

The Maine Milk Control Law was enacted by the 87th Legislature in 1935. In 1975, the law was amended to require the Commission to be comprised of 4 consumer members and the Commissioner of Agriculture, *ex officio*. None of the 4 members of the Commission may have any official business or professional connection with any person or firm whose activities are subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission holds regular meetings each calendar month. The Commission is financed by a fee assessment on milk produced by industry members and it receives no State tax monies. It was incorporated into the Department of Agriculture as an agency as a part of the State government reorganization legislation of 1973.

Current Commission members include:

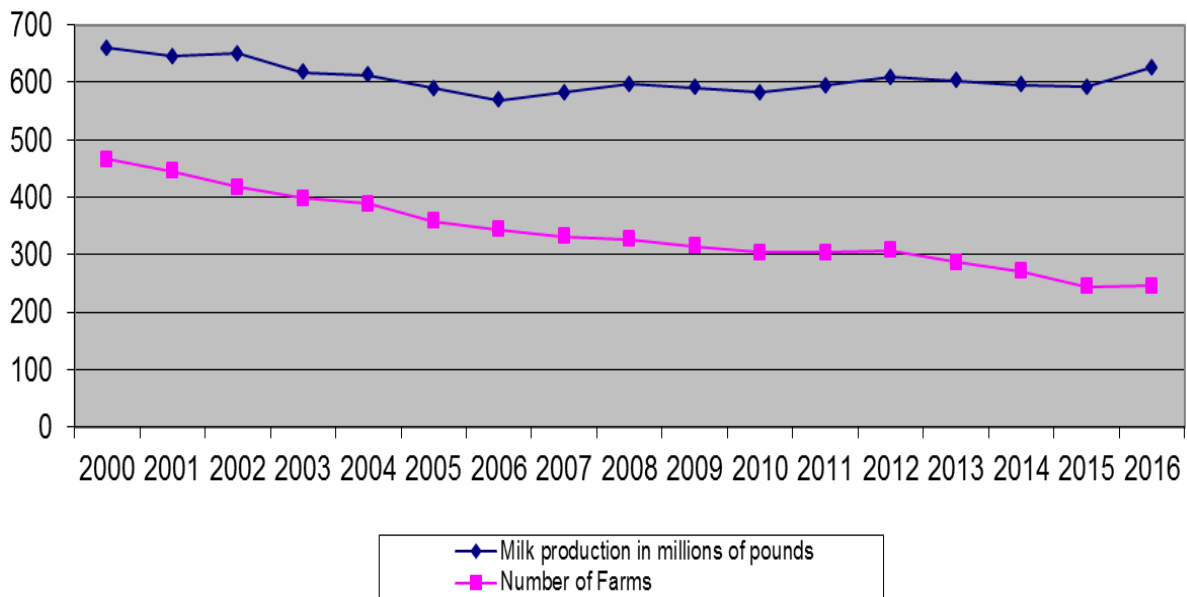
- Michael Wiers, Chairman, St. Albans
- Colon Durrell, East Wilton
- Richard Cook, Hermon
- Stanley Millay, Appleton

Program:

In accordance with its statute, as interpreted by the State Supreme Court in two decisions, the Commission establishes a uniform system of accounts for reporting and allocating costs of processing, packaging and distributing milk within the State of Maine. Recent studies have been conducted to determine the cost of producing milk in Maine. The cost of production study information is used as a guide for Commission members in their monthly deliberations for setting minimum prices on fluid milk in Maine. The information is also used for setting target prices in the Maine Dairy Stabilization Program.

The Commission does not establish prices, but merely sets minimum prices based on the lowest achievable cost at which milk purchased from Maine producers can be received, processed, packaged and distributed within the State at a just and reasonable return, while ensuring an adequate supply of pure and wholesome milk to Maine consumers.

Maine Milk Production Trends



The Commission’s Executive Director also administers the Maine Milk Pool, which balances prices paid to producers (whether they ship milk to the "Boston market" or the "Maine market") and the Maine Dairy Stabilization Program (the “tier program”). **The Commission’s actions have directly increased payments to Maine dairy farmers by \$0.96/cwt in 2016 and the “Tier” program has paid Maine dairy farmers an average of \$1.04/cwt since its inception in 2004.**

Licenses:

The Commission licenses Maine Milk Dealers and Sub-dealers who sell milk in Maine. In 2017, there were 22 milk dealers licensed, 23 sub-dealers licensed and 9 producer dealers. The hundredweight fees collected from these licensees completely funds the budget of the Commission. In 2016, over \$244,000 was collected by the Commission, which represents over 489 million pounds of milk sold in Maine, or 78% of the milk produced in Maine.

Maine Harness Racing Commission

Program Description:

The Maine Harness Racing Commission is established under 5 MRS Section 12004-G, subsection 32, while the responsibilities and authority of the Commission are detailed in 8 MRS Chapter 11. The Commission is responsible for regulatory oversight and support of Maine’s harness racing industry, pari-mutuel wagering and off-track betting facilities. The Commission administers eleven

chapters of rules covering the gamut of racing and wagering activities. The major programs administered by the Commission include:

- Licensing of officials, racing participants, tracks and off-track betting facilities
- Awarding of race dates to nine different racing venues
- Drug testing for horses and drivers
- Collection and disbursement of wagering revenue
- Promotion and regulation of Maine bred race horses
- Promotion of the industry, and
- Development of strategies to enhance the sustainability of the industry

The Commission is staffed by three year-round employees, two half-time employees and four seasonal employees. In addition, the Commission contracts for veterinarian services to cover racing when two venues operate on the same day.

Current Commission members include:

- William Varney, Chairperson
- Michael Graham, Commissioner
- William McFarland, Commissioner
- Gary Reed, Commissioner
- Alex Willette, Commissioner

Accomplishments:

Recent accomplishments of the Maine Harness Racing Commission include:

- An overhaul of the harness racing statutes in the form of Public Law 2017, Chapter 231
- Major updates and rewrites to the prohibited substance and penalty rules
- Successful prosecution of trainers using prohibited substances resulting in a precipitous drop in violations
- Successfully pursued delinquent purse returns; returns are now current
- Updated an improved [website](#) for ease of use and better promotion of the sport
- The launch of a new marketing campaign targeting younger fans and participants

Emerging Issues:

Declining popularity of harness racing - By most accounts, the popularity of harness racing in the United States peaked sometime in the mid-1990s. Since that time, intense competition for both entertainment options and wagering choices have diluted the interest in harness racing, threatening its long-term viability. These trends arise from forces that are not easily reversed. Nonetheless, harness racing still flourishes in parts of the country, and Maine's harness racing industry is determined to mount a spirited effort to regain popularity by copying effective

models from across the country and augmenting those strategies with innovative marketing and promotion campaigns.

Substance abuse - Maine's harness racing industry recently grappled with a brief epidemic of violations relating to the administration of prohibited substances to race horses. This concern peaked in 2015 and was centered around the administration of cobalt. The Commission responded with an aggressive enforcement campaign and a major overhaul of its prohibited substance rules. Since that time, violations have dropped off dramatically, which has helped restore the industry's reputation.

Declining economic trends in the harness racing industry indicate that costs associated with hosting harness racing have been steadily increasing while the revenues have been in gradual decline. These two factors combine to make the economics challenging for both commercial tracks and the nine agricultural fairs that currently host harness racing in Maine. Five of the nine fairs are reportedly struggling to maintain racing, and both commercial tracks have been facing economic challenges as well.

The Commission is attempting to address these trends by increasing investment and revamping its marketing efforts. Several parallel efforts are currently underway on the marketing front, including changes to the Commission website, a pilot project to broadcast racing on the radio, and the use of paid social media advertisements. In addition, the Commission plans to convene a stakeholders group during the off-season to investigate ideas for reducing the costs associated with hosting harness racing. The hope is that these two efforts can begin to reverse the recent economic trends in harness racing in Maine.



Figure 9 Social media promotion for harness racing

Emergency Food Assistance Office

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) helps supplement the diets of low-income Maine residents, including elderly people and the homeless, by providing USDA food assistance at no cost. Annually the funds received fluctuate based on the unemployment rate, population in need, and the poverty rate; in 2017, Maine was allotted \$1 million and procured \$3 million in foods for approximately 160,000 residents on a frequent basis. The office manages the receiving/receipting, storage, distribution plan, civil rights training, food safety training, vendor

auditing, and inventory control, while serving over 250 food pantries, congregate meal sites, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters statewide.

The Commodities Supplemental Food Program(CSFP) offers a prepared USDA-approved box of foods designed to be most effective in helping with the nutritional needs of low-income elderly. USDA allots a caseload to the State annually. The office manages the production schedule, monthly distribution schedules, civil rights training, program training, vendor auditing, inventory, and reaches 9,229 seniors monthly at 74 distribution points statewide.

Hunters for the Hungry, a collaboration between DACF and the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, was founded in 1996, and accepts donations of wild game and livestock to supplement the diets of the less fortunate. This office works with wardens, marine resources, local and state law enforcement, and the generous support of Maine sportsmen and sportswomen. The office manages marketing, a [Facebook page](#), coordination of processing, deliveries, and contracted game processors statewide.

Constituencies Served

Because the Bureau has a diverse mission, it provides products and services to a variety of customers including:

- Farmers/agricultural producers
- Agricultural commodity associations
- Finfish aquaculture operations
- Food and specialty food processors
- Food manufacturers
- Exporters
- Wholesalers and retailers
- Farmers' markets
- Educational and health groups
- People living near farms
- Suppliers of farm inputs
- Suppliers/users of pesticides
- Harness racing industry
- Pet owners
- Consumers
- State and federal agencies
- Municipalities and schools

Bureau of Forestry (Maine Forest Service)

Douglas Denico, Bureau Director 287-2791

Enabling Statutes: 12 MRS, Chapters 801, 803, 805, 807, 809

Programs:

The Maine Forest Service was established in 1909 and became a Bureau of the Department of Conservation in 1973. The Bureau of Forestry has statewide responsibilities for issues involving forest protection, forest practices, and forest policies. Key program functions include: forest inventory and analysis, forest fire protection and suppression, forest insects and diseases, forestry education and training, forest policy analysis, and the development and enforcement of forest practice regulations.

Three divisions within the Bureau carry out core forestry missions. In addition, functional oversight and management for the Maine Natural Areas Program was assigned to the State Forester in 2015.



Forest Resource Management

Purpose:

The longest standing responsibility of the Forest Resource Management² Division is continuously improving the health of Maine's forest resources, building the resource that supports Maine's forest-dependent industries and meets public expectations.

The Division accomplishes its role by protecting the forest, shade, and ornamental tree resources of the state from significant insect and disease damage; and by providing pest management and damage prevention for homeowners, municipalities, and forest landowners and managers. The 118th Legislature expanded the Division's responsibilities to include conducting an annualized, five-year cyclical inventory of Maine's forest resources.

The current (2010) *Maine State Forest Assessment and Strategies* document defines the "Desired Future Condition" of Maine's forest resource as: "(1) The various natural communities that in sum are Maine's forest resource are sufficiently healthy and resilient so that they have the capacity to respond to and recover from encountered stress, whether insect/disease, weather/climate induced, or as a result of anthropogenic (human caused) disturbance; and, (2)

² Forest Health & Monitoring Division was renamed Forest Resource Management Division as of July 2017

Maine's forest resource concurrently maintains, without significant interruption, the capacity to generate sustainably desired levels of amenities and products (both traditional and new) while maintaining their capacity to provide necessary ecological process support functions."

Objectives:

The overarching objective of the Division is to provide critical services and information to maintain Maine's forest resources in a healthy state and support Maine's forests and forest dependent industries and communities. To accomplish this, the Division seeks to:

- Conduct sufficient forest health monitoring surveillance and forest resource inventory to provide predictive evaluations and both preventative and remedial prescriptions for known major stressors to municipalities and landowners to allow managers to make timely and informed site specific pest and forest management decisions.
- Maintain sufficient analytical capacity to generate timely reports on current levels and trends of Maine's forest resources and to respond to landowner and industry requests for spatially specific information regarding forest extent and condition.
- Provide technical advice and assistance on forest pest management, including (when necessary) site-specific pest management projects, for the people of Maine.
- Conduct and oversee quarantine activities directly related to the forest resource to maximize protection of Maine's resource base while minimizing constraint of commerce.
- Optimize efficiencies in pest monitoring and control by sharing resources, analyses, and information through collaborative efforts with other state agencies, neighboring jurisdictions, and the federal government. At the local level, the Division fosters an active network of client/cooperators to augment internal capacity and address local problems.

Core Functions:

- **Maintain a statewide forest health, sustainability, and inventory monitoring system:**

Conduct localized and statewide surveys to detect and monitor current and potential insect, disease and other environmental stresses to the forest and shade tree resource. Evaluate actual and potential impacts of identified stressors. Collate, analyze, and report stressor impact and forest health data to homeowners, municipalities, forest landowners and managers, and policymakers to enable timely and informed pest management and policy decisions.

Conduct a forest inventory on an annualized 5-year re-measurement schedule to provide timely, unbiased, credible, and relevant information regarding the current extent and condition of Maine's statewide forest resources at sufficient precision to enable timely and informed forest management and policy decisions.
- **Provide real-time forest inventory analysis:**

Within constraints of available analytical resources and in compliance with federal and state confidentiality laws, respond to requests from clients for spatially specific information regarding forest extent and condition to enable timely, informed management decisions by private landowners and industry. Generate periodic reports assessing the current levels and trends of Maine's forest resources, thereby providing a sound basis for policy

discussions and a foundation for modeling potential future forest conditions. These analyses of current condition provide basic information that has been used to evaluate potential for expanding existing facilities and for attracting new wood-using industries into Maine.

- **Provide technical assistance to forest landowners, municipalities and individuals:**

Provide information, technical advice and assistance to individuals, municipalities, and other state and federal agencies on identification, significance, and control of forest and shade tree insects and diseases. Provide similar information for other insect pests and plant diseases other than those of agricultural crops. Develop and champion use of best management practices for pest management and forest resource damage prevention.

- **Manage/cooperate on forest-related state and federal quarantine efforts:**

Manage internal quarantines directly relating to the forest resources (e.g. hemlock woolly adelgid, gypsy moth, European larch canker, white pine blister rust, pine shoot beetle),

Develop and promote pragmatic regulatory instruments and procedures (e.g. Compliance Agreements and Shipping Permits) to avoid unnecessarily constraining commerce and penalizing Maine's wood using industries and dependent local economies. This capacity is critical to maintain an uninterrupted source of raw materials.



Figure 10 Removal of diseased hemlock

Cooperate with outside counterparts

on management of similar interstate and international quarantines to protect Maine forest resources from outside threats while minimizing economic impacts.

- **Provide technical assistance and support, when justified, for large and small scale forest pest management and remediation projects:** This involvement does not supersede local decision-making authorities and responsibilities, except in emergencies (e.g. eradication of quarantined exotic pests).

Serve as lead agency and liaison for cooperative federal, state, municipal, and private pest control efforts.

- **Conduct applied research on management of forest stressors:**

Analyze stress impacts on the forest resource to identify possible preventative or corrective actions. Utilize knowledge of cultural practices to develop practical management options for pest control or reducing damage. To the extent possible, develop proactive managerial prescriptions to maintain forest health and sustainability.

- **Identify emerging issues/challenges and develop effective solutions:**

Current emerging issues include the incipient spruce budworm outbreak and resulting growth loss/mortality in Maine’s spruce-fir resource, the resurgence of browntail moth populations in mid-coastal Maine, and the increasing threats that Maine’s forests face from potential introduction, establishment, and expansion of foreign invasive pest species.

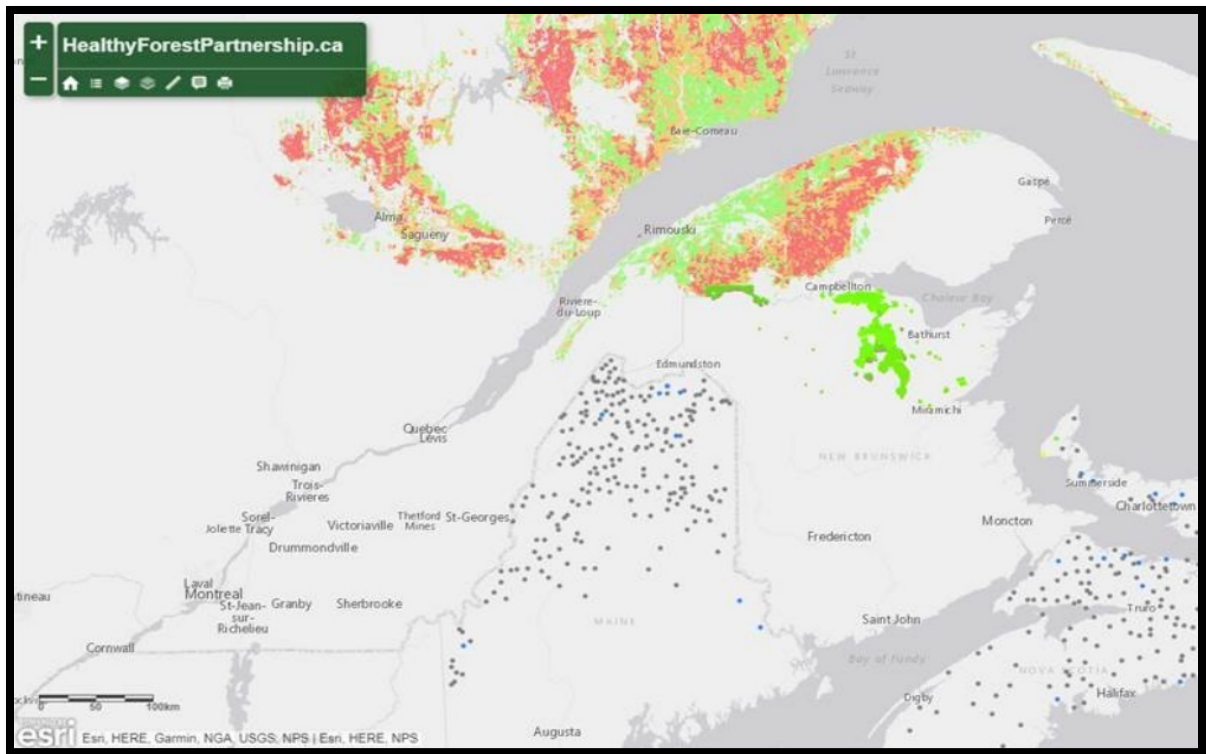


Figure 11 Current spruce budworm prevalence in New Brunswick and Quebec

The list of non-native pests threats include intensifying and expanding infestations of hemlock woolly adelgid and winter moth in southern and coastal Maine, established infestations of elongate hemlock scale in York and Cumberland Counties, intensifying balsam woolly adelgid populations across the southern half of Maine, and continuing encroachment of exotic pests like emerald ash borer and Asian longhorn beetle into neighboring jurisdictions to our south and west, and brown spruce longhorn beetle to our east. All these pests represent significant threats to Maine’s forest resources and dependent local economies

Whether involving native or non-native pests, solutions require answers to the questions of: “When will the attack come? How much is threatened? What is the potential/probable impact to Maine’s forest resource and on the dependent industries and local communities? What can be done to avoid (or at least manage) the impacts?” The Maine Forest Service must answer these questions to develop effective response strategies and enlist the public support necessary to protect Maine’s forests and forest-based industries from pests.

Selected Achievements:

- The Maine Forest Service (MFS) procured US Forest Service (USFS) funding to subsidize a series of multi-state projects to survey extent and evaluate impacts of white pine decline caused by foliar diseases and cankers across northern New England. This situation has been expanding and intensifying over the last 10 years. Stands where pine trees have had multiple years of moderate to heavy infection are beginning to be severely impacted – resulting in significant dieback, decline, and some tree mortality. These studies represent foundational steps to develop a management response.
- MFS has been working with the USDA (both US Forest Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)) and the University of Massachusetts to control the current winter moth outbreak. Starting in 2014, MFS released parasitic flies (which are successfully controlling winter moth in Nova Scotia and in Washington/ British Columbia) in 5 infested towns from Harpswell to Kittery. Flies have been recovered from initial release sites – indicating successful establishment. This effort is on-going. Earlier releases in Massachusetts show very promising results.
- MFS efforts have been beneficial in managing the spread and impacts of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). Fourteen years after initial detection of a woodland infestation in Maine (Kittery), known infestations are limited to southern and coastal stands (Lincoln County and south). Hemlock mortality is still very light, and primarily on drought-stressed sites. MFS has secured grants from USFS and has worked with counterparts in New Hampshire and Vermont to develop hazard rating systems and regional management recommendations for landowners with threatened stands.

- MFS and the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit at the University of Maine have joined a cooperative monitoring and information sharing system with Quebec and New Brunswick counterparts to strengthen and harmonize the regional spruce budworm early warning capacity. Quebec currently has 11.5 million



Figure 12 Hemlock damage

acres of moderate to severe defoliation to our north and west (17.3 million acres total). Of this, 3.6 million acres is on the south shore of the St Lawrence, with additional detectable defoliation in northern New Brunswick. Both Quebec and New Brunswick are now conducting spruce budworm suppression programs. Maine has not had detectable budworm defoliation since the mid 1980's, but such an outbreak could be imminent. Pheromone trap catches have increased 4-fold across northern half of the state in the last 10 years.

- The Maine Forest Service cooperated with the University of Maine Cooperative Forestry Research Unit and the Maine Forest Products Council to develop a risk assessment and strategic response recommendations to address the impending budworm situation (http://www.sprucebudwormmaine.org/docs/SBW_full_report_web.pdf). This document is informing forest management and research planning across the state, and has provided crucial background justification when competing for federal grants.
- In response to shrinking pest specialist resources regionally, and recognizing that the best front line of defense against invasive foreign pests is often in the neighbor's back yard, the Maine Forest Service led efforts to develop a mutual aid instrument that could facilitate federally-subsidized resource sharing. In 2012, the Commissioners of the 11 jurisdictions within the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact (NFFPC) established a cross-jurisdictional Forest Health Working Team to provide resource sharing and mutual assistance for forest health-related situations. Initial seed money was provided by member jurisdictions (\$1500 each). The Working Team then secured a \$75,000 USDA grant in 2014 to underwrite efforts.

There have been seven Forest Health mobilizations across the region since initial establishment. These mobilization efforts were a definite success from Maine's perspective: response was expedited with finance and logistical matters being facilitated through the Compact's oversight; and resources were assembled from across the region to address significant threats of regional concern before they arrived in Maine.

Although the USDA-funded demonstration pilot project was a key component to the successes, the related mobilizations that were funded by other sources clearly demonstrate the synergistic benefit of this program. In these times of shrinking resources, this initiative is proving to be extremely beneficial.

MFS efforts to persuade the US Forest Service to allocate and maintain a standing pool of funding to underwrite similar mobilizations in the future appear to be productive. An additional \$85,000 was awarded from the USFS in June 2017 to support continued NFFPC Forest Health Working Team activities.

The success of this approach has been recognized elsewhere in the country, and similar mutual aid compacts are in various stages of consideration/ development elsewhere in the eastern US.

- The Forest Resource Management Division is collaborating with the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP), providing resources to develop a strike team to survey and control invasive weed species on Public Lands holdings. Non-native plants are a serious threat to

forest regeneration and sustainability, and weeds such as Asiatic bittersweet, barberry, honeysuckle, and autumn olive are increasing problems in Maine. Sharing staff and financial resources across DACF programs provides an opportunity to focus expertise and improve the condition of Maine's public lots.

- In 2010, in recognition that firewood movement had been responsible for spread of serious nonnative pests such as emerald ash borer and Asian longhorn beetle elsewhere in the US, the 124th Legislature passed An Act to Regulate the Transportation of Firewood (LD 1607). As a result, the Bureau has increased its efforts to educate the public about the issue and embarked on a program of progressive enactment. Over the past 7 years, efforts have included increased use of advertising and solicitation of partners and volunteers to deliver outreach and heighten public awareness of the ban on import of untreated firewood. Efforts to establish a national firewood quarantine have not been successful, but have spurred development of similar state-level regulations in surrounding states. The Maine Forest Service and the Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources have received USDA grants to heighten regulatory visibility and assess public attitudes/complacency regarding moving firewood. The Bureau is in the final stages of developing/adopting permanent regulations.



- The Bureau of Forestry continues to annually remeasure Maine's forest resource. This effort is part of the national Forest Inventory & Analysis program (FIA) and is underwritten by the US Forest Service. The success of Maine's state program is nationally recognized, both for consistent timely delivery of high quality data and for leadership on the FIA program's National Management Team.

Current statewide growth rates are approximately half a cord per acre per year - exceeding removals by 43 percent. The results from the survey effort (3 complete measurements and with a 4th in progress) confirm that Maine's forest resources are continuing to increase. These positive statistics clearly indicate a sustainable and expanding resource, which is attracting new/expanded industrial investment.

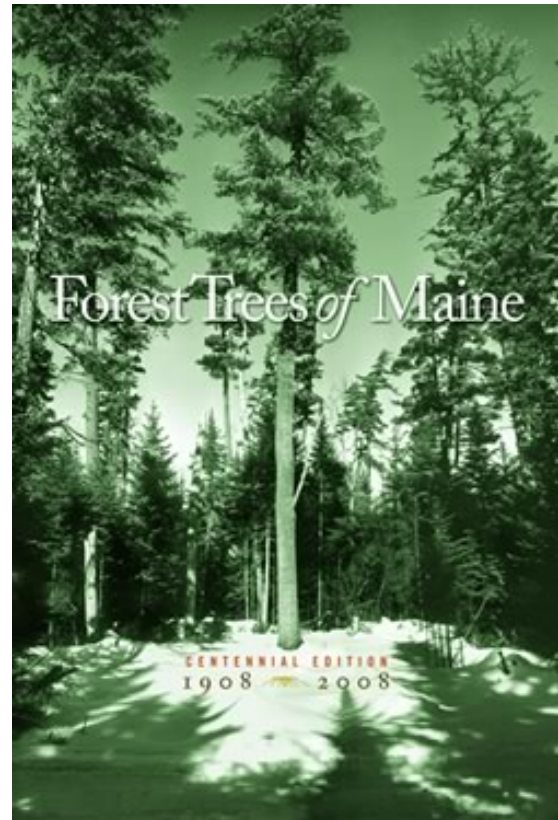
Forest Policy & Management

Purpose:

The Forest Policy & Management Division provides technical assistance, financial assistance, forest management information, and educational services to the public, forest landowners, loggers, foresters, forest products processors and marketers, municipalities, and many others. Programs delivered by the Division (particularly technical and financial assistance) lay the foundation for additional economic activity in the state, including woodland owners hiring consulting foresters, loggers buying new equipment, and wood being harvested to supply Maine's forest products industry. The Division also implements the state's forest practices laws, providing outreach services and coordination of enforcement activities. The Division anticipates and responds to forest policy issues and reports to the public on the state of the forest resource.

Objectives:

The Division's principal objectives are to support and enhance the state's forest economy and promote informed decisions by landowners, loggers, foresters, policy makers, and all other forest stakeholders, including the public, about Maine's forests. Division staff accomplish this objective in many ways and with numerous agencies and groups as partners.



