



DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry



2023

Members of the Legislature: Welcome back to our returning Legislators and to those beginning their 1st term! Our department's staff are looking forward to the many accomplishments we can achieve together in the coming years, and truly appreciate your willingness to serve our state.

DACF is entrusted with stewarding many of Maine's most treasured resources and the vibrant natural resource economy they support. That includes things like stopping forest fires; mapping the ocean floor; keeping our parks and public lands pristine and accessible; planning wise land use; improving and supporting land-based industries; and ensuring the safety and abundance of the food we eat.

DACF touches the lives of every Maine person every single day, and we are committed to being a Department that works for all Maine people. You will find that at every level our Bureau and program staff are dedicated, creative, and excited to serve Maine's people and some of our most iconic industries.

I'm proud that our Department has had a strong working partnership with the legislature, and specifically, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Working together, we can ensure that Maine has policies and programs in place that promote the best stewardship of our state's natural resources and the success of the industries they support.

I hope that this briefing, which outlines Commissioner's Office staff, Bureau Directors and key program areas, is a helpful resource as you seek to learn more about our Department and its areas of expertise. We encourage you to reach out during the session with any questions.

We look forward to collaborating with you over the next two years.

Amanda E. Beal

Commissioner



DACF is charged with promoting and advancing Maine's agricultural resources; protecting and enhancing nearly 18 million acres of forestland; managing more than 700,000 acres of state parks and public lands; and administering numerous science-based programs focused on resource management, land use planning, and conservation.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Amanda has served as the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) since 2019. Before leading DACF, she was the president and CEO of Maine Farmland Trust. Over the years, she has served on the boards and steering committees of many agriculture, food system, fisheries, and conservation-related organizations. She co-authored "A New England Food Vision: Healthy Food for All, Sustainable Farming and Fishing, Thriving Communities." She earned a B.A. from the University of Southern Maine and an M.S. from Tufts University, having completed the Agriculture, Food & Environment program. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of New Hampshire in the Natural Resources and Earth Systems Science program. She lives in Warren, where she and her husband own a 35-acre farm and are working to establish an orchard with numerous fruit varieties, manage their 32-acre woodlot, and develop a creamery for on-farm cheese production. Amanda grew up on her family's commercial dairy farm in Litchfield, Maine. She is a 2022-2023 National Association of State Departments of Agriculture executive committee member, and currently serves as board vice president of the Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture, and president of Food Export Northeast.



Randy Charette
Deputy Commissioner

Randy joined DACF as Deputy Commissioner in 2016. He is the Department's primary contact on human resources-related matters, internal department policies, and facilities management. Randy aides the Commissioner in many areas of her responsibilities, including policy development, financial issues, and internal operations. He is currently a member of the Capitol Planning Commission and the AARP Age-Friendly State Steering Committee. Before joining DACF, Randy managed groundwood mill operations at Madison Paper Industries. He holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Maine and an M.B.A. from Thomas College.



Nancy McBrady
Deputy Commissioner

Nancy joined DACF as Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources Director in 2019 and transitioned to Deputy Commissioner in January 2023. Before joining DACF, she served as the Executive Director of the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine. At the Commission, she directed programs for marketing and promotion, research and development, and policy engagement. Nancy also served as a Trustee of The Nature Conservancy of Maine and previously practiced environmental, land use, and municipal law at one of Maine's largest law firms. She is a graduate of Williams College and the University of Maine School of Law.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



[Emily Horton](#) Director of Policy and Community Engagement

Emily joined the Commissioner's Office in 2019 and acts as the DACF legislative contact, including serving as policy liaison to the Governor's Office and the ACF Committee, the full legislature, and Maine's Congressional delegation. She is the tribal liaison for the department and oversees all rulemaking and FOAA requests for DACF. Emily has worked on natural resource policy at the federal level and has over ten years of experience with Maine's agricultural and environmental sectors. She holds a B.S. in Environmental Studies from Lesley University and a Master's in Public Health from the University of New England. She grew up in Waldo County.



[Claire Eaton](#) Director, Natural Resource Markets & Economic Development

Claire joined the Commissioner's Office in 2020. She works with each DACF bureau, providing strategic advisory and program development support, research and data coordination, and connectivity across economic development and industry organizations. Most recently, she served as Director of Investment Operations at the Maine Technology Institute (MTI). Claire and MTI staff and leadership refined investment programming for Maine start-ups and administered State funding opportunities. She holds a B.A. from the University of Vermont and an M.S. from the University of New Hampshire.



[Beth Valentine](#) Director, Fund to Address PFAS Contamination

Beth joined DACF in September 2022 to oversee the administration and coordination of the PFAS Fund, work with the PFAS Fund Advisory Committee, lead planning to establish funding priorities, and implement the program(s) to allocate funds. Prior to joining DACF, Beth worked as an administrative and appellate attorney. She also worked as a coastal environmental planner with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. She holds a B.A. in English and Biology from Hamilton College, an M.A. in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island, and a J.D. from the University of Maine School of Law.



[Jo D. Saffair](#) Special Assistant to the Commissioner

Jo D. joined the Commissioner's Office in 2023. She has deep experience in the natural resources and conservation fields as a consultant with DACF and multiple other state agencies, organizations and academic institutions. She is also a past Executive Director of the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund. As a contractor, Jo D.'s facilitation services were instrumental in the success of numerous projects stemming from the Maine Climate Council's work, including facilitating the Natural and Working Lands Working Group and Forest Carbon Task Force. She holds a B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Connecticut and a Master's in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



[Aimee Carlton](#) Business Operations Manager

Aimee started her role as the Business Operations Manager with DACF in 2013. She is the primary contact on budget and financial matters and manages the areas of technology, procurement, contract management, audit, and business controls. Before DACF, in her 26-year career, she has worked at the Departments of Marine Resources, Environmental Protection, Administration and Financial Services, and Health and Human Services.



