

April 7, 2025

Good afternoon Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts and esteemed members of the committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. I am here today in strong support of LD 1322. I was adopted as a child, raised by my great aunt and uncle. I was always told stories about my biological grandfather and uncles hunting elk on the plains and in the mountains of Colorado. It painted a picture of a life that I didn't have access to but desperately wanted. My parents didn't hunt, in fact my dad was shot as a teenager during a gas station robbery, to this day he is very averse to guns. That didn't stop him from trying to get me in the woods, he had employees who hunted and I had friends who's parents hunted. I was always an after thought for these step in mentors, their kids would always come first. It was not until I was able to get out on my own that I found success, I got my first deer when I was 19. A 170lbs 7 point on a powerline in Manchester, the feeling was something spiritual that I had been looking for my entire life.

When you create more access for youth to hunt, you are helping someone like young me get into the woods. There is a direct line between youth days and youth participation. Adults are motivated by one thing on youth days, taking kids out. Because we put them at the beginning of seasons, it acts as an appetizer for adults who are excited to hunt. The single best thing you could do for youth participation is to give broad access to youth days. Our way of life is taking a back seat to screens, the best way to combat that is to give kids days in the woods dedicated to them. Kids today are facing challenges that none of us in this room faced; struggles with socializing, an ever changing and chaotic political environment, an uncertain economy. Now, more than ever they need the clarity and self-sufficiency that learning to hunt brings. The understanding of the value of life, what a harvest does for their families bottom line, seeing the process that is required to put food on the table. These are timeless lessons that our culture has largely forgotten, but you all today have the opportunity to help us remember.

Another important aspect of this bill is a partnership between DECD and IFW to help market hunting and fishing opportunities in Maine as tourism. This is a tool that Maine has neglected that many other states and provinces utilize. As you can see in the attachment, our neighbor to the north, New Brunswick, has an extensive page about hunting on their tourism site. If you google something like "Colorado elk hunting" the page on the states tourism site is near

the top of the results and can provide information on the laws, seasons, how to get a license and even sometimes has recommendations for outfitters. In fact, when I searched for the New Brunswick page it came up first as a sponsored ad. This partnership is long overdue, our state must support our rural economies as much as possible. This is something we are capable of that can create a great advertising opportunity for one of our heritage industries.

In closing, both aspects of this bill are necessary changes to law in order to preserve and grow hunting in Maine. I am happy to answer any questions you all may have.