Core Functions:

- **Technical assistance:** The Forest Policy & Management Division (FPM) provides technical assistance to woodland owners (the principal constituents), loggers, foresters, municipalities, and other state and federal agencies. Staff experts address woodland management options, water quality protection, community forest and street tree management, and compliance with forest practices laws. Assistance is provided directly in the field, at workshops, or indirectly via phone, email, listservs and web-based services.



- **Financial assistance:** FPM supports Maine’s rural economies by providing financial assistance to woodland owners, loggers, municipalities, and other groups with complementary goals. Assistance includes cost sharing woodland management plans, community forestry grants to municipalities, cost sharing skidder bridges, and providing reduced interest equipment loans to loggers. Nearly all this financial assistance is federal funding granted to MFS for specific purposes. These funds are channeled into local economies, directly improving economic conditions for grant beneficiaries, creating jobs in a variety of sectors for service providers, and boosting local purchases of materials. The Division also works to reduce costs to the regulated community.
- **Forest management information and reporting:** FPM collects, maintains, or has access to much of the information about Maine’s forests that policy makers, landowners, loggers, foresters, municipalities, educators, and others rely on to make informed decisions. This information often helps private sector clients enhance their businesses through marketing opportunities, connections with customers, and maintaining market share. The Division’s *Maine State Forest Assessment and Strategies* report (published in 2010) synthesizes information from a wide array of sources and assesses the sustainability of Maine’s forest resources. Staff collect and report information on water quality protection during timber harvesting operations, helping to maintain the federal exemption from Clean Water Act permitting. Savings to the regulated community of the permit exemption are estimated at \$1.5 million annually.
- **Forest practices laws:** FPM coordinates enforcement of the state’s forest practices laws using a three-tiered approach that includes: education and outreach to inform woodland owners, loggers, and foresters about the laws; intervention and technical assistance on active harvests to help woodland owners and managers comply with the laws; and, in a handful of cases each year, enforcement actions. The Department always attempts to resolve a violation through administrative settlement agreements that focus on changing behavior; litigation is rarely necessary.
- **Education:** FPM works with numerous partners to deliver forestry education through a broad-spectrum program that targets landowners, teachers, school-aged children, and resource professionals. The program utilizes a wide range of methods to reach diverse audiences, including workshops, publications, exhibits, tours, and classroom visits. Education efforts build an understanding of the many ways the public benefits from the active management of Maine’s forest resources.



Selected achievements:

▪ Outcome Based Forestry

MFS has entered into three Outcome Based Forestry agreements covering over 1.5 million acres. Outcome Based Forestry allows for the replacement of the prescriptive requirements imposed by the state's forest practices laws with higher-level outcomes approved by MFS and a panel of experts chosen by the Governor. This effort currently involves agreements with Irving Woodlands, Katahdin Forest Management, and the Bureau of Parks and Lands. This effort has resulted in many substantial benefits to the public and participants including improved silviculture, healthier forests, and a major company investment in a new state-of-the-art sawmill.

▪ Healthy Forest Program

According to MFS inventory data, total growth for all species currently exceeds harvest in Maine's southernmost eight counties by a ratio of 2.5:1. The Healthy Forest Program has goals of: (1) identifying strategies that lead to more active forest management on southern Maine family woodlands; (2) improving wood availability, wildlife habitat, forest health, recreational opportunities, water quality, aesthetics, etc.; and, (3) increasing landowner enjoyment and support jobs and the state's economy.

▪ Regulatory improvement

Since 2011, the Bureau of Forestry has consolidated nearly all regulation of forest management practices under its authority. This initiative has streamlined forestry regulation, reduced costs, and improved predictability for the regulated community while ensuring consistent protection of Maine's forest and water resources.

▪ Future wood supply

In the summer of 2011, the Department released a study of the future supply dynamics of the spruce/fir resource in response to public and private requests.

▪ Be WoodsWise

Efforts continue to assist family woodland owners to actively manage their land. The Be WoodsWise program cost-shared 181 new or revised Forest Stewardship Plans covering over 27,000 acres for family woodland owners in 2016. There currently are 1,448 current Forest Stewardship Plans covering 335,000 acres.

▪ District Foresters

- Over 6,000 woodland owners received one-on-one educational contacts in 2016 from FPM District Foresters. These activities stimulate the hiring of consulting foresters and loggers, extending the program's reach into future years.
- FPM staff initiated collaborative processes between landowners and other regulatory agencies to facilitate and enable timber harvesting operations in regulated areas.
- District Foresters initiated collaborative processes between landowners and regulatory agencies to allow timber harvesting to take place.

- **Water quality**

Through its Direct Link Loan program in partnership with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank, MFS provides reduced interest loans to loggers purchasing new equipment, such as mechanical harvesters and forwarders, to protect water quality. Since 2008, 95 loans have been processed with a total value of \$25.4 million. For a 60-month loan with a 2% interest rate reduction from 4.5% (an effective interest rate of 2.5%), this results in total interest reductions of \$1.4 million.

With federal assistance, MFS contracted for the construction of 26 sets of wooden skidder bridge mats, which are available for loan through its bridge loan program. The Division has also developed cold water fisheries enhancement manuals and offered related workshops.

- **Project Canopy**

Project Canopy is funded by the USDA Forest Service Community Forestry Assistance Program to promote natural resource management in populated areas and improve quality of life.

This statewide program to build community forestry programs is exemplified by Project Canopy's support for the City of Portland over several years to help the city with the management of several city-owned wooded lots.

Riverton Trolley Park was established in 1896 as one of Portland's premier attractions on the Presumpscot River. Today, Riverton Trolley Park is a public-use forest with trails for walking and recreation. However, the floodplain forest is crowded with weeds and invasive species. Portland's Evergreen Cemetery



has a park area with four ponds and a network of wooded trails, but former agricultural fields reverted to white pine, and were subsequently invaded by Norway maple, Asiatic bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, and invasive honeysuckle.

Through the assistance of several Project Canopy grants, the City of Portland developed natural resource inventory and management plans of both areas, along with all publicly owned woodlands in the City of Portland, totaling over 1,000 acres. Recent forest management in both parks

removed invasive species and thinned trees to improve forest health and safety. As part of this continued effort, native trees will be re-established, along with a community apple orchard at Riverton Trolley Park.



Forest Protection



Purpose:

The purpose of the Forest Protection Division is to protect public and private forest lands and high value property from damaging forest fires and to provide forest resource protection through enforcement of state natural resource laws.

MRS Title 12 grants authority and responsibility for the control of forest fires in the state to the Forest Protection Division. In addition to wildfire suppression, the Division prepares and maintains facilities, staffing, and equipment necessary to detect and prevent wildland fires, and enforces forest fire laws. It enforces the Forest Practices Act; the forestry standards of the Land Use Planning Commission; timber theft and timber trespass laws; as well as laws and regulations relating to recreational vehicles, Christmas trees, logging equipment theft and vandalism, damage to forest roads, and litter. More recently, the Division has assisted enforcing water quality laws related to timber harvesting on behalf of Department of Environmental Protection and the Land Use Planning Commission.

Objectives:

- Keep acreage losses due to forest fires to less than 3,500 acres per year.
- Keep forest fire occurrence to less than 1,000 fires per year.
- Keep forest fire damages and losses to an absolute minimum.
- Control all forest fires within the first burning period (before 10:00 a.m. the following day).
- Maintain the state's forest fire equipment in fire-ready condition at all times, including a rapid response aviation operation, which includes the staffing of heli-tack³ teams during periods of high fire danger.
- Maintain a good resource base of firefighters and heavy equipment to be able to respond to any geographic area.
- Train and maintain an Incident Management Team for forest fire control and other emergencies anywhere in the state (and as needed nationally and in Canada).
- Investigate and prosecute violations of the state's fire and forest protection laws.

³ Heli-tack refers to helicopter-delivered fire resources

- Maintain a highly skilled, competent and professional workforce to protect the forest resources.
- Foster fire preparedness at the local level by administering federal cost share programs to provide technical assistance to municipal and volunteer fire departments.
- Respond effectively and efficiently to landowner complaints, seeking resolutions that are commensurate with violations and resulting damages.

Core Functions:

- **Forest Fire Suppression**

Direct, control, organize, implement, and assist wildfire suppression efforts using state, town and private resources anywhere in the state; formulate plans for fire suppression; train firefighters, fire departments, and Incident Management personnel; maintain wildfire suppression equipment and facilities; hire needed outside resources and process bills for payment; request federal disaster assistance for fire suppression; assist federal agencies, other states and provinces in fire suppression through mutual aid agreements; provide aerial fire suppression; provide fire equipment to towns and the state through the Federal Excess Property and Volunteer Fire Assistance programs; utilize reliable radio communication systems statewide; and appoint town forest fire wardens.

- **Forest Fire Detection**

Implement a statewide forest fire detection system using the Civil Air Patrol, private contractors, and the public.

- **Forest Fire Prevention**

Enforce fire laws, work with the media to distribute public information and fire danger warnings, administer and implement the fire permit system, conduct an ongoing fire education program with schools and the general public, conduct field inspections of machinery operating in the woods, assist landowners in identifying and mitigating wildfire hazard areas, operate 28 weather stations statewide to monitor daily forest fire danger, and patrol forest areas experiencing high levels of human activity.

- **Forest Resource Protection**

Enforce all laws relating to forests, forest protection, and forest practices; enforce violations dealing with land use regulations; report and enforce Department of Environmental Protection violations and violations of non-forest related laws; and enforce all-terrain vehicle, litter, and snowmobile laws when reported as complaints or when they happen to occur in the presence of staff.

- **Landowner Support**

The Division has become the primary response agency in dealing with landowner and logger complaints of equipment vandalism, fuel theft, timber theft, non-payment for stumpage,



boundary line violations, wood transportation violations, damage to forestry roads, as well as other unauthorized use of privately held land, contributing to a safer business environment for the logging industry.

Selected achievements:

- **Cooperation with the University of Maine at Fort Kent**

In partnership with the University of Maine at Fort Kent, a program began in the fall of 2011 allowed student interns to help the Department complete several projects to forward the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. Students have worked on fuels mitigation projects and wildfire suppression in Maine; some have mobilized to national wildfire incidents. The Division continues to support the University with classroom instructors and field training. This program benefits the school, the interns, and the Division, and represents a significant collaborative effort.

- **Nationwide and International Support on Fire Incidents**

The Forest Protection Division, through its partnership with the US Forest Service and the Northeast Forest Fire Compact, provides crews, engines and incident management personnel across the country each year. The last few years have proven to be record breaking in the intensity and complexity of wildfires. Maine Forest Service personnel have been part of the solution with the national response effort. This effort not only allows Maine to help state, federal and provincial partners during intense fire activity and emergencies, but also provides the Division with a significant training opportunity for less- experienced Forest Rangers. Additionally, when the need for outside resources is experienced in Maine, these other states and provinces will be ready to answer Maine's call for assistance. This effort is fully reimbursed by the receiving state or agency.



- **Volunteer Fire Assistance and Excess Property Programs**

The Division administers several grant programs important to the development and support of small rural fire departments. The Volunteer Fire Assistance Program provides

approximately \$120,000 annually to small volunteer fire departments to acquire wildland firefighting equipment. The Division also screens for and acquires federal excess fire engines and other excess equipment that is made available directly to these small towns at no charge. Recently the



Maine Forest Service, with cooperation from the US Forest Service, entered an agreement with the Maine Fire Chiefs Association. This new agreement allows municipal chiefs the opportunity to screen for fire equipment on their own. In some instances, the federal excess property that the Division acquires for a small department means the difference between them having a fire engine or not.

- **Development of Field Technology**

The Division has migrated all fire and law enforcement field data collection to mobile devices and applications. Mobile applications have been developed for the collection of wildfire situation reports, wildfire cost summaries, prescribed fire data, mapping, Wildland Urban Interface data collection, Federal Excess Property Management Information System (FEPMIS) inventories, law enforcement activities, work scheduling and more. Field staff and managers have real time access to most data sets. This process has been accomplished through handheld devices, laptops and a new generation radio system that assists with some data management.

- **Development of Automated Fire Weather System**

The Division, working with a Maine company, has developed a new fire weather system. The Division developed new fire weather prediction and forecast zones to cover the state based on historic weather data, forest types, topography and historical fire data. Thirty-six new field data collectors are located strategically in these zones to provide accurate fire prediction indices. These data are shared with the National Interagency Fire Center to include Maine data in the national Weather Information Management System (WIMS). New software has also been developed in addition to new data collectors based on the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS). Division staff and cooperators will be able to access NFDRS information from their PC, Android, I-Phone, I-pad or other handheld device. The Division is also utilizing data from the MFS sites in their predictive services.

- **Landowner Support**

On average, Forest Rangers respond to over 3,000 landowner complaints of timber theft and trespass, logging vandalism and fuel theft, littering and fire complaints. Successful prosecutions recover on average over \$140,000 per year in restitution for landowners injured by illegal acts and nearly \$80,000 in fines

Forest Rangers work collaboratively with the Maine Warden Service to conduct an annual Landowner Appreciation Cleanup Day. Over the last four years, this effort has resulted in the cleanup of several hundred tons of illegally dumped trash and tires across Maine. The cleanup effort has included forest rangers, game wardens and hundreds of volunteers. The event emphasizes the relationship land users should have with landowners who graciously make their land available to the public. This represents an opportunity for land user groups such as snowmobile and ATV groups, hunters, trappers and fishermen to show their appreciation for the privilege of using private land in Maine. To add more interest in 2015, prizes were awarded to the organization or club who recovered the most trash. Sporting goods companies (Cabela's and LL Bean) donated resources to make prizes possible and support the effort.

- **Upgrading the Helicopter Fleet**

The Division is nearing completion of a multi-year initiative to upgrade the aging fleet of Huey helicopters. The Huey is the best-suited rotary wing aircraft for Maine's forest protection mission. Over the last five years, three UH-1H Hueys have been shipped to the Bell factory for refurbishment. When completed, each helicopter has an essentially zero-hour airframe. Although the third machine is still at Bell, Maine expects to get it back during the 2018 fire season. This will represent a refurbished Huey in each of the three regions of the state.



Maine Natural Areas Program

Enabling Statutes: 12 MRS., Chapter 201-A, §541-A; §544

Purpose:

The mission of the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) is to facilitate conservation of rare plants and natural ecosystems, commonly referred to as "natural communities." MNAP accomplishes this mission by working collaboratively with landowners and partners to support stewardship of Maine's rare plants and significant natural communities, and to reduce the threat of invasive species to native ecosystems. MNAP combines field inventories, scientific analyses, expert interpretation, and comprehensive databases on Maine's flora to deliver quality information to partners working in natural resource management. The result of these actions is enhanced conservation of the state's natural biodiversity by informing compatible management activities around our most imperiled species, ecosystems, and high-value natural areas.

Objectives:

MNAP's principal objectives are to facilitate conservation of Maine's rare plants, rare and exemplary natural communities, and native ecological systems. The program's staff accomplish this objective using many tools including most prominently specialized inventory, scientific analysis, and technical assistance to private landowners, private and public sector professionals, and other state and federal natural resource agencies.

Core Functions:

- **Ecological inventory and monitoring:**
MNAP conducts extensive natural resource inventories of federal and state lands at the request of the respective agencies. The results of the inventories guide management, establish baselines for long-term monitoring, and provide knowledge on the specific natural areas in public ownership. MNAP has detailed monitoring plans in place for Maine's three federally listed plant species as well as for some state listed plant species, state designated Ecological Reserves, and selected high value freshwater wetlands.
- **Maine Endangered and Threatened Plant List:**
MNAP maintains the official list of Endangered and Threatened Plants in Maine, which is a list of native plant species that are highly vulnerable due to state extirpation, generally because of habitat loss or collection. Species on the list are typically known from a very

small number of sites within the state and many require unusual and specialized habitat for survival. This list is used to assist scientific research, education, environmental assessment, and land management.

- **Classification of natural community types:** MNAP oversees the classification of natural community types that collectively cover the State's landscape. These include habitats such as floodplain forests, coastal bogs, alpine summits, and many others. Each type has been assigned a rarity rank of 1 (rare) through 5 (common) both within Maine (state rank) and globally (global rank). MNAP's *Natural Landscapes of Maine* describes the composition, rarity, and distribution of each of the approximately 100 natural community types in the state.



Staff work with the DACF Division of Animal and Plant Health, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension to provide outreach and education services to increase awareness about invasive plants.

Invasive plants are non-native plants that cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Examples of invasive plants in Maine include Purple Loosestrife, Common Reed, Eurasian Milfoil, and Japanese Barberry. MNAP has also developed fact sheets for Maine's Cooperative Extension Program detailing the identification and control of invasive plant species documented throughout Maine.

- **Information management and dissemination services:** MNAP maintains a comprehensive data management system, including a geographic information system (GIS), which houses information about the status and viability of Maine's rare plants, rare animals, and natural communities. MNAP offers review services for many types of projects, including environmental site review of development projects, municipal comprehensive plans, potential acquisition parcels, and forest management plans. This review involves examining maps, manual and computerized records, other sources of information such as scientific articles or published references, and the expert knowledge of staff for information on rare and exemplary natural features in an area of interest.
- **Landowner awareness and technical assistance:** Informing landowners of significant botanical features documented on their land or requesting permission to conduct a field survey of a particular parcel are ongoing efforts at MNAP, providing the opportunity to offer voluntary management recommendations. If

permission is granted and a field survey is conducted, follow-up information and field survey results are provided to the landowner. MNAP staff do not conduct surveys without landowner permission. MNAP providing technical assistance on the identification and ecology of rare plant species to other state agencies, environmental consultants, conservation organizations, foresters, researchers, students, private landowners, and citizens.

Selected achievements:

- MNAP staff conducted Natural Resource Inventories, in conjunction with the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, for the Central Penobscot, Upper Kennebec, and Moosehead Planning Regions, and contributed information to planning updates in other regions. Long term ecological monitoring of the state's 95,000 acres of Ecological Reserves continued and a partnership was initiated with the University of Maine and The Nature Conservancy to analyze the monitoring data, with a focus on long term forest change.
- Working with the Maine Geological Survey and using remote inventory and corresponding field work, MNAP staff mapped more than 22,000 acres of Maine tidal marshes, including incorporating implications for sea level rise.
- With funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, MNAP staff conducted ecological inventories of floodplain forests in the Penobscot, Kennebec, Androscoggin, and Saco River watersheds, resulting in the mapping of more than 50 new occurrences of rare plants and natural communities associated with floodplain forests. MNAP ecologists also worked with Penobscot Indian Nation on inventory of wetlands on tribal lands. MNAP staff conducted ecological assessments of more than 100 wetland sites as part of screening for the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program, which directs mitigation funds to wetland protection and restoration.
- The Official List of Threatened and Endangered Plant Species in Maine was revised and updated to reflect seven years of new inventory information. Numerous sites for Endangered and Threatened plants have been surveyed; in some cases, populations have been lost and in others cases they have been rediscovered. Most listed taxa are restricted to specialized habitats that occupy an extremely small fraction of the state's land area, conservatively estimated at <less than 1/10 of 1 %. Of the species on the revised list, 41% are restricted to lakes, wetlands, or shores, and another 34% are primarily restricted to alpine areas, cliffs, or rock outcrops. Approximately half (52%) of the species listed as endangered are known from only one location in the state.
- With funding secured from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, MNAP staff performed long-term monitoring on the state's Federally Listed rare plant species: Furbish's lousewort, small whorled pogonia, and prairie white-fringed orchid. MNAP staff also shared authorship on two published botanical field guides, *The Plants of Baxter State Park* (2016) and *Sedges of Maine* (2013).

- Significant achievements were made on terrestrial invasive plant identification, management, and control in the State of Maine. With help from the MFS and the Bureau of Agriculture, MNAP developed an Invasive Plant Program by hiring a full time Invasive Plant Biologist, a seasonal Maine Conservation Corps volunteer, and a three member “Strike Team” consisting of student interns from newly created partnerships with Colby College and the University of Maine - Orono. MNAP’s Invasive Species Biologist interacted with over 4000 participants at local fairs and provided more than 80 targeted presentations on invasive plants across the state, reaching over 2500 people including farmers, foresters, gardeners, wetland scientists, land managers, consultants, state biologists, and the public.
- A web-based program, *iMap Invasives*, that uses citizen science to document populations of invasive plants statewide, was instituted as a statewide clearing house for the distribution and trends of both terrestrial and aquatic invasive plants.



Interagency Coordination

The Bureau coordinates efforts with other state and federal agencies to achieve program goals in the following areas:

- MFS works very closely with the USDA Forest Service (USFS), the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and other federal agencies as appropriate to secure federal financial assistance to support forest management and protection efforts by landowners, loggers, and foresters.
- Project Canopy at the MFS includes representatives of local and state government in its leadership team.
- MFS has some staff members who have completed Urban Forest Strike Team training. The Urban Forest Strike Team is a professional response team of formally trained International Society of Arboriculture certified arborists designed to assist communities with urban forestry issues following natural disasters. The team coordinates with local and state forestry agency employees to assist communities following natural disasters, to provide: estimates of debris removal amounts and cost; identification and location of trees for removal, pruning, and “non-storm” hazard trees; and, generation of maps and data for Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA) reporting.
- MFS staff participates actively in staff groups created by the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters and the National Association of State Foresters and help guide the work of these groups regarding program direction and funding to benefit the people of Maine.

- MFS is routinely called to assist the Maine Warden Service and the Maine State Police in search and rescue and recovery missions, and provides manpower and aviation assets as needed. MFS has adapted the Bell 407 and Huey helicopters to insert rangers into remote fire scenes or rescue injured people from mountain tops or other inaccessible areas.
- MFS through its partnership with the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission shares resources throughout the region for fire training and forest fire suppression activities.
- MFS by agreement with the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) provides forest fire protection on Tribal lands within Maine. MFS and BIA are working to develop a fire protection agreement for tribal lands in Maine. The last agreement expired in 2014.
- MFS established the Wildfire Training Academy to better serve the training needs of its cooperators in fire management.
- MFS provides aerial survey flights for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW) to provide more reliable information on fish and game inventories.
- MFS established a joint MFS/MNAP “Invasives Strike Team” to survey and control invasive weed species on Public Lands holdings. In addition to providing critical weed control, this pilot project initiative also serves as a prototype for future joint efforts.
- MFS successfully spearheaded development of a regional pest control compact under the authorities of the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact (NFFPC) to provide resource sharing and mutual assistance to respond to forest health related situations.
- MFS cooperates with the Bureau of Agriculture, USDA-APHIS and USFS on various survey and outreach initiatives. On joint projects, the agencies partition field work to minimize travel costs and deadheading (e.g. MFS may cover survey of tribal lands for the USFS and the USFS has covered southern York County from their office in Durham, NH. MFS and MBAFRR frequently share responsibility for dealing with ornamental and shade tree calls from homeowners and nurseries.

Efforts to deliver outreach and technical assistance to the public regarding forest and shade tree pests are shared between MFS, the Bureau of Agriculture, and Cooperative Extension. Local federal partners (USFS in Durham, NH and USDA-APHIS in Hermon) also provide on-ground assistance.

- MFS has cooperated with the Maine State Museum, DI&FW, academia and various federal agencies on faunistic biodiversity monitoring projects such as the Maine Bumble Bee Atlas, the Maine Damselfly/Dragonfly project, and Maine Spider database (DI&FW); Acadia National Park’s annual “Bioblitz” surveys (Maine Entomological Society); Ladybug project (National Science Foundation, USDA Agricultural Research Service, academia); Beetles of Maine (academia).
- Diagnostics and Pest Range Analyses: Smithsonian, Beneficial Insect Research Lab, USDA-APHIS, USFS, Academia. MFS also shares reference and lab resources with the Bureau of Agriculture.

- Regional international cooperative efforts – Maine, New Brunswick, Quebec cooperative spruce budworm survey reporting network.
- MFS has maintained a longstanding series of cooperative agreements with USFS-Northern Research Station (NRS) regarding Maine’s forest inventory effort. The associated grant subsidizes MFS’s data collection effort and the USFS also provides independent quality assurance and data management services. The MFS has similar agreements and MOU’s with the NRS and USFS-Research & Development-Washington Office to facilitate MFS access to federal databases. These initiatives provide expedited analyses and data flow and reports to clientele.
- The previous involvement of the Forest Resource Management Division in monitoring insect-related human health issues (e.g. West Nile virus, Lyme disease, eastern equine encephalitis) was greatly reduced when baseline monitoring responsibility returned to Maine Center for Disease Control. However, recognizing the possibility that Maine could in the future need to conduct an aerial control project against vectors of human disease, MFS remains engaged in disease vector control planning and strategy discussions.
- MFS works with state and federal partners in managing forest-related state and federal quarantine efforts. Aspects of this effort are subsidized by USDA-APHIS and may involve the Bureau of Agriculture, US Customs and Border Patrol, and USDA-APHIS.
- When supervising or assisting with forest pest control actions, MFS cooperates with the Board of Pesticide Control to assure all regulatory and environmental monitoring requirements are met.
- Previous work managing browntail moth also included collaborative efforts with Maine Department of Marine Resources to monitor for possible impacts to marine life (e.g. juvenile lobsters) conducting applied research on management of forest stressors
- MFS cooperates with federal partners on developing management protocols and strategies for locally-occurring regional and national problems. MFS regularly serves on oversight committees to assure that federal efforts have regional and local benefit.
- MFS collaborates with regional state and academic counterparts, e.g. Development of an Emerald Ash Borer Biosurveillance system (MFS, CT Ag Experiment Station, State University of NY, Canadian Food Inspection Agency); Efficacy trials for bacterial pesticide against Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (University of Vermont)
- MFS has served as a partner with academia on conducting and overseeing state and regional pest impact assessments and in developing pest hazard rating systems; e.g. development of Spruce Budworm and HWA risk maps and hazard rating systems (University of Maine)
- The State Entomologist and Natural Science Educator serve as adjunct graduate faculty for the University of Maine School of Forestry.
- The Bureau of Parks and Lands and MFS collaborate on the construction of new radio towers, as well as any enforcement issues regarding off-road vehicles. The two bureaus also coordinate on forest health issues, with particular emphasis on invasive species.

Recent joint efforts between MNAP, MFS and BPL have focused efforts to address invasive weeds on BPL holdings.

■
Program Constituencies

- Forest landowners
 - Industrial
 - Investor
 - Family
 - Public
 - Nonprofits
- Forestry-related organizations
 - Professional organizations
 - Commodity organizations
 - Educational organizations
- Wood Processing Facilities
 - Sawmills
 - Pulp mills
 - Pellet mills
 - Biomass to energy plants
 - Bark mulch producers
 - Firewood processors
 - Maine railroad companies
 - Loggers - Truckers
- Recreational Users
 - Campground owners
 - Sportsmen's groups
 - Guides
 - Outdoor recreational groups
 - Volunteer groups
 - Seasonal residents
 - Individual sportsmen
- Educational Institutions
 - Colleges and universities
 - Primary and secondary schools
- Nonprofit organizations
 - Land trusts
 - Economic development organizations
- Forest certification organizations
 - Conservation groups
 - University of Maine Cooperative Extension
- Other state agencies
 - Environmental Protection
 - Maine State Police
 - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
 - Marine Resources
 - Maine Emergency Management Agency
 - Baxter State Park Authority
- Federal agencies
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency
 - US Forest Service
 - National Park Service
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Maine Tribes
- Municipalities
 - City Arborists
 - Parks Departments
 - Code Enforcement
 - Fire Departments
- Multijurisdictional and cooperative organizations
 - Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters
 - National Association of State Foresters
 - Eastern Plant Board
 - National Plant Board
 - Northeast Forest Fire Supervisors
 - Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission

Use of alternative delivery systems, including privatization

Publications online: The Bureau publishes most of its reports online (with limited hard copy distribution) to reduce printing costs. This includes statistical reports (e.g. timber stumpage reports, annual forest statistics, pest condition reports)

Burn Permits online: The Maine Forest Service provides the option to purchase open burning permits online. Through this service, a person may purchase an open burning permit 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, providing permits are being issued at the time. The Open Burning Permits are valid for 48 hours from time of issuance.

iMap Invasives, serves as a web-based statewide clearing house for reports on distribution and trends of both terrestrial and aquatic invasive plants.

