

Section II

Conservation & Recreation Land

Overview

The Land for Maine's Future Board has established a process for the public to nominate lands for acquisition in a broad category called **Conservation and Recreation Lands**. Most proposals will fall under this category. If your project is a small parcel of land specifically for boating and fishing water access, please first review Section III. If it is related to farmland protection, please first review Section IV. If you are interested in proposing a working waterfront project contact Deirdre Gilbert, Department of Marine Resources, (207) 624-6576, deidre.gilbert@maine.gov.

Proposal Process

This section provides you with all the information you need to apply for funds in the Conservation and Recreation Lands category. If you have any questions about your proposal or the Land for Maine's Future process, please call (207) 287-7576 and speak with a member of our staff.

Proposal Inquiry Form

The form (found in Appendix A) may be submitted at any time. It provides the Land for Maine's Future Program staff with information they need to determine if a project meets established threshold criteria.

Proposal Requirements and Review Process for Conservation and Recreation Lands

Proposal Period - Proposals must be received by the closing date of a proposal period. Proposals must be complete with responses to all the numbered subject headings found in the Format and Instruction Section. Incomplete proposals will be returned for additional information and may not be considered further at the Board's discretion. Contact the Program Director for the dates and other information on the next Proposal Period.

There is a separate expedited process for proposals for water access projects eligible for the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund. They may be submitted at any time. See Section III for information on the process for this category.

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For a proposal to be complete, it must have a State Agency sponsor. You must contact the appropriate sponsoring agency to discuss your proposal and obtain their sponsorship prior to submitting the proposal (see page 17 for agency contact information).

Proposals must be received by LMF no later than March 28, 2014.

State, Regional or Local Significance - Projects may be of state, regional, or local significance. Applicants must indicate which of these categories the proposal fits based on the definitions found on pages 25-26.

Ownership of State Significant Projects – The interest in real estate for “State Significant” projects is to be held by the State.

Scoring & Nomination Procedure - Once the proposal is reviewed by LMF Program staff and judged to be complete, it will be scored using the scoring system summarized on the next page. All proposals will be reviewed and scored by the Board's Scoring Committee. The full list of scored proposals will then be given to the Board's Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee flags any issues or attributes and proposes a list of finalists and fund allocations, to the full Board for consideration. The Board will review the proposals, select the finalists, and allocate funding. The scores serve as a guide for the Board.

If the proposal envisions that the land or easement will be held by an organization other than the State, the Nominations Committee and the Board will also consider the capacity of the organization to bring the project to a successful conclusion including, without limitation, fund raising capacity, project management experience, land stewardship experience, and general organizational capacity.

All applicants will be contacted and notified of the status of their proposal after final Board decisions.

Scoring System for Evaluating Conservation and Recreation Land Proposals

This scoring system has been devised as a guide to enable the Land for Maine's Future Board to sort through a diversity of proposals of state, regional, and local significance and identify those that are most aligned with the state's land conservation and acquisition priorities. It is designed to highlight proposals that bring high public value projects to the Board. In addition to a numerical score, the Board established minimum thresholds and other criteria that are also used in evaluating proposals. These can be found beginning on pages 8-16.

The scoring system assigns points according to the relative value of eight criteria associated with an acquisition proposal. These are:

	Maximum Points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Naturalness of the Land	12 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility of the land	8 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proximity to Other State Lands or Component of a Larger Conservation/Recreation Effort	16 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major Land Type	
- Significance	30 points
- Need / LAPAC Multiplier	40 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single Exceptional Value	50 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Land Types	50 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic Benefit	10 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deer Wintering Area(s)	<u>23 points</u>
Total Possible Points:	239 points

The scoring system uses those factors stressed by the Legislature in various Acts, including "An Act to Establish the Land for Maine's Future Fund", deer wintering area protections in Ch. 696 Public Laws of 2011, the findings of the Land Acquisition Priorities Advisory Committee's Final report (Nov. 1997), and public input received by the Board.

Please note that Farmlands and many Water Access Lands are their own categories, and proposals that are specifically for water access or farm preservation should review sections III and IV.

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The Scoring System

	<u>Points</u>
1. <u>Naturalness of the Land (Maximum Points = 12)</u>	
The land has little or no discernible human impact	12
The land has some site disturbance but the disturbance does not negatively impede/affect the intended uses of the property	8
In the case of rail-to-trails projects, the site is significantly disturbed but the disturbance does not negatively impede/affect the intended uses of the property	8
The land has been significantly disturbed by human activity and restoration (or time) will be required to return the site to a more natural condition	4
The property has extensive site disturbance or improvements which will severely impede the use of the property for its intended purposes, or the site does not have a high probability of being successfully restored	0
	SCORE _____
2. <u>Accessibility of the Land (Maximum Points = 8)</u>	
Access roads to the property can accommodate, without substantial improvement, the traffic that will be associated with the intended use of the property	8
or	
Access is by water to an island and there is adequate water depth to land or moor recreational boats	8
or	
The parcel is inaccessible by vehicles; however, because of the intended use of the property this is not a limitation or in fact may be an advantage in protecting the resource values of the property	8
or	

