



# DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry



**Members of the Legislature: Welcome! Each of you has chosen to continue—and in some cases begin—your public service during a challenging time, and we at the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) truly appreciate your commitment and we look forward to collaborating with you over the next two years.**

DACF is entrusted with stewarding many of Maine's most treasured resources and the vibrant natural resource economy they support. That includes things like stopping forest fires; mapping the ocean floor; keeping our parks and public lands pristine and accessible; planning wise land use; improving and supporting land-based industries; and ensuring the safety and abundance of the food we eat.

DACF touches the lives of every Maine person every single day, and we are committed to being a Department that works for all Maine people. You will find that our Bureaus and programs are staffed at every level with dedicated, creative staff who are excited to support and serve Maine's people and some of our most iconic industries.

I'm proud that our Department has had a strong working partnership with the legislature, and specifically, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. While perhaps none of us might have chosen the array of issues we face, it is the work we have been called to do.

I hope that this briefing, which outlines Commissioner's Office staff, Bureau Directors and key program areas, will entice you to learn more about our Department's areas of expertise and to reach out during the session with any questions.

Let's dig in together!

*Amanda*

Amanda E. Beal, Commissioner



DACF is charged with: promoting and advancing Maine's agricultural resources; protecting and enhancing nearly 18 million acres of forestland; managing more than 700,000 acres of state parks and public lands; and administering numerous science-based programs focused on resource management, land use planning, and conservation.

# OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



**Amanda E. Beal**  
Commissioner

Amanda has served as Commissioner of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry since February of 2019. Before leading DACF, she was the president and CEO of Maine Farmland Trust and has served on the boards and steering committees of many agriculture, food system, fisheries, and conservation-related organizations over the years. She co-authored "A New England Food Vision: Healthy Food for All, Sustainable Farming and Fishing, Thriving Communities." She earned a B.A. from the University of Southern Maine and an M.S. from Tufts University, having completed the Agriculture, Food & Environment program. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of New Hampshire in the Natural Resources and Earth Systems Science program. She lives in Warren, where she and her husband own a 35-acre farm and are working to establish an orchard with numerous fruit varieties, manage their 32-acre woodlot, and develop a creamery for on-farm cheese production. Amanda grew up on her family's commercial dairy farm in Litchfield, Maine.



**Randy Charette**  
Deputy Commissioner

Randy joined DACF as Deputy Commissioner in 2016. He is the Department's primary contact on human resources-related matters, internal department policies, and facilities management. Randy aides the Commissioner in many areas of her responsibilities, including policy development, financial issues, and internal operations. He is currently a member of the Capitol Planning Commission and the AARP Age-Friendly State Steering Committee. Before joining DACF, Randy managed groundwood mill operations at Madison Paper Industries. He holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Maine and an M.B.A. from Thomas College.

# OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



**Emily Horton**

Director of Policy and  
Community Engagement

Emily joined the Commissioner's Office in 2019. She is the primary legislative contact for the Department, including serving as policy liaison to the Governor's Office and the ACF Committee, the full legislature, and Maine's Congressional delegation. She oversees all rulemaking and FOAA requests for DACF. She has worked on natural resource policy at the federal level and has over ten years of experience working with Maine's agricultural and environmental sectors. She holds a B.S. in Environmental Studies from Lesley University and a Master's in Public Health from the University of New England. She grew up in Waldo County.



**Jim Britt**

Director of Communications

Since joining the Commissioners Office in 2019, Jim has injected an entrepreneurial spirit and drive for innovation into department-wide communications. When he's not at his desk, he is likely spending time in the field working alongside DACF staff, gaining firsthand experiences in the numerous areas that DACF oversees. When he's not in the field, he's either baking, volunteering, or walking his Portuguese Water Dog, Franklin.



**Claire Eaton**

Director, Natural Resource  
Markets & Economic Development

Claire joined the Commissioner's Office in 2020. She was recently Director of Investment Operations at the Maine Technology Institute, where she worked closely with staff and leadership to refine investment programming for Maine start-ups and administer State funding opportunities. She works with each DACF bureau, providing strategic advisory and program development support, research and data coordination, and connectivity across economic development and industry organizations. She has a B.A. from the University of Vermont and an M.S. from the University of New Hampshire.