The Bureau also uses the private sector to deliver many of its services to the public.

Private sector delivery of financial assistance programs to woodland owners: The Maine Forest Service works with a network of private sector consulting foresters to deliver financial assistance programs to woodland owners.

Private sector contracting: The Maine Forest Service contracts with the private sector for a variety of services, including aerial fire detection, wildfire report/data management services, field devices and data management, and surveillance and building and grounds maintenance. We also deliver programs cooperatively via other Maine state and federal agencies, and academia.

Collaborative efforts with client/cooperators:

Outreach/program awareness

- Volunteers
- Cooperative Extension “Vital Signs”; “Master Gardeners”
- Friends of parks/land trusts
- Community organizations (garden clubs, etc.)
- Outside organization newsletters

Pest detection

- HWA Take-a-Stand
- *Cerceris* biosurveillance
- ALB, EAB, Browntail Moth reporting initiatives
- Winter Moth survey/reporting
- *iMap Invasives*, uses citizen scientists to document populations of invasive plants (both terrestrial and aquatic)

Multistate regional Pest survey and management projects

- Pest Control Compact (New England/New York and eastern Canada jurisdictions)
- Coop HWA Slow the Spread (3 state northern New England; federally subsidized)

- EAB survey (New England/New York); in Maine, this also incorporates efforts from University of Maine and Native American Tribes
- Forest Pest Survey & Outreach project (Multistate new England/Mid-Atlantic forestry and agriculture agencies)

Regional international cooperative efforts

- Maine, New Brunswick, Quebec cooperative spruce budworm survey reporting network

Increasing use of electronic communication tools with the public:

- Electronic diagnostics: encouraging initial electronic reports and digital images, then staff do triage to determine need for on-site visits. (Digital cameras have been the key to the success of this real-time response approach)
- Encouraging public use of email and website to access information. Since the last report, the MFS has had over 2.6 million page views (hits) on its websites.
- MFS uses listservs to provide newsletters to clientele. There are currently 10,100 subscriptions to its eight electronic bulletins.
- Using social media to communicate with the public.
- MFS has developed, through a Maine contractor, a new fire weather system. The data from this system is available to cooperators and the public through handheld devices and traditional computers.

Increasing use of electronic communication tools to share information within and between agencies:

- GPS capabilities in planes (and hand held) have facilitated real time pest and damage reporting (aerial and land based) and interagency sharing.
- MFS has developed, through a contractor, a new internet based report and data management system available to cooperators and municipal fire departments. This system provides fire departments with an electronic wildfire report that is fillable online making it easier for fire departments to complete reports. The goal is not only to provide better tools to fire departments but, also to capture more accurate data. The system is available to cooperators through handheld devices and traditional computers.
- All Divisions increasingly use digital data recording devices linked to GPS to record field data (e.g. Best Management Practices monitoring)
- MFS continues to explore greater use of remote sensing to monitor forest conditions
- Memoranda of Understanding between MFS and USFS FIA to facilitate access to federal databases. This resulting in expedited analyses and flow of data and reports to clientele.

Augmenting year-round staff with seasonal workforce:

- targeted on high-need periods with project positions and interns
- Training and utilizing call-when-needed firefighters
- Training and utilizing prison inmates to be wildland firefighters
- Most field staff working for the Forest Health Division (both Insect & Disease Management and Forest Inventory) are seasonal employees.

Interns:

- MFS and the University of Maine System have a program to use summer student interns for fuels mitigation projects, to enhance response capacity, for wildfire suppression in Maine and nationally, for field surveys, and other projects to help meet the National Cohesive Strategy objectives
- MFS and MNAP are using student interns on the Invasive Weed Strike Team
- MNAP has used interns to augment staffing for many ecological survey efforts

Emerging Issues:

Maintaining a working forest land base to support local economies: This is a universal situation, with implications across the land base, from large ownerships in northern Maine to individual woodlots in southern Maine.

Distribution of mature wood: Mature wood continues to shift to southern Maine and onto ownerships where timber harvesting is not the primary ownership objective. This has created and will continue to create challenges for traditional wood procurement systems and threaten the viability of the forest-based economy. MFS needs to continue to articulate the benefits of active forest management to these landowners and assure the infrastructure is available to help them meet their objectives. This effort will be first directed towards landowners enrolled in the Tree Growth Tax Law program.

Markets: Although markets for high quality logs remain strong, the reduced market for pulp-grade wood severely limits forest management opportunities and threatens the economic health of Maine's wood harvesting/trucking infrastructure. MFS continues to get inquiries from various potential industrial investors who are attracted to Maine's well documented sustainable wood supply and positive forest growth rates. However, to date no new major markets for pulp-grade wood have been realized.

MFS continues to work with the forest industry, the federal government and academia to address the issues raised during the Economic Development Assessment Team visit in January 2017.

Softwood Lumber Agreement: MFS continues to work with the forest industry to address unresolved issues associated with cross-border commerce of logs and the justification for tariffs, and the potential impact on forest management options.

Real-time forest inventory analysis: Within constraints of available analytical resources and in compliance with federal and state confidentiality laws, the Bureau responds to requests from clients for spatially specific information regarding forest extent and condition to enable timely informed management decisions by private landowners and industry. These analyses of current condition provide basic information that has been used to evaluate potential for expanding existing facilities and for attracting new wood-using industries into Maine. The frequency and detail of these requests are increasing. These analyses are also used to generate periodic reports assessing the current levels and trends of Maine's forest resources, which are used to provide a sound basis for policy discussions and a foundation for modeling potential future forest conditions.

Improved predictive capability: The current state of flux in timber markets, coupled with changes in areas such as growth rates, forest structure, species abundance, and wood availability and threats from historical and new forest pests has made many previous predictions of future forest conditions, wood supplies and regulatory costs obsolete. MFS must provide insight into these conditions to provide a base level of information for economic and policy decisions. The MFS is working with the University of Maine and the forest industry on a federally subsidized project to upgrade modelling capacity and update projections, but this remains a work in progress.

The Bureau has recently contracted with the University of Maine for the Strengthening Wood Markets Project. Maine needs an updated analysis of the economic impact of Maine's forest industry. The industry has undergone and continues to undergo significant change, which must be understood to leverage opportunities and avoid problems.

Exotic and native pests: Many pests are on the verge of profoundly altering Maine's forest communities. Exotics such as the emerald ash borer and Asian long horned beetle and the native spruce budworm can be expected to cause significant damage to Maine's forests in the future. The Bureau's ability to detect and combat such pests must be improved to realize any opportunity to keep damage in check.

Fire control facilities: Several opportunities currently exist to consolidate. A combination of sales, acquisitions and construction will be needed to develop the most cost-effective and functional organization possible.

Lowering costs: The Forest Protection Division works toward significant cost reductions for communications and vehicle use through increased use of field technology. Early detection and control can be enhanced by reconfiguring the helicopter fleet. MFS will soon have three refurbished UH-1H Huey helicopters on line, essentially reducing the need to replace these aircraft. New aircraft would be four million dollars each. Providing training and equipment to rural fire departments offers increased support in at least half of the state. Although the Bureau is committed to sharing resources through the Northeast Forest Fire Compact, assistance from neighboring states may become less dependable as other jurisdictions reduce the size of their forestry agencies.

Streamlining: Opportunities remain to ease the burden of regulations. There continues to be a reliance on paper-based reporting for some requirements, and the Bureau is currently

evaluating means to automate the harvest notification system to reduce costs and provide better customer service.

Outcome-Based Forestry (OBF): The Bureau has entered into OBF agreements with several landowners. Efforts will continue in 2017 and beyond. This is the most promising legislative initiative since the inception of the tree growth program.

Landowner relations are carried out by several departments and agencies. Greater efforts must be made to consolidate efforts.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC FILINGS

Form	Statutory citation	Date statute last amended	When required	Why required	# of filings received annually	# of filings anticipated
Forest Operations Notification	12 MRS §8883-B	2013	Any commercial timber harvest	Informs bureau of timber harvesting - for educational, regulatory, and reporting purposes	Approx. 5,000	Approx. 5,000
Landowner report of timber harvest	12 MRS §8885	2013	Annually (if notification filed)	Informs bureau how many acres harvested by various methods, stumpage prices for calculating Tree Growth Tax Law valuations	Approx. 9,000	Approx. 9,000
Clearcutting report	12 MRS §8885	2013	Annually (if notification filed)	Informs bureau about clearcutting activities by landowners owning > 100,000 acres	Approx. 40	Approx. 40
Precommercial silvicultural activities report	12 MRS §8885	2013	Annually (if notification filed)	Informs bureau about investments in silviculture (thinning,	Combined w/landowner report of timber harvest; approx. 40	Combined w/landowner report of timber harvest; approx. 40

				planting, etc.)		
Wood processor report	12 MRS §8884	2013	Annually	Informs bureau how much timber is processed by Maine's forest products industry	Approx. 500	Approx. 500
Import and export report	12 MRS §8884	2013	Annually	Allows bureau to track wood flows	Approx. 400	Approx. 400
Outdoor Burning Permit	12 MRS §9324-9326	1979	Any outdoor burning	Allows bureau to manage fire use	Approximately 100,000+	Approximately 100,000+

Prescribed fire burn plans	12 MRS §9321	2003	Any prescribed burning	Allows bureau to allocate fire suppression resources	Approximately 50	Approximately 50
Fire report and payroll	12 MRS §9206	1979	After a fire (town wardens)	Allows bureau to determine fire costs	Approximately 500	Approximately 500
Outcome Based Forestry Plans	12 MRS §8869	2013	Annually (landowner enrolled under FPA)	Allows bureau to monitor forest management activities	3	4
Railroad fire report	12 MRS §9402	1979	Whenever fire occurs in railroad right of way	Allows bureau to suppress fire and investigate cause	24	Approx. 24
Tree Growth Tax Law roster	36 MRS §581-G	2013	Annually (by towns)	Allows bureau and Maine Revenue Services to track Tree Growth enrollments	486	486

Bureau of Parks & Lands

Thomas Desjardin, Bureau Director 287-3821

Mission – The Bureau’s mission is to protect and manage the natural and cultural resources under our care, offer a wide range of recreational and educational opportunities, and provide environmental and economic benefits for present and future generations.

Enabling Statute: 12 MRS Sections 1801-1899 (Chapter 220)

Program Description

The Bureau of Parks & Lands oversees some of Maine’s most important natural resources and recreational lands. Its mission is “to provide for a variety of quality recreational and educational opportunities and resource conservation and management benefits to Maine citizens and visitors.”

The Bureau of Parks & Lands was established in 1996 through the merger of two separate Bureaus within the Department of Conservation: the Bureau of Parks & Recreation and the Bureau of Public Lands. The Bureau of Parks & Lands was established to provide access to woods, inland and coastal waters to the people of Maine and visitors through wise stewardship of the State’s parks, public lands and state owned historic sites. In 2012, the Department of Conservation merged with the Department of Agriculture into the current Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry.

The Bureau serves to encourage the public’s recreation in and appreciation of Maine’s natural resources through the operation of its State Parks, Historic Sites, and Public Reserved Lands, boat launches, and recreational trails. It helps to stimulate Maine’s natural resource economy through timber harvesting, tourism, and outdoor recreational sports.

The major programs within the Bureau are:

- State Park Operations that include 34 State Parks, 13 Historic Sites, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, and the Penobscot River Corridor;
- Public Lands, managing approximately 631,000 acres of state-owned land on a multiple-use basis;
- Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) program that oversees 14,000 miles of snowmobile trails and 6,500 miles of ATV trails statewide;



- Boating Facilities program that oversees 576 state owned or sponsored boat launches on Maine lakes, rivers and coast; and
- Submerged Lands program that oversees the public trust rights on approximately 3 million acres of submerged land including all coastal waters from mean low tide seaward three miles, great ponds, and three boundary rivers (St. Croix, St. John and St. Francis), and the Coastal Island Registry.

The Bureau has a year-round staff of about 100, supplemented by about 250 seasonal employees. It operates on a General Fund appropriation and dedicated revenues allocation, which for FY 2016 include a General Fund appropriation of \$7.8 million, federal allotment of \$2 million, and dedicated revenue allotment of \$16.8 million. An appropriation from the state's General Fund provides funding for state parks and historic sites. Fees collected in the parks and historic sites are placed in the general fund undedicated revenue. **In FY 16, parks fees contributed \$5.4 million to the State's General Fund, an increase of approximately 45 percent over FY 2006 revenue.**

Public Reserved Lands administration and management is supported by dedicated funds from timber sales and property leases on public lands. Recreational programs for snowmobile and ATV trails are funded primarily by vehicle registrations, supplemented by a proportionate share of the gasoline tax. Boating facilities are supported by gasoline taxes. Land improvements are funded through a variety of public bonds and funds, as well as private sources, gifts, and any revenue generated from the sale of Public Reserved Land approved by the Legislature.

Economic Impact

According to a study conducted by the University of Maine's Margaret Chase Smith Center in 2006, State park visitors spent over \$60 million on goods and services directly related to their state park visits. State park visitations were estimated to support almost \$ 96 million of economic activity in Maine, including over 1,400 full- or part-time jobs that provide over \$31 million of personal income.⁴

⁴ Charles E. Morris et al., *The Economic Contributions of Maine State Parks: A Survey of Visitor Characteristics, Perceptions and Spending*, University of Maine, June, 2006.

Bureau Programs



Figure 13 Colonial Pemaquid State Historic Site

State Parks and Historic Sites

Maine has many spectacular state-owned parks and historic sites. The combination of coastal and inland forested parks, together with nationally-recognized wilderness adventures, such as the Allagash

Wilderness Waterway and the Penobscot River Corridor, make Maine's State Parks system a valuable asset both for public access and for enhancement of the tourist economy.

- **100,000 acres (87,500 Bureau-managed; 13,000 under management agreement)**
- **33 state parks, 13 historic sites, Allagash Wilderness Waterway, and Penobscot River Corridor**
- **Infrastructure value more than \$100 million**
- **Visitors: approximately 2.4 million day users and 225,000 camper-nights**

Current Initiatives:

- Increase public utilization of state park resources -- The Bureau is encouraging additional park visitation and use by promoting various activities such as Colonial encampments at historic sites, surf fishing workshops/demonstrations, Loon Plate Appreciation Day, winter family fun days, and ice fishing derbies. The Bureau is partnering with interest groups to research and implement an interpretive inventory and plan for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

- Continue to expand accessibility (ADA)
 - In each of the last two biennial budgets, the Bureau of Parks & Lands has received \$250,000 from the General Fund, matched by the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund, to expand accessibility at several parks. This effort has included significant ADA improvements to camp sites and picnic sites, as well as construction of the veteran’s fishing pier at the Songo Lock at Sebago.



Figure 14 Range Pond ADA access

- Develop strong ties to private enterprises in the tourist economy – The Bureau has partnered with canoe, kayak and paddleboard companies and food truck operators through concession contracts to provide enhanced recreational opportunities at Colonial Pemaquid, Crescent Beach, and Range Pond State Parks. These efforts have received favorable response from visitors and business owners.
- Expand private enterprise on state parks (weddings, kayak/bike rentals, etc.) – The Bureau is developing private/public relationships to encourage weddings, guided activities, bus tours, and other activities at state park facilities.
- Improve range of amenities offered in the parks (RV hookups, Wi-Fi) -- The Bureau has added ADA-compliant hookups and installed Wi-Fi as a pilot project at Camden Hills State Park.
- Broaden outdoor recreational opportunities to include more bird watching, winter activities, biking, and interpretive hikes.



Figure 15 Mt. Blue winter program

The Bureau conducts interpretive hikes and bird watching opportunities at many parks (coastal birds at Ferry Beach, hawk watch at Bradbury Mountain, and osprey nest observation at Wolf Neck Woods). The Bureau hosts ice fishing derbies at Aroostook, Lake St George, and Range Pond State Parks each winter.

The Bureau hosts winter family fun days at Cobscook Bay and Mount Blue State Parks and provides winter gear including sleds, skates, snowshoes, Nordic skis and boots for these days.

Boating Facilities



The boating facilities program constructs, maintains, and operates public boat launch facilities to ensure that Maine citizens have access to the waters of the State. The program also administers a navigational aids (buoys) program to mark navigation hazards on 39 busy Maine inland waters.

- [Existing public boat access sites](#): 149 DACF-owned; 427 grant-assisted municipal/other.
- [Navigational aids \(buoys\)](#) - maintain over 2,400 buoys on 39 lakes and the Songo River; and oversight of permitting

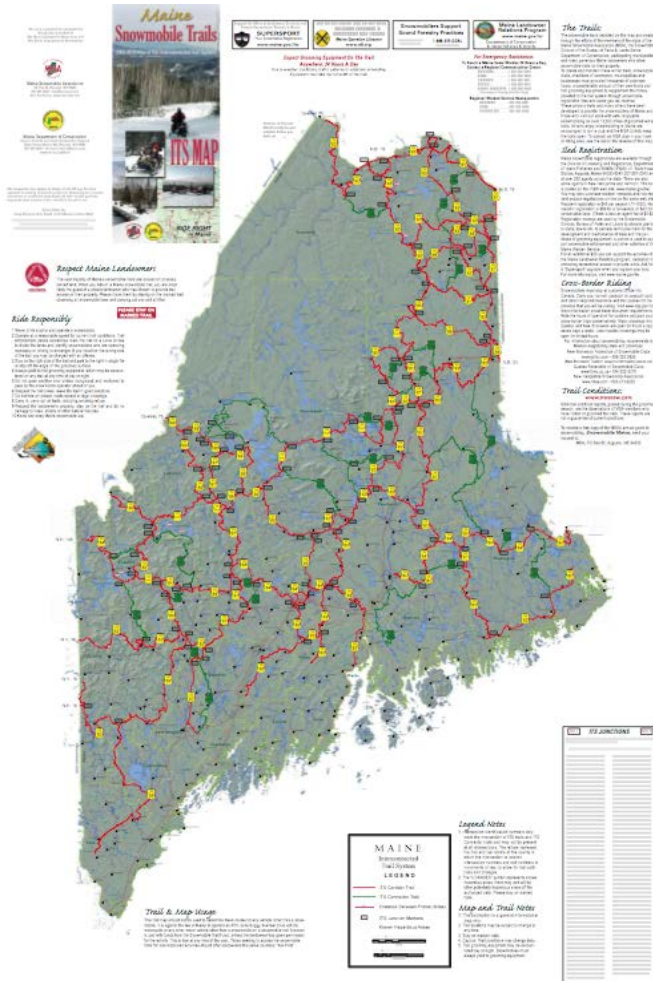
for other inland bodies of water.

- Funded by dedicated revenue from a portion of gas taxes attributable to recreational boating
- Annual Budget: \$2.01M, from dedicated gas tax revenues.

Current Initiatives:

- Coordinate with Weyerhaeuser, Forest Society of Maine, and Public Lands to finalize donation of up to 50 acres of land in the Moosehead area to provide several carry-in boat access sites.
- Manage the Boating Facilities Fund Grant Program which provides float and plank grants-in-aid, as well as cash grants to improve public boating access.
- Work with municipalities, lake associations, and others to develop, improve and increase boating facilities on Maine's waters.
- Work to make facilities ADA compliant and upgrade boating facilities at all State Parks.
- Renovations and upgrades to boating facilities at Drews Lake, Nickerson Lake, Seboeis Lake, Maranacook Lake, China Lake, and Kennebec River in Hallowell.

Off Road Recreational Vehicles



The Off Road Recreational Vehicle (ORV) office works in close partnership with hundreds of snowmobile and ATV clubs and their statewide organizations (Maine Snowmobile Association and ATV Maine), and thousands of private landowners to build and maintain nearly 20 thousand miles of snowmobile and ATV trails, and to support the volunteer workforce through 6 grant programs with municipalities and clubs.

- 14,000 miles of snowmobile trail; 6,500+ miles of ATV trail.
- 298 Snowmobile clubs; 142 ATV clubs.
- Management of 550+ grant assisted projects.
- 10 multi-use rail trails covering over 300+ miles in 46 communities.
- Funded entirely from dedicated revenues from snowmobile and ATV registrations and gas tax.
- Annual Budget: \$6.23M.

Current Initiatives:

- Negotiation of easements and rights of way, including abandoned rail corridors, and the attendant management responsibilities.
- Manage the ATV and Snowmobile Trail licenses from many large landowners, including trail building supervision and inspections, impacting hundreds of clubs.
- Manage the snowmobile grooming equipment grant program.
- Manage the snowmobile disaster relief grant program.
- Working with the Maine Snowmobile Association on a current economic impact study.
- State wide data collection of trail use and type.

Submerged Lands and Coastal Islands

Publicly-owned submerged lands include lands extending seaward from the mean low water line of tidal waters to the 3-mile territorial boundary, lands beneath the natural low water line of ponds larger than 10 acres, and the river beds of Maine's three international boundary

rivers. These lands are managed under the Public Trust Doctrine to ensure protection of the public's trust rights which include fishing, waterfowl hunting, navigation, and recreation.

Major program elements include:

- a leasing program which provides right, title or interest to municipal or private entities for such uses as piers, floating docks, marinas, commercial fisheries facilities, ocean energy projects, dredging and submarine cables;
- an ongoing inventory to identify existing uses requiring a submerged lands conveyance,
- sunken log salvage, and
- a grant program that provides funding for harbor management and public water access projects to municipalities and other state agencies. The program administers nearly 2,000 leases and easements. This represents a nearly 50% increase since 2005 with the inclusion of constructive easements for those structures predating the leasing program, as well as leases on the State's great ponds.



The Submerged Lands Program staff review approximately 100 new proposals annually. **The Program generates over \$800,000 in lease and easement revenue annually.**

The Shore and Harbor Management Fund (SHMF) is supported by lease and easement revenues that exceed the operational costs of the Submerged Lands Program. The Fund provides public compensation for the leasing of publicly-owned submerged lands for private use. SHMF provides over \$650,000 in grants to municipalities and state agencies for improvements to public wharves and dock systems, boat launch facilities, and harbor management, and to the Maine Island Trail Association for management of State-owned islands.



The Coastal Island Registry was established as a means of clarifying title to Maine's 3,166 coastal islands by establishing and registering ownership. Most islands in private ownership have been registered, and the program's primary focus is responding to requests to update the registry as property ownerships are transferred. Staff also respond to many requests for ownership information from persons interested in Maine's islands.

Current Initiatives:

- Development of the Harbor Management and Access competitive grant program to provide small grants up to \$15,000 to municipalities to improve their public water access facilities.
- Provide continued funding to other state agencies to improve state owned public water access facilities.
- Continue inventory and research of coastal and great pond structures to ensure compliance with legal mandates the SLP.

Conservation and Recreation Planning Initiatives

The Bureau of Parks & Lands is involved with a variety of major planning initiatives in support of expanding recreation and tourism opportunities in Maine including;

- 5-year Maine Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (required for federal Land & Water Conservation Funds).
- St. Croix International Waterway Recreation and Conservation Management Plan (in process - with DIF&W, St. Croix Waterway Commission).
- Sunrise Trail Infrastructure and Tourism Planning (current Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund grant).
- Collaborations with partner organizations for various non-motorized trail planning and management efforts - Appalachian Trail, Northern Forest Canoe Trail; Maine Island Trail.



Grants and Community Recreation Programs

The Bureau administers two federal grant programs: the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The Bureau also oversees the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC).

Recreational Trails Program provides funds to governmental and non-profit entities for trail-related projects. This includes land improvements, trail construction and renovation, and trail-related safety and environmental education projects. This program provides up to 80 percent of project related costs. Since the program inception in 1993, Maine has received over \$11 million in RTP funds, and the Bureau has funded 528 trail projects throughout the state. Congress has approved RTP funding through 2020. Federal Highway apportionments about \$1.4 million to Maine for this program; the Maine Department of Transportation allocated \$937,000 to RTP in 2017.

Land and Water Conservation Fund provides funding to governmental agencies for the development and renovation of public outdoor recreation facilities. LWCF provides up to 50 percent of project costs. Maine has received over \$41 million through this program since 1965, and has funded approximately 867 projects statewide. Since 2011, Maine has received an average of \$407,373 per year. In 2016, the first year of the three-year program reauthorization, Maine received \$922,876. Ongoing funding remains uncertain.

Maine Conservation Corps

The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) was established by the Legislature in 1983. MCC has recruited and placed hundreds of Corps members who have accomplished natural resource improvement projects all over Maine. During their terms of service, members receive a weekly living allowance, health insurance, First Aid/CPR training, and can earn AmeriCorps Education Awards to help pay for college or offset student loans.

The Maine Conservation Corp's four-fold mission is to:

- accomplish conservation projects,
- create conservation employment,
- provide conservation education, and
- engage conservation volunteers.



The MCC receives AmeriCorps funding through the Maine Commission for Community Service. Annual program operations are supported through a General Fund appropriation of \$84,735 for FY 16, a federal grant of \$392,090 and other special revenue of \$1,038,829.

The Field Team program consists of 10 trail crews that construct and rehabilitate upwards of 120 miles of recreational trails in places like Tumbledown and Deboullie public lands, Mt. Kineo, Lily Bay, Grafton Notch and Bradbury Mountain State Parks, Baxter State Park, and the Appalachian Trail, as well as on land owned by local communities and land trusts.

The Environmental Steward program places individuals with non-profit and state organizations such as the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Hancock County Soil & Water Conservation District, Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, State Parks, and Public Lands. These individuals focus on community outreach and education through projects such as watershed surveys, classroom activities, and ecological studies.

Current Initiatives:

- Grants & Community Recreation – Continue to pursue efforts and tools to enable the streamlining of the grant application and management process to better serve the people of Maine.
- MCC - Explore additional revenue opportunities to enhance MCC sustainability and capacity to expand the program.