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Access to the parcel will require modest improvements to existing roads which will be a minor cost factor in developing the property for its intended use 6

or

Access to the parcel will require substantial improvements to existing roads which will be a major cost factor in developing the property for its intended use 0

SCORE _____

3. **Proximity to Other Public Lands or Component of a Larger Conservation/Recreation Effort (Maximum Points = 16)**

The project will enhance the connectivity of existing conservation efforts, will address regional conservation needs and has one or more of the following attributes:

- Is linked to a regional conservation effort to protect open space, recreational opportunities or other natural resource values such as a greenbelt, trail network or river corridor.
- Connects existing conservation lands (state, federal, town, land trust, etc.).
- Is immediately adjacent to existing State holdings or is an inholding.
- Is part of a locally adopted comprehensive plan and implementation strategies for the protection of open space, recreation, wildlife habitat and/or rural areas that are consistent with the State’s Growth Management Act.
- Serves as a stopping off point on a recognized route such as an “island trail” or “birding trail” that includes other publicly or privately conserved lands.

These attributes generate significant benefits that accrue statewide..... 12 - 16

These attributes generate modest benefits that accrue to the multi-town region surrounding the host community..... 6 - 11

These attributes generate benefits that accrue principally within the host community 0 - 5

SCORE _____

4. **Major Land Category - Significance and Need Rating (Maximum Points = 70)**

This category includes the Significance Rating (30 points) and the Need Rating with LAPAC Multiplier (40 points). The Need Rating points are determined then used with the LAPAC

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Multiplier to determine a combined Need/LAPAC score. The Significance Rating and Need/LAPAC score are added together for up to 70 total points.

The proposal must identify the appropriate major land type from the following categories: 1) Recreational lands, 2) Water Access Lands, 3) Lands Supporting Vital Ecological or Conservation Functions and Values⁴, 4) Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Natural Communities, Plants or Wildlife Habitat, 5) Areas of Scenic Interest and Prime Physical Features⁵, 6) Farmland and Open Space.

The scoring will take into account two factors: the relative significance, in terms of demand from a statewide, regional, or local perspective for the value of the resource or recreational activity; and the relative need, based on a deficiency determination (i.e., the excess of demand over supply for the resource or recreational activity in that area).

Note: while lands of state significance score higher than lands of regional and local significance and lands of regional significance score higher than those of local significance, proposals will be judged only against other proposals of like significance.

Significance Rating (Maximum Points = 30)

State Significance

The land contains a resource or provides a recreational opportunity that is substantiated as being significant from a state or greater than state perspective.

Significant from a statewide perspective means that the resource is rare and/or exceptional in Maine based on published report(s), database(s), or credible testimony or the recreational activity associated with the parcel will frequently and routinely attract users to travel to the land from across the state or even from out-of-state to the parcel. Real estate interest in state significant land is to be held by the state.

22 - 30

⁴ Among other conservation values, the Board may consider whether the proposed project provides public water supply protection when that purpose is consistent and does not conflict with the natural resource conservation and recreation purposes of this chapter. In practice this means that the protected land must be available for public recreational use.

⁵ In 2007, the Legislature authorized the Board to consider protection of "significant, undeveloped archeological sites". Applicants claiming value under this category must have a written endorsement from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission that describes the significance of the archeological resources on the site. A proposal for which the "Major Land Category" is based primarily on archeological values must be sponsored by the Commission.

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Regional Significance

The land contains a resource or provides a recreational opportunity that is substantiated as being significant from a regional (sub-state) perspective.

Significant from a regional perspective means that the resource is rare and/or exceptional in a region based on published report(s), database(s), or credible testimony, or the recreational opportunity associated with the parcel will frequently and routinely attract users to travel to the land from a regional area (that is, from an area that is greater than the area than the town where the property is located).

12 - 20

Local Significance

The land contains a resource or provides a recreational opportunity that is substantiated as being significant from a local perspective.

Significant from a local perspective means that the resource is rare and/or exceptional in a town or group of towns based on published report(s), database(s), or credible testimony, or the recreational opportunity associated with the parcel will attract users to travel to the land primarily from a local area (that is, from an area that is primarily encompassed by the towns abutting the town(s) where the land is).

