

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program

Annual Report – January 1, 2011-December 31, 2011

1. INTRODUCTION

In 2007, the State of Maine developed an In Lieu Fee Compensation Program to augment its regulatory program, and created the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP) to allocate the funds collected for compensatory mitigation projects. An initial agreement for services between the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was signed on October 3, 2007 outlining TNC's responsibility to administer MNRCP. A Memorandum of Agreement between the New England District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps"), the DEP, and TNC was signed on January 31, 2008 to launch the program. On September 21, 2011, an In Lieu Fee Program Instrument was signed by DEP and the Corps to update the governing documents for MNRCP and to ensure continued compliance with the revised regulations for compensatory mitigation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act issued by the Corps and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2008. For more information on Maine's In Lieu Fee Program Instrument follow [this link](#). Among other program enhancements included in the new Instrument, the nineteen biophysical subsections previously used for fund administration were combined into seven MNRCP Regions (see Appendix A for a map). This report outlines the MNRCP activities from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

2. IMPACTS and FEES RECEIVED

During the period of this annual report, 30 In-Lieu Fee (ILF) payments were received in 5 of the 7 MNRCP Regions. (Of these 30, 17 payments were received after the Request for Proposals process commenced in June, which likely influenced the proposals received in each region, as described in Section 3 below.) The tables that follow provide information on ILF payments, impact types and amounts, and funds available for award in 2011.

- Table 1 indicates the number of permits using ILF, the funds received by TNC, and those available for MNRCP award during the reporting period for each MNRCP Region.
- Table 2 shows the amount and percentage of the total funds available in each Region. It is notable, but not surprising, that 79% of the funds were received in just two regions: Central Interior & Midcoast and Southern Maine. These are the most heavily populated areas of the state and are generally the Regions with the most activities that require permits.
- Table 3 provides a breakdown of square footage of impacts and available funds by general habitat category for each Region,
- Table 4 further breaks down the impacts by specific habitat types.
- Table 5 shows the impacts to all habitat types across all MNRCP Regions and indicates the percentage of total impacts represented by each habitat type. Nearly three-quarters of all of the impacts where MNRCP was used for compensation were to freshwater forested and scrub-shrub wetlands. Impacts to freshwater emergent wetlands and vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat together make up another 24%, with the remaining habitat impacts totaling less than 2%.
- Table 6 shows total funds available for award and funds awarded in each MNRCP Region across all of the funding rounds held to-date.
- Table 7 provides a full list of all of the permitted impacts that have generated ILF payments and the funds available for MNRCP award.

Table 1: Number of Payments Received in 2011 by Region with Funds Available for MNRCP Award

MNRCP Region	Biophysical Subsection	Number of Permits using ILF	Payments	Program Administration	Funds Available for MNRCP Award
Aroostook Hills and Lowlands	Aroostook Lowlands	1	\$180,904.18	\$14,472.33	\$166,431.85
	Total for region	1	\$180,904.18	\$14,472.33	\$166,431.85
Central and Western Mountains	Western Maine Foothills	1	\$119,130.71	\$9,530.46	\$109,600.25
	Total for region	1	\$119,130.71	\$9,530.46	\$109,600.25
Central Interior and Midcoast	Casco Bay Coast	1	\$5,221.00	\$417.68	\$4,803.32
	Central Maine Embayment	10	\$581,997.28	\$46,559.78	\$535,437.50
	Penobscot Bay Coast	2	\$67,668.48	\$5,413.48	\$62,255.00
	Total for region	13	\$654,886.76	\$52,390.94	\$602,495.82
Downeast Maine	Maine Eastern Coastal	1	\$30,619.00	\$2,449.52	\$28,169.48
	Maine Eastern Interior	1	\$13,560.00	\$1,084.80	\$12,475.20
	Total for region	2	\$44,179.00	\$3,534.32	\$40,644.68
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	10	\$263,533.74	\$21,082.70	\$242,451.04
	Sebago-Ossipee Hills and Plain	3	\$375,072.22	\$30,005.78	\$345,066.44
	Total for region	13	\$638,605.96	\$51,088.48	\$587,517.48
Grand total for all regions		30	\$1,637,706.61	\$131,016.53	\$1,506,690.08

Table 2: Percent of Total 2011 Funds Available for all Regions

MNRCP Region	Funds Available in Region	% of Total Funds Available
Aroostook Hills and Lowlands	\$166,431.85	11%
Central and Eastern Lowlands	\$0.00	0%
Central and Western Mountains	\$109,600.25	7%
Central Interior and Midcoast	\$602,495.82	40%
Downeast Maine	\$40,644.68	3%
Northwest Maine	\$0.00	0%
Southern Maine	\$587,517.48	39%
	\$1,506,690.08	100.00%

Table 3: 2011 Impacts and Funds Available by Region & General Habitat Category

MNRCP Region	Biophysical Subsection	General Habitat Category	Total Sq. Ft Impacted	Acres	Funds Available for Award
Aroostook Hills and Lowlands	Aroostook Lowlands	Freshwater	80,493	1.85	\$166,431.85
		Total for region	80,493	1.85	\$166,431.85
Central and Western Mountains	Western Maine Foothills	Significant Wildlife Habitat	40,400	0.93	\$109,600.25
		Total for region	40,400	0.93	\$109,600.25
Central Interior and Midcoast	Casco Bay Coast	Coastal/Marine	1,995	0.05	\$4,803.32
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	Freshwater	257,005	5.90	\$535,437.50
Central Interior and Midcoast	Penobscot Bay Coast	Coastal/Marine	9,378	0.22	\$57,460.88
Central Interior and Midcoast	Penobscot Bay Coast	Freshwater	1,350	0.03	\$4,794.12
		Total for region	269,728	6.19	\$602,495.82
Downeast Maine	Maine Eastern Coastal	Freshwater	10,450	0.24	\$28,169.48
Downeast Maine	Maine Eastern Interior	Significant Wildlife Habitat	113,000	2.59	\$12,475.20
		Total for region	123,450	2.83	\$40,644.68
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Coastal/Marine	1,407	0.03	\$11,960.00
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Freshwater	344,475	7.91	\$230,491.04
Southern Maine	Sebago-Ossipee Hills and Plain	Freshwater	45,961	1.06	\$139,990.88
Southern Maine	Sebago-Ossipee Hills and Plain	Freshwater and Significant Wildlife Habitat	56,268	1.29	\$205,075.56
		Total for Region	448,111	10.29	\$587,517.48
		Grand Total all regions	962,182	22.09	\$1,506,690.08