**Kathy Eastman**

Assistant to the Commissioner  
& Constituent Liaison

Kathy joined DACF in 2014 and is Assistant to the Commissioner and our expert constituent liaison. She addresses questions and concerns, most commonly related to:

- Animal welfare
- Camping
- Entomology
- Food security
- Geology
- Grant programs
- Land Use Planning Commission regulations
- State Parks passes
- Timber harvests



**Craig Lapine**

Special Asst. to the Commissioner

Craig joined the Commissioner's office in 2020. Prior to that, he ran an agricultural education and food access organization for 18 years. He provides support for DACF's policy and communications team and manages special projects for the Commissioner's Office, including leading the Ending Hunger in Maine by 2030 initiative, which has its roots in the 129th Legislature. Craig holds a B.A. from Princeton and an M.Ed. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He and his family have a homestead-scale farm in Pownal.



**Aimee Carlton**

Business Operations Manager

Aimee started her role as the Business Operations Manager with DACF in 2013. She is the primary contact on budget and financial matters and manages the areas of technology, procurement, contract management, audit, and business controls. Before DACF, in her 26-year career, she has worked at the Departments of Marine Resources, Environmental Protection, Administration and Financial Services, and Health and Human Services.

# BUREAU DIRECTORS



**Judith East**

Director, Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning

Judy has 34 years of experience in land use planning and became Bureau Director in late 2021. For 2 years prior she led the Land Use Planning Commission, still part of the Bureau among its 5 other programs. Her knowledge of the needs of Mainers, particularly in rural Maine, is rooted in numerous planning issues from land use, to housing, to climate resilience, and to the many types of infrastructure on which communities depend. East holds a degree in Biology from the University of Toronto and a Master of Science in Planning from the University of British Columbia.



**Nancy McBrady**

Director, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

Before joining the Bureau in 2019, Nancy served as the Executive Director of the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine. She joined the Commission in 2014 and directed programs for marketing and promotion, research and development, and policy engagement. She earned a B.A. at Williams College. After graduating from the University of Maine School of Law, she practiced environmental, land use, and municipal law at one of Maine's largest law firms.



**Andy Cutko**

Director, Bureau of Parks and Lands

Andy has led the Bureau since 2019. Before this, his 30-year career includes positions with the US Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, NatureServe (and international conservation group), forestry and engineering consulting, and the Maine Natural Areas Program, a program within DACF's Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning. He holds a B.A. in Biology from Williams College and Master of Forestry degree from Duke University.



**Patty Cormier**

Director and Maine State Forester, Bureau of Forestry

Patty was appointed as Maine State Forester in 2019. She previously served as a District Forester for the Maine Forest Service for 20 years, covering the midcoast and western mountain regions. Prior to this Patty was Landowner Assistance Forester for Georgia Pacific Corporation, in Downeast Maine, volunteer supervisor on the Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District, Farmington Conservation Commission member, secretary and Somerset County chair for the Maine Tree Farm Committee, and board member of the Maine Woodland Owners of Maine. She is also an on-call firefighter in Farmington and Advanced EMT.

## CONTACT US: LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY CONCERNS



**Please contact Emily Horton,  
Director of Policy and Community  
Engagement with all DACF  
legislative or regulatory inquires.**

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## OUR BUREAUS



DACF is comprised of four bureaus which contain various types of programs that protect and support the natural resources that are integral to our quality of life in Maine and the people who work in these important sectors of our economy:

- **Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources**
- **Bureau of Parks and Lands**
- **Bureau of Forestry**
- **Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning**

In the following pages, you will learn more about each bureau; however, it is also important to note that, as a department, we have been actively working in cross-cutting ways to ensure excellent service to those who depend on us. A few examples include:

- Working to improve internal communication and opportunities for collaboration between our bureaus to help maximize our use of resources and provide greater integration in activities throughout the department.
- Engaging in the work of the Maine Climate Council and its Working Groups, including several staff serving on the Council and as Working Group co-chairs or members. Climate change impacts every one of our bureaus in myriad ways; therefore, this work is important to DACF as a whole.
- Responding to the pandemic – many aspects of the way we all work has changed greatly in the past year, and we have implemented many measures to ensure staff safety while also working to anticipate and meet the needs of our agriculture and forestry sectors and visitors to our parks and public lands.

As you will see in the pages ahead, we have a great team doing great work at DACF!

## OUR BUREAUS



Bureau of Agriculture,  
Food and Rural Resources

Nancy McBrady, Director



The [Bureau](#) supports Maine's food system and agriculture infrastructure through a variety of functions spanning technical assistance and business support, marketing and promotion, on-farm and consumer quality assurance, targeted loan and grant programs, and animal and plant health oversight, including animal welfare. The Bureau includes three divisions. The Maine Milk Commission, the Maine Harness Racing Commission, and the Board of Pesticides Control are also housed within the Bureau.

