

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program

Maine's In-Lieu Fee Compensation Program



© David Bates

Kathy Jensen
The Nature Conservancy in Maine

Organization

- In-lieu fees assessed by the Maine DEP/and US Army Corps and deposited in regional accounts
- Statewide program;
7 Regions/Service Areas
- DEP is the Program Sponsor
- TNC manages the program and administers the funding process for compensation projects
- DEP, TNC, and the Army Corps work closely to ensure program success



Compensation Project Process

- Compensation Projects solicited on a yearly basis by Request for Proposals.
- Review Committee evaluates projects and makes funding recommendations.
- Interagency Review Team reviews recommendations and makes final decision on which projects will be funded. The IRT is co-chaired by DEP and the Corps.



Guiding documents

- In-Lieu Fee Instrument
- Compensation Planning Framework
- Criteria for Funding Awards
- Restoration and Enhancement Plan Guidance with Monitoring Report Requirements
- Management Plan Template

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP) Restoration/Enhancement Work Plan Guidance January 2015

Introduction

This document provides a detailed overview of the information that must be included in a Work Plan for Restoration and Enhancement projects under the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP). Work Plans are required for all MNRCP-funded projects with a restoration or enhancement component. The guidance in this document is based on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District Compensatory Mitigation Guidance (a full copy of which can be found [online](#)). All sections (A-C) described below should be addressed in the Restoration/Enhancement Work Plan, or an

mitigation carried out in MNRCP
mon. These guidelines
may be used for all three types of

Appendix D Compensation Planning Framework Detail for Regions

Aroostook Hills and Lowlands

The Aroostook Hills and Lowlands region is one of the least densely populated regions in the state, and also one of the slowest growing. As shown in Figure 1 below, projections of population growth over the next 20 years are modest. The Aquatic Resources Base potential to support extensive wetland and aquatic resources, compared to other regions (see Figure 2). This represents approximately 42% of the region's potential wetland and aquatic resources.

Maine Landcover data (MELCD 2004) suggests that very little (less than 1%) of the region's history, however, and landcover data suggest that 5% (51,000 ac) of the region has been converted for that use. Development is largely concentrated along transportation routes, while agricultural areas are predominantly in the region. The MELCD 2004 data suggests that 14.9% of the region's ponds and 8.7% of the riparian area along streams and rivers has been converted (see Section 8.3). Though these numbers are not high, they are not insignificant, despite the fact that Aroostook Hills and Lowlands regions. Permitted wetland impacts are predominantly associated with development around towns (see Figure 3). Figure 4 shows the MDEP water quality data for the region and Table 9 shows the extent of aquatic resources: (Gap Status 1, 2 and Ecological Reserves) and on other conserved

Regional conservation objectives:

- Encourage preservation projects, particularly in areas of high biological value that the region's extensive aquatic resources remain intact.
- Pursue opportunities to restore marginal or non-productive wetlands.

Table 9. Extent of aquatic resources found on permanently conserved land (Ecological Reserves) and on other conserved land (Gap Status 1, 2 and Ecological Reserves) in the Aroostook Hills and Lowlands biophysical region.

Aquatic Resource Type	Total Area in Region (ac)	Permanently Conserved (ac)	% Conserved
Estuarine Intertidal Emergent	0	0	0
Estuarine Intertidal Forested/Shrub	0	0	0
Estuarine Subtidal	0	0	0
Lacustrine	60,526	165	0.27
Marine Intertidal	0	0	0
Marine Subtidal	0	0	0
Other Estuarine Intertidal	0	0	0
Palustrine Emergent	15,186	434	2.86
Palustrine Forested	191,587	1,895	0.99
Palustrine Non-vegetated	5,855	50	0.85
Palustrine Shrub	58,426	1,182	2.02
Riverine	10,022	115	1.15
Regional Total	341,602	3,840	1.12



State of Maine - In Lieu Fee Program INSTRUMENT

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Program Tracking and Assessment