0 - 10

SCORE _____

Need Rating

The need to protect the major land category addressed in the proposal and substantiated by a published report(s) data base(s), or credible testimony as being of:

Great Importance due to the relative rarity of the resource, the threat to the resource, or the deficiency of the recreational opportunity offered by the land when considered from a state or greater than state perspective

14 - 20

Moderate Importance due to the relative rarity of the resource, the threat to the resource, or the deficiency of the recreational opportunity offered by the land when considered from a or regional (sub-state) perspective

8 - 12

Minor Importance is when a need cannot be adequately

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substantiated as being of state or regional significance it will be assumed that the need is of minor importance due to the fact that the resource or recreational opportunity offered by the land can only be considered rare, threatened, or deficient from a local perspective

0 - 6

LAPAC Multiplier (Maximum Points = 40)

If the proposal contains one or more of the following “focus” or “other important” areas (as identified in the Land Acquisition Priorities Advisory Committee final report), multiply the total Major Land Category Need Rating by that multiplier. If the project addresses more than one focus area, choose the highest value multiplier. Definitions of the following “focus” areas and “other important land acquisition priorities” are found in Appendix E.

MULTIPLIER

Southern Maine Conservation Lands.....	2
Ecological Reserve.....	2
River System.....	2
Undeveloped Coastline.....	2
Northern Forest Conservation Land.....	1.5
Trail System.....	1.5
Island.....	1.5
Significant Mountain.....	1.5

NEED RATING SCORE _____ X LAPAC multiplier ____ = _____

5. Single Exceptional Statewide Value Scoring Procedure

If the land proposed for acquisition is documented to demonstrate a single exceptional value that is exceptionally rare and of outstanding significance in a statewide context then it shall be evaluated to determine if it will be awarded 50 points. An award of points in this category will be infrequent. This is an “all or nothing” point score.

The land is documented to demonstrate a single exceptional value recognized as being the best or among the best in the state of its type, and this value is supported by a comprehensive published report(s), data base(s), and credible testimony

50

SCORE _____

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6. Multiple Land Categories (Maximum Points = 50)

Some proposals will represent more than one land category and those proposals bring a wider range of resource values and hence a wider range of value to the public. As a result, up to 50 additional points can be awarded up to 10 points each for each of the 5 land categories other than the Major Land Category under which the proposal is being submitted. 1) Recreational lands, 2) Water Access Lands, 3) Lands Supporting Vital Ecological or Conservation Functions and Values⁶, 4) Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Natural Communities, Plants or Wildlife Habitat, 5) Areas of Scenic Interest and Prime Physical Features⁷, 6) Farmland and Open Space. *Scoring will consider the significance of each land category independent of the overall project designation as a state, regional or local project.* Up to 10 points for each land category may be awarded based on the following:

The scores will be awarded on the following criteria:

The land contains a resource or provides a recreational opportunity that is substantiated as being significant from a state or greater than state perspective; or the relative rarity of the resource, or the deficiency of the recreational opportunity of the type offered by the land, is of great importance when considered from a state or greater than state perspective 8 - 10

The land contains a resource or provides a recreational opportunity that is substantiated as being significant from a regional perspective; or the relative rarity of the resource, or the deficiency of the recreational opportunity of the type offered by the land, is of moderate importance when considered from a statewide or regional) perspective..... 4 - 7

The land contains a resource or provides a recreational opportunity that can only be substantiated as being significant from a local perspective; or the resource , or recreational opportunity of the type offered by the land, because the resource is not considered rare or the recreational opportunity is not considered deficient, except from a local perspective 0 - 3

SCORE _____

⁶ Among other conservation values, the Board may consider whether the proposed project provides public water supply protection when that purpose is consistent and does not conflict with the natural resource conservation and recreation purposes of this chapter. In practice this means that the protected land must be available for public recreational use

⁷ In 2007, the Legislature authorized the Board to consider protection of “significant, undeveloped archeological sites”. Applicants claiming value under this category must have a written endorsement from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission that describes the significance of the archeological resources on the site.

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7. Economic Benefit (Maximum Points = 10)

Board encourages applicants to explicitly describe potential economic benefits of conservation projects to the communities where the proposed projects are located. The board seeks to cultivate and support closer working relationships between land conservation efforts, businesses, and the community.

Substantial economic benefit:

Points:

The project will have a **substantial** economic benefit that will affect a **large number** of individuals and support economic activity throughout the area. The proposal has documented that the project has or should preserve or increase sales and other economic activity to local businesses in **all four seasons**.

The project is part of a larger community planning effort such as a downtown redevelopment or mixed-use plan, open space or recreation plan, or comprehensive land use or economic development plan for the region. The proposal describe how the project supports those plans, provide contact information for a community representative who can provide additional information and a letter(s) of endorsement is included from those responsible for implementation of the plan that discusses how the proposal contributes to the plan's success.

The proposal describes how the project creates or enhances economic activities and how the land will be promoted to tourists and recreationalists.

Include letters of support from recreational organizations, businesses, chambers of commerce or other business organizations, trade and civic organizations, or local and regional governments that describe how the proposal supports the economy.

Proposal includes a list of businesses that will benefit.

7 - 10

Moderate economic benefit:

The project will have a **moderate** economic benefit that will affect a **moderate number** of individuals and support economic activity within the immediately adjacent communities. The proposal has provided and documented that the project has or should preserve or increase sales and other economic activity to local businesses in **all four seasons**.