- [The Agricultural Resource Development Division](#) encourages 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.
- [The Animal and Plant Health Division](#) protects the state's plant resources from the introduction and spread of regulated insects and diseases; prevents the introduction and spread of contagious diseases among poultry and livestock; ensures the proper and humane treatment of animals; ensures the proper management of farm nutrients; investigates agricultural-related complaints; and enforces pesticide laws in Maine.
- [The Quality Assurance and Regulations Division](#) provides marketing assistance and consumer protection for Maine's agriculture industry, and citizens. The Division ensures that a safe, high quality food supply is maintained, that weighing and measuring devices used in commerce are correct, and that standards used in law enforcement are properly calibrated and accurate.

# BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES - CONTINUED

## Recent Initiatives

- Creation of three CARES Act reimbursement grants for e-commerce support, agricultural and food business infrastructure and personal protective equipment costs, and food assistance programs
- Published COVID-19 [guidance](#), including: physical distancing at agricultural businesses (public and non-public facing); farmers' markets best practices; Maine registered disinfectants for use against COVID-19; cleaning and disinfection of food manufacturing facilities and/or retail food stores; migrant and seasonal farmworkers, employers, and housing provider safety
- Disseminated information regarding federal, state, and non-profit financial support opportunities (e.g., CFAP, PPP, EIDL, and Maine Economic Recovery Grants)
- Coordination with DHHS-CDC, Maine Housing and Maine Mobile Health Program to provide COVID-19 testing and support services to migrant and seasonal workforce
- Distribution of 4,000 cloth face masks to the agricultural community (masks produced and donated by Maine Department of Corrections)
- Authorized 90-day grants of inspection to three Maine-based custom slaughter operations to ease meat and poultry processing bottlenecks
- Continued inspection of critical food/agricultural businesses (meat and poultry, nurseries, egg, potatoes, milk, retail food stores, etc.)
- Increased warehouse and distribution capacity for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) due to enhanced federal disbursements
- Published instructions and provided coaching to farms regarding enhancing online promotion and virtual sales
- Launch of the [Real Maine](#) marketing program connecting consumers to Maine agricultural producers
- Retail milk testing for PFAS to ensure food safety
- Invasive Pest Management education and outreach (emerald ash borer, spotted lanternfly, etc.)

## Looking Ahead

- Enhanced grant and loan program assistance (rulemaking improvements, etc.)
- Enhance Maine's food system resilience through investment in local agricultural infrastructure (via legislative efforts, coordination with partners, etc.)
- Launch Maine agricultural data collection and dissemination program
- Continued engagement with DHHS and other partners regarding COVID-19 vaccination and assistance to the agriculture labor force
- Continued expansion of the Real Maine program, including robust producer engagement with website, regional advertising, etc.
- Launch [TEFAP](#) Farm to Pantry pilot program and expand TEFAP and Senior Food and Nutrition Program community outreach to grow distribution
- Work with the newly reformed Agricultural Water Management Board to address agricultural water needs and support mechanisms
- Continue working with Cooperative Extension and other partners to develop a survey to assess the impact of drought on farmers (in development as of late 2020)
- Updating databases for both the Hemp and Animal Welfare program to assist with data and complaint management
- Utilizing digital platforms for Board of Pesticides Control exams and applicator training
- Expanded groundwater quality monitoring for pesticides
- Continue to advocate for federal leadership and resources to support any farm impacted by PFAS



# OUR BUREAUS



## Bureau of Parks and Lands

Andy Cutko, Director



The [Bureau](#) protects and manages some of Maine's most unique and precious natural and cultural resources and provides a diverse array of recreational and educational opportunities that deliver environmental and economic benefits for current and future generations.

- The Bureau manages 48 [State Parks and Historic Sites](#), including 12 State Park Campgrounds, contributing more than \$100 million to Maine's economy in indirect benefits.
- In addition, the Bureau manages more than 600,000 acres of [Public Lands](#) for recreation, cultural and historic preservation, wildlife and biodiversity, water quality, and timber production. Conservation easements, leases, and management agreements bring the total land area with BPL legal involvement to over 2 million acres.
- The Bureau also manages a [Boating Program](#), [Off-Road Recreational Vehicle](#) (ATV and snowmobile) Program, [Submerged Lands](#) Program, and the [Maine Conservation Corps](#).

# BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS - CONTINUED

## Recent Initiatives

- State Park Management: After COVID-related restrictions early in the 2020 season, State Parks rebounded in an incredible fashion. State Park campgrounds set an all-time high of more than 280,000 visitor nights. Crowd control and COVID safety were substantial challenges in 2020 and will likely continue into the 2021 season.
- ATV Management and Funding: The Governor's [ATV Task Force](#) made a number of recommendations regarding license fees and funding to support motorized recreation. These recommendations had the strong support of the legislature's Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, but stalled in 2020 due to the pandemic.
- Land conservation: The Bureau has several projects in the pipeline, including the Madison Branch Rail Trail (Oakland-Embden), East Grand Lake (Weston area), Quill Hill/Perham Stream (Rangeley area), Chadbourne Tree Farm (Bethel Area), Kennebec Highlands (Vienna), and a number of others.
- State Park Beach Safety: Beach safety protocols were instituted including an alert system for shark sightings.
- Branded Merchandise: Products bearing a newly created Maine State Parks merchandise logo were introduced and available for purchase at our Parks and [online](#).

## Looking Ahead

- State Park funding and staffing. State Parks have a backlog of \$50 million in infrastructure needs (roads, structures, plumbing). The Bureau is hopeful for a bond package that will include significant funding for State Parks.
- Public Land recreation improvements: Like State Parks, Maine's Public Land trails, campsites, and boat launches saw heavy use in 2020. Sites like Tumbledown Mountain and the Cutler Coast are seeing some degradation from overuse. Public lands are in need of trail maintenance and construction, educational information kiosks, parking and access improvements.
- Funding for Town Recreation Sites: Through the federal Great American Outdoors Act, Maine stands to double the amount of available federal Land and Water Conservation Funds, up to roughly \$5 million. These federal funds, directed to states and municipalities, require 50% match, and the state and local municipalities are currently challenged to meet this match requirement.
- Concerning Timber Markets: The Bureau's Public Lands division is funded entirely through timber revenues. With COVID-related downturns in timber markets, the Bureau is monitoring impacts and planning activities informed by market and revenue trends.



## OUR BUREAUS



Bureau of Forestry  
*Maine Forest Service*

Patty Cormier, Director



The [Bureau of Forestry](#) was established in 1891 to ensure Maine's citizens the greatest economic and social benefits from the trees and forestlands of the state, and is comprised of three divisions.

- [The Forest Protection Division](#), our law enforcement arm, includes rangers, pilots and support staff. They have completed 49,674 inspections and enforcement cases this year, as well as 19,723 educational and outreach events statewide, all during a year with the most fires in 35 years. The fleet of aircraft have been highly utilized to keep those fires small as well respond to 16 requests for hiker rescues.
- [The Forest Policy and Management Division](#) is staffed with 13 District Foresters and Enforcement Coordinators who provide outreach to an average of 15,000 small woodlot owners each year while also handling an upswing in harvest permits and variances. This division also provides urban tree assistance to municipalities, handles forest operations notifications, and promotes informed decisions for forest stakeholders.
- [The Forest Health and Monitoring Division](#) consists of inventory personnel to measure 3,500 forest plots statewide on a rotating basis, providing data that inform statewide forest policy. The division also has entomologists and pathologists who provide outreach and assistance to Maine residents concerning forest pests and pathogens. Of late, the biggest battle they fight is against invasive species such as Browntail moth, Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, and native Spruce Budworm, to name a few.

# BUREAU OF FORESTRY - CONTINUED

## Recent Initiatives

- The 2020 Forest Action Plan is in its final stages. This is a 10-year update that provides a framework and outline for Maine's forest for the next decade.
- After 35 years, the Forest Operations Notification system is going online. This will provide a more manageable format for the forest landowner and higher efficiencies for the state.
- A 2021 timber supply outlook report is in the finishing stages. This report has not been updated since the 1990's.

## Looking Ahead

- As we have a fleet of Vietnam-era Hueys and aging Bell helicopters, we greatly need to update the fleet. An update program began in 2007 but was halted due to budget issues.
- The Bureau will be going through the rulemaking process to address harvesting during the potential Spruce Budworm outbreak. This is a proactive approach to allow for an immediate response should we have an outbreak.
- In a partnership with the Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative, Maine Forest Service has joined with an effort to sample the use of Hemlock in cross-laminated timber production.
- In light of steadily declining federal support, the Bureau will continue to advocate for increased federal funding for programs such as Stewardship, Urban and Community, Forest Health and Monitoring, and core fire effort.



# OUR BUREAUS



## Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning

Judith East, Director



The [Bureau](#) provides science for resource management, conservation, and land use planning, and consists of six programs.