- Extensive data collection and evaluation using Microsoft Access and ESRI ArcGIS both for program reporting and project evaluation
- Tracking in RIBITS
- Resource-based evaluation to ensure resource debits are compensated
- Financial tracking
- Site Inspections of restoration, enhancement, creation projects

Reporting

- Annual Report
- Debit & Credit Report
- Reports and Maps for Project Review including:
- Funds Available
- Potential Credits
- Landscape Context & Resource Maps
- Checklists from GIS review
- Field survey reports

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program Annual Report – January 1, 2014-December 31, 2014

Index

1. Executive Summary
 2. Introduction
 3. Impacts and Fees
 4. MNRCP Compliance
 5. National Historic
 6. Assessment of P
 7. Updates on Prev
- Appendix A – MNRCP
Appendix B – List of
Appendix C – Regio
Appendix D – Regio
Appendix E – MNRCP
Appendix F – MNRCP
Appendix G – Begin
Appendix H – Priorit
Appendix I – Comple

1. Executive Summary

The Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP) is an alternative to other programs that have been available to many as 75% of projects.

1

MNRCP Region: Southern Maine

Funds Remaining: \$1,518,747

MNRCP Region: Central Interior & Midcoast

Funds Remaining: \$616,233

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP) Debit and Credit Summary

MNRCP Region: Aroostook Hills & Lowlands

Funds Remaining: \$153,726

Habitat Type	Debits (Impact)	% of Total Debits in Region	Credits (Compensation)	% of Total Credits in Region	Balance Credits-Debits
Freshwater wetland Emergent	0.218	9.7%	0.258	5.73%	0.039
Freshwater wetland Forested	1.340	59.4%	0.069	1.54%	-1.271
Freshwater wetland Open Water			0.729	16.22%	0.729
Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub	0.692	30.7%	0.190	4.23%	-0.502
Freshwater wetland Unconsolidated Bottom	0.006	0.2%	0.000		-0.006
Inland waterfowl & wading bird habitat			0.871	19.38%	0.871
River/Stream			0.013	0.28%	0.013
					2.365

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program Funds Available

The table below lists the funds available for each MNRCP biophysical region as of March 22, 2016. Available funds may differ at the time of the awards. Also shown are the natural resources that have been prioritized for restoration, enhancement, preservation, and/or creation within each region.

MNRCP Region	Amount	Priority Resource Type
Aroostook Hills & Lowlands	\$153,727	Freshwater wetland Forested; Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub; Freshwater wetland Unconsolidated Bottom
Central & Eastern Lowlands	\$404,941	Freshwater wetland Emergent; Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat
Central & Western Mountains	\$727,218	Freshwater wetland Emergent; Freshwater wetland Forested; Inland waterfowl & wading bird habitat; River/Stream; Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat
Central Interior & Midcoast	\$616,232	Coastal wetland Estuarine subtidal; Coastal wetland Marine subtidal; Freshwater wetland Emergent; River/Stream; River/Stream Tidal; Vernal pool; Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat
Downeast Maine	\$239,503	Coastal wetland Estuarine intertidal; Coastal wetland Marine intertidal; Coastal wetland Marine subtidal; Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat

Northwest Maine

\$0

Funds Remaining: \$404,940

Balance Credits-Debits

-0.540

13.621

9.845

0.041

0.802

0.000

8.175

-0.390

31.554

Funds Remaining: \$727,219

Balance Credits-Debits

-0.719

-13.170

0.257

0.064

-1.231

0.091

-0.030

9.245

-1.833

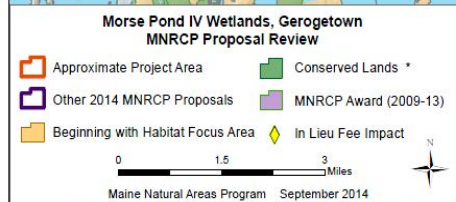
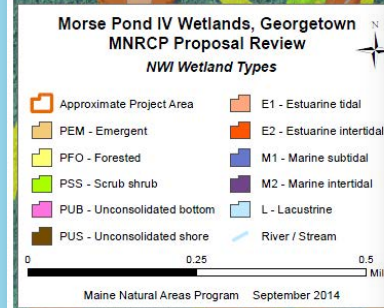
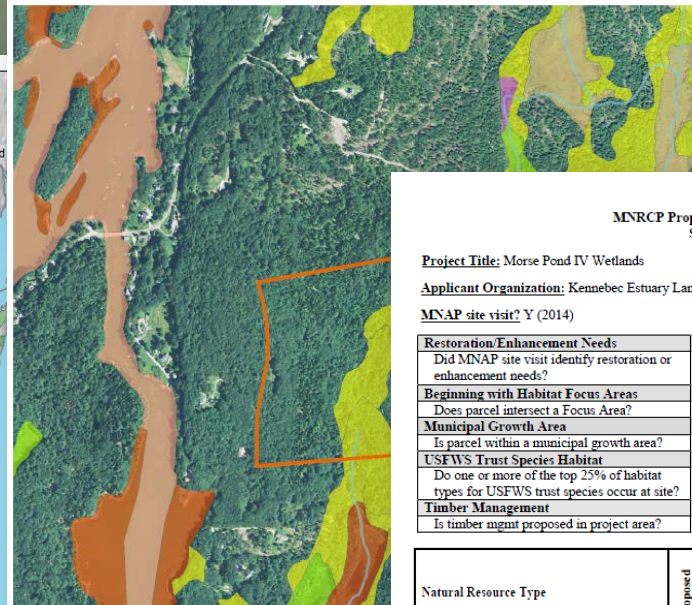
-7.326

Site survey and maps

Maine Natural Areas Program

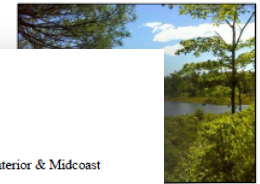
Morse Pond IV Wetlands - Cummings Parcel Georgetown

Site Visit Summary Maine Natural Areas Program, 2014



am (KELT). The primary focus of the survey was to 1) conduct a
ent of the wetlands on the property, 2) identify any potential
opportunities associated with the parcel, and 3) conduct a general
survey of the property.

ated off a private road
ond in Georgetown. The



MNRCP Proposal Review - CHECKLIST September 2014

Project Title: Morse Pond IV Wetlands **Total Project Acreage:** 62.6
Applicant Organization: Kennebec Estuary Land Trust **Biophysical Region:** Central Interior & Midcoast
MNAP site visit? Y (2014)

Restoration/Enhancement Needs	Y/N/NA	Comments
Did MNAP site visit identify restoration or enhancement needs?	Y	see p. 2
Beginning with Habitat Focus Areas	Y/N	Comments (Focus area name)
Does parcel intersect a Focus Area?	Y	Kennebec Estuary
Municipal Growth Area	Y/N/Unk	Comments
Is parcel within a municipal growth area?	Y	
USFWS Trust Species Habitat	Y/N	Comments (Habitats)
Do one or more of the top 25% of habitat types for USFWS trust species occur at site?	N	
Timber Management	Y/N/Unk	Comments
Is timber mgmt proposed in project area?	Unk	no forestry comments

Natural Resource Type	Proposed Restoration	Proposed Enhancement	Proposed Preservation	Proposed Creation	GIS analysis Total Acres	Principle Function and Values (where field verified)
Freshwater wetland, emergent (PEM)					0.8	
Freshwater wetland, forested (PFO)			13.5		13.4	
Freshwater wetland, shrub-scrub (PSS)			4.5		7.3	Floodflow Alteration, Production Export, Wildlife, Recreation, Educational/ Scientific Value
River, stream or brook			3000'		2596'	
Lake (L1, L2)						
Pond (PUB, PUS, POW)			2.5		2.1	
Vernal pool (VP)			2(#)		2(#)	2 Potential VPs
Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat			5.1			
Inland waterfowl & wading bird habitat					17.4	
Upland buffer (non-wetland habitat)			42.1		51.4	
Project Total			62.6		75.0	

