

# Maine State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2009-2014

DRAFT FOR REVIEW  
October, 2009

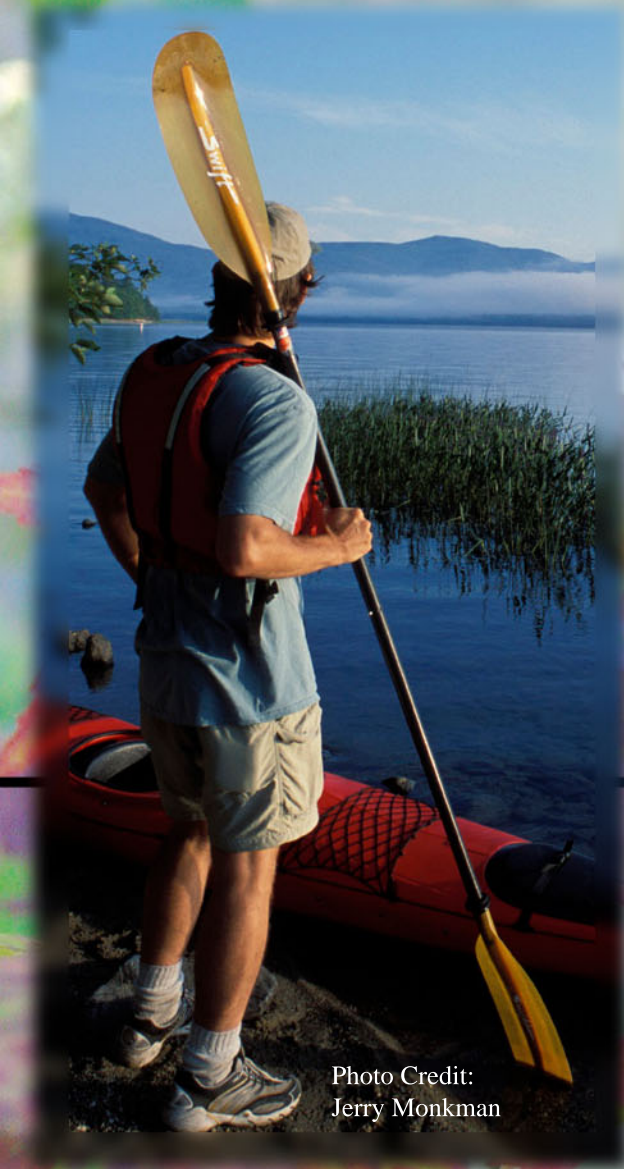


Photo Credit:  
Jerry Monkman

Produced by the Maine  
Department of Conservation,  
Bureau of Parks and Lands



# **Maine State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2009-2014**

## **Draft for Review October, 2009**

Maine Department of Conservation  
Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL)

### **Steering Committee**

Will Harris (Chairperson) -Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands  
John J. Daigle -UMaine Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Program  
Elizabeth Hertz -Maine State Planning Office  
Cindy Hazelton -Maine Recreation and Park Association  
Regis Tremblay -Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
Dan Stewart -Maine Department of Transportation  
George Lapointe -Maine Department of Marine Resources  
Phil Savignano -Maine Office of Tourism  
Mick Rogers - Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands

### *Terms Expired:*

*Scott DeVecchio -Maine State Planning Office*  
*Doug Beck -Maine Recreation and Parks Association*

### **Planning Team**

Alan Stearns, Deputy Director, BPL  
Katherine Eickenberg, Chief Planner, BPL  
Mick Rogers, Community Grants & Recreation Manager, BPL  
Rex Turner, Outdoor Recreation Planner, BPL

The preparation of this report was financed in part through a planning grant from the US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, under the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965.

## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Executive Summary</b>	Ex. Summary-1
<b>Forward</b>	i
<b>Introduction</b>	
Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF) & Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)	ii
State Requirements	iii
Planning Process	iii
SCORP’s Relationship with Recreation and Conservation Funds Other Than LWCF.	iv
<b>Chapter I: Developments and Accomplishments</b>	
Introduction	I-1
“Funding for Acquisition”	I-1
“The ATV Issue”	I-1
“Maintenance of Facilities”	I-2
“Statewide Planning”	I-4
“Wilderness Recreation Opportunities”	I-5
“Community Recreation and Smart Growth”	I-6
“Other Notable Developments”	I-8
<b>Chapter II: Major Trends and Issues Affecting Outdoor Recreation in Maine</b>	
A. Trend: Evolving Demographic Patterns	II-1
B. Issue: Development Patterns and Sprawl	II-6
C. Issue: Quality of Place and Recreation	II-12
D. Issue: Youth and the Outdoors	II-12
E. Senior Recreation	II-14
F. Issue: Changes in Maine’s Large-scale Forest Landscapes	II-15
G. Summary	II-17
References	II-18
<b>Chapter III: Outdoor Recreation Demand in Maine</b>	
Introduction	III-1
A. National Patterns of Outdoor Recreation Participation	III-2
B. New England Trends	III-3
C. Maine’s Non-resident Recreating Public	III-3
D. Maine Outdoor Recreation Participation	III-7
E. Recreation Trends- Visitation, Registration, and License Data	III-11
References	III-22
<b>Chapter IV: Outdoor Recreation Supply in Maine</b>	
A. Public Recreation & Conservation Lands	IV-1