The project is part of a larger community planning effort such as a downtown redevelopment or mixed-use plan, open space or recreation plan, or

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comprehensive land use or economic development plan for the region. The proposal describe how the project supports those plans, provide contact information for a community representative who can provide additional information and a letter(s) of endorsement is included from those responsible for implementation of the plan that discusses how the proposal contributes to the plan's success.

The proposal describes how the project creates or enhances economic activities and how the land will be promoted to tourists and recreationalists.

Include letters of support from recreational organizations, businesses, chambers of commerce or other business organizations, trade and civic organizations, or local and regional governments that describe how the proposal supports the economy.

Proposal includes a list of businesses that will benefit. 4 - 6

Minor economic benefit:

The project will have a **minor** economic benefit that will affect a **small number** of individuals. The proposal has provided and documented that the project has or should preserve or increase sales and other economic activity to local businesses **in at least three seasons**.

Include letters of support from recreational organizations, businesses, chambers of commerce or other business organizations, trade and civic organizations, or local and regional governments that describe how the proposal supports the economy.

Proposal includes a list of businesses that will benefit 1 - 3

None or very minimal economic benefits 0

SCORE _____

8. Deer Wintering Area (Maximum Points = 23) New Criteria and Points

The Board encourages applicants to explicitly consider deer wintering areas. Additional points may be awarded to projects that include conservation of deer wintering areas, with preference given to those areas identified as priority deer wintering areas.

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This criteria has been added to specifically address the November 2012 bond referendum and the statutory requirements of P.L. 2011, Chapter 696. See Appendix K.

a. Landowner Commitment: These commitments are required prior to LMF scoring to be eligible for DWA points. If “no” then points cannot be awarded for the DWA category.

- 1) For fee acquisition projects, is there a letter of commitment from the conservation buyer to enter into a binding agreement which requires MDIFW approval of forest management plans covering the biological extent of the DWA?
- 2) For easement projects, is there a letter of commitment from the landowner(s) stating they will use LMF Working Forest and DWA management easement language, and agree to MDIFW approval of forest management plans covering the biological extent of the DWA?
- 3) For fee and easement projects where a portion of the DWA occurs on adjacent conservation lands (defined as held by a qualified holder under the conservation easement statute MRSA 33 Ch. 7, §476 et. Seq., or encumbered with an LMF Project Agreement or similar restriction), has the adjacent conservation owner provided a letter of commitment for MDIFW approval of forest management plans covering the biological extent of the DWA?

Yes/No

b. Priority Deer Wintering Area determination. (to be considered a priority either 1 or 2 must to be selected in both sections)

- 1) The DWA is \geq 500 acres;
- 2) The DWA and adjacent conservation land is \geq 500 acres; OR
- 3) The DWA is $<$ 500 acres. DWAs $<$ 500 acres are eligible only if determined as regionally significant by MDIFW.

AND

- 1) The property has been historically used by deer (for wintering) since 1950; OR
- 2) The property is capable of providing (winter) shelter to deer by June, 2031 (in 20 years)

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c. Geographic location: Maximum Points Available = 4

Occurs in a Wildlife Management District (WMD) where deer populations are below the population objective and the currently available DWA goal. WMDs: 1 – 14, 18, 19, 27, 28.

See map of WMDs in Appendix L.

_____ 4 points

d. Management and Uses Planned for the property: Maximum Points Available = 6

Management & Uses:

1) DWA management will be the primary objective within the DWA

_____ 4 points

2) DWA management within the DWA will be one of multiple management objectives

_____ 2 points

3) Other uses will be the primary management objective within the DWA or uses deemed incompatible will be allowed in or adjacent to the DWA (see MDIFW DWA management guidelines for examples) Project may not be eligible for any DWA points if incompatible uses are determined to be detrimental

_____ 0 points

Management Capacity:

1) Fee or easement to an agency/organization with demonstrated capacity of managing DWAs

_____ 2 points

2) Fee or easement to an agency/organization with no demonstrated capacity of managing DWAs

_____ 0 points

e. Landscape Context: Maximum Points Available = 3

1) Travel corridor(s) (streams, wetlands, valleys, ridges) are protected as part of the project or on adjacent conservation lands

_____ 2 points

2) Surrounding land uses partially limit movement

_____ 1 point

3) Surrounding land uses are incompatible

_____ 0 points

_____ And _____
4) > 75% of the biological deer wintering area will be protected

_____ 1 point

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f. DWA significance: Maximum points Available = 7

- 1) **% Stand Composition.** Indicate the predominant cover type in the DWA.
Points are only awarded to most predominant stand type.