Public Lands

Enabling Statute: 12 MRS §§ Sections 1801-1899 (Chapter 220)

Program Description:

The Bureau of Parks and Lands was established in 1996 through the merger of two separate Bureaus within the Department of Conservation: the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, and the Bureau of Public Lands. Management of Public Lands has evolved over the years as public expectations and additional management opportunities have arisen. The thrust of Public Land's mission has remained constant: **maximizing current public benefit while assuring environmental and economic benefits for future generations, through responsible stewardship management practices.**

Public Lands manages 631,000 acres of multiple-use, state-owned land on 146 public reserved lands units and 21 non-reserved lands units:

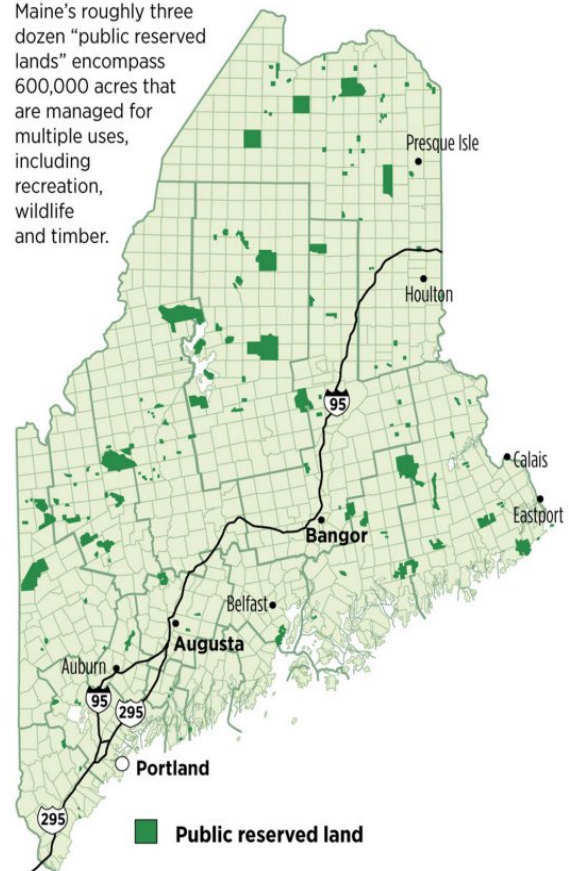
- 435,000 acres of forestland that supports timber harvesting activities
- 100,000 acres made up of such land forms as steep terrain, rock outcrops and bogs
- 94,000 acres of ecological reserves

In addition, Public Lands monitors 354,000 acres of conservation easement lands.

Public Lands is self-supporting through income derived from its land management activities (primarily timber harvesting and leasing of camp lots and other facilities). Land improvements are funded through a variety of public bonds and funds, as well as private sources, gifts, and any revenue generated from the sale of Public Reserved Land approved by the Legislature.

Maine public reserved lands

Maine's roughly three dozen "public reserved lands" encompass 600,000 acres that are managed for multiple uses, including recreation, wildlife and timber.



SOURCE: State of Maine

STAFF GRAPHIC | MICHAEL FISHER

Purpose:

Public Lands oversees some of Maine's key natural resources and recreation lands. Its mission is "to protect and manage the natural and cultural resources under its care in order to offer a wide range of recreational and educational opportunities and provide environmental and economic benefits for present and future generations" (2000 Integrated Resource Policy, p. 6).

Public Lands manages publicly-owned lands for multiple uses including recreation, timber harvesting, enhancement of wildlife habitat, and protection of unique natural and cultural resources, in accordance with Legislative guidelines.

Objectives:

Public Lands' principal objective is to manage the public land base under its care for the long-term benefit of the state. Beyond timber interests, the unit manages some of Maine's most important ecological and recreation resources.

- Holdings are managed under a multiple use paradigm including recreation, timber harvesting, and enhancement of wildlife habitat
- Timberlands are dual-certified (FSC and SFI) for sustainability
- Unique natural and cultural resources are cataloged and protected
- Maine's forest industry is supported by Public Lands providing jobs for private woods contractors and supplying to more than 40 mills
- The recreation industry is supported by Public Lands' significant infrastructure of trails, camp sites, boating launches and public use roads

Core Functions:

- Management planning on a regional basis under the Integrated Resources Policy (IRP)
- Meet conditions of Forest Certification
- Utilize recently updated timber typing and inventory data to refine computer modeling of forest growth and yield, to determine the most advantageous harvesting opportunities to support the forest economy and adequately fund Bureau programs while assuring a sustained yield
- Harvest timber on public lands allocated for timber management to sustained yield levels
- Provide harvested timber to mills experiencing supply shortages
- Increase development of recreation opportunities on public lands and focus on special resource protection
- Distribute public information on recreation opportunities and facilities available on Public Lands in printed form as well as on the Department's website, and through other outlets
- Design and install a wide variety of interpretive materials and displays
- Plan, promote and conduct educational and recreational special events

Selected achievements:

Management Planning:

- Four major plans have been completed since 2011 report: Kennebec Highlands Management Plan, Central Penobscot Region Management Plan, Crocker Mountain Unit Management Plan (appended to Flagstaff Region Plan), and Moosehead Region Plan
- Eight mandated 5-Year Reviews of Plans have been reviewed and updated/amended as needed: the Downeast, Northern Aroostook, Aroostook Hills, Flagstaff, Eastern Interior, and Western Mountains Region Plans as well as Pineland Public Lands/Bradbury State Park and Kennebec Highlands Public Lands Management Plans
- Upper Kennebec Region and St John-Allagash Region Plans are currently underway

Increase development of recreation opportunities:

- Staff development: recreation training for land stewards
- Trail development: 75 miles of trail constructed since 2011, expansion of trail networks underway on 2 major units and on new Moosehead Lake Region trail easements (Weyerhaeuser Company lands)
- Campsites: approximately 100 campsites added since 2011

Road improvement: work completed or underway on multiple units to benefit public access to recreational and timber resources

- Each year, the Bureau has constructed or reconstructed about 30 to 60 miles of management road to facilitate summer and winter timber harvesting and recreational opportunities
- Each year, Public Lands has contracted for maintenance services on approximately 250 to 350 miles of public use roads and shared use roads (e.g., management roads open to ATV use and enhancing access for hunting, fishing, and other recreation)
- For each of the past several years, Public Lands has upgraded management roads to the public use road standard or constructed new public use roads, totaling about 7 to 12 miles each year

Special resource protection:

- Public Lands continues inventory and monitoring of ecological reserves (19 reserves totaling nearly 94,000 acres); a 10-year program of resampling of long term forest monitoring plots, with a total of nearly 500 plots across 17 of the reserves. This has been underway since 2012
- Identification and protection of other special resources within Management Plans: In addition to designated Ecological Reserves, most of the management plans identify specific areas on the public lands with exemplary natural resources, as inventoried by MNAP, and apply a Special Protection resource allocation to those areas, the highest level of protection within the Resource Allocation System hierarchy. The Integrated Resource Policy provides specific guidance for management of these areas. Commercial timber harvesting is not allowed. Recent examples include 760 acres at the Little Moose

Unit encompassing both high elevation exemplary forest ecosystems and a regionally significant bog complex

Planning and Special Services Support for Public Lands

These services are provided by Public Lands employees and employees from other Bureaus who provide support services for management of the Public Lands' properties, conservation lands acquisition and management, support for Statewide or multi-agency conservation and recreation planning initiatives, and public information and education coordination (interpretive services) for Public Lands.

Core Functions:

Management and Planning Support Services for Public Lands: Support services include: administering leases and agreements (write and manage approximately 300 camp lot and commercial sporting camp leases and 63 other leases and agreements), property records management, GIS/mapping services - support to regions and Augusta staff, public information and interpretive services - unit based and system wide, assist Regions with non-motorized trails planning and wildlife management; coordinate with Regional staff and write Public Reserved Lands Management plans (required by statute for public reserved and non-reserved lands; required for Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative certification for 151 units assembled into 14 regions)

Conservation Lands Management: Public Lands also provides support for new public lands and conservation easements to protect areas of high public value, partnering with Federal Forest Legacy, Land for Maine's Future, dedicated Public Lands funds, and other state and federal programs. This involves coordinating with landowners, funders, legal advisors, Bureau management and staff; consultants and partner non-governmental organizations, from project planning to closing. This includes:

- New fee properties and conservation easements and ongoing annual monitoring (currently, 57 easements; approximately 373,000 acres)
- Sponsoring local entities for Lands For Maine's Future funding and overseeing ongoing compliance with project agreements (over 100 agreements; 52,000 acres)

Public Information and Interpretive Services (PI&IS): Public Lands distributes information to the public through a wide variety of means as well as provides interpretive services:

- Management of a website, www.parksandlands.com; park and trail alerts set-up and training, production and updates to campground maps, and campsite photos on Google Earth, production of an e-newsletter (6,000+ subscribers).
- Production and review of press releases, event and program flyers and promotional materials as approved by Department's Public Information Director; response to requests for Public Lands information; photo library and photo release management,
- Guide and Map production for individual Public Lands and locations, as well as the system-wide brochures such as *Outdoors in Maine* and *Your Maine Lands*.

- Interpretive program support is provided through the design, production and review of interpretive panels, interpretive trails, nature center exhibits and materials, educational handouts for both on-site and on-line download 24/7; interpretive training to staff and volunteers.

Selected achievements

- Continuation of Management Plan development to include Upper Kennebec Region, St John/Allagash Region, and Tumbledown/Mount Blue Management Plans.
- Continuation of mandated 5 year reviews and updates of Management Plans with several scheduled for 2017
- Continued expansion and enhancement of the website (expand the wildlife biologist report with a live-from-the-field posting section (similar system as with Park & Trail Conditions); continued work to streamline information, utilize best practices, and research emerging technologies in support of providing Increased programming support for bird watching, winter programs, biking, paddling, and interpretive hikes; plus additional educational information on-line; increased development/training of staff and volunteers to provide interpretive programs
- Guide & Maps - Continued expansion of the brochures available for the Public Lands.
- Newsletter – continued expansion of information provided (such as routine features from the wildlife biologist, our historic sites, the bug lab features, and relevant cross-postings with inside and outside DACF; plus, continued subscriber expansion.
- Shift from a ‘Stumpage’ program to a “Contractor Services” system, giving Public Lands employees responsibility for contractor road building and marketing of harvested wood, thereby enhancing revenue and greater multipurpose access throughout the state.
- Established a balanced approach for establishing and maintaining a road system to support recreational and forest management activities
- Assigned staff within the Bureau of Parks and Lands, based on their respective major duties, to either Parks or Public Lands to provide greater transparency and more accurate financial tracking
- Put in place three functioning sugar bush leases with a fourth in the process of being bid out.
- Development of two demonstration forests
- Developed a program to identify and eliminate invasive species from Public Lands
- Involvement of the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife in direct management of over 8,000 acres in the Cold Stream Region
- Actively addressing the spruce budworm threat and bark beetle infestation through harvesting
- Increased outreach to other Divisions of the Department to improve delivery of Public Lands’ mission

Use of alternative delivery systems

Reservations System

The Department's web-based camping reservation system is now used by 70 percent of those making reservations for camping at State Parks.

Publications online:

- Maine State Parks and Historic Site Brochures Public Lands Brochures
- Find Parks and Lands Database Google Earth Boat Launch Facilities GIS Mapping
- Maine ATV map
- Snowmobile Map
- Maps Maine Trail Finder
- Application for Land and Water Conservation Grant Application for RTP Grant
- Public Lands Management Plans
- Management Plans Advisory Council Meetings

Public Lands encourages the public's use of email and websites to access information: The dedicated website, www.parksandlands.com, (the largest site in the department) provides location homepages; Park & Trail alerts production and updates to campground maps, and campsite photos on Google Earth. There is a monthly e-newsletter (6,000+ subscribers), and ongoing use of social media to communicate with the public

Augmenting year-round staff

Public Lands uses **seasonal staff and volunteers** to maintain campsites, and uses **private sector contractors** to deliver many of its services to the public

Public Lands uses private contractors to harvest and transport wood, and to provide maintenance services on approximately 250 to 350 miles of public use and shared use roads (e.g., management roads open to ATV use). This approach targets the work effort to the current need and directly supports the economy of the local communities. The Public Lands Program also contracts for easement monitoring.

Emerging Issues

Utilization and Funding of State Parks and Historic Sites

Maine is now reexamining its natural resources-based economy and exploring opportunities to increase nature-based tourism. The role of State Parks and Historic Sites in serving Maine's tourist economy has been underappreciated but is now on the rise. Together with the three major icons of Maine (Acadia National Park, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, and Baxter State Park), the parks and historic sites are a core set of destinations where the spectacular

natural features of Maine are showcased. In this respect, the parks serve as promoters of the “Maine brand.”

The parks serve Maine citizens not just tourists, but also Maine’s own citizens. As land ownership patterns change, parks have become an increasingly important outdoor recreation resource for Maine people. They also are an important resource for helping to build and maintain healthy lifestyles for Maine citizens.

Continued operation and maintenance of the parks and historic sites should include generating new income through private enterprise partnerships. The Department welcomes the opportunity to explore options for such partnerships and funding mechanisms.

The Changing Role of State Government in Developing and Maintaining Maine’s Off-Road Vehicle Recreation Industry

Snowmobiling in winter has become a favorite pastime for thousands of Maine citizens, and Maine’s snowmobile recreation industry has become critically important to the economies of rural areas in the State. The industry has grown steadily over the course of several decades, to the point where it now generates over \$350 million for the Maine economy. The 14,000 miles of groomed trails in the State, most on private land, is unique in the nation.

The Department has acted in a supporting role for private clubs in Maine. Through the administration of grants to clubs and municipalities for trail maintenance activities and the purchase of equipment, the Bureau of Parks & Lands has encouraged club growth and trail development and improvement.

The use of all-terrain vehicles for recreation and touring has grown exponentially in recent years, such that the statewide economic impact of the ATV recreation industry is already over \$200 million per year. But ATVs are also capable of doing a great deal of damage to land, and unmanaged use of ATVs has damaged private property and caused many land owners to restrict access to their property. This landowner reaction creates a crisis in the ATV recreation community, and affects both ATV and snowmobiling opportunities. One of the most effective alternative ways to provide access is through the development of multi-use trails on former railroad beds. The State of Maine has been asked to assume a more active role in developing clubs and trails, and to address problems flowing from the growing sport of recreational ATV use.

The Bureau welcomes the opportunity to explore creative ways to deal with these challenges, together with our partners in the off-road recreational vehicle community.

Adequately Addressing Local Issues in Developing Public Access to Maine's Waters

The Bureau's boating facilities program is charged with ensuring that Maine citizens have reasonable access to Maine's waters, through the construction of public boat launch facilities. The proper location and development of a public boat launch sometimes raises difficult local concerns about land and water use conflicts. Concerns such as the threat of inadvertent introduction of invasive plant species, potential threats to drinking water supplies, and traffic flow issues must be carefully addressed.

The Role of Public Lands in Public Access and Nature Based Economy

The State's 630,000 acres of ownership of Public Reserved and Non-Reserved Lands provides public access to some of the most special places in Maine. Through the statutory multiple use mandate Public Lands also manages the timber and other natural resources for sustainable yield by using sound and prudent business practices. The Department supports and strengthens the natural resource-based economy while assuring responsible stewardship of its natural resources.

Proactive management of the Lands timber resource in the face of incipient spruce budworm and bark beetle outbreaks could generate public controversy. This needs to be addressed to manage the resource responsibly on a scientific basis.

Conservation easements remain a growing responsibility for Public Lands. The number of acres of easements has grown to over 378,000 acres, a 9 percent increase since 2011. There are currently 59 conservation easements for which Public Lands is responsible, and 4 easements delegated by the US Forest Service. Public Lands is the 3rd party enforcer on an additional 17 easements.

Growing public demand for use of Public Lands trails increases the burden on infrastructure (i.e. facilities, trails and roads). They are aging and require additional investment if they are to continue to offer a wide range of recreational and educational opportunities and provide environmental and economic benefits for present and future generations.

An additional issue is the investment that Public Lands has had to assume to provide access across neighboring private lands as private land owners reduce their road maintenance when not harvesting adjoining property.

Interagency Coordination

Bureau of Agriculture - Ongoing coordination between BPL and the Bureau of Agriculture regarding agricultural leases on public lands.

Department of Transportation - BPL has partnered with DOT in the operation and management of the Penobscot Narrows Observatory. Coordination and collaboration on traffic control and signage issues near state parks. The Submerged Lands Program worked on the DOT's Shore and Harbor Investment Program (SHIP). The Off-Road Vehicles Program collaborated on the Downeast Sunrise Trail which converted 87 miles of rail beds to multi-use recreational trails.

Department of Environmental Protection - BPL works with DEP on any issues that involve permitting for projects in organized towns. Collaboration is also used in monitoring and curtailing aquatic invasive species.

Department of Health and Human Services - BPL collaborates with DHHS regarding water testing and public health issues at Maine State Parks.

Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife - Coordination on fisheries and wildlife habitat, management issues on state parks and public reserved lands. The Warden Service partners on enforcement issues associated with ORV's. The Bureau also works with IF&W on educational outreach programs such as *Hooked On Fishing* and *Take It Outside* events which allow children the opportunity to try fishing and other outdoor activities at Maine State Parks.

DACF Bureau of Forestry - BPL collaborated with the Maine Forest Service in the construction of new radio towers, as well as any enforcement issues regarding ORV's. Coordination on forest insect and disease compliance with emphasis on controlling firewood import to restrict the spread of invasive species.

Maine Office of Tourism - Collaboration and coordination on increasing the marketing of State Parks and Historic Sites as part of the tourism economy. Active participation in the Big E exhibit to promote Parks and Lands. Partner in the Maine State Parks Passport Program.

Department of Marine Resources - Collaboration on shellfish harvesting at State Parks.

Maine Revenue Service - Cooperative program to allow Maine taxpayers to purchase Maine State Parks season passes as a check-off option on their income taxes.

Maine Emergency Management Agency- Collaboration on emergency issues involving public safety such as hurricanes and other natural disasters at State Parks.

US Forest Service - Coordination of the Maine Forest Legacy Program.

US Fish and Wildlife Service - Coordination and collaboration regarding Moose Horn Wildlife Refuge that involves Cobscook Bay State Park.

National Park Service - Collaboration and coordination on issues involving the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, Maine's portion of the Appalachian Trail, and administration of Land & Water Conservation Fund.

BPL beach parks partner with IF&W, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Maine Audubon Society to protect endangered bird species including piping plovers and least terns through a beach management agreement.

Bureau of Parks & Lands Constituencies

Recreational Users

- Sportsmen's Groups
- Outdoor recreational groups
- Campground owners
- Historical Societies
- 147 ATV clubs across Maine
- 298 Snowmobile clubs across Maine
- 604 State owned and public assisted boat launch facilities

Volunteer groups

- Maine Snowmobile Association
- ATV Maine

Forest landowners

- Industrial Investor Family Public

Forestry-related organizations
 Forestry-related professional organizations
 Forestry-related commodity organizations
 Forestry-related educational organizations

Wood Processing Facilities

Sawmills, pulp mills, pellet mills
 Bark mulch producers, firewood processors

Educational Institutions

Post-secondary
 Primary and secondary

Nonprofit organizations

Land trusts
 Marine Owners Advisory Councils
 Economic development organizations
 University of Maine Cooperative Extension
 Forest certification organizations
 Conservation groups

Federal agencies

USDA Forest Service
 USDA National Park Service
 US Fish and Wildlife Service

Municipalities

Harbor Masters

Multijurisdictional and cooperative organizations

National Association of State Park Directors

General Public

Statutory Requirements

12 §1839, 12 §1853 and
 12 §1862

Public and Submerged Lands: Report on non-reserved public land, public reserved land and submerged lands. The Agriculture Committee shall submit a written recommendation regarding the bureau’s proposed budget to the AFA Committee.

12 §1853-B sub-§1

Public Reserved Lands. Report must include a list of gates or barriers to public access, campsite or facility fees, budget information, status of ecological reserves and a description of any changes in allowed uses of public reserved lands.

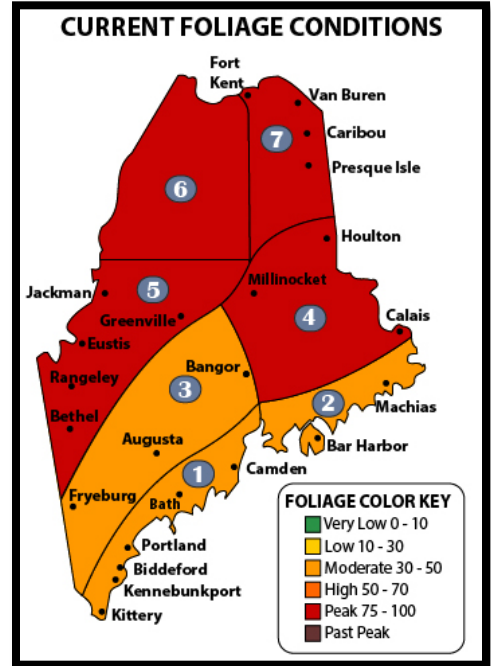


Figure 16 Typical Fall Foliage Report

Bureau of Resource Information & Land Use Planning

Robert G. Marvinney, Bureau Director 287-2801

Mission – The mission of the Bureau is to provide the people of Maine with quality information in support of natural resource management, economic development, hazard mitigation, and land use planning; to provide public assistance; and to promote education.

Enabling Statutes: 12 MRS, Chapter 201-A

Programs

This Bureau is the administrative home of the Maine Geological Survey, the Land Use Planning Commission, and various legacy programs from the former State Planning office, including the Maine Floodplain Management Program, the Municipal Planning Assistance Program, and the Land for Maine’s Future Program. The Maine Coastal Program was transferred to the Department of Marine Resources in July 2017. The Land for Maine’s Future Program was the subject of a separate Government Evaluation Act review in 2015.



Maine Geological Survey

Geologic information to support economic opportunities

The Maine Geological Survey (MGS) determines the geologic framework of the state that contributes to economic opportunities and improves the competitiveness of the private sector. Mapping of unconsolidated glacial materials identifies aggregate resources that are essential to our built environment. Glacial sand and gravel deposits are among the State’s most prolific aquifers. Currently, more than 70 public water systems produce water from these important deposits to serve safe drinking water to their customers. The expanding bottled water industry relies almost exclusively on water from these sand and gravel deposits. Many agricultural producers use groundwater from sand and gravel aquifers mapped by the Maine Geological Survey.

Mapping of the solid ledge (bedrock) also contributes to economic opportunities. Crushed rock resources are also important to our built environment, but some rock types are more suitable than others. The private sector utilizes Maine Geological Survey maps as the first step in

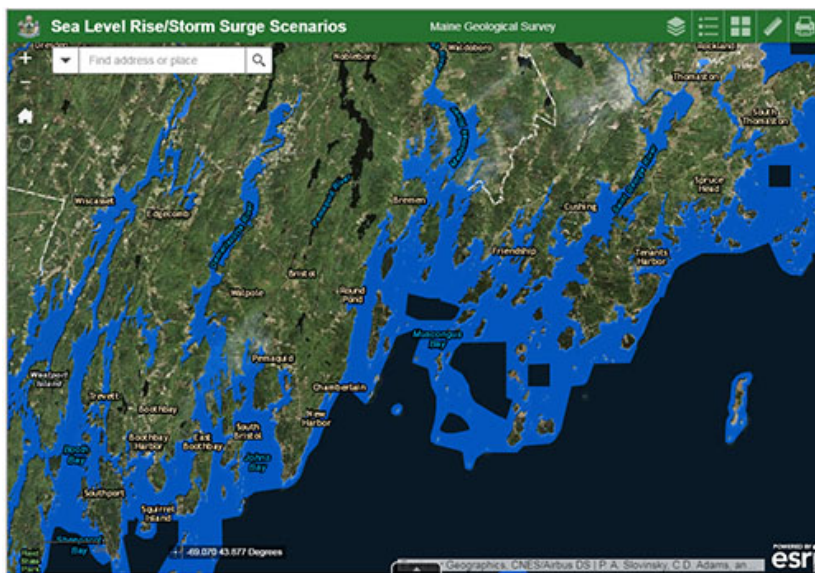
identifying additional resources suitable for crushed rock aggregate. Based on comparisons of Maine's bedrock geology with that of neighboring New Brunswick, Maine has great potential for undiscovered mineral resources. The geologic framework established by Maine Geological Survey mapping projects provides the groundwork for detailed mineral exploration efforts.

Geologic information for hazards mitigation

Damaging landslides have occurred with sufficient frequency to warrant focused attention. In 2005, a landslide in a coastal section of Wells took out the entire backyard of a home up to the foundation wall, leading to the home's condemnation and significant financial loss to the owner. Similarly, a 1996 landslide in Rockland destroyed two homes and threatened lives. Such landslides occur almost exclusively in the thick blanket of glacial marine mud that was deposited across southern and central coastal Maine 10,000 – 15,000 years ago, when sea level was higher immediately following melting of the continental glacier.



The Maine Geological Survey continues to map the detailed distribution of surficial materials and marine mud that are most susceptible to landslides. In coordination with the Maine Emergency Management Agency, the Maine Geological Survey developed landslide susceptibility maps for towns in southern Maine. LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) elevation datasets have improved landslide identification, by which MGS has identified dozens of previously unknown landslides along the Saco River and elsewhere in Maine. MGS is working with the Maine Emergency Management Agency on detailed investigations of these landslides to better assess landslide risks in these regions.



Maine has more than 5,400 miles of tidally-influenced shoreline, the 4th longest coastline in the United States. About 58 percent is rockbound and resistant to change, but the remaining 42 percent is vulnerable to ongoing sea-level rise and experiences erosion from high tides. Low-lying portions of the entire coast experience storm-surge flooding from northeasters and hurricanes. Using LiDAR elevation data,

MGS analyzes the potential impact in coastal areas of storm surge from hurricanes and makes scientifically-based projections for sea level rise. Maine Geological Survey marine geologists worked with staff of the Maine Coastal Program, the Maine Floodplain Management Program, the Maine Emergency Management Agency and coastal communities and counties to develop an [interactive mapping portal](#) that shows areas that could be inundated by storm surge and seawater.

MGS has mapped geological environments of Maine's dune system in support of sound development. Critical boundaries between frontal dune and back dune environments have been consistently delineated in the major dune systems and are available in a series of maps with an aerial photograph base. MGS completes an annual beach erosion assessment and releases updates of erosion rates via a web-mapping portal and a biannual *State of Maine's Beaches* report. MGS facilitates efficient permitting for development, supports municipal beach and dune management, and provides information to coastal property owners.

MGS has mapped eroding coastal bluffs in collaboration with the Maine Coastal Program and the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). A current project with the Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District seeks to develop innovative bluff stabilization methods that can be used by homeowners and contractors.

The Maine Geological Survey coordinates the annual cooperative snow survey for the River Flow Advisory Commission established under MEMA. In late winter, the water content in the snowpack is an important factor in forecasting spring flooding. The cooperative includes the U.S. Geological Survey and many private sector entities.

Geologic information for environmental protection

Because of their high porosity and permeability, sand and gravel aquifers are vulnerable to contamination from surface spills. Additionally, sand and gravel aquifers have the greatest potential to supply water needs for municipal utilities, agriculture, and other industries. Maine Geological Survey mapping and detailed investigations ensure that the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the Land Use Planning Commission, and the Maine Drinking Water Program have essential information on the distribution of these important aquifers to secure their protection.

Geologic information for education and outreach

An essential function of MGS is to make geological information available to the public. Geology is a discipline that is closely linked to the landscape, and as such, the geology of a place is best conveyed using maps. In the 1990s, MGS converted all map production from manual to digital techniques. All maps are now produced with increased efficiency using GIS capabilities, with the added advantage of making digital representations of geological maps available for uses with other analyses. Digital versions of all Maine Geological Survey maps and reports are now available on line for free download; an average of 6,000 maps and reports are downloaded per month.