Table 4: 2011 Impacts to Specific Habitat Types by Biophysical Region

MNRCP Region	Biophysical Subsection	Habitat	Sq Ft Impacted	Acres
Aroostook Hills & Lowlands	Aroostook Lowlands	Freshwater wetland Emergent	6,200	0.14
Aroostook Hills & Lowlands	Aroostook Lowlands	Freshwater wetland Forested	48,738	1.12
Aroostook Hills & Lowlands	Aroostook Lowlands	Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub	25,555	0.59
		Subtotal for region	80,493	1.85
Central & Western Mountains	Western Maine Foothills	Freshwater wetland Forested	36,025	0.83
Central & Western Mountains	Western Maine Foothills	Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub	4,375	0.10
		Subtotal for region	40,400	0.93
Central Interior & Midcoast	Casco Bay Coast	Marine intertidal	1,995	0.05
Central Interior & Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	Freshwater wetland Emergent	97,395	2.24
Central Interior & Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	Freshwater wetland Forested	64,215	1.47
Central Interior & Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub	94,755	2.18
Central Interior & Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	River/Stream	640	0.01
Central Interior & Midcoast	Penobscot Bay Coast	Estuarine intertidal	9,378	0.22
Central Interior & Midcoast	Penobscot Bay Coast	Freshwater wetland Forested	1,350	0.03
		Subtotal for region	269,728	6.19
Downeast Maine	Maine Eastern Coastal	Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub	10,450	0.24
Downeast Maine	Maine Eastern Interior	Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat	113,000	2.59
		Subtotal for region	123,450.	2.83
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Endangered/threatened species	3,400	0.08
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Estuarine intertidal	1,407	0.03
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Freshwater wetland Emergent	53,444	1.23
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Freshwater wetland Forested	191,737	4.40
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub	95,894	2.20
Southern Maine	Sebago-Ossipee Hills and Plain	Freshwater wetland Emergent	2,215	0.05
Southern Maine	Sebago-Ossipee Hills and Plain	Freshwater wetland Forested	80,510	1.85
Southern Maine	Sebago-Ossipee Hills and Plain	Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub	19,038	0.44
Southern Maine	Sebago-Ossipee Hills and Plain	Vernal pool	466	0.01
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Endangered/threatened species	3,400	0.08
		Subtotal for region	448,111.00	10.29
		Grand Total all regions	962,182	22.09

Table 5: 2011 Impacts to Habitat Types Across All MNRCP Regions

Habitat	Sq. Ft. Impacted	Acres	Percent of Total Impacts
Endangered/Threatened species	3,400	0.08	0.35%
Estuarine intertidal	10,785	0.25	1.12%
Freshwater wetland Emergent	159,254	3.66	16.55%
Freshwater wetland Forested	422,575	9.70	43.92%
Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub	250,067	5.74	25.99%
Marine intertidal	1,995	0.05	0.21%
River/Stream	640	0.01	0.07%
Vernal pool	466	0.01	0.05%
Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat	113,000	2.59	11.74%
Total Impacts	962,182	22.09	100%

Table 6: Funds Available* and Awarded

**Includes funds available from fees with interest, plus funds carried over after close of previous round*

MNRCP Region	Available for award during 2009	2009 Awards	Available for award during 2010	2010 Awards	Available for award during 2011	2011 Awards	Remaining Dec. 2011
Aroostook Hills & Lowlands	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$166,431.00	0.00	\$166,431.00
Central and Eastern Lowlands	\$7,668.40	\$0.00	\$215,814.17	\$0.00	\$345,160.77	\$215,759.00	\$129,401.77
Central & Western Mountains	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$152,510.00	\$0.00	\$393,676.16	\$116,633.00	\$277,043.16
Central Interior & Midcoast	\$874,620.40	\$560,090.00	\$2,038,487.49	\$1,146,857.40	\$1,499,946.15	\$1,398,316.00	\$101,630.15
Downeast Maine	\$45,468.10	\$0.00	\$119,211.82	\$50,000.00	\$110,745.32	\$0.00	\$110,745.32
Northwest Maine	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Southern Maine	\$1,551,671.71	\$520,273.00	\$1,304,513.58	\$893,285.00	\$1,091,255.32	\$688,990.19	\$402,265.13
Grand Totals	\$2,479,428.61	\$1,080,363.00	\$3,830,537.06	\$2,090,142.40	\$3,607,214.72	\$2,419,698.19	\$1,187,516.53

Table 7: Complete List of all Permits Generating MNRC Payments through 12/31/11 by Region, Subregion and Date

MNRC Region	Biophysical Subsection	Applicant	TNC Rec'd Date	DEP Project Name	Permit Numbers	Town	Total Square Ft.	Habitat Type Impacted	Type of Impact	Available for Award
Aroostook Hills and Lowlands	Aroostook Lowlands	Maine DOT	11/2/2011	Route 1 - Van Buren	PBR 51316, NAE-2010-02342	Van Buren	80,493.00	Freshwater	Fill & Conversion	\$166,431.85
Central and Eastern Lowlands	Central Maine Foothills	Town of Millinocket	11/17/2010	Millinocket Municipal Airport	L-24248-TG-A-N, NAE-2008-01362	Millinocket	30,952.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$79,162.32
Central and Eastern Lowlands	Maine-New Brunswick Lowlands	First Wind Energy, LLC	11/13/2008	Stetson Mountain Wind Farm Transmission Line	L-23774-TH-B-N	Chester	16,988.00	Significant Wildlife Habitat	Vegetation conversion	\$7,668.40
Central and Eastern Lowlands	Maine-New Brunswick Lowlands	First Wind Energy, LLC	11/17/2010	Rollins Wind Power (Evergreen Wind Power III, LLC)	L-24402-IW-C-N	Winn	242,193.60	Significant Wildlife Habitat	Vegetation Conversion	\$128,928.80
Central and Western Mountains	Mahousuc Rangely Lakes	Nextera Energy Maine Operating Services, LLC	11/10/2010	FPL Energy Maine Hydro Upper Dam	NAE-2010-00197	Richardsontown Twp	17,300.00	Significant Wildlife Habitat	Fill	\$3,819.84
Central and Western Mountains	Mahousuc Rangely Lakes	Maine DOT	11/17/2010	Route 17 upgrades and scenic turnout	NAE-2010-00609	Township D	45,237.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$131,233.33
Central and Western Mountains	Western Maine Foothills	Record Hill, LLC	5/18/2010	Record Hill Wind Project	NAE-2008-03763	Roxbury	30,172.00	Freshwater	Conversion	\$13,823.61
Central and Western Mountains	Western Maine Foothills	Central Maine Power Company	8/23/2010	Maine Power Reliability Project	L-24620-26-A-N, L-24620-TG-B-N, L-24620-VP-C-N, L-24620-IW-D-N, L-24620-L6-E-N, NAE-2008-03017	Peru	930.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$3,634.00
Central and Western Mountains	Western Maine Foothills	Central Maine Power Company	5/18/2011	Section 270 & Roxbury Substation	L-24663-TF-B-N, NAE-2009-01866	Rumford	40,400.00	Significant Wildlife Habitat	Fill and Veg Conv	\$109,600.25
Central Interior and Midcoast	Casco Bay Coast	Washburn & Doughty Associates	7/30/2008	Washburn & Doughty Shipyard Expansion	L-20207-4E-C-N, L-20207-4E-E-M, NAE-2008-01157	Boothbay	3,864.00	Coastal/Marine	Fill	\$27,237.34
Central Interior and Midcoast	Casco Bay Coast	Maine Yankee	9/1/2008	Natural Resources Damages Restoration Plan & Settlement		Wiscasset		Groundwater (ME Yankee Settlement)		\$114,475.00