- [Maine Geological Survey](#) (MGS) is the primary source of information on the geologic framework of the state, its groundwater resources, and geologic hazards.
- [Maine Natural Areas Program](#) (MNAP) serves Maine's citizens as the most comprehensive source on the state's important natural features. MNAP inventories lands that support rare and endangered plants, rare natural communities and ecosystems, and outstanding examples of more common natural communities and ecosystems. MNAP also provides objective and comprehensive information to make informed and responsible decisions.
- [Floodplain Management Program](#) (FMP) helps communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) with technical information, floodplain maps and model ordinances.
- [Land for Maine's Future Program](#) (LMF) is the State of Maine's primary funding vehicle for conserving land for its natural and recreational value. The program was established by Maine Citizens in 1987. In 1997, new priorities were set forth by a commission of Maine citizens.
- [Municipal Planning Assistance Program](#) (MPAP) provides technical assistance to municipalities and regional planning organizations. The Program provides grants to towns for projects that improve water quality, increase resiliency, restore habitat, promote sustainable development, and enhance the economy while preserving natural resources.
- [Land Use Planning Commission](#) (LUPC) serves as the planning and zoning authority for the unorganized and deorganized areas of the State, an area greater than 10 million acres. The year 2021 marks 50 years of planning and zoning in the Unorganized Territories, often referred to as the UT, and includes towns, townships, and plantations that either have no local government or have chosen not to administer land use controls at the local level.

# BUREAU OF RESOURCE INFORMATION AND LAND USE PLANNING - CONTINUED

## Recent Initiatives

- A [Sea-level rise ticker](#) and [dash board](#) were created and released in order to provide the latest information and projections for changes in sea level
- Living Shorelines projects were installed at several locations in Casco Bay to test the use of natural materials to combat coastal erosion (with Department of Marine Resources (DMR) and the Town of Brunswick)
- Lands for Maine's Future held a Climate, Carbon & Resilience Workshop, a 2-day workshop focusing on climate science and real-world examples demonstrating how landowners are using climate science to inform conservation planning and management
- In partnership with USGS, MNAP has completed Phase 1 of a project to map habitats that occur on the 87,000 acre Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument
- In response to requests for environmental reviews, MNAP has reviewed 775 development projects (340 of which were solar), 50 Farm Bill projects, and 652 Forest Management Plan projects
- Provided Coastal Community Grants to five towns to assist in planning for climate change adaptation activities (cooperative program with the Maine Coastal Program at DMR)
- Workplan to monitor the impacts of new LUPC rules on location of development (adjacency) and subdivision after extensive stakeholder input
- Certification of CMP New England Clean Energy Connect transmission corridor for Site Location of Development permit by Department of Environmental Protection
- Updated multiple [brochures](#) to assist the public in understanding LUPC rules, buying and selling real estate in the UT, medical and adult use marijuana, height measurements, culvert sizing, and more

## Looking Ahead

- Developing a cooperative program with the Maine CDC to develop methods to join the Maine Geological Survey's database of physical water well characteristics with Maine CDC's database of well water quality records to create a powerful new tool to investigate well water quality and potential impacts on human health.
- Completion of a comprehensive statewide inventory of rare floodplain forest wetlands. Maine supports some of largest and most intact floodplain forests left in the northeast.
- New invasive plant management training programming for natural resource professionals
- Maine's Official List of Endangered and Threatened Plants will be revised and updated. The list was last updated in 2015. After technical review and a period for public comment, the list update will be completed in 2021
- Facilitating the [Moosehead Regional Planning Process](#) for ~27,000 acres in the Moosehead Region
- Termination and rezoning of ~1,400 acres in the First Roach Pond Concept Plan in the Moosehead Region
- Review of [rezoning request](#) by Wolfden Mount Chase LLC to allow metallic mineral mining on ~530 acres in T6R6 WELS
- Review of floodplain rules for consistency with recommendations of Science and Technical Committee of the Maine Climate Council
- Oversight of the Saddleback Mountain permitting for solar installations, mid-mountain facility and grid scale solar proposal
- Update to LUPC application forms to simplify and make more user friendly
- Work with the City of Westbrook on a project potentially funded through FEMA to further understand landslide hazard in the City



**You'll find DACF working together to help businesses and communities celebrate our most cherished spaces and places: the crop and farmland that beautify our state and feed us, the woodlots and forests iconic to the Pinetree State where maple syrup flows from sugarbushes, and the thousands of acres we all enjoy when we get outside to enjoy our parks and public lands. You'll find us helping farmers, you'll find us helping foresters, you'll find us helping Maine.**

**Thank You.**



[maine.gov/dacf](http://maine.gov/dacf)

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