Example: 60 % (.60) x 4 = 2.4 points

- i. S3A, S3B, S2A, S2B (primary cover) _____% of area x 4 = _____points
- ii. SH3A, SH3B, SH2A, SH2B (secondary cover) _____% of area x 3 = _____points
- iii. Future shelter stands within 20 years _____% of area x 2 = _____points
- iv. HS3A, HS3B, HS2A, HS2B _____% of area x 1 = _____points

2) Vulnerability

LUPC Jurisdiction Only

- i. Parcel is dominated by softwood composed stands, but has no zoning and no cooperative management agreement. _____3 points
- ii. Parcel has no zoning, but is under a cooperative management agreement with MDIFW of short or questionable duration. (new plan, incomplete history of plan duration, or < 10 years) _____2 points
- iii. Parcel is under P-FW zoning with a cooperative management agreement with MDIFW of long duration. (10 years or greater) _____ 1 point

Organized Towns Only

- i. Parcel is dominated by softwood comprised stands and no cooperative management agreement exists. _____3 points
- ii. Parcel is under a cooperative management agreement with MDIFW of short or undetermined duration (new plan, incomplete history of plan duration, or < 10 years) _____ 2 points
- iii. Parcel is under a cooperative management agreement with MDIFW of a long duration (10 years or greater) _____1 point

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g. MDIFW Input: Maximum Points Available = 3
[to be provided by MDIFW]

1) Intensity of Recent Deer Use-from ground and/or aerial survey

- i. Presence of tracks, trails, browsing etc. consistent with moderate-high level of utilization. _____3 points
- ii. Presence of tracks, trails, browsing etc. consistent with low-moderate level of utilization. _____2 points
- iii. Documented historic use only _____1 point

2) Regional Biologist Description

Describe in detail whether the parcel currently functions as a Deer Wintering Area. If not currently functioning, describe whether it will be able to provide shelter in the next 20 years (June 2031). Include a description of the proposed management and uses of the property and whether they are consistent with management for Deer Wintering Areas. Please also describe if there are site limitations (regulated or physical) that would prevent the DWA from being managed for deer.

TOTAL DWA SCORE _____

Proposal Format and Instructions for Conservation and Recreational Land Proposals

All applicants are required to provide maps (Delorme or USGS), visual aids (e.g. photos) and as much supporting information as necessary for the Board to better understand the project and the values it addresses. Digital copies of any maps and photos are required. Carefully read this section to learn what the Board wishes to see in a well-developed proposal. Program staff can make available examples of successful proposals that may provide useful models.

All applicants are required to use the following proposal structure and numbering sequence and to provide complete information. If not applicable, indicate so by placing a N/A.

Submit an electronic PDF and eleven printed copies of your proposal to:

Land for Maine's Future
22 SHS / 18 Elkins Ln. / Harlow Building
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

If your proposal includes a deer wintering area and you want to qualify for the extra deer wintering area points, please submit thirteen copies of the proposal.

- 1) **Proposal Summary page**
 - a) **Project Title:** This is the title by which your proposal will be catalogued by Program staff.
 - b) **Significance:** Indicate whether your project is of statewide, regional, or local significance (see description on pages 25-26 for guidance)
 - c) **Applicant Name & Contact Information:** Provide the applicant's name, address, email, and phone number of the primary contact person.
 - d) **Location of Project:** Provide the name of the township and county. Include the district number of the senate and house districts where the property is located. Include a copy of the recorded deed, including book and page reference of subject property.
 - e) **Status of Title:** Clear title is required prior to closing. Provide a brief status of title and documentation if available.

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- f) Size:** Indicate how many acres your project encompasses and identify fee acres vs. easement acres.
- g) Funding request:** Indicate the amount of your request for LMF funding (full budget in “k” below)
- h) Agency Sponsor & Proposed Ownership:** Possible agency sponsors are the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, the Department of Marine Resources, or the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. Please be sure that you have contacted the agency and it supports your proposal (see page 17). A letter of agreement from the sponsoring agency must be included in the proposal. The letter must state that the sponsoring agency is prepared to hold the real estate interest proposed for protection either directly or via a project agreement.
- i) Current landowner(s):** Include address, phone number, and e-mail (if available) of the current landowner(s). A letter from the landowner(s) indicating their willingness to be considered in the project must be included in the proposal.
- j) Partners:** Other entities supporting this project. Include names of individuals, address, phone number, and e-mail address.
- k) Date of Proposal:** Indicate the date you submitted your proposal.
- l) Proposal Budget:** Use the form in Appendix G. Note: the Board will not consider a proposal with an incomplete budget.

Applicants should review the previous section on “Threshold and Other Criteria” considered by the Board. Use the project description to address any of these criteria that are not part of other sections of the proposal.

2) **Summary Project Description**

Include a brief narrative description of the project and its context. Provide the Project’s objectives and the benefits. Please discuss the conservation and/or recreational assets that the project seeks to protect and other potential benefits. Subsequent sections of the proposal provide opportunity for more detailed discussion of specific aspects of the project that correspond to the scoring criteria.