MNRCP Region	Biophysical Subsection	Applicant	TNC Rec'd Date	DEP Project Name	Permit Numbers	Town	Total Square Ft.	Habitat Type Impacted	Type of Impact	Available for Award
Central Interior and Midcoast	Casco Bay Coast	Washburn & Doughty Associates	9/1/2008	Washburn & Doughty Laydown Area	L-20207-4E-D-N, NAE-2008-01157	Boothbay	7,833.00	Coastal/Marine	Fill	\$55,214.95
Central Interior and Midcoast	Casco Bay Coast	Town of Chebeague Island	4/30/2009	Wharf Rd. Reconstruction	L-24345-4E-A-N, NAE-2008-03395	Yarmouth	1,397.00	Freshwater and Coastal/Marine	Fill	\$12,293.59
Central Interior and Midcoast	Casco Bay Coast	Washburn & Doughty Associates	6/11/2009	Washburn & Doughty Drydock Platforms	L-20207-4E-F-N, NAE-2008-01157 mod 2	Boothbay	180.00	Coastal/Marine	Fill	\$1,269.20
Central Interior and Midcoast	Casco Bay Coast	Central Maine Power Company	8/23/2010	Maine Power Reliability Project	L-24620-26-A-N, L-24620-TG-B-N, L-24620-VP-C-N, L-24620-IW-D-N, L-24620-L6-E-N, NAE-2008-03017	Cumberland	297,914.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$1,168,166.32
Central Interior and Midcoast	Casco Bay Coast	Town of Westport	8/23/2010	Boat Launch realignment	NAE-2006-2777	Westport Island	150.00	Coastal/Marine	Fill	\$1,139.88
Central Interior and Midcoast	Casco Bay Coast	Bigelow Laboratory	8/23/2010	Bigelow Laboratory Research and Educational Facility	L-24771-4E-B-N	Boothbay	594.00	Coastal/Marine	Fill	\$4,513.52
Central Interior and Midcoast	Casco Bay Coast	US Marine Corps	8/23/2010	USMC Reserve Centers	L-20116-87-TG-N	Brunswick	44,393.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$166,225.15
Central Interior and Midcoast	Casco Bay Coast	Fisherman Island, LLC	8/24/2011	Breakwater, pier, float	L-24619-4P-A-N, NAE-2009-01465	Boothbay	1,995.00	Coastal/Marine	Fill	\$4,803.32
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	Hannaford Brothers Co.	9/1/2008	Winthrop Hannaford Supermarket & Pharmacy	L-24222-TE-B-N, NAE-2007-03386	Winthrop	27,284.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$87,349.73
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	Husson College	10/29/2008	Husson Metting House and Access Road	NAE-2008-2072	Bangor	11,055.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$31,086.66
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	Dirigo Pines Development Company	12/12/2008	Dirigo Pines	L-17404-26-O-A	Orono	295.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$779.10
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	City of Waterville	2/24/2009	Messalonskee Trail	L-24114-L6-A-N	Waterville	3,630.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$11,621.35

MNRCP Region	Biophysical Subsection	Applicant	TNC Rec'd Date	DEP Project Name	Permit Numbers	Town	Total Square Ft.	Habitat Type Impacted	Type of Impact	Available for Award
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	Bangor Hydro Electric Co.	3/5/2009	Bangor Hydro Keene Rd Substation	L-20972-TC-F-N, NAE-2008-3073	Chester	253,067.00	Freshwater and Signif. Wildlife Hab.	Fill and Vegetation conversion	\$102,574.16
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	University of Maine, Orono	7/29/2009	AEWC Building Expansion	L-19408-TC-BX-N	Orono	11,890.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$31,401.49
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	Maine DOT	9/30/2009	Route 1A reconstruction - 2	PBR 47777, NAE-2009-00823	Ellsworth	58,394.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$159,211.24
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	University of Maine, Orono	11/16/2009	AEWC Building Expansion Modification	L-19408-TC-CB-M	Orono	11,597.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$32,170.08
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	Town of Chelsea	5/18/2010	Chelsea Elemetary School	L-24780-TE-A-N, NAE-2007-03342	Chelsea	40,719.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$132,613.40
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	PS Bangor, LLC	6/10/2010	Lowe's Home Improvement Center	NAE-1991-02551-M1	Bangor	14,597.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$39,213.38
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	Central Maine Power Company	8/23/2010	Maine Power Reliability Project	L-24620-26-A-N, L-24620-TG-B-N, L-24620-VP-C-N, L-24620-IW-D-N, L-24620-L6-E-N, NAE-2008-03017	Lewiston	38,727.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$191,831.04
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	University of Maine, Orono	8/23/2010	Bike Path Extension	L-19108-TE-CI-N	Orono	1,200.00	Freshwater		\$3,223.68
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	City of Brewer	3/2/2011	Industrial Park road extension	NAE-2010-02069, L-18110-TG-C-M	Brewer	1,235.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$3,317.70
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	University of Maine, Orono	3/2/2011	Footbridge on Multi-use trail	L-19408-TE-CK-N, NAE-1997-02618-M3	Orono	480.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$1,289.47
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	Maine DOT	3/9/2011	Downeast Rail Trail, Ellsworth	PBR 49618, NAE-2010-00470	Bangor	25,174.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$71,333.05
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	Hammond Lumber Company	3/9/2011	Bangor Expansion	NAE-2005-2842	Bangor	55,321.20	Freshwater	Fill	\$10,882.61

MNRCP Region	Biophysical Subsection	Applicant	TNC Rec'd Date	DEP Project Name	Permit Numbers	Town	Total Square Ft.	Habitat Type Impacted	Type of Impact	Available for Award
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	MSB Leasing, Inc.	3/16/2011	Machias Savings Bank	NAE-2008-0280	Brewer	24,891.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$34,667.18
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	Labree's, Inc.	8/24/2011	Labree's Bakery expansion	NAE-1992-1521-M1	Old Town	7,636.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$20,513.35
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	Maine DOT	8/31/2011	Route 219 Leeds	NAE-2011-00678, PBR 51316	Leeds	22,902.00	Freshwater	Conversion	\$11,251.30
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	MaineGeneral Medical Center	10/13/2011	MaineGeneral New Regional Hospital	L-122659-TG-J-N, NAE-2009-02019	Augusta	89,791.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$297,387.24
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	Maine DOT	11/2/2011	Route 15 - Orrington	NAE-2011-01279	Orrington	28,475.00	Freshwater	Fill & conversion	\$77,084.16
Central Interior and Midcoast	Central Maine Embayment	Maine DOT	12/9/2011	Route 9 Lisbon-Sabattus Bridge Replacement	PBR 47669	Lisbon	1,100.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$7,711.44
Central Interior and Midcoast	Penobscot Bay Coast	Maine DOT	9/30/2009	Route 1A reconstruction - 1	PBR 47529, NAE-2008-03622	Ellsworth	63,528.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$207,936.52
Central Interior and Midcoast	Penobscot Bay Coast	Maine Maritime Academy	8/23/2010	Retaining wall reconstruction	L-15887-4D-H-N	Castine	1,020.00	Coastal/Marine	Fill	\$6,062.06
Central Interior and Midcoast	Penobscot Bay Coast	Central Maine Power Company	8/23/2010	Maine Power Reliability Project	L-24620-26-A-N, L-24620-TG-B-N, L-24620-VP-C-N, L-24620-IW-D-N, L-24620-L6-E-N, NAE-2008-03017	Warren	1,893.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$7,011.32
Central Interior and Midcoast	Penobscot Bay Coast	Gary and Kathryn Simel	3/9/2011	Meduncook Bay Subdivision, Lot 18	L-21920-TE-V-N, NAE-2010-02228	Cushing	1,350.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$4,794.12
Central Interior and Midcoast	Penobscot Bay Coast	Verso Paper	9/8/2011	Buckport Renewable Energy Project	NAE-2010-2223	Bucksport	9,378.00	Coastal/Marine	Fill	\$57,460.88
Downeast Maine	Maine Eastern Coastal	Maine DOT	5/18/2010	Acadia Gateway Center	L-24518-2G-B-N, NAE-2006-03036	Trenton	23,742.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$71,100.69
Downeast Maine	Maine Eastern Coastal	Moosabec Mussels, Inc	11/10/2010	Retaining wall repair	L-21318-4E-C-N	Jonesport	480.00	Coastal/Marine	Fill	\$2,587.96

