

Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund

Grant Awards Round 221

Grants Awarded on May 5, 2022

Category 1 Fisheries & Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

221-01-01	WNERR	Habitat Distribution of a New Resource and Potential Threat to Southern Maine: the Range-Expanding Blue Crab (<i>Callinectes Sapidus</i>) St. Joseph's College <i>Provide a better understanding of range-expanding blue crabs (<i>Callinectes sapidus</i>) into estuarine and coastal waters through trapping and acoustic telemetry to determine habitat use and abundance related to fishery development.</i>	<i>Funded:</i> \$8,325 <i>Requested:</i> \$8,325	Wells
221-01-02	DMR	Sodom Brook Culvert Replacement Downeast Salmon Federation <i>Project will replace an undersized culvert to reconnect critical habitat to native fish species.</i>	<i>Funded:</i> \$20,000 <i>Requested:</i> \$20,000	Washington County
221-01-03	DEP	Measuring the Vital Signs of Frenchman and Blue Hill Bays University of Maine <i>Expand information and knowledge about water quality "vital signs" in Frenchman and Blue Hill Bays</i>	<i>Funded:</i> \$21,688 <i>Requested:</i> \$21,688	Frenchman & Blue Hill Bay
221-01-04	IFW	Hunter-Harvest Parasite Surveillance and Evaluation of Risk Factors in Maine Moose University of Maine System Acting Through the University of Maine <i>This project will monitor for key parasites in Maine's moose during the fall hunter harvest, and evaluate the drivers and effects of parasite infections on moose population health.</i>	<i>Funded:</i> \$24,760 <i>Requested:</i> \$24,760	Statewide
221-01-06	ACF	Hemlock Stewards Northeast: Building Strong Foundations for Healthy Watersheds Gulf of Maine Research Institute <i>This project will connect the Maine Forest Service hemlock woolly adelgid *HWA(management efforts with classrooms from areas of critical interest as students contribute to HWA monitoring and management and investigate the complex hemlock forest ecosystems in their community.</i>	<i>Funded:</i> \$14,304 <i>Requested:</i> \$14,304	Statewide
221-01-07	SCIW	Fish Count and PIT Tagging at Woodland Dam St. Croix International Waterway Commission <i>Conduct a fish count and PIT Tagging at Woodland Dam fishway for the next three years.</i>	<i>Funded:</i> \$26,928 <i>Requested:</i> \$26,928	Woodland Dam
221-01-08	ACF	Defending the Dark: Protecting Plants, Animals, Habitats, and Migration Corridors from Light Pollution Moosey Productions <i>This dark sky film will educate viewers on why it is important to preserve dark sky areas as it relates to protecting people, plants, and wildlife. When we reduce light pollution, we protect migrating birds, nocturnal animals, and nighttime pollinators like moths that we rely on for healthy plant diversity. Reducing light pollution and promoting Maine's Dark Sky areas will attract visitors to Maine parks and outdoor recreation areas.</i>	<i>Funded:</i> \$11,140 <i>Requested:</i> \$11,140	Statewide

Total Amount Funded for Category: 1 \$127,145

Category 2 Acquisition & Mgmt of Public Lands, Parks, Wildlife Conservation Areas & Public Access

221-02-01	IFW	Nonesuch River Corridor Land Protection Scarborough Land Trust <i>The project is the protection of two parcels, totaling 55-acres in Scarborough, Maine</i>	<i>Funded: \$20,000</i> <i>Requested: \$20,000</i>	Scarborough
221-02-02	ACF	RRCT's Thayer Brook Preserve (Heron Colony parcel) Royal River Conservation Trust <i>Royal River Conservation Trust will conserve a total of 147 acres of forest, wetlands and trails that about the Libby Hill Forest in Gray, including one of Maine's largest inland Great Blue Heron rookeries.</i>	<i>Funded: \$20,000</i> <i>Requested: \$20,000</i>	Gray
221-02-03	ACF	Expanding Multi-day Recreational Opportunities Along Maine's Moose River Northern Forest Canoe Trail <i>We seek to establish two new paddler campsites along the Moose River, one of Maine's finest summer paddling destinations, as well as engage volunteers in work to complete overdue maintenance at four additional sites on Brassua and Moosehead Lake.</i>	<i>Funded: \$7,300</i> <i>Requested: \$7,300</i>	Jackman
221-02-05	ACF	Creating Efficiencies in Management Practices Across the Mahoosucs Inland Woods & Trails <i>Enhanced search and rescue, infrastructure, and enrichment with new equipment.</i>	<i>Funded: \$20,000</i> <i>Requested: \$20,000</i>	Bethel, Newry, Riley Township
221-02-06	ACF	Rockland/Brooks Bog Conservation Project Georges River Land Trust <i>Our project will advance conservation of one of midcoast Maine's priority conservation sites in the Rockland Bog while offering suitable recreational opportunities.</i>	<i>Funded: \$23,950</i> <i>Requested: \$23,950</i>	Rockland
221-02-07	ACF	Downeast Trail Counter Program Blue Hill Heritage Trust - Downeast Conservation Network <i>Downeast Conservation Network seeks funding to purchase tools to increase stewardship capacity.</i>	<i>Funded: \$11,200</i> <i>Requested: \$11,200</i>	Hancock & Washington
221-02-08	ACF	Protection of the Read Woods and Fields Adjacent to Rines Forest in Cumberland Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust <i>CCLT seeks to purchase a conservation easement on 54 acres of field and forest to ensure excellent recreational connectivity and wildlife habitat adjacent to the 268 acre Rines Forest in Cumberland, ME.</i>	<i>Funded: \$25,000</i> <i>Requested: \$25,000</i>	Cumberland
221-02-09	ACF	Re-Connecting the Cathance River Trail Brunswick - Topsham Land Trust <i>Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust requests funding to reconnect the trail system at Cathance River Nature Preserve and the trails at Head of Tide Park, resulting in 5 miles of public recreational trails across numerous privately owned parcels.</i>	<i>Funded: \$16,010</i> <i>Requested: \$16,010</i>	Topsham