The narrative should identify whether the project intends to acquire fee or easement interests in the property, identify who will hold the ownership interest, and describe why that interest is the most appropriate to conserve the public conservation values on the property.

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Photographs of the property are required. If these are incorporated in the text electronically, must be provided on a CD in JPEG or TIFF format.

If the project is proposed as a working forest easement, the project description must include a draft of the working forest easement. Refer to the Guidelines for Working Forest Conservation Easements published in July 2002 by LMF and available on the LMF website and from LMF staff (see appendix I for a discussion of these easements). The easement will be subject to a separate LMF review and vote.

3) **Location Information**

Project boundaries of all parcels included in the proposal must be delineated on:

Maine Atlas Base Map - showing project location and regional perspective

USGS Topographic Base Map - showing entire boundary of proposed project, legal access and adjacency of other conservation lands.

Aerial Photo - showing project location and boundaries

Other Maps as Appropriate - showing endangered species, significant natural communities soils, outstanding physical features, proposed public access, trails, camping sites, etc., context of the project within a greenbelt plan, trail system, river corridor, comprehensive plan, etc.

Note: Please no maps larger than 11" by 17".

If possible, please include a base map in electronic format (e.g. a GIS-compatible "shape" file)

4) **Naturalness of the Land**

Please provide a complete description of the physical and natural features of the proposed property and comment on all evidence of all existing disturbance. Based upon your evidence provided please select one of the following categories that best describes the proposed property.

The land is entirely undeveloped with little or no discernible human impact.

or

The land is moderately natural, with some site disturbance but the disturbance does not negatively impede/affect the intended uses of the property.

or

In the case of a rails-to-trails project, the site is significantly disturbed but the disturbance does not negatively affect or impede the intended uses of the property.

or

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The land has been significantly disturbed by human activity and restoration (or time) will be required to return the site to a more natural condition.

or

The property has extensive site disturbance or improvements that will severely impede the use of the property for its intended purposes, or the site does not have a high probability of being successfully restored.

5) **Accessibility of the Land**

Describe the plans for public use of the property and the degree to which access to the proposed property is currently available, is suitable for the intended use, or needs to be developed to accommodate the intended use. Use the categories below and supplement them with specific descriptions.

Access roads can accommodate, without substantial improvement, the traffic that will be associated with the intended use of the property;

or

Access is by water to an island and there is adequate water depth to land or moor recreational boats;

or

The parcel is inaccessible by vehicles; however, because of the intended use of the property this is not a limitation or may be an advantage in protecting the resource values of the property;

or

Access to the parcel will require modest improvements to existing roads, which will be a minor cost factor in developing the property for its intended use;

or

Access to the parcel will require substantial improvements to existing roads, which will be a major cost factor in developing the property for its intended use.

6) **Proximity to Other Public Lands or a Component of Larger Conservation/Recreation Effort**

The narrative for this section should demonstrate how the proposal will connect the proposed project to other conservation efforts. Describe how the proposed land has one or more of the following attributes:

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- Linked to a regional conservation effort to protect open space, recreational opportunities or other natural resource values such as a greenbelt, habitat connectivity, public water supply protection, trail network or river corridor.
- Connect two or more existing public holdings or private conservation lands (state, federal, town, land trust, etc.).
- Is adjacent to existing protected lands.
- Is part of a locally adopted comprehensive plan and implementation strategies to protect open space and/or rural areas that are consistent with the State's Growth Management Act.
- Serve as a stopping off point on a recognized route such as an "island trail" or "birding trail" that includes other publicly or privately protected lands.

7) Major Land Types

State which single land type the proposed area has as its primary value (see Appendix D). Describe why.

- Recreation lands
- Water access lands (Note: See Section III. Your proposal may be appropriate for the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund if the primary feature of your proposal is to provide water access for fishing, boating or swimming.)
- Lands supporting vital ecological or conservation functions and values
- Rare, threatened or endangered natural communities, plants or wildlife habitat
- Areas of scenic interest and prime physical features
- Open space including farmland (Note: If the primary objective of your proposal is to protect farmland see, Section IV.)

8) Significance

Using the Major Land Type you chose above, identify the level of significance of this Major Land Type using the definitions provided below. Be sure that you provide information (reports, database information, credible testimony, etc.) that supports your selection. Be consistent with your Project Category identified in #1(b).

- Significant from a **statewide perspective** means that the resource is rare and/or exceptional in Maine based on published report(s), database(s), or credible testimony or the recreational activities associated with the parcel will frequently and routinely attract users to travel to the land from across the state or from out-of-state.
- Significant from a **regional perspective** means that the resource is rare and/or exceptional in a region based on published report(s), database(s), or credible testimony, or the recreational activities associated with the parcel will frequently and routinely attract users

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from a regional area (that is, from an area that is greater than the area included by the towns abutting the town(s) where the land is.