Sincerely,



Jared Bornstein
Policy Advisor
Preti Strategies

Hunting in New Brunswick



OUTFITTERS & GUIDES



SHEPODY

Adair's Wilderness Lodge

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STOREYTOWN

Betts Kelly Lodge and Cottages



RENOUS

Big Paw Outfitters

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KEDGWICK RIVER

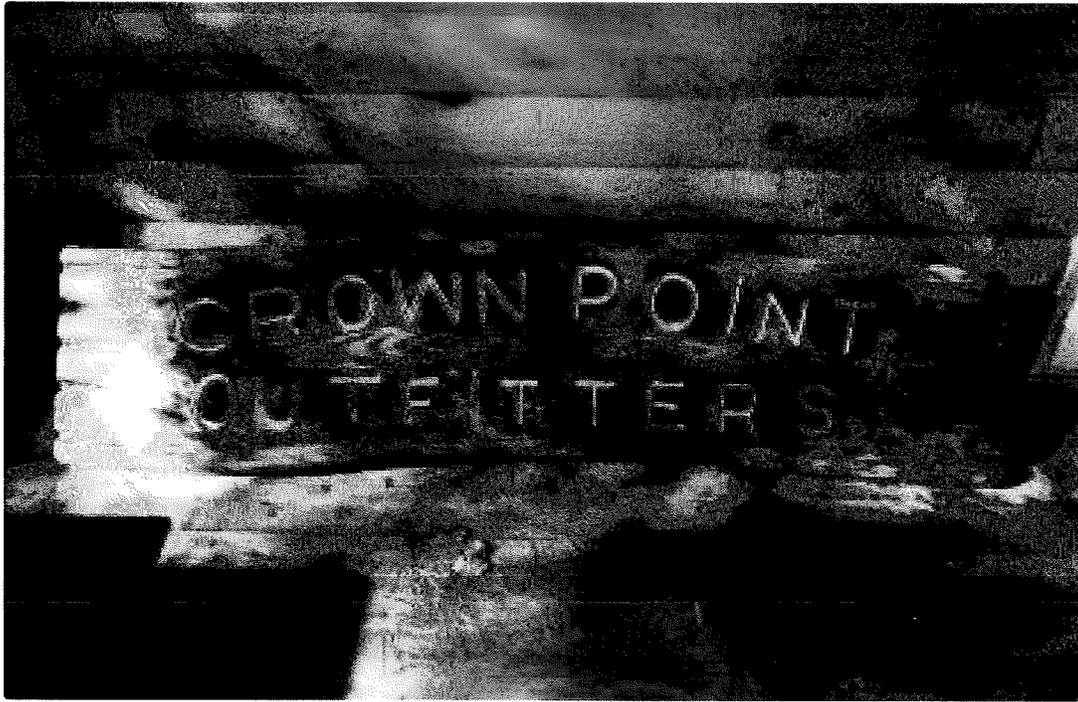
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EDMUNDSTON

Cherry On Top Adventures

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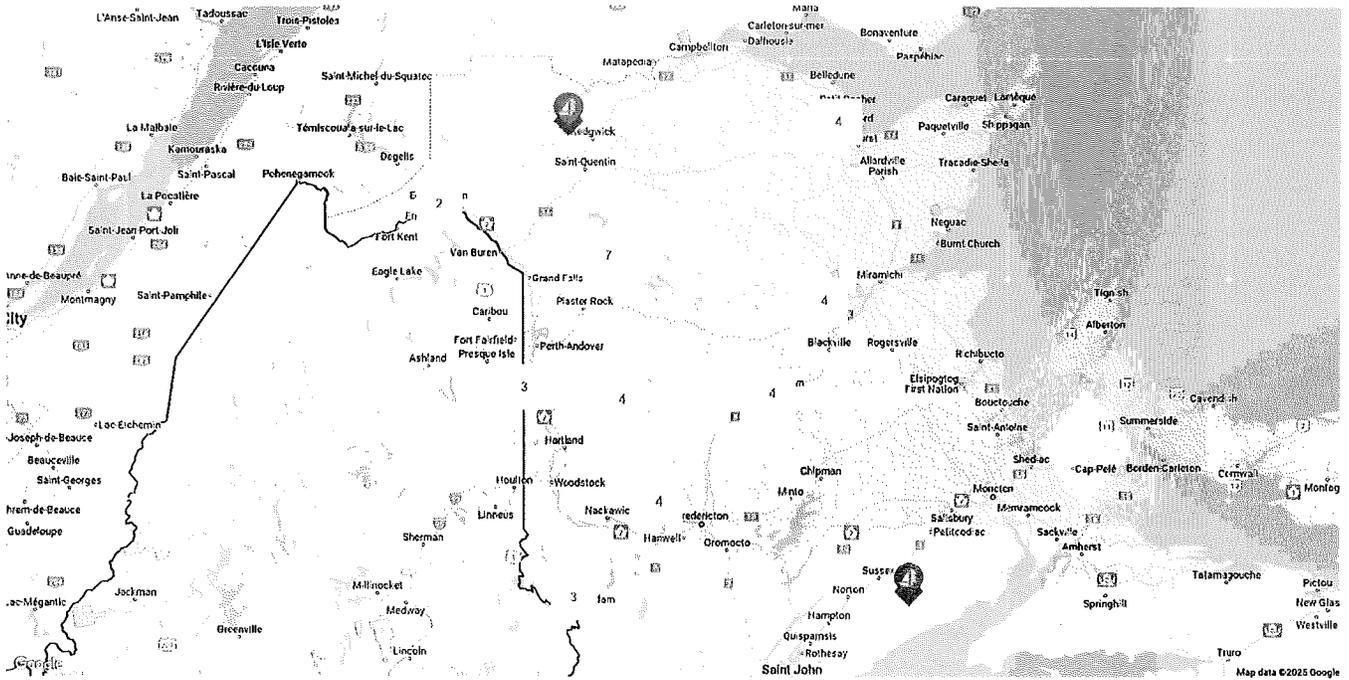