The Maine Geological Survey provides scientific and technical outreach directly with the public, municipal governments, federal agencies, and businesses to address local, regional, and

statewide issues. Examples include: participation in the interagency dredge management team, managing public beaches with the Bureau of Parks and Lands, leading the biannual Maine Beaches Conference, data analysis from a volunteer network of beach profiling teams, and contributing to MEMA's State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Maine Geological Survey hosts Earth Science Day in conjunction with the Maine State Museum. This event attracts about 1,200 middle and high school students each year to learn about geology in their daily lives.

Interagency Coordination:

- Maine Coastal Program: develop joint proposals to improve understanding of the coastline based on the science of coastal processes; work cooperatively with coastal communities on strategies to mitigate potential coastal hazards.
- Floodplain Management Program: joint work on improving multi-hazard maps.
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection: provide agency review of select coastal development projects; provide agency review of groundwater development projects; work cooperatively to improve Maine's groundwater level monitoring network; technical assistance on dredge applications.
- Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Drinking Water Program: work cooperatively on groundwater quantity and quality issues; develop groundwater protection strategies.
- Maine Department of Health and Human Services, State Toxicologist: jointly investigate groundwater quality issues; develop outreach strategies for Maine citizens using private wells regarding the need to test.
- DACF Land Use Planning Commission: provide technical foundation for review of applications related to groundwater development, wind-power siting, and mineral resources.
- DACF Bureau of Parks and Lands: provide critical technical support on issues of coastal erosion at coastal state parks.
- Maine Emergency Management Agency: participate in the River Flow Advisory Commission which annually forecasts the potential for spring flooding; manage the interagency annual snow survey that is essential to spring flood forecasting; provide technical advice on landslide potential, work on joint proposals to fund landslide hazard analysis; assist in developing the State's Hazard Mitigation Plan; jointly develop public outreach materials; provide technical support on seismic hazards.
- Maine Department of Transportation: provide technical support on dredging and siting of deepwater facilities.
- Advisory Committee on Water Resources: interagency and stakeholder work group that identifies water related issues and directs efforts to address issues; provides oversight on special watershed-scale and statewide investigations.

Constituencies: the information generated by the Maine Geological Survey is used by a wide variety of users.

- Geological consultants: use geologic information for all types of projects – construction, water resource development, water quality remediation, etc.
- Water well drillers: information on overburden thickness, anticipated depth of wells.
- Ground-coupled heat pump installers: overburden thickness, rock characteristics.
- Water utilities: groundwater resource information.
- Mineral explorationists: prospective areas in Maine for mineral deposits; information on known deposits.
- Aggregate producers: resource estimates; prospective areas for additional resources.
- Educators: general geological information, fieldtrip localities.
- Large land owners: geologic information on mineral and groundwater resources.
- Land owners: basic geologic information on their parcels; information on their water wells.
- Coastal property owners: geological framework of coastal areas; potential for coastal erosion.

Alternative delivery systems:

- Private sector: Geologists in the private sector could carry out geologic mapping tasks and the resulting information would be far less accessible. The geologic framework provided by the Maine Geological Survey greatly assists private sector geologists in their work.
- Federal agencies: The U.S. Geological Survey maintains an office in Maine, focused primarily on surface water resources. The USGS could take on some of the geologic mapping, coastal and groundwater tasks now performed by the Maine Geological Survey, but at an unpredictable cost and with potential federal budget constraints.

Reports:

Water Well Completion Report: Filed by water well drillers upon completion of a new well for potable water.

Statutory authority: Title 12, §550-B

First adopted: 1987

Last amended: 2009

Frequency of filing: Within 30 days of well completion.

Number of annual filings, past two years: 2,000

Anticipated number of annual filings, next two years: 2,500

Actions to reduce filing requirements or duplication: This report is not duplicative of any other state agency report. No actions anticipated.

Exploration permit: For individuals wishing to explore for minerals on state land.

Statutory authority: Title 12, §549-B

First adopted: 1985

Last amended: 2009

Frequency of filing: Once annually.

Number of annual filings, past two years: 1

Anticipated number of annual filings, next two years: 1

Actions to reduce filing requirements or duplication: This report is not duplicative of any other state agency report. No actions anticipated.

Exploration claim: Claims on state-owned land to secure mineral rights.

Statutory authority: Title 12, §549-B

First adopted: 1985

Last amended: 2009

Frequency of filing: Once annually.

Number of annual filings, past two years: 1

Anticipated number of annual filings, next two years: 1

Actions to reduce filing requirements or duplication: This report is not duplicative of any other state agency report. No actions anticipated.

Exploration registration: For any person anticipating an expenditure of at least \$25,000 on mineral exploration on public or private lands.

Statutory authority: Title 12, §550

First adopted: 1985

Last amended: 1985

Frequency of filing: Once annually.

Number of annual filings, past two years: 0

Anticipated number of annual filings, next two years: 0

Actions to reduce filing requirements or duplication: This report is not duplicative of any other state agency report. No actions anticipated.

Notice of Intent to file: For any company anticipating to file an application with the DEP to develop a metallic mineral mine.

Statutory authority: Title 12, §550-A

First adopted: 1985

Last amended: 1985

Frequency of filing: Once annually.

Number of annual filings, past two years: 0

Anticipated number of annual filings, next two years: 0

Actions to reduce filing requirements or duplication: This report is not duplicative of any other state agency report. No actions anticipated.

Emerging issues:

Sustainable development: Provide the geologic framework that contributes to opportunities for communities while guiding appropriate utilization of resources.

Coastal zone: Strike the appropriate balance between development and natural processes in hazardous coastal sand dunes environments with regulations that are based on sound science.

Geologic hazards: Identify and communicate the risks to life and property from landslides, coastal storms, and earthquakes.

Water resources: Strike the appropriate balance between resource protection and resource development for both surface and ground waters. Develop robust databases of groundwater quantity and quality that can guide usage.

Mineral resources: promote environmentally sound approaches to mineral resource extraction.

Performance measures:

- Complete one water resources study every two years. Completed Branch Brook watershed project in 2015. Statewide soil-water balance recharge project on track for completion in 2018.
- Conduct at least 12 statewide snow surveys annually to support flood forecasting. Complete monthly and late-season weekly surveys done in 2017 winter.
- Enter all water well reports to the database received within the current year. MGS is up to date on this task.
- Survey shoreline change on Maine's major sand beaches annually. MGS is current on this task.
- Collect the data for and compile "State of Maine's Beaches" report biennially. Last completed in 2015 and on track for July 2017 Beaches conference.
- Complete detailed geologic maps each year in critical areas determined by the Geologic Mapping Advisory Committee. Six map areas completed in 2016 and on track for five areas in 2017.
- Complete investigations of select landslide features in southern Maine. This task is on track for completion in 2018.
- Increase number of document downloads from internet by 10% each year
- Engage in at least 20 public outreach activities annually. On track for 2017.

LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION

Enabling and Authorizing Law Citations

- 12 MRS Chapter 206-A, Land Use Regulation
- 35-A MRS Chapter 34-A, Expedited Permitting of Grid-scale Wind Energy Development
- 38 MRS Chapter 3, Subchapter I, Article 5-A, Natural Resources Protection Act
- 38 MRS Chapter 3, Subchapter I, Article, Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act
- 38 MRS Chapter 5, Subchapter I, Article 1, Subarticle 1-A, Licensing of Hydroelectric Facilities

Program Description

The Land Use Planning Commission (the Commission or LUPC, formerly the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC)) was established by the Legislature in 1971 to implement principles of sound planning, zoning, and subdivision controls in Maine's unorganized townships and plantations. LUPC's purpose is to encourage the well-planned, well-managed, and appropriate multiple uses of land resources in the 422 unorganized townships, 29 plantations, 8 towns, and over 300 coastal islands served by the Commission, an area covering approximately 10.3 million acres.

The Commission has developed Land Use Districts and Standards that apply to land use activities, such as residential and commercial development, in the areas it serves. In administering these standards, the Commission issues permits for a range of activities and enforces violations of the standards. The types of activities permitted by the Commission include shoreline alterations, development of new dwellings, campgrounds, certain roads, subdivisions, and utility lines. While not a permitting action, the Commission also reviews and acts on matters such as a zoning petition, where a property owner seeks to rezone his or her property from one zoning subdistrict to another. In addition, 2012 reform legislation established that larger projects within the unorganized and deorganized areas of the State are now permitted by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) (i.e., projects triggering DEP review under the Site Location of Development Law or qualifying as grid-scale wind energy development). For these projects, the LUPC must certify to DEP the proposed development (a) is an allowed use within the subdistrict or subdistricts in which it is proposed and (b) meets any land use standard established by the Commission not considered in DEP's permit review.



In addition to its permitting and compliance responsibilities, the LUPC also is actively involved in planning for the future of the areas it serves and helping to balance competing land uses. Prospective planning and zoning remains a leading priority. Prospective zoning projects are underway in Washington County and jointly in Somerset and Franklin Counties as part of the Commission’s Community Guided Planning and Zoning (CGPZ) initiative. The first CGPZ project in Aroostook County was completed in the fall of 2015, and in 2016, the Commission implemented recommendations of that process through rulemaking. The rulemaking adopted a new rural business development subdistrict (D-RB) for Aroostook County, providing opportunity for rural businesses to locate and grow in new areas of the county. The project received state and national recognition; it was selected as the 2016 “Planning Project of the Year” by the Maine Association of Planners and given an Innovation Award by the National Association of Development Organizations in recognition of the project’s innovative approach to regional economic and community development. Project partners included representatives of the citizen steering committee, the LUPC, Northern Maine Development Commission, and the Aroostook County Commissioners. The LUPC anticipates continuing to work on other CGPZ planning efforts.

The Commission also has developed, as required by statute, a [Comprehensive Land Use Plan](#). The Plan identifies four principal values, three broad goals, and a number of specific goals for development, natural and cultural resources, and compliance.

Performance of the Commission is assessed annually pursuant to Title 12, section 685-H, Maine Land Use Planning, Annual Performance Report. That statute requires the LUPC to provide an annual performance report to the Legislature addressing a list of items used to assess the agency, including the number of permits processed, a summary of pre-application consultations, the average time for rendering a decision, the status of regional planning and zoning initiatives, and a description of staff and commission training initiatives. The last report was filed with the legislature on January 13, 2017, [Annual Report of LUPC Performance to the ACF Committee](#). The next performance report will be submitted in January of 2018.

Organizational Structure

Commission

The Land Use Planning Commission is an independent, citizen-board of nine members consisting of one member appointed by each of the eight counties with the most acreage within the Commission's service area and one member appointed by the Governor. All members are subject to review by the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and confirmation by the State Senate. Commission members hold staggered, four-year terms. The members as of July 1, 2017, are:

- **Everett Worcester**, Chair, Piscataquis County
- **Betsy Fitzgerald**, Vice-chair, Washington County
- **Millard Billings**, Hancock County
- **Philip A. Curtis**, Somerset County
- **Robert A. Everett**, Oxford County
- **William Gilmore**, Franklin County
- **Charles P. Pray**, Penobscot County
- **Durward Humphrey**, Aroostook County
- **James May**, Governor's appointee

These citizen members of the Commission are familiar with the needs and issues affecting the LUPC's service area and contribute hundreds of hours each year fulfilling their duties. The Commission typically meets monthly and, in addition to its regular, monthly business meetings, holds public hearings. The location of its meetings and hearings depends on items on the agenda.

Primary Responsibilities of the Commission

- Protect the public health, safety and general welfare by ensuring that development is appropriately sited so as to avoid hazards such as flooding, erosion, unsafe proximity to roads, inadequate waste disposal facilities, environmental contamination, etc.;

- Direct growth to appropriate areas through zoning and development standards;
- To support and encourage Maine’s natural resource-based economy and strong environmental protections;
- Identify and evaluate lands and waters for their natural resource value and significance, and development potential;
- To honor the rights and participation of residents and property owners in the unorganized and deorganized areas while recognizing the unique value of these land and waters to the State
- Assist customers and evaluate requests for land use activities;
- Educate and inform those who live, work, and recreate in the jurisdiction regarding land use laws and standards;
- Promote compliance with land use laws and standards, and
- Enforce land use laws and standards.

Commission Staff

The Commission is supported by 21 staff. This includes a director, a planning manager, a permitting and compliance manager, four full-time planners, one part-time planner, a GIS specialist, 11 permitting and compliance staff, and a secretary associate. The staff are located in offices in Ashland, Augusta, Bangor, East Millinocket, Farmington, and Greenville.

Coordinated Efforts

LUPC has coordinated efforts with a number of state and federal agencies in achieving its program objectives. Efforts include working with:

- **Maine Forest Service (MFS)** – LUPC reviews and comments on certain forest operations permit applications received by MFS for commercial timber harvesting in certain LUPC protection subdistricts. MFS also provides technical assistance on forest operations permit

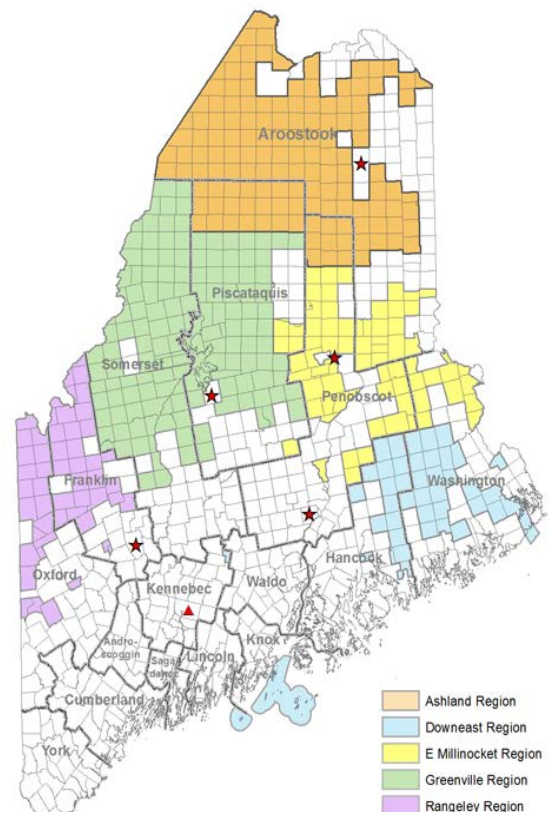


Figure 17 LUPC Regions and Offices

applications received by LUPC for commercial timber harvesting in LUPC development subdistricts.

- **Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) – *Site Location of Development Law (Site Law)***. LUPC reviews and certifies Site Law projects located wholly or in part in the LUPC service area, such as utility lines and wind energy developments prior to DEP issuing a Site Law permit. ***Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA)***. The Commission has delegated permitting authority and a legislative mandate to ensure the Commission’s rules are consistent with DEP’s NRPA rules. ***Maine Waterway Development and Conservation Act (MWDCA)***. DEP and LUPC have joint regulations for the processing of applications for hydropower projects under the MWDCA to ensure consistency in the application of statutory criteria for hydropower projects in the organized and the unorganized/deorganized areas. ***Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act***. LUPC reviews and certifies metallic mineral mining projects located wholly or in part in the LUPC service area prior to DEP issuing a mining permit.
- **Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) and Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW)** – LUPC, BPL, and DIFW coordinate updates of the conservation lands GIS map layer.
- **BPL** – LUPC works with BPL to ensure consistency in recreational and land management plans where BPL is the conservation easement holder on land with LUPC-approved development.
- **DIFW** – DIFW reviews and comments on permit applications received by LUPC to assist in evaluating potential wildlife and habitat impacts associated with proposed activities.
- **Department of Marine Resources** – DMR reviews and comments on permit applications received by LUPC to assist in evaluating potential impacts to marine resources associated with proposed activities.
- **Maine Natural Areas Program** – MNAP provides technical assistance on potential land use activity impacts on rare botanical features.
- **Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC)** – MHPC provides technical assistance on potential land use activity impacts on historical and archaeological resources.
- **Department of Health and Human Services** – LUPC relies on DHHS to ensure permitted LUPC projects meet the requirements of the State’s plumbing code, bulk water transport license, and/or public water supply system requirements.

- **Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT)** – LUPC coordinates with MDOT when certain approved LUPC projects may need to obtain MDOT entrance permits.
- **Public Utilities Commission (PUC)** – The PUC provides technical assistance on energy issues, such as distribution and transmission issues associated with wind energy projects.
- **County and other local governments** – County and other local governments provide technical assistance on potential land use activity impacts on regional and local infrastructure and services.
- **Maine Floodplain Management Program** – This program helps LUPC comply with FEMA requirements to ensure the areas served by LUPC are eligible for coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program.
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** – Certain approved LUPC projects also may need to satisfy federal requirements administered by the Army Corps, such as federal wetland requirements.

Constituencies

LUPC has a broad range of constituencies including:

- Property owners
- Business owners
- Local residents, and residents of organized areas working in the unorganized areas or who have other economic ties
- Multiple townships, plantations, and towns
- Organized communities near unorganized areas
- County commissioners
- Municipal and regional planning boards and commissions
- Recreating public

Alternative Delivery Systems

Community-Guided Planning and Zoning:

Within the last five years, the Commission has renewed its focus on locally and regionally driven prospective zoning as a means of delivering planning services. Consistent with 2012 reform legislation, Commission staff have assisted regional planning organizations with prospective zoning initiatives that provide opportunities for those who live, work, own land, or have other interests in the unorganized and deorganized areas of Maine to evaluate future land use needs



for their region and to work together on a strategy to meet those needs. Throughout these collaborative Community Guided Planning and Zoning projects, Commission staff assisted the sponsoring regional entities and each regional steering committee by providing information and technical support to help ensure that the results of each region's commitment of time and resources produce results that fulfill local goals and satisfy the State's legal requirements.

The Commission's use of alternative delivery systems also includes use of private service providers and technology to distribute information.

- **Pre-qualified vendors for consulting services-** LUPC has worked with DEP to jointly identify and pre-qualify environmental consultants who are now available through a contract for services to assist the Commission in the review of complex zoning petitions and permit applications. Pre-qualified vendors include professional engineers, soil and wetland scientists, and landscape architects.
- **Private facilitators-** The Commission has occasionally retained private facilitators, often through the use of private grant funding, to provide assistance with planning and guiding multi-stakeholder meetings to encourage active involvement of all participants and achieve effective outcomes.
- **Internet services-** The Commission uses several internet-based methods to ensure the public and interested persons can access information in a user friendly format, including the LUPC website, a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) site, and the GovDelivery system. These services are hosted through Maine.gov and operated by InforME, a public/private long-term partnership between the State of Maine and the Maine Information Network.
 - The LUPC website provides zoning maps; application forms; meeting agendas, records, and minutes; audio recordings from past Commission meetings and hearings; publications; featured project information; and reference materials for the public.
 - The FTP site has been used to make large files available to Commission members, applicants, and other interested persons.

- The GovDelivery system is a subscription e-mail service, available for free to the public, and used by LUPC to provide up-to-date information to various groups interested in different topics.
- **Cloud-based services-** In addition, LUPC is working with other State agencies to increase its use of cloud-based services. A new Dropbox account is being used, and may ultimately replace many functions of the FTP site, to make large files available to Commission members and other interested persons.
- **Other private services-** In the course of day-to-day operations, the Commission contracts with several private service providers for temporary staffing, facility rental and catering, overnight lodging, office supplies and copying, printers, cleaning services, and legal notices.
- **Web-based Zoning and Parcel Viewer-** Created with assistance from a private contractor and hosted by the Maine Office of GIS (MEGIS), this online mapping tool allows users to locate LUPC zoning within parcels in the unorganized territories, as well as to create a pdf files for print or download.
- **Geographic Oriented Action Tracker (GOAT)-** GOAT, an LUPC SQL application maintained through the assistance of a private contractor, links Commission zoning and parcel layers with a tabular permitting and enforcement database. GOAT is an interactive application that allows staff to both find data and enter data, often on a daily basis. This database can be shared within state government for project reviews.
- **GIS layers and UT parcels and zones-** GIS mapping data is developed and maintained by LUPC. Both GIS layers and UT parcels and zones data are hosted on the MEGIS web data catalog and can be downloaded by public and private entities in several GIS formats. Parcels and zones are also available on the MEGIS SDE server for state government users to query and display within their individual projects.

Emerging Issues

- **Review and refine** the Commission's approach to guiding the location of development through application of the adjacency principle.
- **Review the Fish River Chain of Lakes** concept plan proposal, resubmitted in June of 2016, that includes the proposed rezoning of more than 51,000 acres in Aroostook County.
- **Adopt rulemaking** to implement recommendations flowing from the Washington County Community Guided Planning and Zoning initiative.

- **Complete the review** of the Commission’s subdivision rules and companion rule revisions.
- **Update application forms** for non-residential development permits to shorten and simplify the paperwork for applicants.
- **Develop organization/deorganization plans** as requested by unorganized townships and municipalities.
- **Implement the Moosehead Lake Region Concept Plan** as development proposals are submitted.
- **Consider the future of Maine’s forest economy** and how it may affect planning for the unorganized and deorganized areas.
- **Undertake a review** of the Commission’s Land Use Standards and identify and implement beneficial changes.

Comparison of Federal Laws and Regulations

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which provides landowners or purchasers of flood prone property in unorganized and deorganized areas the option of obtaining federal flood insurance and mortgage financing. LUPC participates in the program by maintaining development standards for flood prone areas meeting NFIP minimum standards, and adopting FEMA flood hazard maps delineating flood prone areas so that flood insurance can be made available to those with property in the unorganized and deorganized areas of Maine.
- Section 404 of the Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of dredged or fill materials into the waters of the United States unless exempted or covered by a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). The purpose is to “maintain and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the United States.” (1987 ACOE Wetlands Delineation Manual). The Land Use Planning Commission has permit-granting authority, under Maine’s Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA), for activities within its service area potentially impacting wetlands, waterbodies, and other protected natural resources. The purpose of the NRPA is to “establish sound environmental standards that will prevent the degradation of and encourage the enhancement of ... [the State’s protected natural] resources.” (38 MRS § 480-A.) Although there are similarities between the purpose and the standards of federal law and regulations, and state laws and rules enacted

by LUPC, the permitting programs are implemented separately. LUPC strives to ensure consistency and a coordinated approach where it is appropriate for its service area.

- Under Part I of the Federal Power Act (FPA), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is responsible for authorizing the construction and operation of hydropower projects. FERC has broad authority to consider potential impacts of hydropower projects in a process that is generally separate from LUPC review under the Maine Waterway Development and Conservation Act (MWDCA). While construction activities and structural alterations at hydropower projects require review under the MWDCA, LUPC review under this statute is not triggered by normal maintenance and repair or federal relicensing of these projects by FERC.
- Building a new tower or co-locating an antenna on an existing structure requires compliance with the Federal Communication Commission rules. These rules ensure that licensees and registrants, and federal review agency comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as under other federal statutes such as the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The state law governing LUPC provides authority for the Commission to regulate installation of communication towers as well. In some instances, the focus of review and potential impacts considered may differ between the federal laws and regulations and those implemented by the Commission. Applicants have to meet both federal and state requirements prior to construction of a project.

Required Filings

In accordance with 12 MRS 685-A and 685-B, a permit must be issued by the Commission for a wide range of activities, uses, and development. As a result, nearly all public filings with the Commission are applications for permits. These applications fall within one of three general categories: building permits (i.e., permit applications for residential development), development permits (the most common permit application for commercial development), and all other permits (e.g., subdivisions, zoning petitions, utility lines, and roads).

12 MRS 685-B and the Commission's rules (Chapters 4 Rules of Practice and Chapter 10 Land Use Districts and Standards) provide general application requirements. Chapter 4 was last amended in 2013 and Chapter 10 was last amended in 2017. Additionally, the Commission's staff annually review and revise a subset of its application forms to simplify each form and minimize the information required. Many of the common applications are submitted by individuals seeking approval for activity at sites where existing development has been permitted. In these instances, staff works with applicant to complete forms to

provide only needed information, recognizing material already in LUPC’s files. The following table summarizes the number of filings for permits over the past two years:

Permit Type	Permit Type Name	Total Applications Processed	
		2015	2016
BP	Building Permit	379	410
DP	Development Permit	57	55
All Other		93	111
BCP	Bridge Construction Permit	0	2
FOP	Forest Operation Permit	7	6
GP	Great Pond Permit	35	45
HP	Hydropower Permit	0	1
RP	Road Construction Permit	4	4
SA	Shoreland Alteration Permit	13	11
SD	Service Drop Permit	14	25
SLC	Site Law Certification	2	1
SP	Subdivision Permit	4	6
ULP	Utility Line Permit	5	2
WL	Wetland Alterations Permit	3	1
ZP	Zoning Petition	6	7
TOTAL		529	576

Reports Required by the Legislature

- **Board or Commission Annual Report** – An annual report on the summary of activities related to the Land Use Planning Commission accomplishing its mission that is submitted to the Secretary of State. (Last filed December 20, 2016)
- **Regulatory Agenda** – An annual report on the agency regulatory agenda filed with the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Secretary of State. (Last prepared December 27, 2016)
- [Annual Report of LUPC Funding to the ACF and Taxation Committees](#) – An annual report of funding for the Land Use Planning Commission to the Joint Standing Committees on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and Taxation. (Last published January 13, 2017)
- [Annual Report of LUPC Performance to the ACF Committee](#) – An annual report of performance for the Land Use Planning Commission to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. (Last published January 13, 2017)

Floodplain Management Program

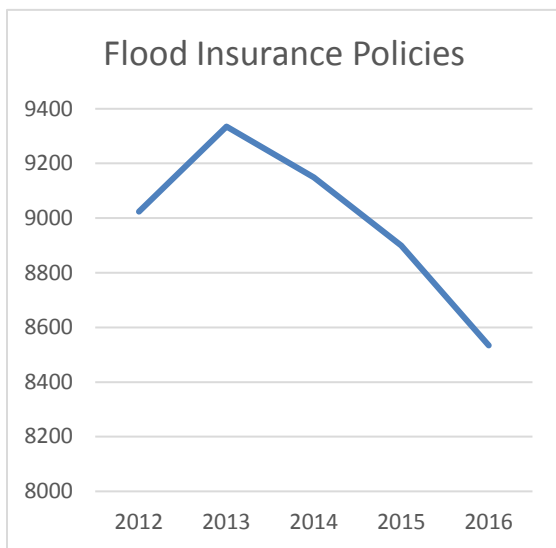
Enabling Legislation: 12 MRS 408.

Municipalities adopt Floodplain Ordinances pursuant to:

- Title 30-A MRS, 3001-3007, 4352, 4401-4407,
- Title 38 MRS, 440

Program Description – Reducing flood risk to properties

The Maine Floodplain Management Program serves as the State Coordinating Agency for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Program is funded annually by a Community Assistance Program – State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE) grant from FEMA. The NFIP was created by Congress in 1968 as a way to (1) reduce the risk to improved property and loss of life during flood events, (2) reduce the amount of disaster assistance paid out for flooding events, (3) make flood insurance available to those at risk, and (4) require development standards for building/improving in areas prone to flooding in order to break the cycle of having repeat flood damages.



The NFIP is a voluntary federal program available to local communities. The Federal government provides for flood hazard mapping and the availability of federal flood insurance in exchange for the local adoption, administration, and enforcement of land use regulations in areas designated by FEMA as 100-year floodplains. About 95 percent of Maine communities participate in the NFIP, as well as the Land Use Planning Commission, which participates on behalf of all the unorganized territories.