MNAP & MDIFW Features (Rare/Exemplary Natural Communities, Rare Species, Significant Habitats):

Feature Name, Comments	State Status	State Rank	Global Rank	EO Rank



ILF Permit Impacts to date:

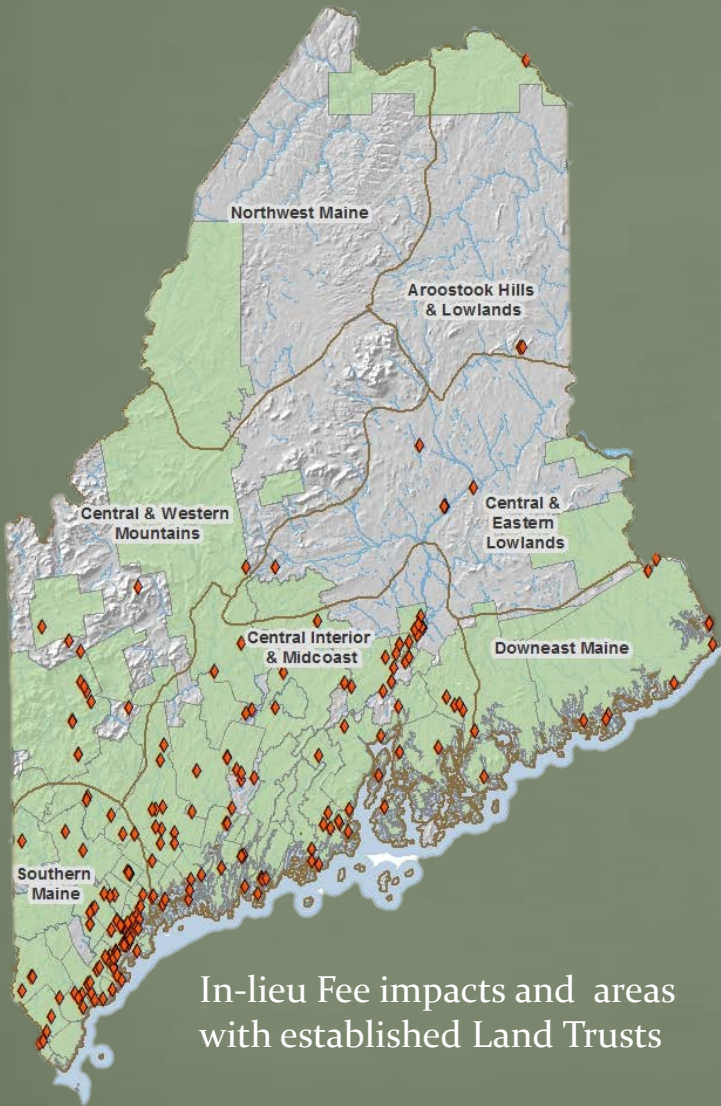
- 183 permits
- 151 acres of impact

Compensation projects to date:

- 79 projects funded
- 47 acres of restoration, enhancement, creation
- Nearly 3,000 acres of resources preserved
- Over 2,000 acres of upland buffer preserved

Challenges

- Many project sponsors are new to restoration work
- To date, most project sponsors (80%) have been Land Trusts, which are irregularly distributed across the state and vary in their capacity
- It can be more difficult to find appropriate compensation projects in less populated areas without active conservation organizations



In-lieu Fee impacts and areas with established Land Trusts

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program

MNRCP Website: <http://mnrpc.org/>

Contact Information:
Kathy Jensen
The Nature Conservancy in Maine
14 Maine Street, Suite 401
Brunswick, Maine 04011
kjensen@tnc.org



US Army Corps
of Engineers®