- Significant from a **local perspective** means that the resource is rare and/or exceptional in a town or group of towns based on published report(s), database(s), or credible testimony, or the recreational activities associated with the parcel will attract users to travel to the land primarily from a local area (that is, from an area that is primarily encompassed by the towns abutting the town(s) where the land is.

9) **Need**

Using the Major Land Type you chose above, identify the associated level of need for this Major Land Type using the definitions provided below. This need must be substantiated by a published report(s) data base(s), or credible testimony as being of:

Great Importance due to the relative rarity of the resource, the threat to the resource, or the deficiency of the recreational opportunity offered by the land when considered from a state or greater than state perspective

Moderate Importance due to the relative rarity of the resource, the threat to the resource, or the deficiency of the recreational opportunity offered by the land when considered from a or regional (sub-state) perspective

When a need cannot be adequately substantiated as being of state or regional significance it will be assumed that the need is of:

Minor Importance due to the fact that the resource or recreational opportunity offered by the land is only considered rare, threatened, or deficient from a local Perspective

10) **LAPAC**

Identify the LAPAC “focus areas” or “other important areas” addressed in your proposal using the descriptions found in Appendix E. Please be sure to state clearly your justification and provide documentation as appropriate.

11) **Single Exceptional Value**

If the land proposed for acquisition is documented to demonstrate a single exceptional value and is recognized as being the best or among the best in the state of its type it may be awarded 50 points. Provide citations for the comprehensive published report(s), data base(s), or credible testimony that support this conclusion.

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12) Multiple Land Type

List every land type category you feel is reflected in your proposal other than the one you selected as the “major land type” (as listed in Appendix D). Please be sure to state clearly the basis for your choice(s). There is a limit of five land categories other than the Major Land category under which the proposal has been submitted.

13) Economic Benefit

Describe the economic activities already supported by this landscape, or conducted on this landscape, and ways where the conservation initiative you are proposing would enhance these activities or would create new opportunities. In the description consider the following questions as prompts. Not all will be applicable to any single project.

How does this project provide economic opportunities? For example:

- Will it improve the economic benefits of a large, moderate, or small number of individuals? Explain how and include a list of businesses that stand to economically benefit from this project.
- In what seasons will it increase sales and other economic activity? Explain How.
- Is the project part of a route that is popular with tourists, or enhances the attractiveness of such a route?
- Include letters of support from recreational organizations, businesses, chambers of commerce or other business organizations, trade and civic organizations, or local and regional governments that discuss how the proposal supports the economy.
- How will this land be promoted to tourists and recreationists?

Is this project part of or complementary to a larger regional or community planning effort? (e.g. downtown redevelopment or mixed-use plan, open space or recreation plan, or comprehensive land use or economic development plan for the region)

- If so, please cite such plans and describe how the project supports those plans.
- Provide contact information for a community representative who can provide additional information.
- Provide a letter of endorsement from those responsible for implementation of the plan that describes how the proposal contributes to the plan's success.

14) Deer Wintering Area – New Criteria and Points

Points may be awarded to projects that include conservation of deer wintering areas.

Proposals may only receive points if the applicant intends to develop and comply with a MDIFW approved forest management plan. Proposal must be approved by the agency that will hold title to the land being conserved.

DWA related guidance and *Guidelines for Wildlife: Managing Deer Wintering Areas in Northern, Western and Eastern Maine* can be found at:

<http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/species/mammals/deer.html>.

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If abutting lands are needed to satisfy the 500 acre minimum of priority DWAs then these abutting lands will also need to comply with a MDIFW approved forest management plan. In this case, proposals must include a letter from the applicable abutting land owners.

a. Landowner Commitment: These commitments are required for projects to be eligible for LMF funding. These letters of commitment are required prior to LMF scoring.

- 1) For non-state agency fee acquisition projects, provide a letter of commitment from the conservation buyer to enter into an LMF Project Agreement which requires MDIFW approval of forest management plans covering the biological extent of the DWA.
- 2) For state agency fee acquisitions, will the state agency be managing the biological extent of the DWA using protocol provided by MDIFW?
- 3) For easement projects, provide a letter of commitment from the landowner(s) stating they will use LMF Working Forest and DWA management easement language, and agree to MDIFW approval of forest management plans covering the biological extent of the DWA.
- 4) For projects where a portion of the DWA occurs on adjacent conservation lands (defined as held by a qualified holder under the conservation easement statute MRS 33 Ch. 7, §476 et. Seq.) provide a letter of commitment from the adjacent conservation owner(s) indicating they will manage their land with a MDIFW approved forest management plan covering the biological extent of the DWA.

b. Proposal must indicate which of the following apply to the proposal:

- 1) The DWA is \geq 500 acres
- 2) The DWA and adjacent conservation land is \geq 500 acres
- 3) The DWA is $<$ 500 acres. DWAs $<$ 500 acres are eligible only if determined as regionally significant by MDIFW.
- 4) The property has been historically used by deer for wintering since 1950
- 5) The property is capable of providing winter shelter to deer by June, 2031

c. Geographic location

Identify the MDIFW Wildlife Management District that the property is in. Wildlife Management Districts can be found in Appendix L. Include a map of the DWA.

d. Management and Uses Planned for the property

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Management & Uses – Please describe the proposed management uses for the property:

- 1) DWA management will be the primary objective within the DWA
- 2) DWA management within the DWA will be one of multiple management objectives
- 3) Other uses will be the primary management objective within the DWA or uses deemed incompatible will be allowed in or adjacent to the DWA (see MDIFW DWA management guidelines for examples). Project may not be eligible for any DWA points if incompatible uses are determined to be detrimental.