MNRCP Region	Biophysical Subsection	Applicant	TNC Rec'd Date	DEP Project Name	Permit Numbers	Town	Total Square Ft.	Habitat Type Impacted	Type of Impact	Available for Award
Downeast Maine	Maine Eastern Coastal	Eastport Port Authority	8/24/2011	Easport Port Authority expansion	L-18175-TE-J-N, NAE-1993-00224-M1	Eastport	10,450.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$28,169.48
Downeast Maine	Maine Eastern Interior	Maine DOT	11/16/2009	Calais-St. Stephens Border Crossing amendment	NAE-2006-00704	Calais	17,341.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$45,468.10
Downeast Maine	Maine Eastern Interior	Fundy Contractors	3/16/2011	Woodland Industrial Park	L-21437-VP-E-N	Baileyville	113,000.00	Significant Wildlife Habitat	Vegetation removal, Fill	\$12,475.20
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Central Maine Power Company	1/10/2008	CMP Mussey Road Substation	L-20588-TE-K-N, NAE-2007-2064	Scarborough	29,376.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$110,512.55
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Park North Development, LLC	10/29/2008	Park North Subdivision	L-23647-TE-G-N	Saco	289.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$1,002.11
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Central Maine Power Company	11/25/2008	CMP Line 197 Upgrade	L-24199-VP-B-N, L-24199-TE-A-N, L-24199-IW-C-N	South Berwick	6,789.00	Significant Wildlife Habitat	Vegetation conversion	\$50,078.30
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Three Diamonds Realty	2/24/2009	Haigis Parkway Professional Center	L-24060-TE-B-N, NAE-2006-03126	Scarborough	21,344.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$77,254.61
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	MC Portland, LLC	2/24/2009	Morrill's Crossing	L-23925-TE-B-N	Portland	19,025.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$68,860.75
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Central Maine Power Company	5/7/2009	CMP South Gorham Substation Expansion	L-17618-TH-E-N, NAE-2008-03010	Gorham	45,468.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$164,571.35
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Kennebunk Sewer District	5/19/2009	Kennebunk WWTP Flood Mitigation Berm	L-024457-4C-C-N, NAE-2009-00616	Kennebunk	6,884.00	Freshwater and Coastal/Marine	Fill	\$35,553.75
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Town of Falmouth Public Schools	6/5/2009	Falmouth Athletic Fields	L-19593-TE-H-N, NAE-2009-00612	Falmouth	20,623.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$74,644.95
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Maine DOT	9/30/2009	I-95 Exits 3 & 4	PBR 44921, NAE-2007-03377	South Portland	6,000.00	Coastal/Marine	Fill	\$45,144.00
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	University of New England	11/16/2009	UNE Campus Expansion	NAE-2009-01365	Biddeford	83,199.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$259,250.25

MNRCP Region	Biophysical Subsection	Applicant	TNC Rec'd Date	DEP Project Name	Permit Numbers	Town	Total Square Ft.	Habitat Type Impacted	Type of Impact	Available for Award
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Maine DOT	5/18/2010	Eastern Trail	PBR 48073, NAE-2009-01193	Kennebunk	6,027.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$20,238.67
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Maine DOT	5/18/2010	Eastern Trail 2, amendment	PBR 40873, NAE-2009-01193	Arundel	518.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$1,839.52
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	City of Portland	5/18/2010	Westside Sewer Replacement	L-24743-TE-A-N, L-24743-IW-B-N	Portland	24,191.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$90,580.44
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	City of Portland	5/18/2010	Fall Brook Phase 3	L-20543-TG-E-N	Portland	2,200.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$8,237.68
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Central Maine Power Company	8/23/2010	Maine Power Reliability Project	L-24620-26-A-N, L-24620-TG-B-N, L-24620-VP-C-N, L-24620-IW-D-N, L-24620-L6-E-N, NAE-2008-03017	Westbrook	16,952.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$67,812.28
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	City of Portland	11/17/2010	Capisic Brk Watershed CSO abatement	L-24743-TG-C-N, NAE-2010-00954	Portland	2,477.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$9,274.52
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Town of Scarborough	11/17/2010	Haigis Parkway/Rt 1 intersection improvements	NAE-2010-00718	Scarborough	5,521.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$20,672.83
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Mezoian Development, LLC.	4/13/2011	Juniper Knoll	L-21678-TE-G-N	Saco	388.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$1,806.22
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	City of Portland	4/13/2011	Fall Brook Phase 4	L-20543-TE-F-N	Portland	675.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$3,067.74
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Avesta Cascade Brook, LP	8/24/2011	Cascade Brook Senior Apartments	L-23647-TA-J-N	Saco	161.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$684.31
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	PM Construction	8/24/2011	FedEx Distribution Ctr. Expansion	L-20739-TE-F-N, NAE-2011-01111	Saco	4,452.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$16,956.78
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Central Maine Power Co.	8/24/2011	CMP Section 117 Transmission Line	NAE-2011-00460	North Berwick	88,390.00	Freshwater	Fill, temp. matting	\$44,099.28

MNRCP Region	Biophysical Subsection	Applicant	TNC Rec'd Date	DEP Project Name	Permit Numbers	Town	Total Square Ft.	Habitat Type Impacted	Type of Impact	Available for Award
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Central Maine Power Company	9/8/2011	Saco Bay Section 159 Upgrade	NAE-2010-00400	Saco	209,211.00	Freshwater	Fill, conversion, temp matting	\$108,332.20
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Public Service Company of NH	9/8/2011	Eliot Switching Station	NAE-2011-00752	Eliot	36,228.00	Freshwater	Fill, conversion, temp. matting	\$32,278.17
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.	11/2/2011	Administrative building amendment and pedestrian access	L-001671-TE-O-N, NAE-2007-01337	Westbrook	2,010.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$8,044.02
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Town of Kennebunkport	11/2/2011	Kings Highway reconstruction	L-25202-4E-A-N, NAE-2011-00550	Kennebunkport	1,407.00	Coastal/Marine	Fill	\$11,960.00
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Town of Falmouth Public Schools	11/2/2011	Public school sidewalk project	L-19593-TG-R-N, NAE-2009-00612	Falmouth	2,960.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$15,222.32
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Central Maine Power	4/4/2012	Section 159 Upgrade Amendment		Old Orchard Beach	48,823.00	Freshwater	Conversion	\$27,893.55
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands	Daniel Higgins	4/4/2012	Branch Heights Subdivision Lot 11	L-21743-TE-D-N	Wells	722.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$2,749.88
Southern Maine	Gulf of Maine Coastal Plain	Northeast Trading Company	4/4/2012	Bernice Avenue Subdivision	L-22407-TE-E-N	Sanford	2,580.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$9,826.52
Southern Maine	Sebago-Ossipee Hills and Plain	Maine DOT	3/27/2009	Route 26 Upgrade	PBR 47161, NAE-2008-02836	Poland	100,719.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$397,264.78
Southern Maine	Sebago-Ossipee Hills and Plain	Dana Lampron	7/29/2009	Lampron Pit Stop Building Addition	L-17170-TE-I-N	Standish	527.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$1,907.60
Southern Maine	Sebago-Ossipee Hills and Plain	Maine DOT	7/29/2009	Route 117 Reconstruction	PBR 47530, NAE-2009-00226	Norway	63,360.00	Freshwater and Signif. Wildlife Hab.	Fill	\$265,626.73
Southern Maine	Sebago-Ossipee Hills and Plain	Maine DOT	11/17/2010	Naples Bay Bridge reconstruction	PBR 49918, NAE-2008-03014	Naples	6,339.00	Freshwater	Fill	\$47,561.37