PINEVILLE

Crown Point Outfitters

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MAP



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people visit from around the world to practice their favourite type of hunting—whether it's firearm, bow, or cross-bow. Here you'll find healthy and diverse populations of all different species. New Brunswick is a unique moose destination due to the ease of access to a vast amount of towering moose roaming the forests. Our moose hunting tags are amongst the most coveted for big game in all of North America. When it comes to black bear hunting, with 85% success and 99% encounter rates, you'll be sure to have a memorable hunt. As for deer hunters, they will be thrilled to know that the average dressed weight of an adult male white-tailed deer exceeds 175 pounds (80 kilograms), with bucks recorded each year as high as 270 pounds (122 kilograms).

WATERFOWL AND UPLAND GAME ≡

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW



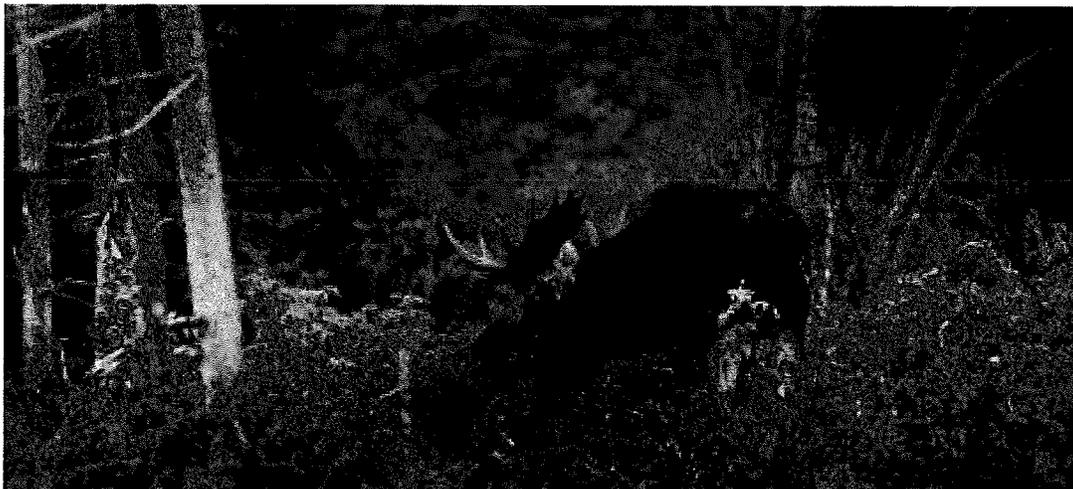
Outfitters

New Brunswick has many certified professional guides, outfitters and lodges just waiting to welcome you. No matter where or what you're hunting, non-residents must be accompanied by a guide. View all our New Brunswick hunting outfitters in the [listings](#) or on the [map](#).



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Regulations and licensing

- [Natural Resources Hunting page](#)
- [Hunting Regulations \(PDF\)](#)
- [Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations](#)



Draws

Most hunts are conducted on a draw basis. The Fish & Wildlife Licensing system allows you to apply for a free, mandatory Outdoor Card, purchase hunting and trapping licences, as well as apply to draws.

- [Available Licences and Draws](#)
- [2025 Draw Dates](#)
- [Fish & Wildlife Licensing site](#)

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