The Maine Floodplain Management Program (MFMP) works to reduce the risk of property loss

and personal injury from flooding by undertaking efforts in the following categories:

- Administers the National Flood Insurance Program in Maine; oversees community participation and compliance.
- Assists communities with developing and adopting floodplain ordinances and reviews ordinances for consistency with federal requirements.
- Administers FEMA's RISK Map program, remapping and digitizing the state's Flood Insurance Rate Maps.
- Provides general technical assistance and NFIP training.

Priorities

The activities under the annual CAP-SSSE work agreement with FEMA are based on FEMA priorities.

Performance Measures

Maintain a 95% rate of Maine communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Maintain a 98% map adoption rate among participating communities/counties undergoing flood hazard mapping.

Coordination with other agencies

The MFMP works with other state agencies/programs to ensure flood loss reduction and overall community resilience:

- Maine Emergency Management Agency
- County Emergency Management Agencies
- Maine Land Use Planning Commission
- Maine Department of Transportation
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection
- Maine municipalities

Constituents served

- Community officials
- State/Federal agencies
- Professionals: (primarily) lenders, insurance agents, surveyors/engineers, realtors/developers
- Property/business owners

Alternative Delivery Systems

The cost of coordinating the NFIP in Maine via the private sector would probably increase costs. Flood insurance through the private sector would be expensive and many properties would be ineligible for coverage.



Emerging Issues

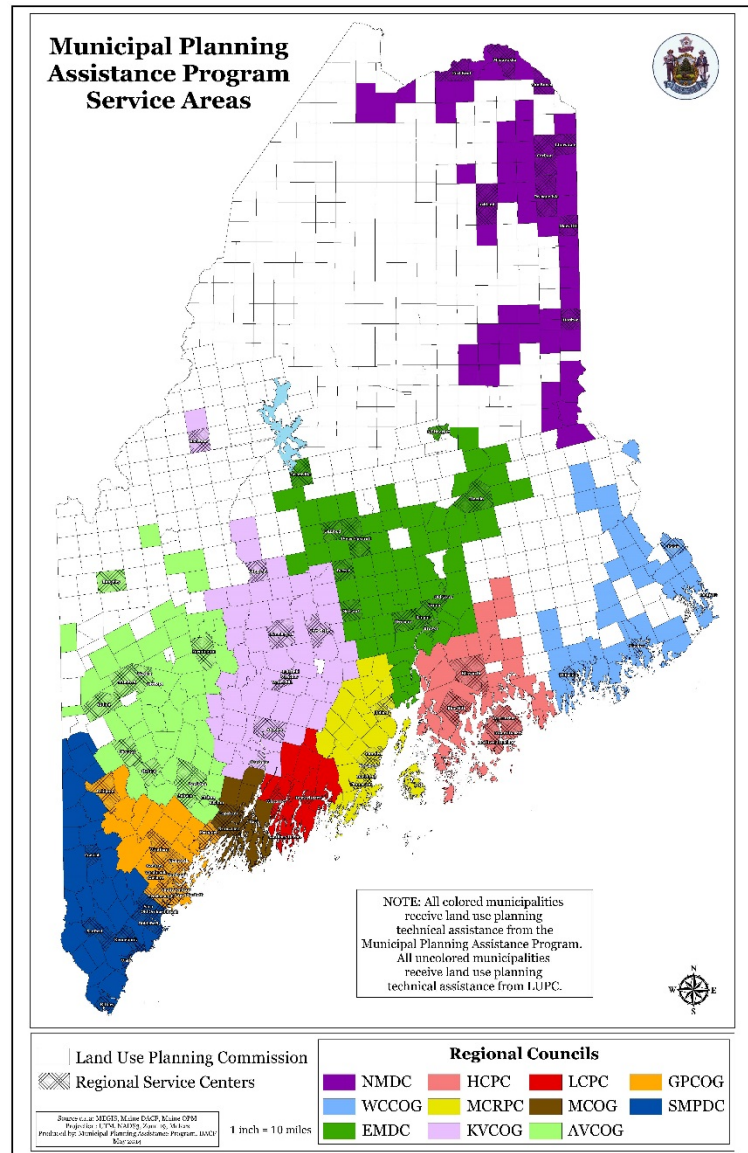
- Financial sustainability of NFIP given frequent extreme weather events and coastal flooding
- Community participation in flood insurance

Municipal Planning Assistance Program

The Municipal Planning Assistance Program (MPAP) provides land use planning expertise for municipalities, regional planning organizations, and state agencies, and guides local growth management programs and investments.

Technical assistance to communities to support economic opportunities and improve hazard mitigation:

- Grants to Coastal Communities – MPAP awards grants on a competitive basis for planning projects in Maine’s Coastal Zone. Over the past decade, these planning grants have supported projects that improve commercial fisheries and help coastal communities reduce exposure to coastal hazards.
- Grants to Regional Planning Organizations – MPAP contracts with Maine’s regional planning commissions and councils of governments to assist municipalities in their respective service areas. These funds support outreach to communities on the Growth Management Act and the Comprehensive Plan Review Criteria Rule, and providing presentations on resource planning.



- Direct Technical Assistance – MPAP staff works directly with municipal officials and private citizens to address questions and issues relating to land-use planning and regulation. MPAP presents planning webinars for Maine communities to examine planning tools and present examples of successful programs and policies.
- Publications – MPAP generates, compiles and provides electronic access to an array of technical assistance documents such as model ordinances, technical bulletins and handbooks.

Administration of Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act (Growth Management Act):

- Comprehensive Planning Technical Assistance - MPAP staff works directly with municipal officials and citizens to address questions and issues relating to local comprehensive planning and the state comprehensive plan review process.
- Planning Data – The program coordinates with agencies across state government to compile and share town-specific data needed for comprehensive planning.
- Review of Municipal Comprehensive Plans - MPAP reviews and advises municipalities on the consistency of their comprehensive plans with Maine’s Growth Management Act. Communities whose plans are found consistent with State guidelines are eligible to receive planning grants.
- Review of Municipal Land-Use Regulations and Growth Management Programs - MPAP reviews and advises municipalities on the consistency of their land use ordinances and growth management programs with Maine’s Growth Management Act. Programs found consistent with the Act are eligible for planning grants.

Interagency Coordination:

- DMR Coastal Program: Develop joint proposals for federal funding; coordinate award and administration of federal grants to communities and regional planning organizations; work cooperatively with coastal communities on strategies to mitigate potential coastal hazards.
- DACF Floodplain Management Program: Joint work on improving municipal responses to flooding hazard.
- DECD Office of Community Development: Review and provide advisory opinion on pending applications for municipal downtown tax increment financing districts.
- DEP Non-Point Source Pollution Control Grant Program: Participate in the review of applications for Federal 319 NPS grants.
- Maine Downtown Center, Maine Development Foundation: Serve on Advisory Counsel.
- DECD Codes Enforcement Certification Program: Provide training to municipal codes enforcement officers on land use planning and State subdivision law.
- Coordinate with the following agencies for provision of planning data to municipalities and/or the review of municipal comprehensive plans: DEP, DOT, DIFW, DECD, DHHS, DACF, MHPC, MSHA, OMB, DOL

Constituencies:

The Municipal Planning Assistance Program provides services to a wide variety of users.

- Municipal officials and boards
- Other State agencies
- Private businesses
- Individual land owners
- Land use planners
- Regional Planning Organizations
- Development Foundations

Alternative delivery systems:

MPAP supports regional planning commissions to expand technical assistance to communities beyond what the MPAP staff can provide. Contracting with the private sector or other non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance would be an alternative.

Enabling Statutes

- 30-A MRS 4312 et seq (Growth Management)
- 5 MRS 13073-B (Maine Downtown Center)
- 30-A MRS 5226 (Downtown TIFs)

Rules

- Chapter 201 Procedural Rule for Submission and Review of Comprehensive Plans and Zoning Ordinances
- Chapter 203 Subdivision Ordinance Review Criteria Rule
- Chapter 205 Procedural Rule for Submittal and Review of Municipal Growth Management Programs for a Certificate of Consistency
- Chapter 208 Comprehensive Plan Review Criteria rule
- Chapter 210 Zoning Ordinance Review Criteria Rule

Grant Programs Administered

Regional Planning Grants - Contracts with regional planning commissions and councils of governments to provide planning technical assistance to towns and to foster regional planning efforts.

- Source of Funds: General Fund and Federal Coastal Funds
- FY17: \$129,657 GF and \$199,373 FF
- FY18 proposed: \$137,162 GF and \$185,965 FF

Coastal Community Grants - Grants help coastal communities with promising land-use initiatives

- Source of Funds: Federal Coastal Funds
- FY17: \$186,280 for 5 grants
- FY18 proposed: \$167,800 for 5 grants

Publications

MPAP has dozens of planning documents and reports on line at:
<http://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/publications.shtml>

Emerging Issues

- **Integrate Economic Development and Land Use Planning** – Encourage regional collaboration on economic development and efficient delivery of governmental services.
- **Simplify and Streamline Municipal Ordinances and Plans** – Towns need to simplify development review processes in response to recent court decisions characterizing many municipal ordinances as confusing or burdensome. State natural resource data should be more readily usable in local comprehensive plans.

Performance Measures

MPAP's performance of its primary tasks can be measured by tracking the following:

- The number of comprehensive plan consistency reviews conducted / the number of those reviews that are concluded within the statutory time limits

In FY17, 13 comprehensive plan reviews were conducted. Of those, 11 were concluded within the statutory time limits, while two reviews are pending, but still within the statutory time limits.

- The number of comprehensive planning data packages that are compiled / the number of those packages distributed within the statutory time limits.

In FY17, 40 comprehensive planning data packages were compiled, and all were distributed within the statutory time limits.

- The number of annual technical assistance grant contacts executed with regional planning organizations in a timely manner / the number of those grant contracts for which all tasks are completed on-time and within budget.

In FY17, 10 annual technical assistance grant contacts executed with regional planning organizations in a timely manner, and all are on track to be properly completed.

- The number of coastal community grant contacts executed with regional planning organizations and municipalities in a timely manner / the number of those grant contracts for which all tasks are completed on-time and within budget.

In FY17, 5 coastal community grant contacts were executed with regional planning organizations and municipalities in a timely manner. All 5 projects are proceeding in accordance with the contracts. In addition, a number of projects contracted in FY16 have been completed during FY17.

Maine Coastal Program

State and related federal enabling laws

The state enabling law for the Maine Coastal Program (“MCP”) while housed at DACF⁵, was [12 MRS §544-D](#), which defined the Program’s mission “to manage and administer and to coordinate implementation and ongoing development and improvement of the state coastal zone management program in accordance with and in furtherance of the requirements of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972” (“CZMA”), which is codified at [16 U.S.C. §§1451-66](#), as well as the state coastal management policies established in [38 MRS §1801](#).⁶ The CZMA is administered at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”), Office for Coastal Management (“OCM”).

Program description

Priorities

The Coastal Program works to sustain coastal and marine resources and enhance the maritime economy through work in:

- Coastal community planning and land use technical assistance;
- Hazard resiliency planning and technical assistance;
- Effective administration of coastal natural resources management and land use laws;
- Public access planning and conservation of working waterfronts;
- Habitat restoration;
- Coastal and marine data collection and analysis; and
- Support of coastal stewardship through education, outreach and volunteer support.

Every five years, in accordance with Section 309 of the CZMA, the MCP develops and submits to NOAA for approval, a five-year “strategic outlook.” Development of the plan involves detailed consideration of national and state priorities, review of the MCP’s past performance, meetings with partner organizations, stakeholders, and other state agencies to discuss priorities and

⁵ From 1978 to 2012, MCP was housed at the State Planning Office (“SPO”). Effective July 1, 2012, pursuant to P.L. 2011 c. 655, SPO was dissolved and MCP became part of the Department of Conservation, which subsequently merged with the Department of Agriculture to form DACF. The state biennial budget for 2018-2019 transferred MCP to the Department of Marine Resources as of July 2017.

⁶ The Coastal Management Policies Act provides general legislative policy direction which is implemented through other enforceable state statutory and regulatory authorities.

strategies for program innovation and improvement. The following nine priority policy areas of national concern covered by the CZMA are the covered in the plan:

- Aquaculture – facilitating cultivation of aquatic organisms such as fish, shellfish, and seaweed;
- Coastal Hazards – eliminating or reducing threats to public health, safety and welfare from storms, climate change, erosion, and the like;
- Cumulative and Secondary Impacts of Development – addressing impacts associated with land development and other stressors;
- Energy and Government Facilities Siting – facilitating sound siting of large-scale essential services;
- Marine Debris – eliminating or reducing trash and other refuse in coastal waters or on shorelines;
- Ocean Resources – planning for existing and potential new uses in coastal waters, including harvesting of marine resources and preservation of their habitats, stewardship of cultural and historic resources, preservation and enhancement of water quality, identification and use of sand and gravel deposits, and harbor dredging;
- Public Access – facilitating public access to the shore;
- Special Area Management Plans – planning for resources or geographic areas of concern; and
- Wetlands – protecting, restoring, or enhancing wetlands and the economically and ecologically valuable functions and values they provide.

The MCP strategic plan that was operational during the program’s tenure at DACF identified Coastal Hazards, Ocean Resources, Energy and Government Facilities Siting and Special Area Management Planning as high priority issues, while acknowledging that marine debris, public access and cumulative and secondary impacts of development would also receive considerable focus.

Performance measures

MCP reports on a series of performance indicators each year, as required by NOAA. Indicators include:

- The number of communities that adopt new plans, policies, and regulatory and non-regulatory measures; complete targeted projects; or implement recognized best management practices to reduce impacts to coastal water quality in targeted watersheds of priority shellfish growing areas;
- The number of communities in the coastal zone that adopt new plans, policies, and regulatory and non-regulatory measures or complete targeted projects to reduce damage from hazards;
- The number of acres of coastal habitats acquired in fee or protected via conservation easement;

- Number of federal consistency reviews, government coordination activities, trainings and educational workshops;
- Amount of marine debris removed from the shoreline;
- Acreage of coastal habitats lost or created; and
- The number of public access sites created or enhanced.

Assessment of performance measures

The CZMA provides for both bi-annual and five-year assessment of progress toward identified state coastal management goals and objectives.

Semi-annual progress reporting. The MCP submits bi-annual progress reports to NOAA. These reports detail key benchmarks and the status of achievement of the outcomes identified for each NOAA-funded task outlined in annual cooperative agreements.

Performance measures. MCP reports to NOAA on performance measures annually. All targets have been achieved to date.

Five-year assessment. Section 312 of the CZMA provides for NOAA's assessment every five years of a state coastal program's work toward achievement of policy goals and objectives articulated in its coastal plan and in the CZMA.

NOAA conducted the most recent 312 assessment of the MCP in May 2017, covering the period from 2010 through May 2017. Comprised of NOAA officials and a representative of another coastal state, the 312 assessment team convened in Maine over 2.5 days with MCP staff, partner agencies, and stakeholders and held a public meeting to gather information for its assessment. Prior to its site visit, NOAA conducted a stakeholder survey and review of all pertinent documents. NOAA presented preliminary findings to MCP staff on May 5, 2017 and will deliver its final report within 120 days of the conclusion of the site visit. Draft findings conveyed in an exit interview indicate that MCP is meeting all statutory goals and other requirements for approved coastal programs; has a highly-rated record of performance; and has met all indicator targets

Interagency Agreements:

In accordance with the expansive nature of Maine's coastal program, the MCP also provides funding for the following positions within DACF as well as in several other executive branch departments and the Office of Attorney General:

The Program has intra-departmental MOUs with three associated programs within DACF.

- Municipal Planning and Assistance Program – 2 FTE. Coastal municipal planning and technical assistance; includes regional planning commissions and coastal community grant program.

- Maine Geological Survey – 1 FTE. Coastal geology, beach management, coastal hazard vulnerability analysis and adaptation planning; and,
- Land for Maine’s Future Program – 1 FTE. Coastal land conservation and working waterfront conservation.

The Program provides funding for similar programs in other agencies including:

- Department of Marine Resources – 3.25 FTE. Development of fisheries management plans, ocean planning, working waterfront conservation.
- Department of Environmental Protection -- 3.33 FTE. Permitting and enforcement of land and water development under coastal core laws.
- Maine Attorney General’s Office – 1 FTE. Legal assistance on federal consistency and administration/enforcement of coastal core laws.

Coordination with other state and federal agencies; potential cooperative arrangements

Inter-governmental coordination and consultation ensuring a balance of development and conservation is central to MCP’s statutory mission and integral to the coastal management program.

State-Federal Coordination

- Federal consistency review: The CZMA authorizes Maine to review proposed federal actions for consistency with applicable “enforceable policies” of its program. This federal consistency review authority is one of the main benefits a state receives from having and maintaining a NOAA-approved coastal management program.
- MCP encourages and advises federal agencies on how best to engage appropriately with DEP and other state agencies as soon as possible when they are planning or designing federal projects or reviewing major private development activities.
- Dredge team: MCP works closely with the Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in planning and holding semi-annual meetings of the Maine dredging team, which provides a forum for information sharing among federal and state agencies, local officials, Maine’s congressional delegation staff, and interested parties.
- Maine Coastal Mapping Initiative: The MCP has worked closely with Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, NOAA as partners for the [Maine Coastal Mapping Initiative](#). This MCP-led coalition acquires critical data about the seafloor and our oceanic environment, including bathymetry, sediment information, fauna type and abundance, and water column information that helps inform decision making by coastal managers and planners, private industry, fishermen, and academics.

- Coastal States Organization: MCP works closely with the Coastal States Organization (“CSO”) to ensure that Maine’s perspective is reflected in national discussions and in CSO policies.

Regional Coordination - Interstate and International

- Northeast States: The MCP works cooperatively with federal agencies and other Northeast states on coastal management matters of common interest in the Northeast region through active participation and leadership roles in both the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (“NROC”) and the New England Regional Planning Body (“NERPB”). Much of this effort has focused on habitat mapping concerns and coastal hazards.
- Gulf of Maine Council: MCP also participates in the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, a long-standing, US-Canadian partnership to enhance the health of the Gulf. The MCP’s current focus is on marine debris and ocean acidification.

Coordination with State Agencies

- MOUs with state agencies: Annual development of memoranda of understanding (“MOUs”) between MCP and each state agency partner to guide implementation of the MCP’s annual CZMA grant awards is a key means of ensuring a high level of coordinated action.
- Department of Environmental Protection: The Natural Resources Protection Act and Site Location of Development Act and other state land use and environmental laws serve as the core laws of Maine’s coastal management program. DEP administers the majority of these core laws.
- Natural resources agencies and programs cooperating in implementation of the Maine Coastal Program include DMR, DIFW, and the Maine Geological Survey and Submerged Lands Program in DACF.

State-Local Coordination

- Municipal Planning Assistance: MCP supports the DACF’s Municipal Planning Assistance Program’s efforts to provide technical assistance to coastal municipalities regarding land use and administration of the CZMA-funded coastal community planning grants.
- Shore and Harbor Grant Program: This MCP program supports local waterfront planning, harbor management, climate adaptation, water quality and public access projects.
- Wells National Estuarine Reserve (“WENNR”): MCP’s director serves on the WNERR Management Authority.

Constituencies served

In addition to coastal municipalities and other governmental and non-governmental entities and organizations noted above, the MCP's work serves the following constituencies:

- The general public
- Marine harvesters
- Planning groups
- Climate adaptation networks
- Stream working groups
- Ocean acidification oversight

Alternative delivery systems

MCP uses a portion of its annual CZMA grant to contract for professional services as needed to accomplish its goals and objectives. Current examples include contracts with a licensed seaman to captain the vessel used to gather data for the Maine Coastal Mapping Initiative and with a licensed engineer to inform work with MGS and coastal municipalities on coastal resiliency.

MCP's core program development, grant administration, and related functions are subject to the CZMA's requirement that a coastal management program designate a lead state government agency responsible for those functions.

Emerging issues

The following emerging issues were identified in MCP's *Strategic Outlook for 2016-2020*, prepared pursuant to Section 309 of the CZMA:

Coastal Hazards

- Increased potential for coastal landslides and bluff recession due sea-level rise and storm surge-related shoreline changes
- Salt water intrusion into drinking water supplies
- Need for re-consideration and potential revision of laws and rules on coastal development to protect coastal property

Cumulative and Secondary Impacts of Development

- Nitrogen loading and related increase in ocean acidification in coastal embayments
- Die-off of eel grass in some embayments

Ocean Resources

- Changes in marine habitats due to sea level rise and marsh migration
- Anticipated climate change-related alterations of biodiversity in coastal areas

- Ocean acidification and potential related adverse effects on shellfish and other marine organisms
- Use of wetlands as a “green infrastructure” tool for storm water management

Wetlands

- Increasing threat of loss of wetlands functions and values due to sea level rise and other coastal hazards and increasing coastal development
- Development of hard structures, e.g., riprap, to protect coastal property as an impediment to natural marsh migration inland due to sea-level change
- Need to facilitate use of “living shoreline” approaches to protect coastal property instead of hard structures

Comparison with related federal laws

Due to unique characteristics of the CZMA, there are no other federal laws to which the MCP’s enabling law is easily compared. The CZMA establishes a federal-state partnership. The CZMA provides annual federal funding to implement the plan as well as authority to review federal agency actions for consistency with state law-based enforceable policies.

Reports, applications, and similar paperwork required for submission to the MCP

CZMA consistency review: Section 307 of the CZMA requires a federal agency to conduct its activities in manner consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of Maine’s federally-approved coastal management program. Section 307 of the CZMA also requires an applicant for a federal license or permit that is listed in the state coastal management program and needed to authorize activity in the state’s designated coastal area to include in the federal license or permit application a certification that the activity will be conducted consistently with applicable state enforceable policies. In the case of consistency certifications submitted by non-federal entities which are directly subject to state jurisdiction, consistency with applicable enforceable policies is addressed through issuance of state land use and environmental permits and, accordingly, the DEP permitting process typically serves as the state CZMA consistency review process without the need for submission of any separate filing to the MCP. The MCP’s administration of the federal consistency review authority is closely coordinated with DEP. Federal agencies submit requisite consistency determinations for state review and approval episodically, when a federal agency is proposing an action which it determines may have a coastal effect rather than in accordance with a fixed schedule.

In 2015, the MCP received 48 federal consistency determinations, and in 2016, 49. In many instances, the MCP did not need to issue a letter concurring or objecting to the determination because the proposed federal activity was not located in the designated coastal area or (if outside that area) did not have potential effects on coastal uses or resources, or did not trigger review under an enforceable policy.

Land for Maine’s Future Program

The Land for Maine’s Future Program was subject to an independent performance evaluation under the Government Evaluation Act in 2015. The report was prepared by the Governor’s Office of Policy and Management (OPM), and was submitted on December 18, 2015.

The LMF Board consists of six citizens and three commissioners of state departments. The current Board members are:

Fred W. Bucklin	Appleton
Robert L. Meyers	Bath
Harry K. Ricker	Turner
Lisa Turner	Freeport
Brad Moll	Yarmouth
Don Kleiner	Union
Patrick Keliher	Commissioner of Marine Resources
Walter E. Whitcomb	Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry
Chandler Woodcock	Commissioner of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

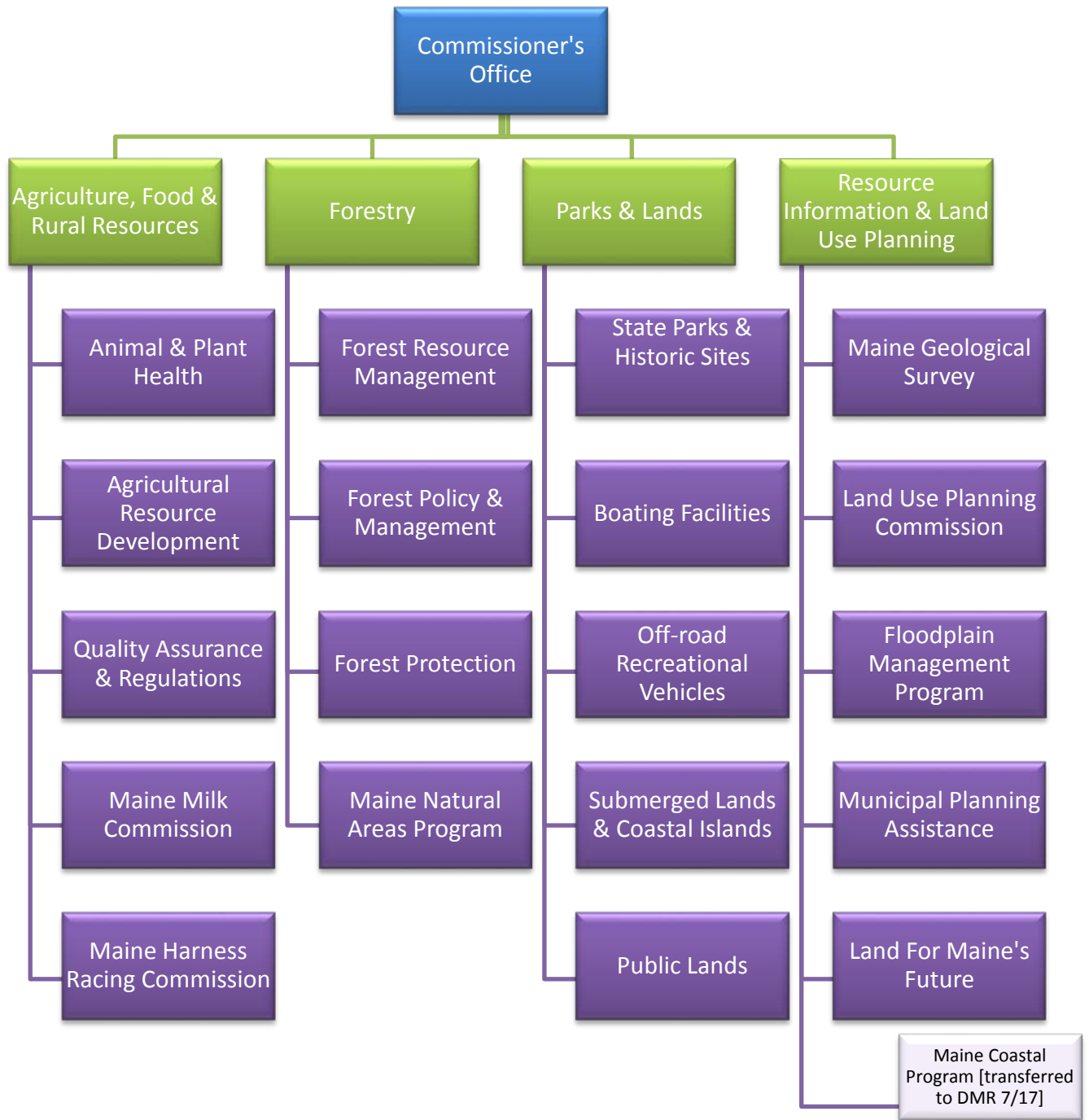
Summary of emerging issues (from 2015 GEA report)

1. Improving information technology, and the availability and distribution of data. The LMF Board recognized that the accessibility of data for public consumption and Board and staff analysis is limited at present. LMF data collection and management is currently organized to support the Board’s selection of projects. Development and ongoing management of a robust data management and analysis tool is being implemented.

2. Assessment of scoring and project evaluation. A workgroup spent significant time simplifying the scoring process to ease the burden on the Board, staff and the applicant community. A detailed review of existing state-wide conservation plans and the geographic mix of projects may allow the Board to better understand regional conservation accomplishments and further needs.