3. MNRCP AWARDS and COMPENSATION PROJECTS

The 2011 round of MNRCP funding awards commenced with a Request for Letters of Intent (LOI), released on June 15, 2011, and concluded on December 14, 2011 with the award of \$419,938.00 for 17 compensation projects in four Regions. The MNRCP project selection process is purposely divided into two stages. The LOI stage is a short-form process which allows applicants to briefly outline their project to determine if it will meet the program requirements prior to completing a more intensive Full Proposal. Since this program has very specific requirements that differ from most other funding programs with which applicants may be familiar, and many applicants are small land trusts with limited budgets, the LOI stage gives applicants the opportunity to have their project pre-screened for suitability before investing substantial time in a more lengthy application. Sponsors of projects that meet the program's criteria are then invited to submit Full Proposals. The LOI package includes the amount of funding available in each Region at the time of release, and these funding amounts are used by potential project sponsors to determine if sufficient funding will be available for their projects. In 2011, unanticipated funds were received in the Aroostook Hills and Lowlands Region after the Request for Proposals process commenced and no Letters of Intent were submitted for this Region. Downeast Maine is a very rural area with small local governments and a handful of land trusts with fairly large focus areas. In the three funding rounds completed thus far, there have been only two project proposals received in the Downeast area and one of those was deemed ineligible for funding because it was already owned by a conservation entity. To date, no funds have been available for award in the Northwest Maine Region.

For this reporting period, 30 Letters of Intent were submitted, of which 29 were invited to submit Full Proposals. The one project which was not invited to submit a Full Proposal was already owned by a conservation entity and the request was for reimbursement of acquisition costs which is not eligible for funding under this program. Four of the 29 applicants invited to submit Full Proposals ultimately decided not to apply. The result was the submission of 25 Full Proposals in September. The Criteria used by the Review Committee and Approval Committee to evaluate the Full Proposals can be found in Appendix D. In addition to the Review Criteria, the Committees also followed three general funding principles to determine the level of funding awards: 1) Awards should be sufficient for project to succeed; 2) Funding levels should reflect project rankings; and 3) Funded projects should meet a minimum threshold for suitability, regardless of funds available. Seventeen projects were ultimately awarded funding.

Table 8 summarizes the funds available for each Region in 2011, the total funds requested by applicants, and the difference. Table 9 presents the results of the fund allocation process, including the status of each proposal received. Two proposals were withdrawn during the review stage of the process: one because the project sponsor, an individual, was unable to find a qualified organization to hold a conservation easement on the property and the other because the project sponsor proposed to pay more than appraised value for purchase of land, which is not allowable under MNRCP requirements. Six Full Proposals were not funded by the program. Reasons for not funding included a poor fit with program goals, lack of readiness by the applicant, and insufficient funding available to fund all of the proposals in a particular region. Several project sponsors were invited to reapply in the next funding round when their projects were further along.

Table 8: 2011 Funds Available for Compensation Projects vs. Funds Requested

MNRCP Region	Funds available during funding round	Funds Requested from MNRCP	Difference
Aroostook Hills & Lowlands	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Central and Eastern Lowlands	\$356,000.00	\$356,000.00	\$0.00
Central & Western Mountains	\$282,633.00	\$282,633.00	\$0.00
Central Interior & Midcoast	\$1,469,314.00	\$2,113,618.00	(\$644,304.00)
Downeast Maine	\$110,745.32	\$0.00	\$110,745.32
Northwest Maine	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Southern Maine	\$991,848.00	\$1,781,234.00	(\$789,386.00)
Grand Totals	\$3,607,214.72	\$4,533,485.00	(\$1,322,944.68)

Table 9: 2011 Proposals Received and Status

MNRCP Region	Project Title	Applicant	Compensation Type	Total Project Cost	Funds Requested from MNRCP	Funds Awarded
Full Proposals Submitted						
Central and Eastern Lowlands	Mattawamkeag River/Eagle Pond	Maine Dept of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	Preservation, Enhancement	\$439,000.00	\$130,000.00	\$115,000.00
Central and Eastern Lowlands	Varnum Farm	Maine Farmland Trust	Preservation, Restoration, Enhancement	\$1,135,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$100,759.00
Central and Eastern Lowlands	Amazon Brook	GLS Woodlands, LLC	Restoration	\$34,545.00	\$26,000.00	\$0.00
Central and Western Mountains	Seven Mile Stream	Androscoggin Land Trust	Preservation	\$48,938.00	\$21,633.00	\$21,633.00
Central and Western Mountains	Sucker Brook/Horseshoe Pond	Greater Lovell Land Trust	Preservation	\$330,500.00	\$261,000.00	\$95,000.00
Central Interior and Midcoast	Jam Black Brook culvert replacement	Trout Unlimited	Fish Passage	\$243,200.00	\$69,700.00	\$69,700.00
Central Interior and Midcoast	Little Cobbossee Lake - Oatway	Kennebec Land Trust	Preservation	\$268,500.00	\$175,000.00	\$155,000.00
Central Interior and Midcoast	Pushaw Lake Fishway	Atlantic Salmon Federation, Maine Council	Fish Passage	\$312,865.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Central Interior and Midcoast	Sebasticook River parcels	Sebasticook Regional Land Trust	Preservation, Enhancement	\$518,280.00	\$395,492.00	\$308,616.00
Central Interior and Midcoast	St George River Tidal Conservation	Georges River Land Trust	Preservation	\$258,500.00	\$245,000.00	\$170,000.00