B. Private Lands	IV-5
C. Maine's Range of Outdoor Recreation Opportunities and Settings	IV-8
Developed Settings	IV-8
Suburban-Rural Fringe	IV-11
Large-Scale Forest Lands	IV-14
Backcountry Recreation	IV-20
D. Summary	IV-21
References	IV-21

### **Chapter V: Implementation Strategy**

Priorities	V-1
Associated Focus Group Comments	V-8
References	V-12

### **Chapter VI: Wetland Component**

Introduction	VI-1
Wetland Conservation Planning	VI-2
Beginning with Habitat	VI-4
Recreation Considerations	VI-6
Recommendations	VI-7
References	VI-9

### **Appendices**

Appendix I: Plan Process, Including Public Input Opportunities	A-1
Appendix II: Focus Group Outcomes	A-3
Appendix III: Comments	A-23
Appendix IV. <i>Maine and the Maine Market Region Report</i> Executive Summary	A-32

***2009-2014 Maine State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan***  
**Lists of Figures, Tables, and Boxes**

**List of Figures**

<b>Chapter II</b>	<b>Major Trends and Issues Affecting Outdoor Recreation in Maine</b>	
Figure 1:	Maine Population (actual and projected)	Page II-1
Figure 2:	Maine Population Trends for Youth & Senior Populations	Page II-2
Figure 3:	Maine Residents with Select Disability Types	Page II-5
Figure 4:	2005 Maine County Populations	Page II-6
Figure 5:	Population Trends & Predictions	Page II-8,9
Figure 6:	Loss of Rural Acreage 1980-2000	Page II-10
<b>Chapter III</b>	<b>Outdoor Recreation Demand in Maine</b>	
Figure 1:	Percent of Leisure Travelers Visiting Specific Maine Regions (2008)	Page III-4
Figure 2:	“Kayaking” & “View/Photograph Birds” Activity Participation Rates And Maine Population Percents across 6 Age Groups	Page III-9
Figure 3:	Maine outdoor recreation participation organized by activity clusters and age groupings.	Page III-9
Figure 4:	Visitation to US National Parks, (in Thousands) 1993-2008	Page III-11
Figure 5:	Camping Figures (in Thousands) for US National Park Service 1993-2008	Page III-11
Figure 6:	Recreation Visits to Acadia National Park, 1993-2008	Page III-12
Figure 7:	Overnight Stays at Acadia National Park, 1993-2008	Page III-12
Figure 8:	Camper Nights and Visitor Days at Maine State Parks 1993-2008	Page III-13
Figure 9:	Camping Days and Total Visitor Days at the Allagash	Page III-13
Figure 10:	Camping Day at the Penobscot River Corridor, 1997-2008	Page III-14
Figure 11:	Visitation Trends at Baxter State Park and the North Maine Woods. Wilderness Waterway, 1993-2008	Page III-14
Figure 12:	Recreation Visitors to BPL Islands on Maine Island Trail, 2002-2008	Page III-14
Figure 13:	Commercial Whitewater Rafting Participants on Maine’s Three Primary Rafting Rivers, 1992-2008	Page III-15
Figure 14:	Total Hunting Licenses sold by Year (Resident & Non-Resident, includes all license types purchased)	Page III-16
Figure 15:	Total Fishing Licenses sold by Year (Resident & Non-Resident, includes All license types purchased)	Page III-16
Figure 16:	Maine ATV Registrations 1992/’93 – 2007/’08	Page III-19
Figure 17:	Maine Snowmobile Registrations 1992/’93 – 2007/’08	Page III-19
Figure 18:	Maine Motorboat Registrations 1993-2008	Page III-19
<b>Chapter IV</b>	<b>Outdoor Recreation Supply in Maine</b>	
Figure 1:	Combined State & Federal Conservation/Recreation Lands as of 2008 as well as Conservation Easements held by Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands	Page IV-3
Figure 2:	Supply of Motorized Trails Funded by Type 1995-2009	Page IV-16
Figure 3:	Growth of Conservation Lands, both fee and easement in Maine	Page IV-19
<b>Chapter VI</b>	<b>Wetland Component</b>	
Figure 1:	Beginning with Habitat Focus Areas with Rare or Exemplary Wetland Types	Page VI-5

**Appendices**

Figure 1:	Motorized Trails Working Group – Activity Spectrum	Page A-20
Figure 2:	Non-motorized Trails Working Group – Activity Spectrum	Page A-21
Figure 3:	Water Trails Working Group – Activity Spectrum	Page A-22

**List of Tables****Introduction**

Table 1	LWCF Funds by County	Page iv
Table 2	Select Programs/Funds Associated with Outdoor Recreation in Maine	Page vii