3. Improve public awareness and use of public lands acquired with LMF money. Public awareness of LMF’s investment is being recognized, and increased notice of the availability of public access is being maximized to reach Maine citizens and visitors.

Organizational Flow Chart



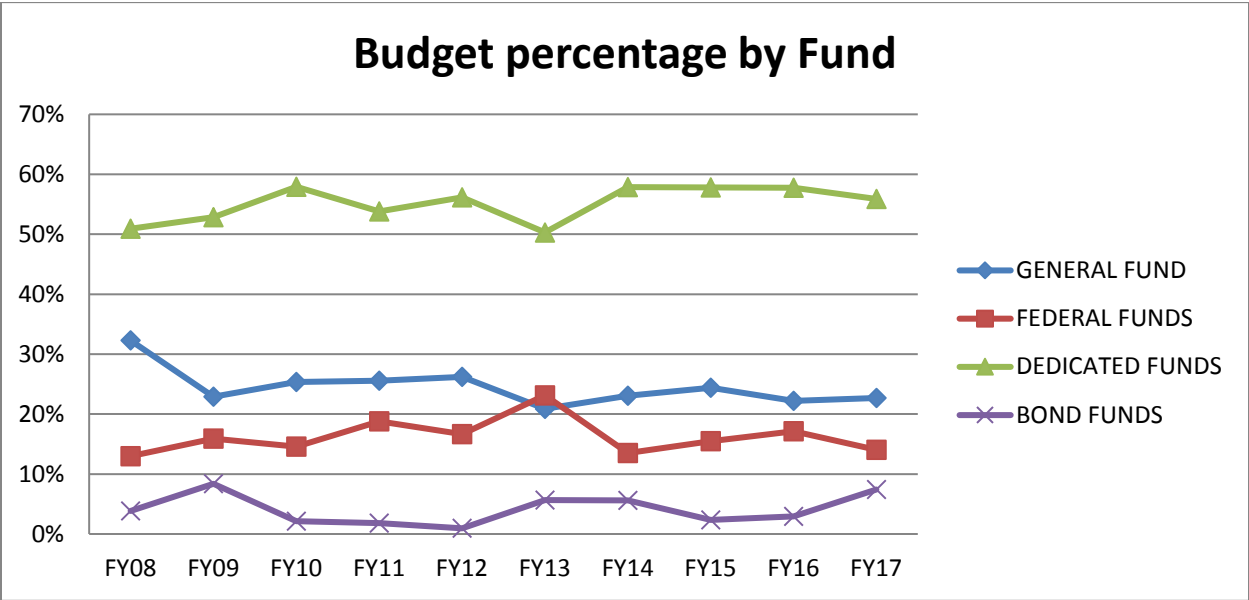
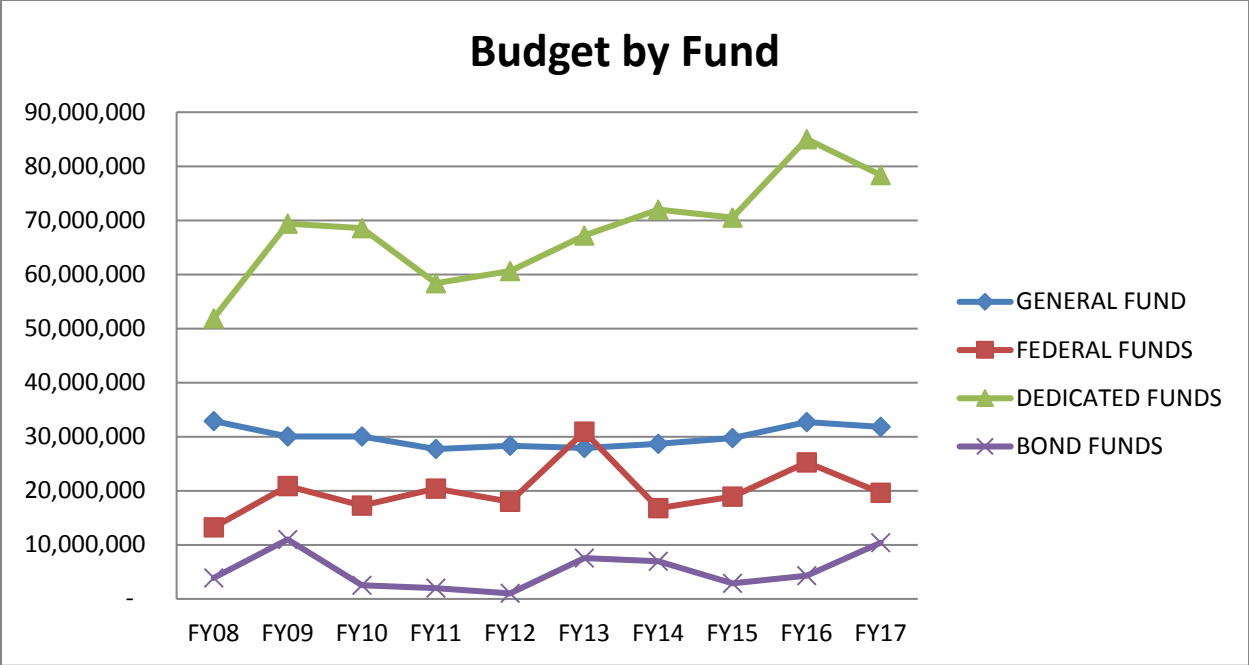
Financial Summary of Department Revenues and Expenditures

This section summarizes the financial history of the Department over the past ten years, and provides information and graphs showing the sources of revenues, categories of expenses, and personnel trends. The summary is complicated by the fact that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry was created mid-way through the evaluation period by the merger of the Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources and the Department of Conservation. Because of the complexity of accounts in the two former Departments, development of an integrated, streamlined system of accounts for DACF is an ongoing process.

After closure of the State Planning Office (SPO) at the end of fiscal year 2012, several of the SPO's programs (Land For Maine's Future, Floodplain Management, Municipal Planning Assistance, and Coastal Programs) were transferred to the Department of Conservation. These legacy programs were initially assigned to the DACF Commissioner's Office in the merged Department and subsequently incorporated into the Bureau of Resource Information & Land Use Planning.

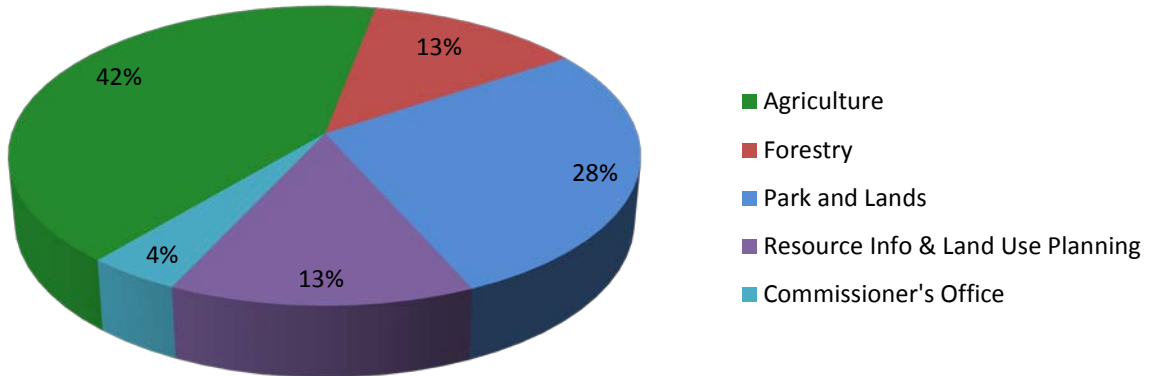
After tracking numerous accounts from the former two departments in the FY 2014 budget cycle, the Department consolidated Forestry Bureau accounts in the FY 2016 budget and Agriculture Bureau accounts in the FY 2018 budget. Additional account consolidations for the remaining two Bureaus are planned for future budget cycles.

The Department believes it has adequate financial controls in place to assure proper oversight of the spending and receiving of funds, and continues to participate in and actively pursue improvements to the financial systems at the state level.



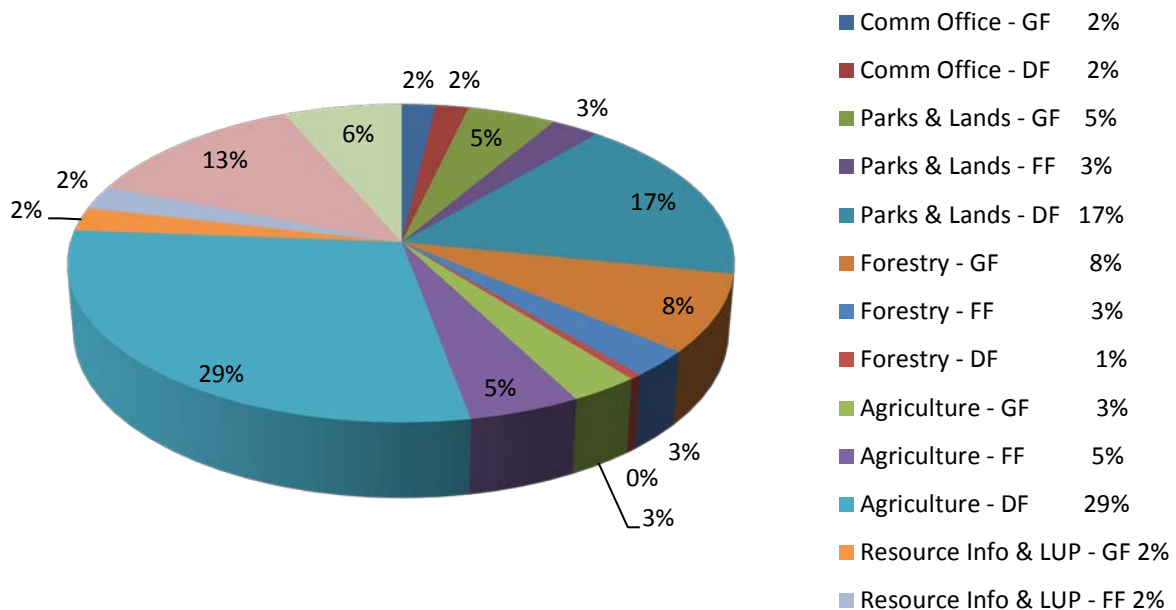
Federal funding increased in 2010 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for an \$11M project to convert public facilities to wood or dual fuel heating. In FY 2013, the Department received \$10M in Forest Legacy grants. General fund appropriations have declined since FY 2008, but have remained relatively stable in the merged Department.

FY 2017 Budget by Bureaus - All Funds



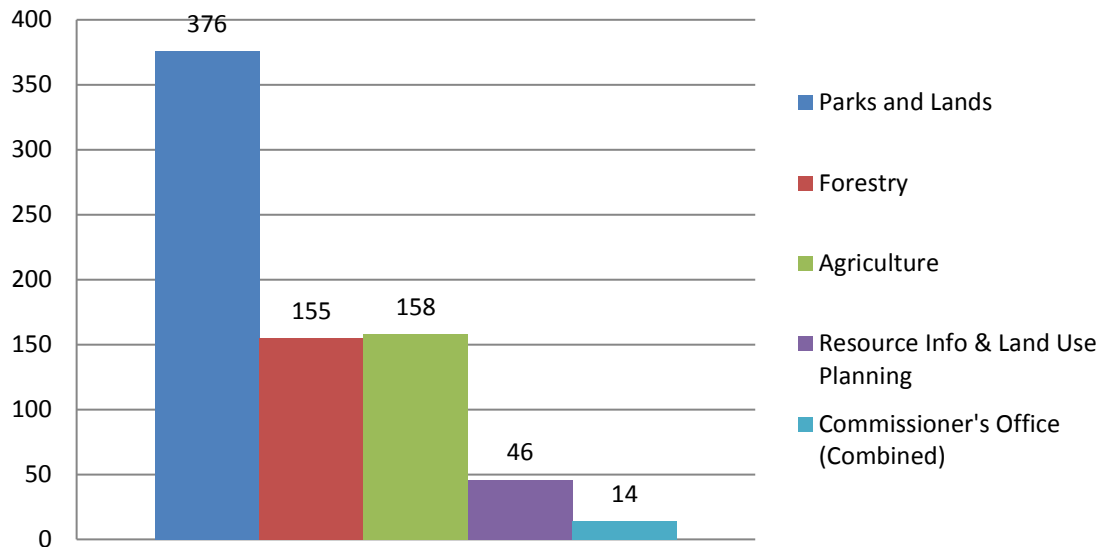
Note that the Agriculture and Parks Bureaus have substantial amounts of Dedicated Funds.

FY 2017 Budget Breakdown by Fund Source

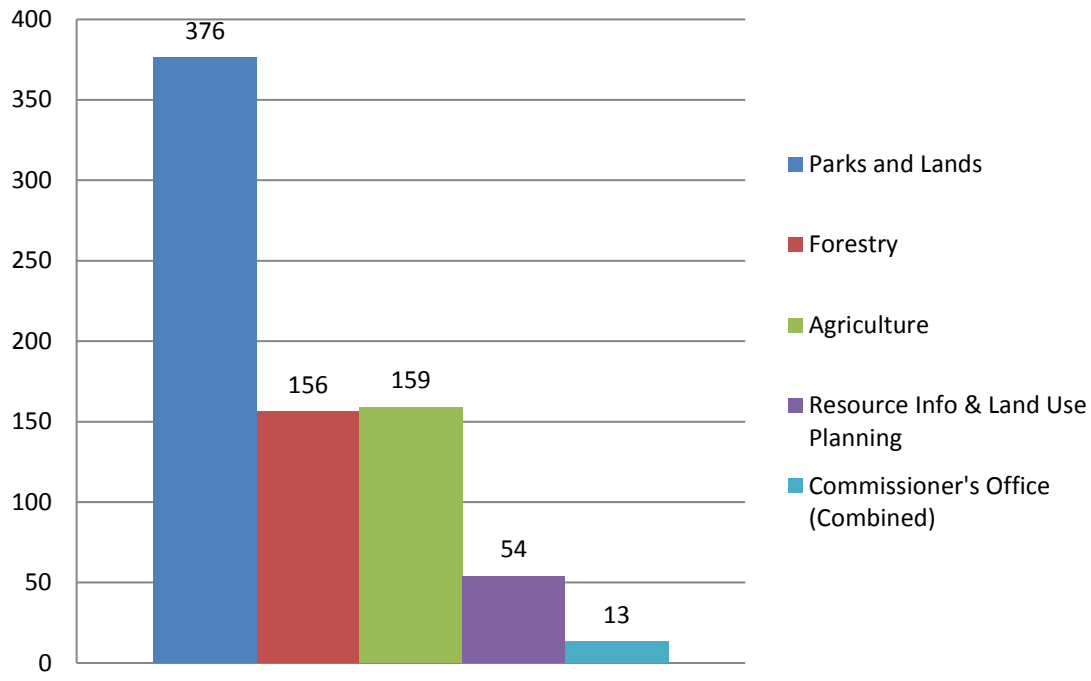


GF – General Fund DF – Dedicated Funds FF – Federal Funds

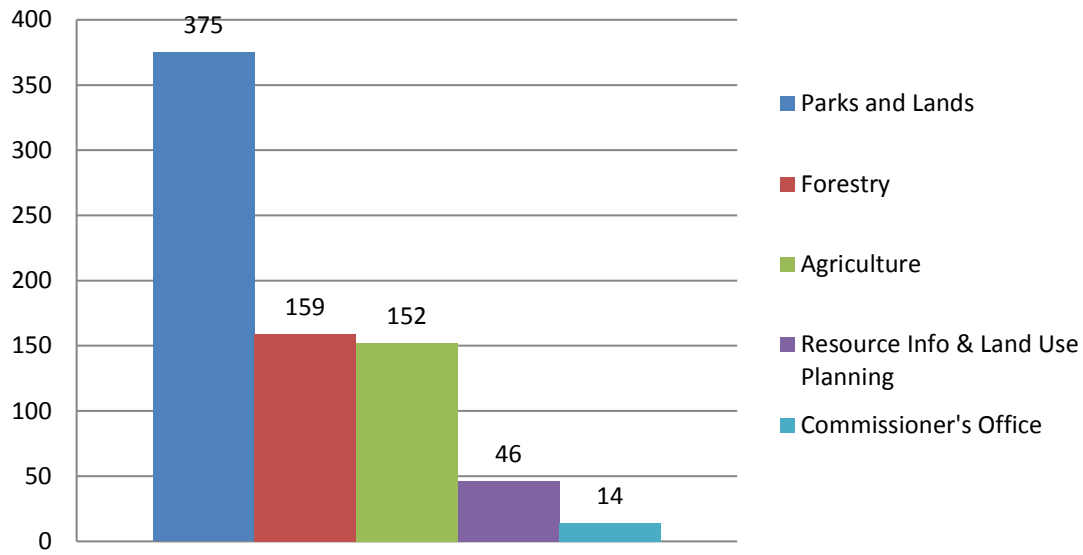
Actual Number of Positions in FY12 (749 total)



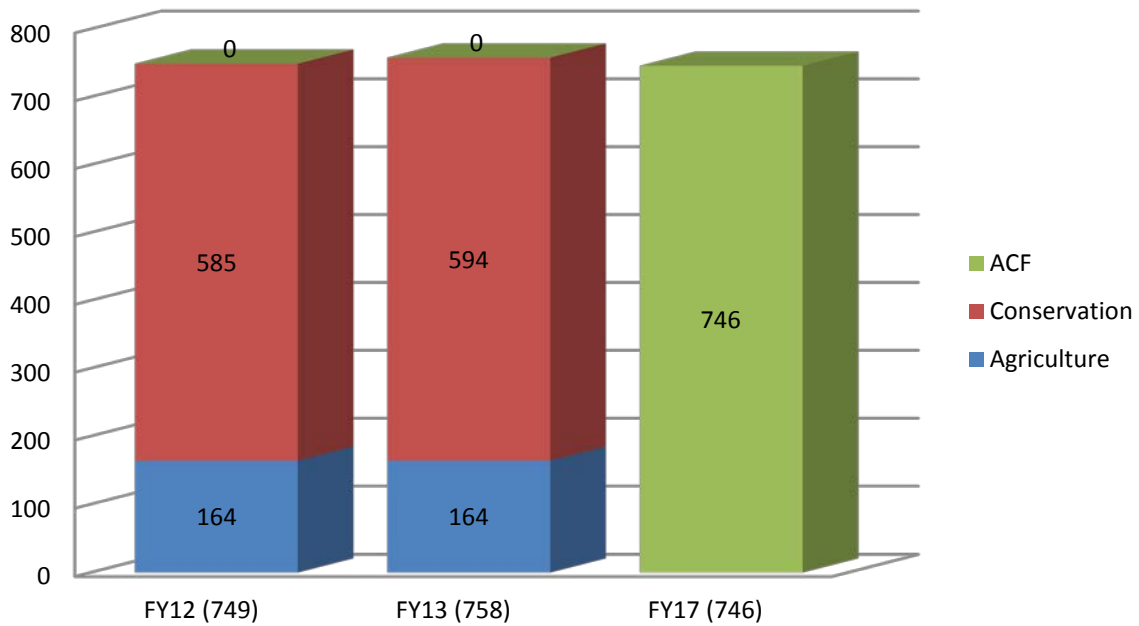
Actual Number of Positions in FY13 (758 total)



Actual Number of Positions in FY17 (746 total)



Actual Number of Positions



Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Financial Summary
Appropriations/Allocations - 10 year history

Bureau	Program Name	01A	04A	Fund	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
Commissioner's Office														
0401	0222	010			3,200,788	2,928,520	2,881,913	2,626,727	3,026,223	2,665,802	2,585,118	2,810,518	2,886,020	2,855,195
0401	0222	013			55,725	84,651	72,500	87,241	72,500	72,500				
0401	0222	014			1,974,963	1,794,321	1,995,850	2,183,675	2,184,425	2,668,444	2,564,804	2,684,526	2,918,289	2,881,048
0401	0222	020			-	-	828,920	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total Commissioner's Office				5,234,186	4,807,492	5,874,183	4,882,902	5,277,889	5,406,746	5,149,922	5,495,044	5,805,309	5,840,243
Bureau of Agriculture														
0189	0233	014			8,187,367	23,623,956	18,216,443	9,242,834	14,394,613	18,195,794	20,061,307	19,675,091	27,426,578	24,310,248
0287	0233	013			522,845	545,481	508,160	520,434	498,168	508,143	554,154	654,228	780,368	481,766
0287	0233	014			1,265,720	1,251,665	1,346,977	1,443,275	1,436,897	1,603,482	1,744,828	1,726,139	2,488,874	2,380,596
0320	0233	010			1,205,055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0320	0233	014			12,144,384	15,149,702	17,473,165	16,411,482	15,623,479	16,503,897	19,560,159	16,016,999	15,181,602	15,282,460
0393	0233	013			2,142,473	2,105,094	2,102,130	2,137,182	2,359,205	2,313,221	2,326,035	2,822,330	2,772,860	2,736,487
0393	0233	014			2,392,731	2,408,918	2,241,243	2,299,351	2,077,880	2,129,141	2,224,182	2,339,506	2,302,731	3,131,796
0394	0233	013			281,856	285,026	334,172	369,168	382,783	403,005	412,031	434,132	508,036	528,070
0394	0233	014			1,511,229	1,487,264	1,115,965	1,057,137	335,219	331,858	593,998	623,106	766,866	863,892
0394	0233	013			948,235	987,265	1,030,532	1,048,139	728,286	728,590	734,673	736,376	674,746	674,082
0394	0233	014			698,563	533,680	592,148	561,048	431,960	427,795	181,702	181,702	181,702	181,702
0397	0233	010			589,409	269,409	225,000	162,501	162,501	160,902	-	-	-	-
0441	0233	018			223,774	120,079	104	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0459	0233	010			200,418	39,081	75,418	75,418	75,418	74,676	74,676	74,676	74,676	74,676
0787	0233	014			985,003	1,012,233	877,034	898,982	829,751	822,145	844,773	859,254	889,216	979,708
0816	0233	010			211,763	211,398	199,842	193,216	182,226	179,253	188,155	185,441	195,441	211,222
0816	0233	013			254,416	346,928	483,021	543,863	690,511	513,435	570,836	419,792	647,489	753,750
0816	0233	020			-	102,771	99,068	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0830	0233	018			35,928	49,213	-	26,742	-	-	-	-	-	-
0831	0233	010			278,910	280,004	259,930	116,899	128,546	118,938	114,570	100,142	132,740	138,693
0831	0233	013			279,910	766,711	887,455	877,937	616,169	597,188	623,470	609,209	622,944	865,211
0831	0233	014			103,327	158,429	83,018	81,495	81,495	102,468	75,772	78,961	115,911	115,911
0831	0233	018			703,270	641,188	516,820	513,672	1,096,851	1,096,851	499,518	499,282	460,180	460,180
0833	0233	013			1,371,340	1,580,890	1,967,441	1,998,708	1,543,998	1,516,653	1,520,500	1,127,905	1,129,490	1,129,490
0833	0233	014			682,550	738,492	771,326	755,997	527,147	874,010	592,911	1,052,786	815,300	815,300
0833	0233	015			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	890,000	815,000
0833	0233	018			562,915	2,331,077	76,953	1,347,887	542,925	206,135	168,725	15,329	63,021	63,021
0894	0233	014			16,316	16,316	22,016	22,616	16,316	24,941	21,250	16,316	16,316	16,316
0925	0233	010			340,000	340,000	438,077	245,000	245,000	293,900	242,589	242,589	242,589	242,589
0925	0233	018			288,755	100,000	15,341	6,911	-	-	-	-	-	-
0946	0233	014			2,214,904	1,430,827	1,814,616	1,842,359	1,491,022	1,640,894	1,652,016	1,569,737	1,635,589	1,655,939
0971	0233	010			63,278	76,465	70,587	4,312	-	-	-	-	-	-
0971	0233	014			280,829	280,042	291,635	302,438	288,972	275,341	284,807	345,625	331,529	331,529
2190	0233	014			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	500	500
	Total for Bureau of Agriculture				40,946,828	59,134,864	53,720,167	44,814,625	46,739,527	51,632,724	55,810,395	52,782,698	61,408,841	58,665,022
Bureau of Forestry														
2223	0223	010			207,400	205,864	195,866	170,851	199,867	198,355	187,218	191,275	-	-
2223	0223	013			228,265	152,667	158,097	79,705	73,028	72,952	76,620	77,941	-	-
2223	0223	014			281,563	261,376	261,376	261,376	261,376	261,376	261,376	261,376	-	-
2232	0232	010			9,239,307	8,866,892	9,394,091	8,634,128	8,604,731	8,551,233	8,844,243	8,944,209	7,533,575	6,845,501
2232	0232	013			933,810	881,606	1,129,761	1,279,040	1,989,272	1,484,095	1,504,636	1,527,198	1,514,509	1,514,509
2232	0232	014			722,960	306,154	346,154	326,154	426,154	456,154	485,749	720,154	498,019	386,154
2232	0232	020			-	-	11,116,684	-	497,116	3,352,224	-	-	-	-
2233	0233	010			868,761	863,405	904,784	873,584	852,402	873,268	837,916	910,116	5,649,737	5,649,737
2233	0233	013			888,437	944,592	1,005,890	1,036,526	1,020,800	1,039,597	1,271,382	1,248,927	2,803,076	2,803,122
2233	0233	014			87,713	96,171	96,171	96,171	96,171	96,171	96,171	96,171	446,057	439,920
2240	0240	010			1,809,288	1,786,548	1,653,623	1,675,965	1,652,632	1,692,632	1,699,301	1,746,351	-	-
2240	0240	013			2,057,278	2,141,809	2,066,697	2,066,697	1,615,107	1,596,732	1,633,681	1,643,770	-	-
2240	0240	014			369,697	128,568	396,260	273,815	298,847	273,758	256,679	191,788	-	-
2300	0300	010			47,407	47,278	47,356	47,356	47,356	46,890	46,890	46,890	-	-
	Total for Bureau of Forestry				17,761,076	16,555,159	28,863,837	27,892,031	17,617,992	19,844,437	17,140,912	17,586,146	18,443,305	17,729,918

Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Financial Summary
Appropriations/Allocations - 10 year history