Central Interior and Midcoast	Upper Cathance River Wetlands - Perry	Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust	Preservation	\$106,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00
Central Interior and Midcoast	Wallamatogus - Great Heath	Blue Hill Heritage Trust	Preservation, Enhancement	\$187,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
Central Interior and Midcoast	Head of Maquuit Stream Restoration	Maine Dept of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	Preservation, Restoration, Enhancement	\$574,200.00	\$425,000.00	\$425,000.00
Central Interior and Midcoast	Hales Pond Access	Town of Fayette	Enhancement	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$0.00
Central Interior and Midcoast	Spruce Mountain Conservation Area	Androscoggin Land Trust	Preservation	\$486,438.00	\$148,426.00	\$0.00
Central Interior and Midcoast	Westport Landing	The Trust for Public Land	Preservation, Enhancement	\$1,452,000.00	\$350,000.00	\$0.00
Central Interior and Midcoast	Oyster River Reserve	Town of Thomaston	Preservation, Restoration	\$213,250.00	\$165,000.00	\$0.00
Southern Maine	Boulter Pond Wetlands	York Land Trust, Inc.	Preservation	\$244,500.00	\$244,500.00	\$244,260.19
Southern Maine	Crooked River - Robie Meadows	Western Foothills Land Trust	Preservation	\$220,000.00	\$220,000.00	\$69,500.00
Southern Maine	Merriland River Corridor - Highpine	Town of Wells	Preservation	\$159,000.00	\$159,000.00	\$119,250.00
Southern Maine	Mt Agamenticus Wetlands II	Great Works Regional Land Trust	Preservation	\$185,140.00	\$175,140.00	\$73,180.00
Southern Maine	Suckfish Brook	Town of Falmouth	Preservation	\$327,500.00	\$182,800.00	\$182,800.00
Southern Maine	Biddeford Forest	Boyle Associates	Preservation	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$0.00
Southern Maine	Saco River Conservation and Education Center	Saco River Recreational Council	Enhancement	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$0.00
Southern Maine	McConkey Farm	McConkey Farm Land Holdings, LLC	Restoration	\$199,794.00	\$199,794.00	\$0.00
Invited to Full Proposal, did not submit						
Central and Western Mountains	Mill Brook	Greater Lovell Land Trust	Preservation	\$285,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$0.00
Central Interior and Midcoast	Androscoggin River - Schott	Individual	Preservation	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00
Southern Maine	Goosefare Brook	Ocean Park Conservation Society	Preservation, Restoration	\$228,000.00	\$153,000.00	\$0.00
Southern Maine	Hadlock Community Forest - Monn	Town of Falmouth	Preservation	\$166,800.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00
Not Invited to Full Proposal						
Central Interior and Midcoast	Androscoggin River - Coombs	Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust	Preservation	\$250,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00

4. UPDATES ON PREVIOUSLY FUNDED PROJECTS

2009 Funding Round

Sixteen compensation projects were funded in the inaugural round in 2009. Two of these 16 were for conservation easements that had substantial funds from other sources and which were very far along in the easement negotiations when they were awarded MNRCP funds. It proved difficult to go back to renegotiate the easements to include MNRCP requirements so these applicants withdrew their applications and the funds were allocated back to the respective Regions. Another easement project also ran into difficulties in accommodating MNRCP requirements and, rather than renegotiate, the landowner decided to donate the easement. This project also had a resource enhancement component so funds for this part of the project were held and the remaining funds allocated back to the Region. One applicant ran into a roadblock in its negotiations with a landowner who had expected more than the appraised value. This project was making no progress in reaching an agreement with the landowner so, based on a recommendation from the MNRCP Review Committee, the Approval Committee voted to rescind the funding for this project. A fourth project also ran into issues when the property they had hoped to purchase was purchased by someone else before they could secure all the necessary funding. The applicant tried to work with the new landowner to purchase the most environmentally significant portion of the property but was not making progress and ultimately asked to withdraw its project. A fifth project ran into problems when it was discovered that another entity held mineral rights on the property. At the end of this reporting period, the project sponsor was still trying to work through this issue with the entity that held the mineral rights, but ultimately, the landowner sold the property to another buyer and the project was withdrawn in early 2012.

The remaining 11 projects included five fee purchases for preservation, two conservation easements, a dam removal, a fishway, a wetland restoration at an old quarry site, and removal of invasive *Phragmites* on a state wildlife preserve. A chart of their status is below.

Project Name	Type	Status
Brookings Bay	Fee purchase and preservation	Project complete
Whitten Hill	Fee purchase and preservation	Project complete
Mt. Agamenticus Wetlands	Fee purchase and preservation	Project complete
Walnut Hill	Fee purchase and preservation	Project complete
Falmouth Conservation Corridor	Conservation easement and preservation	Project complete
Gervais <i>Phragmites</i> removal	Restoration of wetland by removal of invasive <i>Phragmites</i>	First phase of removal is complete. Any new growth will be re-treated. In monitoring phase.
Montsweag Brook Dam removal	Restoration of stream by dam removal	Dam removed and stream flow restored; easement in place. In monitoring phase.
Blackman Stream Fishway	Restoration of fish passage by construction of fishway	Fishway is operational. In monitoring phase.
Clark Island Wetland Restoration	Removal of granite quarry tailings from wetland and replanting	Quarry tailings have been removed and wetland planting has been done. In monitoring phase.
Crooked River	Conservation easement and restoration	Landowner donated easement. Sponsor still plans to do enhancement.
Maloney Wetlands	Fee purchase and restoration	Long delays due to changes in ownership structure. Negotiations back on track.