Total Amount Funded for Category: 2 \$143,460

Category 3 Endangered & Threatened Species Conservation Projects

221-03-01 IFW	Post-breeding Habitat Use of Rusty Blackbirds Audubon Society of New Hampshire <i>Document habitat use of Rusty Blackbirds during non-breeding period to inform full annual cycle conservation efforts.</i>	<i>Funded:</i> \$11,416 <i>Requested:</i> \$15,000	Oxford County
221-03-02 ACF	Sentinels of Change: Monitoring Saltmarsh Vegetation Response to Sea Level Rise Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-& Forestry- MNAP <i>Coastal tidal marshes and the suite of species that depend on them are at-risk due to sea level rise. This project will result in long-term monitoring of vegetation and plant community shifts, which, paired with other indicators, are a primary tool set for identifying trends in habitat response, identifying vulnerabilities, and planning for saltmarsh habitat and species protection.</i>	<i>Funded:</i> \$14,764 <i>Requested:</i> \$14,764	Statewide
221-03-03 BAX	Alpine Plant Communities of Katahdin: Resurveying High Elevation Plants After 32 Years University of Maine <i>In 1989, the alpine zone of Katahdin in Baxter State Park was surveyed to characterize the parks rare alpine flora. During the summers of 2021 and 2022, we provide an updated survey of Katahdin's alpine zone by relocating these historic survey sites to determine if alpine plant coverage has changed in 30+ years of climate change.</i>	<i>Funded:</i> \$19,820 <i>Requested:</i> \$19,820	Baxter State Park
221-03-04 IFW	Utilizing Satellite Tracking and Surveys to Address Critical Data-Gaps for Maine's Upland Sandpiper Population Biodiversity Research Institute <i>A study to understand breeding ecology, and habitat needs of UPSAs throughout the annual cycle.</i>	<i>Funded:</i> \$20,000 <i>Requested:</i> \$23,500	Eastern Maine

Total Amount Funded for Category: 3 \$66,000

Category 4 Natural Resources Law Enforcement and Protection of Public Health

221-04-01 ACF	<p>Purchasing UTVs for Park Rule Enforcement, Monitoring and Rescue</p> <p>Maine Dept. of Agriculture Conservation & Forestry - Bureau of Parks & Lands</p> <p><i>DACF plans to purchase three UTVs to be used at Camden Hills State Park and Lily Bay State Park for rule enforcement and search & rescue.</i></p>	<p><i>Funded:</i> \$16,542</p> <p><i>Requested:</i> \$25,000</p>	<p>Camden Hills & Lily Bay State Park</p>
221-04-02 SRCC	<p>Utilizing a Multi-tooled Source Tracking Methodology to Determine Host Organism of Positive E. Coli Results in the Saco River Watershed</p> <p>Saco River Corridor Commission</p> <p><i>This project will seek to protect the Saco River Watershed by beginning a biomonitoring program focused on using eDNA to determine the host organism of E. coli when there are high E. coli levels.</i></p>	<p><i>Funded:</i> \$25,000</p> <p><i>Requested:</i> \$25,000</p>	<p>Cornish</p>
221-04-03 IFW	<p>Training and Equipment to Support Equine Air Scent Detection as a Search and Rescue Resource</p> <p>Highlands Search and Rescue (HISAR)</p> <p><i>Highlands Search and Rescue (HISAR) is in need of further training and equipment to support our goals of becoming certified in Equine Air Scent Detection and being able to offer this exciting new resource to the State of Maine</i></p>	<p><i>Funded:</i> \$3,950</p> <p><i>Requested:</i> \$3,950</p>	<p>Penobscot & Piscataquis</p>
221-04-04 ACF	<p>Impacts of Forest Fragmentation on Tick-Borne Disease Transmission and Exposure Risk</p> <p>University of Maine System Acting Through the University of Maine</p> <p><i>Blacklegged ticks and the pathogens they transmit pose an urgent public health threat to Mainers engaged in outdoor recreation and/or livelihoods. The proposed research will investigate the impact of forest fragmentation on tick-borne disease exposure risk in southern Maine, a hotspot of Lyme disease transmission.</i></p>	<p><i>Funded:</i> \$23,834</p> <p><i>Requested:</i> \$23,834</p>	<p>York, Cumberland, Sagadahoc, and</p>
221-04-05 DMR	<p>Interactive Digital Exhibits to Show a Century of Climate Change Indicators at the DMR Environmental Monitoring Program</p> <p>Dept. of Marine Resources - Bureau of Marine Science</p> <p><i>DMR will develop new exhibits to show climate change and ecosystem health in Boothbay Harbor</i></p>	<p><i>Funded:</i> \$11,674</p> <p><i>Requested:</i> \$11,674</p>	<p>Boothbay Harbor</p>

Total Amount Funded for Category: 4 \$81,000

of Grants Awarded: 24

Total All Categories: \$417,605