Bureau	Program Name	01A	04A	Fund	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
Bureau of Parks and Lands	Parks General Operations	Z221	0221	010	7,105,013	6,807,844	6,575,902	6,694,562	6,455,438	6,990,058	7,088,417	7,993,021	7,680,956	
	Parks General Operations	Z221	0221	013	2,347,131	3,191,034	3,381,555	3,548,319	2,035,340	2,405,605	2,393,110	2,059,757	2,048,463	
	Parks General Operations	Z221	0221	014	9,011,256	1,498,435	2,595,390	1,512,263	800,467	1,121,199	1,090,429	1,252,333	1,184,353	
	Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Program	Z224	0224	014	6,172,482	6,243,505	6,534,418	6,272,186	6,627,673	6,290,903	7,880,869	5,172,605	7,930,209	
	Boating Facilities Fund	Z226	0226	014	2,977,457	3,039,878	2,652,813	2,637,739	2,398,812	2,115,982	2,333,547	2,610,867	2,757,223	
	Land Management and Planning	Z239	0239	013	30,000	5,213,000	1,687,557	2,343,989	2,017,557	2,017,557	2,017,557	7,537,557	1,657,557	
	Land Management and Planning	Z239	0239	014	6,783,903	7,230,167	7,247,845	6,966,793	6,813,834	7,265,722	7,425,220	9,467,027	11,414,455	
	Coastal Island Registry	Z241	0241	014	-	-	107	107	107	107	107	107	107	
	Capital Construction/Repairs/Improvements	Z246	0246	018	2,784,000	2,458,717	592,658	478,063	211,852	236,523	75,046	10,007	109	
	Maine State Parks & Recreational Facilities Dev Fu	Z342	0342	014	1,056,004	1,310,177	1,433,013	1,280,110	1,019,926	1,342,803	1,443,489	1,502,982		
	Forest Recreation Resource Fund	Z354	0354	014	98,841	90,188	79,032	66,594	65,822	70,306	90,663	77,875	73,735	
	Maine State Parks Fund	Z146	0746	014	724,957	473,753	576,983	580,483	575,483	1,018,409	968,409	1,065,462	1,043,492	
	Maine Conservation Corps	Z149	Z030	010	81,312	81,922	78,523	71,478	74,884	74,162	77,160	82,763	84,735	
	Maine Conservation Corps	Z149	Z030	013	555,427	550,869	501,944	499,082	499,082	449,167	528,447	587,753	536,367	
	Maine Conservation Corps	Z149	Z030	014	894,217	1,078,911	1,609,722	1,050,823	840,129	837,850	907,572	962,482	1,007,067	
	Total for Bureau of Parks and Lands				32,522,917	45,302,891	37,488,245	33,884,774	42,899,085	30,471,961	35,235,973	46,724,763	39,911,807	
	Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning	Coastal Program	Z150	0237	013	-	-	-	-	-	1,935,314	1,432,168	1,444,091	1,580,315
		Coastal Program	Z150	0237	014	-	-	-	-	-	276,000	400,000	120,219	153,066
		Floodplain Management	Z151	Z141	010	-	-	-	-	-	51,152	51,014	53,581	56,079
		Floodplain Management	Z151	Z141	013	-	-	-	-	-	680,204	249,480	302,851	262,201
		Floodplain Management	Z151	Z141	014	-	-	-	-	-	894,436	600,500	83,730	500
		Municipal Planning Assistance	Z161	0821	010	-	-	-	-	-	158,549	159,549	159,549	159,549
		Municipal Planning Assistance	Z161	0821	013	-	-	-	-	-	870,216	670,200	738,162	697,732
Land for Maine's Future		Z162	0821	010	-	-	-	-	-	157,110	178,241	182,160	251,002	
Land for Maine's Future		Z162	0821	013	-	-	-	-	-	76,185	84,935	87,361	100,134	
Land for Maine's Future		Z162	0821	014	-	-	-	-	-	362,684	355,540	51,290	2,180,392	
Maine Land Use Planning Commission		Z236	0236	010	2,054,104	1,945,639	1,777,832	1,749,018	1,613,521	1,714,822	2,759,505	4,217,743	10,305,592	
Maine Land Use Planning Commission		Z236	0236	014	848,538	307,205	479,354	487,275	345,488	324,488	322,488	1,765,823	1,793,955	
Maine Geological Survey		Z237	0237	010	935,028	863,906	792,401	773,114	752,507	1,225,443	2,210,729	1,463,652	1,448,467	
Maine Geological Survey		Z237	0237	013	160,159	227,528	280,157	288,368	303,080	303,078	280,914	283,231	307,136	
Maine Geological Survey		Z237	0237	014	365,156	376,057	292,557	331,615	330,545	329,063	185,163	186,131	103,683	
Natural Areas		Z821	0821	010	98,389	107,019	108,632	106,092	106,881	109,968	116,696	119,598	126,413	
Natural Areas		Z821	0821	013	193,799	245,209	310,608	226,344	299,359	301,875	308,761	331,877	332,021	
Natural Areas		Z821	0821	014	824,584	885,078	777,880	870,829	781,343	953,593	843,305	772,526	607,757	
Total for Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning					5,475,707	5,615,052	5,015,931	4,930,101	4,754,973	4,930,101	17,348,948	15,876,957	10,932,086	14,900,718
Total Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry					101,920,715	131,415,453	130,454,875	119,812,776	108,439,293	124,449,047	122,071,947	147,283,941	140,200,521	

Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Financial Summary
Expenditures - 10 year history

Bureau	Program Name	01A	04A	Fund	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
Commissioner's Office														
0401	Commissioner's Office	010	0222	010	3,205,676	2,946,623	2,970,868	2,596,674	2,847,901	2,645,475	2,469,916	2,785,444	2,888,691	2,933,813
0401	Commissioner's Office	013			66,813	74,096	8,456	-	87,241	-	-	-	-	286,414
0401	Commissioner's Office	014	0222	014	1,329,180	1,501,686	1,478,869	1,584,033	1,870,379	1,807,186	2,028,023	1,831,346	2,432,385	2,711,755
0401	Commissioner's Office	020			-	-	20,548	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total for Commissioner's Office					4,601,469	4,522,405	4,469,728	4,180,707	4,545,921	4,452,660	4,526,940	4,616,790	5,321,276	5,645,568
Bureau of Agriculture														
0188	Maine Milk Commission	014			4,282,100	15,832,733	17,778,061	8,345,539	5,308,271	9,718,433	3,081,250	7,195,241	20,362,830	18,806,531
0287	Board of Pesticides Control	013			234,617	228,556	228,336	231,303	228,541	193,266	204,249	389,186	713,927	389,186
0287	Board of Pesticides Control	014			1,132,632	1,099,530	1,120,518	1,192,443	1,284,710	1,212,468	1,433,422	1,435,114	2,101,757	2,009,013
0320	Harness Racing Commission	010			1,199,609	4,167	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0320	Harness Racing Commission	014			11,031,001	13,726,326	14,519,125	13,650,733	14,105,640	13,786,710	12,826,897	12,563,301	12,438,323	11,759,515
0393	Quality Assurance & Regulation	010			2,133,999	2,097,069	2,110,274	2,122,721	2,301,237	2,290,513	2,252,351	2,748,792	2,738,374	2,719,499
0393	Quality Assurance & Regulation	013			1,866,007	1,634,546	1,677,773	1,666,778	1,843,431	1,645,311	1,765,128	1,692,458	1,817,614	1,877,348
0393	Quality Assurance & Regulation	014			83,964	100,156	97,114	123,765	221,300	136,320	202,663	231,285	233,997	325,369
0364	Animal Health & Industry	010			1,461,381	1,506,499	1,115,519	1,045,569	333,038	330,952	567,069	621,363	755,207	838,288
0364	Animal Health & Industry	013			282,434	190,579	81,464	669,711	188,483	137,331	50,890	45,971	32,336	29,933
0364	Animal Health & Industry	014			83,583	74,073	160,549	138,363	20,971	15,429	1,715	2,571	697	-
0397	Seed Potato Board	010			669,439	269,409	225,000	162,501	162,501	160,902	-	-	-	-
0441	Pollution Control Structures	018			275,681	282,793	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0459	Potato Quality Inspection Act	010			200,418	39,091	75,418	75,418	75,418	74,676	74,676	74,676	74,676	74,676
0787	Certified Seed Fund	014			723,131	889,953	644,421	684,743	711,101	719,489	725,764	784,138	722,656	876,666
0816	TEFAP - Agriculture	010			266,920	211,392	198,639	151,944	165,839	173,029	172,119	186,712	187,133	121,372
0816	TEFAP - Agriculture	013			230,328	219,938	375,654	285,231	603,453	242,568	475,342	567,908	392,224	734,468
0816	TEFAP - Agriculture	020			100,771	-	10,068	118,863	-	-	-	-	-	-
0830	Agricultural, Natural & Rural Resources	010			8,958	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0830	Agricultural, Natural & Rural Resources	013			22,408	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0830	Agricultural, Natural & Rural Resources	018			125,986	22,468	-	26,742	-	-	-	-	-	-
0831	Division of Plant Industry	010			273,065	277,019	262,937	115,591	95,746	115,559	90,391	73,779	133,737	136,745
0831	Division of Plant Industry	013			233,360	394,902	423,164	376,505	508,120	313,464	431,184	452,792	459,864	497,056
0831	Division of Plant Industry	014			43,255	44,714	36,672	37,755	39,090	68,403	62,777	87,066	64,795	59,873
0833	Division of Agricultural Resource Development	010			713,250	653,549	508,713	490,012	1,018,941	1,047,204	457,427	484,965	497,689	491,636
0833	Division of Agricultural Resource Development	013			397,379	1,236,936	1,289,472	1,289,472	1,599,928	1,254,098	1,201,792	1,288,744	978,579	955,013
0833	Division of Agricultural Resource Development	014			593,387	618,613	545,962	584,960	301,072	574,615	592,109	662,849	826,360	826,360
0833	Division of Agricultural Resource Development	015			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0833	Division of Agricultural Resource Development	018			299,019	524,499	432,305	763,281	391,488	225,459	38,425	71,205	496,777	652,329
0894	Rural Rehabilitation Operating Fund	014			15,200	12,200	19,867	14,000	16,306	20,125	17,314	16,260	3,500	2,800
0925	Maine Farms for the Future	010			147,966	153,282	287,120	144,069	198,876	277,244	144,036	88,652	168,091	116,799
0925	Maine Farms for the Future	018			198,756	75,305	17,684	6,011	-	-	-	-	-	-
0946	Animal Welfare Fund	014			1,935,395	1,271,454	1,126,841	1,288,842	1,204,549	1,095,698	1,102,655	1,095,040	1,222,779	1,350,588
0971	Beverage Container Enforcement Fund	010			62,866	75,696	69,352	25	-	-	-	-	-	-
0971	Beverage Container Enforcement Fund	014			2,339	135,548	102,485	241,638	191,046	192,506	196,597	264,654	167,705	0
Total for Bureau of Agriculture					31,717,362	43,879,120	45,716,589	36,347,590	32,919,098	36,027,624	27,931,573	33,004,073	47,438,115	45,300,405
Bureau of Forestry														
Z223	Administration - Forestry	0223	010		204,949	205,659	194,632	170,002	199,947	186,964	182,373	188,202	700	-
Z223	Administration - Forestry	0223	013		13,361	50,829	49,650	1,133	408	410	11,596	11,395	-	-
Z223	Administration - Forestry	0223	014		11,119	12,351	-	1,175	8,163	2,617	2,450	-	-	-
Z232	Division of Forest Protection	0232	010		8,718,455	8,832,935	8,766,857	8,193,448	8,218,305	8,290,289	8,507,074	8,367,615	6,205,931	6,134,503
Z232	Division of Forest Protection	0232	013		604,568	552,500	610,109	589,626	1,393,169	711,942	1,945,107	609,669	760,171	670,390
Z232	Division of Forest Protection	0232	014		107,067	60,455	59,941	145,475	192,217	198,953	51,500	38,790	472,270	37,902
Z232	Division of Forest Protection	020			-	-	113,271	2,370,370	5,548,670	3,213,382	111,812	-	-	-
Z233	Forest Health and Monitoring	0233	010		894,758	858,765	902,939	867,078	887,176	870,745	825,644	908,431	5,493,516	5,656,454
Z233	Forest Health and Monitoring	0233	013		810,226	792,089	765,642	687,836	653,003	771,604	963,714	870,299	1,042,638	1,189,266
Z233	Forest Health and Monitoring	014			337	124	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,310	6,934
Z240	Div of Forest Management	0240	010		1,807,947	1,760,116	1,765,662	1,633,195	1,662,263	1,662,049	1,670,954	1,733,165	22,667	-
Z240	Div of Forest Management	0240	013		1,094,643	1,165,644	887,556	499,451	459,351	594,512	539,118	407,103	-	-
Z240	Div of Forest Management	0240	014		19,991	73,440	70,960	73,440	70,960	73,440	70,960	73,440	30,180	38,454
Z300	Forest Fire Control Munc Assistance Grants	0300	010		47,406	47,278	47,305	47,356	47,266	46,790	46,890	46,787	-	-
Total for Bureau of Forestry					14,534,866	14,400,751	14,238,129	15,256,053	19,240,047	16,637,490	13,989,411	13,219,119	14,036,022	13,695,450

Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
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Bureau	Program Name	01A	04A	Fund	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	
Bureau of Parks and Lands	Parks General Operations	Z221	0221	010	7,143,306	6,786,653	6,780,612	6,530,193	6,312,180	6,214,610	6,794,752	7,000,519	7,652,637	7,606,776	
	Parks General Operations	Z221	0221	013	1,107,193	1,545,806	1,562,696	2,092,308	1,901,334	1,204,776	1,206,519	1,099,879	1,798,220	1,267,950	
	Parks General Operations	Z221	0221	014	305,604	375,754	541,889	788,075	731,605	404,905	311,274	369,131	468,237	491,894	
	Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Program	Z224	0224	014	5,073,651	5,467,953	5,695,594	5,800,412	4,732,256	5,297,078	5,297,514	5,556,957	4,820,306	7,009,885	
	Boating Facilities Fund	Z226	0226	014	2,020,013	1,903,874	2,293,183	1,712,025	1,717,261	2,503,837	1,646,964	1,903,049	1,942,663	1,743,760	
	Land Management and Planning	Z239	0239	013	28,078	3,148,350	2,545,061	1,961,172	2,290,229	11,412,384	126,962	1,828,504	7,330,848	1,548,261	
	Land Management and Planning	Z239	0239	014	4,321,188	5,698,104	5,362,841	5,242,615	5,026,318	5,337,191	5,624,980	6,396,591	6,745,100	7,480,867	
	Coastal Island Registry	Z241	0241	014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Capital Construction/Repairs/Improvements	Z246	0246	018	96,726	4,825,195	2,566,877	191,291	465,871	118,791	36,433	160,127	9,954	-	
	Maine State Parks & Recreational Facilities Dev Fu	Z342	0342	014	840,400	867,163	967,252	1,058,819	808,392	669,441	830,399	195,518	1,460,007	675,039	
	Forest Recreation Resource Fund	Z554	0354	014	75,927	87,087	56,191	55,202	57,306	67,886	65,473	68,997	74,214	71,533	
	Maine State Parks Fund	Z748	0748	014	493,200	437,676	493,871	431,870	484,302	419,209	425,993	409,468	381,684	347,793	
	Maine Conservation Corps	Z149	Z030	010	81,195	81,912	78,723	77,003	65,395	65,803	70,531	76,249	82,422	83,535	
	Maine Conservation Corps	Z149	Z030	013	276,529	277,686	236,543	443,482	498,260	386,742	401,195	432,992	421,375	476,031	
	Maine Conservation Corps	Z149	Z030	014	270,015	817,212	1,225,141	811,426	705,338	652,727	659,538	710,367	722,616	846,640	
	Total for Bureau of Parks and Lands				22,132,627	32,300,405	30,426,492	27,295,692	25,754,120	34,664,390	23,696,757	26,206,349	33,830,483	29,648,569	
	Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning	Coastal Program	Z150	0237	013	-	-	-	-	-	1,007,362	1,681,033	1,081,286	1,053,401	1,442,873
		Coastal Program	Z150	0237	014	-	-	-	-	-	33,674	316,921	24,537	47,280	154,630
		Floodplain Management	Z151	Z141	010	-	-	-	-	-	50,336	49,726	63,572	55,475	53,675
		Floodplain Management	Z151	Z141	013	-	-	-	-	-	352,966	219,690	281,632	242,444	273,657
		Floodplain Management	Z151	Z141	014	-	-	-	-	-	303,832	305,545	83,230	-	-
		Municipal Planning Assistance	Z161	0621	010	-	-	-	-	-	103,315	161,178	166,749	148,814	145,344
		Municipal Planning Assistance	Z161	0621	013	-	-	-	-	-	632,502	612,513	479,879	503,039	512,553
Municipal Planning Assistance		Z161	0621	014	-	-	-	-	-	163,068	178,120	182,149	236,932	170,040	
Land for Maine's Future		Z162	0621	013	-	-	-	-	-	72,654	81,991	96,647	96,635	94,763	
Land for Maine's Future		Z162	0621	014	-	-	-	-	-	4,260	171,084	2,547	2,144,306	3,481	
Land for Maine's Future		Z162	0621	018	-	-	-	-	-	4,324,003	1,072,726	621,034	3,367,256	2,276,755	
Maine Land Use Planning Commission		Z236	0236	010	2,055,626	2,067,075	1,923,896	1,717,810	1,634,378	1,559,467	1,859,400	1,714,671	1,751,458	1,772,535	
Maine Land Use Planning Commission		Z236	0236	014	769,236	369,071	120,610	226,227	154,791	17,963	5,950	18,968	7,821	3,596	
Maine Geological Survey		Z237	0237	010	936,936	863,214	792,293	765,763	770,784	751,262	1,224,931	1,204,269	1,465,916	1,408,660	
Maine Geological Survey		Z237	0237	013	52,129	82,333	116,677	171,316	214,206	213,500	189,054	163,973	161,746	200,376	
Maine Geological Survey		Z237	0237	014	286,175	234,234	223,364	158,373	72,418	102,861	91,810	51,150	43,466	76,667	
Natural Areas		Z821	0821	010	98,150	105,425	109,095	105,675	104,930	106,072	132,871	109,295	207,806	126,094	
Natural Areas		Z821	0821	013	30,402	110,430	143,220	138,657	142,279	132,871	116,521	119,576	226,731	215,384	
Natural Areas		Z821	0821	014	402,636	465,917	446,954	396,812	229,102	293,566	417,030	423,128	408,504	424,593	
Total for Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning					4,833,450	4,298,699	3,875,930	3,660,632	3,322,789	10,225,563	8,663,617	8,491,515	12,108,327	9,355,100	
Total for Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry					77,619,814	99,401,381	96,919,670	86,761,075	85,761,573	101,837,747	78,760,298	84,915,135	112,734,233	103,645,093	

Agency Policies for Collecting, Managing, and Using Personal Information

The Department's website is hosted on Maine.gov. Maine.gov has a privacy policy regarding the collection and management of information that can be accessed at the web address: <http://www.maine.gov/portal/policies/privacy.html>. The Department does not collect, via the Internet, information that is not covered by the Maine.gov policy.

Permit applications, notice forms, and certification requests are submitted either in hard copy form or as an e-mail attachment. Information such as the applicant's name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and tax map plan and lot number may be collected from these filings and entered into electronic databases that are accessible to DACF staff and may be shared within state government for project reviews. Other public or private entities do not have direct access to the database. The Department may publish reports of decisions, permits, and licenses that include the applicant's name and location, excluding sensitive personal information, through the GovDelivery system and on its website. Publication of this information is in accordance with the public notice provisions of the Department's rules where applicable. The Department continues to update its forms and applications to protect privacy.

Legislative Review of Authorizing Statutes

The Department continually reviews its authorizing statutes to determine whether legislative changes are necessary to align the statutes with federal law, other state law or decisions of the United States Supreme Court or the Supreme Judicial Court. Currently, the Department is in compliance with state and federal law.

List of All Reports Related to DACF

Citation-Statute or Law	Description	Due	From	To
7 §125, sub-§6	Board of Agriculture: Report on the meetings of the Board of Agriculture with recommendations regarding changes or improvements in the programs and the budget.	Not Specified Annually	Board of Agriculture	ACF & Board of Trustees of UMaine
7 §320, sub-§1, ¶G	Maine Farms for the Future Program: Report on the impact and effectiveness of the Maine Farms for the Future Program.	3/1 Annually	DACF	ACF
7 §351, sub-§4	Agricultural Water Management and Irrigation Fund: Report on the Agricultural Water Management and Irrigation Fund and the status of agricultural irrigation in the State.	3/1 Annually Began 2006	DACF	ACF
7 §435, sub-§5	Agriculture Marketing Loan Fund: Report summarizing loans made from the Agriculture Marketing Loan Fund during the previous fiscal year and loans outstanding categorized by the types of agricultural enterprises receiving them.	3/1 Annually	Commissioner of DACF	ACF
7 §610, sub-§5	Board of Pesticides. Report on the Board of Pesticides regulatory agenda. *Authority to submit legislation by 2/20.	2/15 Annually	Board of Pesticides Control	ACF
7 §2157, sub-§6	Field Trial Program: Report summarizing the field trial program and address total sales of new seedstock, adoption of new potato varieties by the State's farmers, yields, quality and other indicators of performance.	Not Specified Annually	Agronomist of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station	ACF
7 §2315, sub-§9	Pest Control Insurance Fund: Report to the Governor and the Legislature covering the activities of the Pest Control Insurance Fund for the preceding year.	Not Specified Annually	Governing Board of Pest Control Insurance Fund	ACF & the Governor
7 §2404, sub-§6	Integrated Pest Management: Report on council activity including priorities for integrated pest management research, education, demonstration and implementation, goals for expansion of integrated pest management and advancing the level of integrated pest management.	Not Specified Annually	Integrated Pest Management Council	ACF
8 §267, sub-§2	Harness Racing Budget. In even years report on the operating budget for each fiscal year of the biennium and associated comments. In odd years any revisions to the budget for the 2nd fiscal year of the biennium.	5/1 Annually	Harness Racing Commission	ACF, AFA, Leg. Council
12 §206	Challenge Grant Program: Report on the status of technology advances related to agricultural conservation projects via the Challenge Grant Program.	Not Specified Annually	DACF	ACF

13 §1956, sub-§8	Operations of the Maine Agricultural Bargaining Board: Report on the operations of the Maine Agricultural Bargaining Board.	1/15 Annually	Maine Agricultural Bargaining Board	ACF
P&SL 1989, c. 108, §6, sub-§5	Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Authority: Annual financial report to the Commissioner of ACF, Treas. of the State, State Auditor, & ACF Comm.	W/in 120 days after close of its fiscal year Annually	Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve Mgmt. Authority	ACF, DACF Commissioner, State Treasurer, State Auditor
12 §1839, 12 §1853 and 12 §1862, sub-§12	Public & Submerged Lands: Report on nonreserved public land, public reserved land & submerged lands. The ACF Committee shall submit a written recommendation regarding the bureau's proposed budget to the AFA Committee.	3/1 Annually	Bur. of Parks and Lands	ACF
12 §1853 sub-§1	Public Reserved Lands. Report must include a list of gates or barriers to public access, campsite or facility fees, budget information, status of ecological reserves and a description of any changes in allowed uses of public reserved lands. Note: (The portion of the report describing any changes in allowed uses must also go to IFW.)	3/1 Annually	Bur. of Parks and Lands	ACF / changes in allowed uses to IFW
36 §305, sub-§6	Land Transfers: Report on the transfer in ownership of parcels of land 10,000 acres or greater within the unorganized territory of the State.	9/1 Annually	Maine Revenue Services	ACF, IF&W, DACF Commissioner
Reports Due Annually and Jointly to the Legal and Veteran Affairs Committee:				
8 §275-D, sub-§9	Off-track Betting: Report on the effects of off-track betting facilities on the local economy, public interest and integrity of live racing.	1/1 Annually	DACF	ACF, LVA
8 §285, sub-§12	Harness Racing Promotional Board: Report on the activities of the Board and expenditures from the Harness Racing Promotional Fund.	2/15 Annually	Harness Racing Promotional Board	ACF, LVA
8 §267, sub-§2	State Harness Racing Commission: Account of actions, receipts, and recommendations. This report is also to contain information on violations of racing laws and rules.	5/1 Annually	State Harness Racing Commission	ACF, LVA, Governor, Legis. Council
Reports Due Jointly to the Natural Resources Committee:				
7 §353, sub-§6	Sustainable Agricultural Water Source Program: Report on the sustainable agricultural water source program.	1/30 Odd Yrs, Began in 2007 Annually	Maine Agricultural BI- Water Management Board	ACF, NAT

Reports Due Annually and Jointly to the Taxation Committee:

7 §3906-B, sub-§15	Animal Welfare. Report outlining summary of cases of cruelty to animals, a summary of final dispositions of those cases and with respect to companion animals, the number of animal shelter intakes, sterilizations and authorizations, and an account of deposits into and payments from the Companion Animal Sterilization Fund.	By 3/1 Annually	Commissioner of DACF	ACF, TAX
12 §685-G, sub-§3	LUPC. Report on the 5 previous fiscal years, identifying General Fund appropriations and other resources and amounts assessed and collected from the assessments required. ACF and TAX crmes may submit legislation based on the report. Beginning Jan 2010 the report must include an accounting of the permitting fees and penalties collected and recommendations for adjusting the fees.	1/15 1st due 1/15/09 Annually	Land Use Planning Commission	ACF, TAX
Additional Reports Due This Biennium				
5 §6206, sub-§1, ¶1E	Land for Maine's Future. Report on expenditures from the Land for Maine's Future fund and the Public Access to Maine Waters fund, including revisions to strategies and guidelines, a summary of projects that land or interest in land is acquired by a cooperating entity, a county-by county summary of the expenditures, and cumulative totals by county of acreage conserved through acquisition of fee or less-than-fee interest. Report must also include maps that show federal, state and other public lands and permanent interests in lands held for conservation purposes and affected by conservation easements.	1/1 (odd yrs) Annually	Land for Maine's Bi-Future Board	ACF
12 §8879	State of the Forests. Report on the condition of Maine's forests, including information on the number of parcels, classified by size categories, for the organized and unorganized territories of the State. Note: Used to be due odd years starting Jan 1st of 2016, amended 2011 to every 5 years.	1/1/2021 Starting Jan 1st of 2016 now every 5yrs.	Director of Bureau of Forestry	ACF
12 §8612, sub-§4	Field Forester Program. Report on activities under the field forester program including a description of the types of assistance given to landowners and wood processors, and of the activities the field foresters; and any recommendations for changes in the program.	2/1 As of 1991 (odd yrs) Bi-Annually	Commissioner of DACF	ACF
7 §2, sub-§5 and 7 §401-B, sub-§6	Agricultural Enterprise. Report on methods of stimulating the growth and modernization of agricultural enterprises in the State, and an updated estimate of the percentage of food consumed in Maine that is produced in Maine.	12/1 (even yrs) Bi-Annually	DACF	ACF & Gov. (Added per Amendment 2011)
Other Reports of Interest to the Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Committee				
Resolve 2001, c. 31, sec. 2	Conservation Easements. Report to Land For Maine's Future Board regarding conservation easements held.	Not Specified Annually	IF&W, DACF, & Atlantic Salmon Commission	ACF

Title 33, MRS Section 479C	Conserved Lands Registry. Report to Land for Maine's Future Board regarding conserved lands held.	1st due 11/30/17 then 3/30 Annually	Easement Holders and Fee Owners of Conserved Lands	Land for Maine's Future Board
8 §263-C, sub-§4	Harness Racing. Report to the Governor, Legislature and recommendations to the Commissioner of DAFRR regarding harness racing and off-track betting operations and the need for changes in statutes and rules.	Upon request	Exec. Dir. of State Harness Racing Commission	ACF
12 §8886, sub-§2	Stumpage Prices. Report by zones on stumpage prices paid for forest tree species.	Not Specified Annually	Bureau of Forestry	ACF
36 §4604, sub-§5	Potato Board. Audit of the financial records of the Maine Potato Board to commissioner of DAFRR.	Not Specified Annually	State Auditor	ACF
				(ACF stands for ACF Committee)