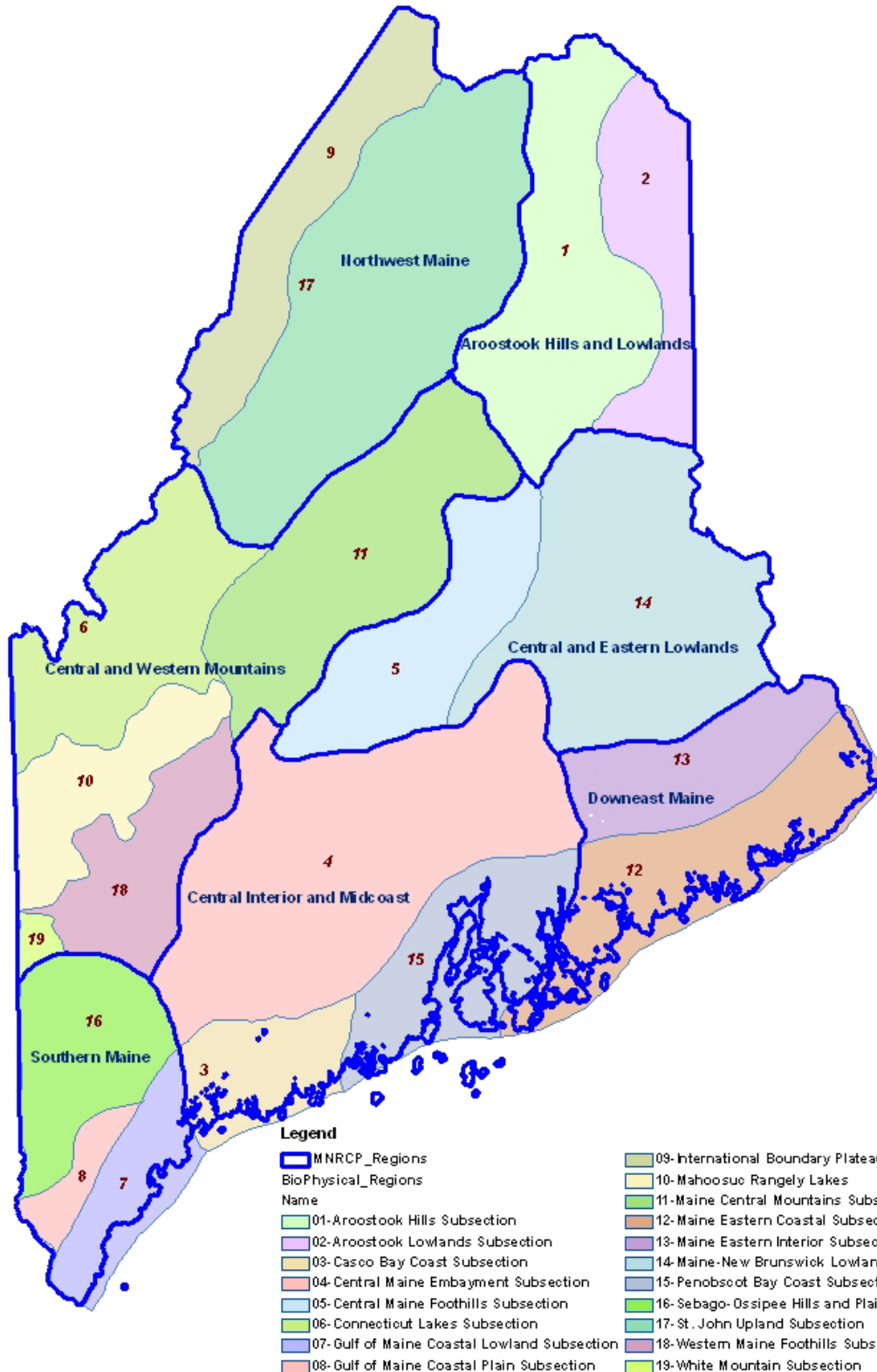
2010 Funding Round

Sixteen projects were awarded funding in the second funding round in 2010. One project had secured the majority of its funding from other sources and after trying to work around the differing requirements of their funding sources, ultimately decided to withdraw their MNRCP project. Of the remaining fifteen projects, eight were preservation through fee purchase, one was preservation through conservation easement, one was preservation through both fee purchase and conservation easement, three were preservation through fee purchase with restoration or enhancement after purchase and two were fish passage projects.

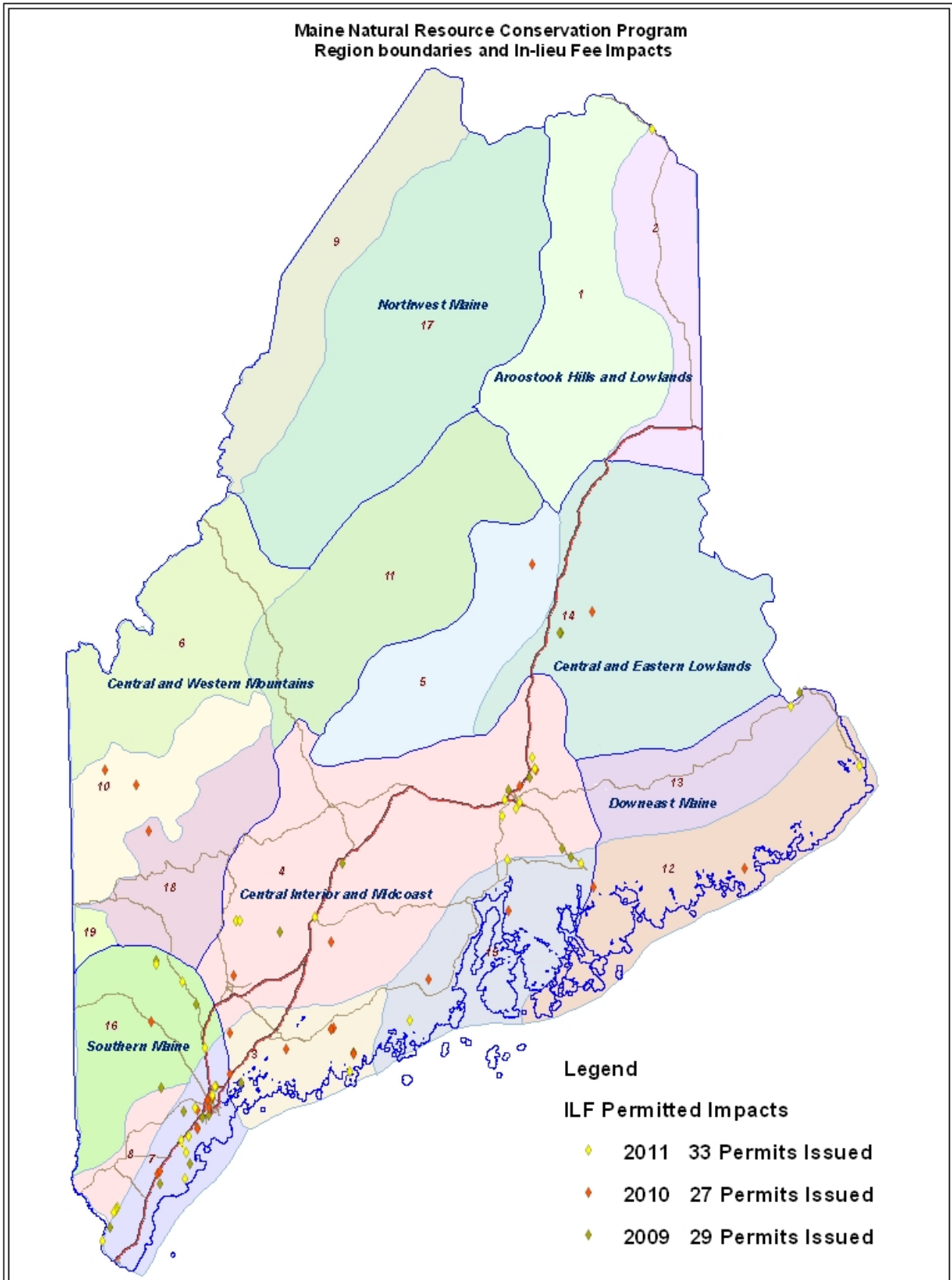
Project Name	Type	Status
Basin and Curtis Coves	Fee purchase and preservation	Project complete
Granite State Wetlands	Fee purchase and preservation	Project complete
Kanokolus Bog	Fee purchase and preservation	Project complete
Morse Pond	Fee purchase and preservation	Project complete
Pisgah Hill	Fee purchase and preservation	Project complete
Spectacle Pond	Fee purchase and preservation	Project complete
Steele Forest	Fee purchase and preservation	Project complete
Whiskeag Creek	Fee purchase and preservation	Project complete
East Branch Piscataqua River	Fee purchase and conservation easement with preservation	Project complete
Maquoit Bay	Conservation easement and preservation	Project complete
Bell Marsh	Fee purchase and restoration	Purchase complete; restoration plan approved; work to be completed 2012
Clifford Park	Fee purchase and enhancement	Purchase complete; restoration plan to be approved
Great Meadow Stream	Fee purchase and restoration	Awaiting closing
Flanders Stream	Fish passage	Project Agreement signed
Muscongus Brook	Fish passage	Plans complete; working out timing of funding and work.