Management Capacity – Select the one that most closely describes your organization

- 1) My organization has demonstrated capacity of managing DWAs. Include specific properties containing DWAs that are managed by your organization.
- 2) My organization has little or no demonstrated capacity of managing DWAs.

e. Landscape Context – Provide available documentation on which describes your landscape context best: 1, 2, or 3? Does 4 apply to your proposed project?

- 1) travel corridor(s) (streams, wetlands, valleys, ridges) are protected as part of the project or on adjacent conservation lands
- 2) surrounding land uses that partially limit movement
- 3) surrounding land uses that are incompatible

And:

- 4) > 75% of the biological deer wintering area will be protected

f. DWA Significance:

- 1) % Stand Composition. Indicate the predominant cover type in the DWA. Provide a stand type map. If not available provide a description by a forester and detailed aerial imagery.

- | | |
|--|--------|
| i. S3A, S3B, S2A, S2B (primary cover) | _____% |
| ii. SH3A, SH3B, SH2A, SH2B (secondary cover) | _____% |
| iii. Future shelter stands within 20 years | _____% |
| iv. HS3A, HS3B, HS2A, HS2B | _____% |

- 2) Vulnerability

LUPC Jurisdiction Only (indicate what applies and provide evidence)

- i. Parcel is dominated by softwood composed stands, but has no zoning and no cooperative management agreement.

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- ii. Parcel has no zoning, but is under a cooperative management agreement with MDIFW of short or questionable duration (new plan, incomplete history of plan duration, or < 10 years).
- iii. Parcel is under P-FW zoning with a cooperative management agreement of long duration with MDIFW (10 years or greater).

Organized Towns Only (indicate what applies and provide evidence)

- i. Parcel is dominated by softwood comprised stands and no cooperative management agreement exists.
- ii. Parcel is under a cooperative management agreement with MDIFW of short or undetermined duration (new plan, incomplete history of plan duration, or < 10 years).
- iii. Parcel is under a cooperative management agreement with MDIFW of a long duration (10 years or greater).

g. MDIFW Input:

Section g will be completed by MDIFW after the proposal has been submitted to the LMF program.

See Appendix L for DWA management plan information. A copy of P.L. 2011, Chapter 696 can be found in Appendix K.

MDIFW contact regarding DWA proposals:

Sarah Demers, MDIFW
sarah.demers@maine.gov
(207) 287-5497

15) Estimate of monitoring and management costs

Every applicant submitting a proposal to acquire property or an interest in property shall provide:

- A description of the management envisioned for the property for the first 10 years following acquisition. The proposal must provide a description of the anticipated management responsibilities retained by the landowner and those to be assumed by the State and/or the cooperating entity;
- Estimates of the costs to the State and/or the cooperating entity of managing the land for the uses proposed in the proposal; and
- Estimates of the costs associated with monitoring for compliance when an easement is acquired.

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16) **Project Readiness**

To ensure that the project can be completed in a timely manner, the LMF Board considers how many due diligence items are completed at the time the proposal is submitted.

Readiness items include:

- Current appraisal (acceptable for Board review)
- Final easement or fee acquisition conditions completed
- Cost Share commitment established
- Signed option or purchase and sales agreement
- Pre-acquired and held by a third party in coordination with the sponsoring state agency

Readiness scale:

- Level 1 – 4 items completed
- Level 2 – 3 items completed
- Level 3 – 2 items completed
- Level 4 – 1 item completed
- Level 5 – 0 items completed

Include a description of the plan for and status of fund-raising efforts for matching funds.

17) **Organizational capacity**

Describe the applicant's capacity to undertake the project with a reasonable prospect of bringing it to a successful conclusion. The Board will consider all relevant factors including without limitation: level of debt, fund raising ability, past land conservation activity and transactions, organizational history, scope of conservation vision, and evidence of success in building and sustaining land protection campaigns. Non-profit applicants should submit their most recent financial audit or most recent financial statement that accurately represents the organization's current financial condition. Describe the proposed title or easement holder's ability, experience, and resources to manage the property appropriately.

18) **Names of Individuals Knowledgeable about the Site or your Proposal**

List the names of individuals who can speak to the various values which your proposal will protect. Include a telephone number at which they can be reached.

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