




Land for Maine's Future Program

Program Overview
Sarah Demers, Director, Land for Maine's Future Program

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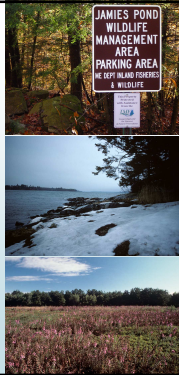
Program Overview

Envisioned in 1986 as a result of the Governor's Special Commission on Outdoor Recreation in Maine.

Established in 1987 when Maine voters overwhelmingly approved a \$35 million bond.

The bond was used to


- purchase lands of state-wide significance
- Ensure public access to diverse outdoor recreation opportunities
- protect scenic and natural environment



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Program Overview

- Located within the Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry
- Program Director with 2 FTEs
- Governor appointed Board consisting of
 - DACF Commissioner
 - DMR Commissioner
 - DIFW Commissioner**
 - 6 Public Members



"The 6 public members must be selected for their knowledge of the State's natural resources and landscape, and their demonstrated commitment to land conservation. Appointments must provide broad geographic representation." (5 MRS sec. 6204)

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Accomplishments

Maine's primary funding source for the conservation of and public access to natural areas for recreation, hunting and fishing, wildlife habitat, ecological functions and scenic beauty.

- Projects in all of Maine's 16 counties.
- 62 water access sites
- 25 Wildlife Management Areas
- 158 miles of railroad corridors for multi-use trails.
- >1,300 miles of shorelines of rivers, lakes and ponds and 60 miles of coastline
- > 617,000 acres of conservation and recreation lands & nearly half working farms and forests.
- 42 farms consisting of 9,884 acres
- 27 commercial working waterfront properties



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How Does The Program Work?

- LMF is a competitive grant program. The Board publishes a workbook outlining program requirements and funding priorities.
 - Willing Sellers Only
 - Purchase Price Determined by Appraised Value
 - Public Access Required*
 - Hunting, Fishing, Trapping may not be prohibited
 - Municipal approval required when property interests represent more than 1% of a municipality's state valuation (County approval in LUPC jurisdiction)
 - Rigorous due diligence process to protect state investment
 - Publicly derived conservation priorities

*public access is not required on working waterfront or farmland properties, though it is encouraged when appropriate

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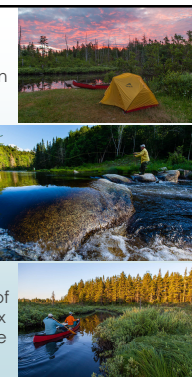
LMF Economic Contributions

LMF Supports Maine's economy by investing in opportunities for

- Outdoor Recreation
- Hunting, Fishing
- Marine Fishing/Aquaculture
- Agriculture
- Forest Products

LMF projects generate approximately \$3 of match for every \$1 of LMF contribution

Maine land trusts report that more than 95% of the land conserved by land trusts is on the tax rolls. On most of the remaining acres they are making a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT).



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Looking to the Future

- Climate Change
 - How will LMF be a strong partner?
 - 30X30 initiative – assess quality and quantity of conservation lands
- Review conservation accomplishments & re-define priorities (LAPAC)
- Conservation Task Force recommendations
- LMF sub-committee recommendations on LMF program policies & practices