Appendix A

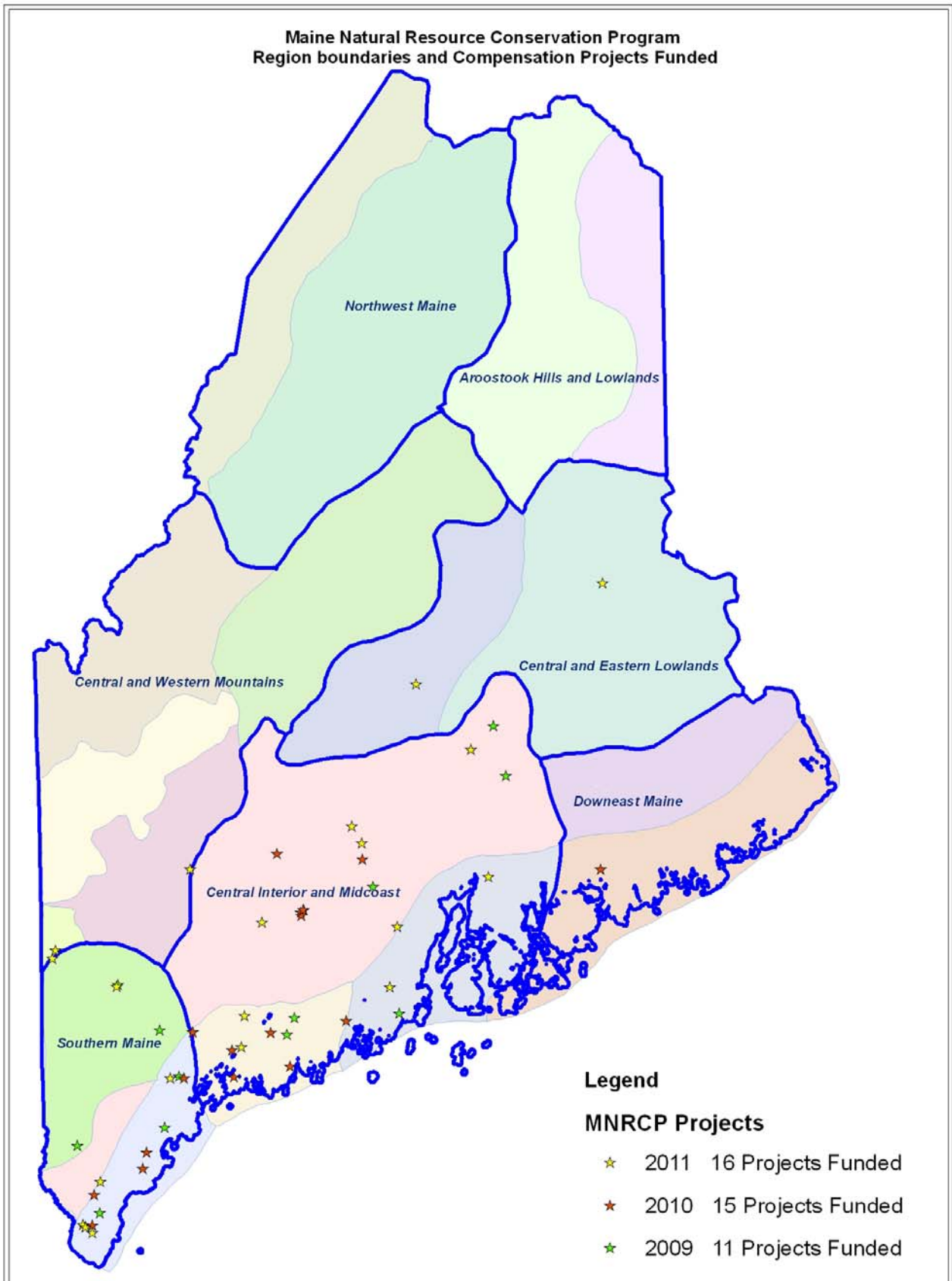
Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program
New Region Boundaries and Previous Biophysical Regions



Appendix B



Appendix C



Appendix D

Review Criteria

Full Proposals are evaluated by a multi-agency Review Committee that includes representatives from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Department of Conservation, Maine Natural Areas Program, Maine State Planning Office, Maine Department of Transportation, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Audubon, the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions, and The Nature Conservancy, which is a non-voting member. The Review Committee evaluates Full Proposals using the criteria described below.

1. Potential to Meet MNRCP Goals (30%)

Assesses the extent to which the proposal meets the core program requirement that a project restore, enhance, preserve, or create wetlands or other resources determined by the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program to be Priority Resource Types. Considerations include:

- The sustainability of the proposed conservation action (restoration, enhancement, preservation, creation) and the acreage affected. To fully meet this criterion, projects must include a restoration or enhancement component in addition to permanent preservation.
- The resource types restored, enhanced, preserved or created and the degree to which the proposed project replaces the functional benefits of impacted resources in the Biophysical Region based on a functional assessment of the project.
- Proximity of proposed project to impacted resources in the Biophysical Region. To fully meet this criterion, projects must occur within the same MNRCP Region as a permitted impact.
- For preservation projects, the threat of degradation to the site in the next 20 years.
- Inclusion of upland areas sufficient to protect, buffer, or support identified resource functions and ecological connectivity to other conservation areas or undeveloped large blocks of habitat.
- Current and proposed condition of the property, and “functional lift” provided by project (e.g., proposed change in habitat quality, contribution to functioning biological systems, water quality, level of degradation, etc.)

2. Landscape Context (20%)

Assesses the extent to which the proposal meets the core program requirement to consider the location of a potential project relative to statewide focus areas for land conservation or habitat preservation identified by a state agency, or other regional or municipal plans. Considerations include:

- Presence within or adjacent to habitat areas of statewide conservation significance (Beginning with Habitat Focus Area) or other natural resource priority areas.
- Presence within or adjacent to public or private conservation lands to maintain and preserve habitat connectivity.
- Presence of natural resources of significant value and/or rarity within the project site boundaries.

3. Project Readiness/Feasibility (20%)

Assesses the extent to which the proposal meets the core program requirement to demonstrate project readiness and likelihood of success, where success is defined by the ability of the project to meet MNRCP goals as stated in the proposal. Considerations include:

- Documentation of landowner willingness to participate in proposed project, including conveying a conservation easement or fee title, with conservation covenants, to property (for projects not on public or private conservation lands).
- Level of project urgency (e.g., area of rapid development or on-going site degradation, other available funding with limited timing, option to purchase set to expire, etc.)
- Degree to which proposal demonstrates understanding of resource conservation issues and needs.
- Soundness of the technical approach of the conceptual plan presented in the application.
- Initial progress (e.g., planning, fundraising, contracting, site design, etc.).
- Likelihood that the project will meet proposed schedule and/or required deadlines.
- Likelihood that the proposed actions will achieve the anticipated ecological benefits and results.
- Completeness and feasibility of long-term stewardship and monitoring plan, including endowment.
- Potential for adverse impacts (such as flooding or habitat loss) associated with the project.
- Conformance with any applicable Army Corps of Engineers and state mitigation policy, guidance and permitting requirements, including appropriate financial assurances for any construction activity.

4. Project Sponsor Capacity (15%)

Assesses the extent to which the proposal meets the core program requirement to provide for long term management and/or stewardship by a responsible state or federal resource agency, or conservation organization. Considerations include:

- Presence of qualified, capable conservation entity willing to sponsor and/or maintain the project.
- Level of support and involvement of other relevant agencies, organizations, and local community.
- Degree to which project sponsor, and any associated partners, demonstrate the financial, administrative, and technical capacity to undertake and successfully complete the project.
- Adequacy of long-term stewardship to ensure the project is sustainable over time and funding mechanism for the associated costs (e.g., endowment or trust).
- Legal and financial standing of the project sponsor.
- Quality and completeness of proposal materials.

5. Cost Effectiveness (10%)

Assesses the extent to which the proposal meets the program requirement that a project represent an efficient use of funds expended given the condition, location and relative appraised values of properties. Considerations include:

- Clarity and detail of budget submitted.
- Sufficiency of funds available in the applicable biophysical region.
- Availability and source of matching funds necessary to complete the project.

6. Other Benefits (5%)

Assesses the potential for this project to support economic activity, job creation, recreational access, scenic enhancements or other contributions to “Quality of Place” in the town or region where the project is located.