**Chapter II****Major Trends and Issues Affecting Outdoor Recreation in Maine**

Table 1:	Educational Attainment by County	Page II-3
Table 2:	Participation Distribution by Education for Snow/Ice-Based Activities	Page II-4
Table 3:	Participation Distribution by Income for Snow/Ice Based Activities	Page II-4
Table 4:	Estimates of Resident Population for Maine Counties 2000-2008, including Annual Change in Residents	Page II-7
Table 5:	National Figures on Children & Electronic Media	Page II-12
Table 6:	Maine High School Students-Attributes	Page II-13

**Chapter III****Outdoor Recreation Demand in Maine**

Table 1:	Most Popular and Fastest Growing Outdoor Recreation Activities in the U.S.	Page III-1
Table 2:	Fastest Growing Outdoor Recreation Activities in N.E. (1995-2009)	Page III-2
Table 3:	Outdoor Recreation Activities in N.E. with the Most Participants Added or lost	Page III-3
Table 4:	Residency of Maine Visitors (includes in-state Trips)	Page III-4
Table 5:	Non-resident Percent Use/Visitation for Select Maine Outdoor Recreation Resources	Page III-5
Table 6:	Outdoor/Nature-based Tourism Requests (2008)	Page III-5
Table 7:	Outdoor Recreation Activities with Over 50% Participation by Maine Residents	Page III-8
Table 8:	National Survey on Recreation and the Environment Activities Organized by Cluster	Page III-10
Table 9:	Selected Maine Attributes from the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (USFWS)	Page III-16
Table 10:	ATV, Snowmobile and Boat Registration Figures 1993-2008	Page III-17

**Chapter IV****Outdoor Recreation Supply in Maine**

Table 1:	State Conservation and Recreation Lands in Maine 2008 (Acres)	Page IV-2
Table 2:	State Conservation Lands by County	Page IV-2
Table 3:	Maine State Parks (SP), Public Lands, and State Historic Sites within 25 and 50 miles of Maine's 10 most populated cities (some adjacent/nearby cities clustered).	Page IV-4
Table 4:	Private Conservation Organization and Land Trust Lands in Maine 2008	Page IV-5
Table 5:	Number of local land trusts working in Maine by county cluster.	Page IV-5

Table 6:	Ski Facilities in Maine (2008)	Page IV-9
Table 7:	Healthy Maine Walks Listed by County (2009)	Page IV-10
Table 8:	Private Campgrounds in Maine by Region	Page IV-11
Table 9, 10:	Hiking/Backpacking Trails on ME BP&L Lands (2006)	Page IV-15
Table 11:	Motorized Trails Funded by County (2008)	Page IV-16
Table 12:	Maine Public Boat Launch Sites	Page IV-16
<b>Chapter VI</b>	<b>Wetland Component</b>	
Table 1:	Maine Natural Areas Program Rare and Exemplary Wetland Natural Community Types in Maine	Page VI-9,
Table 2:	Wetland Acquisition Funding Programs in Maine	Page VI-9
Table 3:	Beginning with Habitat Focus Areas of Statewide Ecological Significance	Page VI-13
<b><u>Boxes/ Exhibits</u></b>		
<b>Chapter II</b>	<b>Major Trends and Issues Affecting Outdoor Recreation in Maine</b>	
<b>Box II-A</b>	Second Look at Racial/Ethnic Diversity	
<b>Box II-B</b>	Programs of Note-LMF and Beginning with Habitat	Page II-11
<b>Box II-C</b>	What do young people do and what gets them into the outdoors	Page II-13
<b>Box II-D</b>	Participation in Outdoor Recreation by Older Maine Residents	Page II-14
<b>Box II-E</b>	The “Birding Bus”	Page II-15
<b>Box II-F</b>	Changing Forest Ownership in the Mahoosuc Region	Page II-16
<b>Ex. II-A:</b>	Participation Distribution by Age for Outdoor Rec. Activities	Page II-20
	Participation Distribution by Viewing/Learning Activities	Page II-20
	Participation Distribution by Age in Water-Based Activities	Page II-21
	Participation Distribution by Age for Outdoor Sports	Page II-21
	Participation Distribution by Age for Nature-Based Land Activities	Page II-22
	Participation Distribution by Age for Snow/Ice-Based Activities	Page II-22
<b>Chapter III</b>	<b>Outdoor Recreation Demand in Maine</b>	
<b>Box III-A</b>	In Focus-Snowmobilers	Page III-18
<b>Box III-B</b>	State and National Perspectives on Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation	Page III-20
<b>Box III-C</b>	The Case for Trails	Page III-21
<b>Box III-D</b>	In Focus: Mountain Bikers	Page III-21
<b>Ex. III-A</b>	Maine and New England Outdoor Recreation Participation Figures Ordered by Participation Rates for Activity Types	Page III-23 - 28
<b>Chapter IV</b>	<b>Outdoor Recreation Supply in Maine</b>	
<b>Box IV-A</b>	Regional Looks at threatened supply of Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Lands	Page IV-6
<b>Box IV-B</b>	Conservation Areas in the Suburban-Rural Fringe – Three Examples	Page IV-13
<b>Box IV-C</b>	Downeast Sunrise Trail	Page IV-17
<b>Box IV-D</b>	North Maine Woods	Page IV-18
<b>Ex. IV-A</b>	Backcountry Opportunities Overview	Page IV-22