[Jim Britt](#) Director of Communications

Jim joined the Commissioner's Office in 2019, where he has worked to establish a communications culture where all voices are heard, and department-wide expertise is accessible to the press and public. DACF's communications goal is to share information about the resources that impact people's lives and ensuring access to essential data needed to make informed decisions. Before DACF, he worked as a marketing communications consultant with small and medium-sized Maine and New England businesses and non-profits. He earned a BSBA at Youngstown State University and has broadened his knowledge with certificates from Harvard Kennedy School and training at the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame. Jim currently serves as the board president of the Communications Officers of State Departments of Agriculture.



[Kathy Eastman](#) Assistant to the Commissioner and Constituent Liaison

Kathy joined DACF in 2014 after working for over fifteen years in the Office of the Attorney General in various divisions, including Consumer Protection, Child Support Enforcement, Child Protection, General Government, Litigation, Criminal, and the Food & Drug Administration - State Tobacco Program. Before that, she worked for the Workers' Compensation Advocate Office and the Workers' Compensation Board. Kathy works closely with the Commissioner and is DACF's constituent services liaison and serves as the liaison with the Governor's Office on matters including:

- Animal Welfare
- Camping
- Entomology
- Food security
- Geology
- Grant programs
- Land Use Planning Commission regulations
- State Parks passes
- Timber harvests

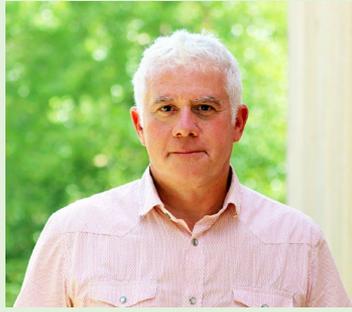
BUREAU DIRECTORS



Judy East

Director, Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning

Judy has 34 years of experience in land use planning and became Bureau Director in late 2021. For two years prior, she was the Executive Director of the Land Use Planning Commission, one of five programs within the Bureau, and before that, served as the Executive Director of the Washington County Council of Governments. Judy brings expertise in numerous planning issues, including land use, housing, climate resilience, and community infrastructure needs. She holds a degree in Biology from the University of Toronto and a M.S. in Planning from the University of British Columbia.



Craig Lapine

Director, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

Craig is newly appointed to the Bureau Director position as of January 2023. Prior to that, he served as Special Assistant to Commissioner Beal starting in 2020, where he has worked to support DACF's policy and communications team and manage projects, including leading the Ending Hunger in Maine by 2030 initiative, standing up the State's Local Food Purchase Assistance program, and more. Before DACF, Craig founded and ran an agricultural education and food access organization for 18 years. Craig holds an AB from Princeton and an M.Ed. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He and his family own and operate a farm in Pownal.



Andy Cutko

Director, Bureau of Parks and Lands

Andy has led the Bureau since 2019. Before this, his 30-year career includes positions with the US Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, NatureServe (an international conservation group), forestry and engineering consulting, and the Maine Natural Areas Program, a program within DACF's Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning. He holds a B.A. in Biology from Williams College and a Master of Forestry degree from Duke University.



Patty Cormier

Director and Maine State Forester, Bureau of Forestry

Patty was appointed to the Bureau Director and Maine State Forester role in 2019. Before this, she was a District Forester for the Maine Forest Service for 20 years. Before that, Patty was a Landowner Assistance Forester for Georgia Pacific Corporation. Patty serves on the National Fire Committee, is a State Forester Liaison for the Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Association Fire Committee and serves as Chair of the three-person Baxter State Park Authority. Patty holds a B.S. in Forest Management for the University of Maine at Orono.

CONTACT US: LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY CONCERNS



Please contact Emily Horton,
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Engagement with all DACF
legislative or regulatory inquiries.

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OUR BUREAUS



DACF is comprised of four bureaus which contain various types of programs that protect and support the natural resources that are integral to our quality of life in Maine and the people who work in these important sectors of our economy:

- **Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources**
- **Bureau of Parks and Lands**
- **Bureau of Forestry**
- **Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning**

In the following pages, you will learn more about each bureau; however, it is also important to note that, as a department, we have been actively working in cross-cutting ways to ensure excellent service to those who depend on us. A few examples include the following:

- Spearheading the work born out of the 129th Legislature, "Everyone at the Table: Maine's Roadmap to End Hunger by 2030" describes the steps we need to take to create a future where every Maine person has access to food and other resources they need to thrive. Implementation work for this roadmap is now underway in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Policy, Innovation, and the Future.
- Engaging in the work of the Maine Climate Council and its Working Groups, including staff serving on the Council and as Working Group co-chairs or members. Climate change impacts every one of our bureaus in numerous ways; therefore, this work remains important to DACF.
- Responding to PFAS contamination by providing response assistance, guidance, and funding to PFAS-impacted farms across the state. We work closely with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention to respond to producer needs and push for national and federal programmatic and financial support for states and impacted farmers.

OUR BUREAUS



Bureau of Agriculture, Food
and Rural Resources

Craig Lapine, Director



Director Lapine oversees a vibrant [bureau](#) that provides technical and marketing assistance to farmers, delivers plant and animal health and welfare oversight, and ensures the safety of Maine's food supply.

The Bureau supports Maine's food system and agricultural infrastructure through a variety of functions spanning technical assistance and business support, marketing and promotion, on-farm and consumer quality assurance, targeted loan and grant programs, and animal and plant health oversight, including animal welfare. The Bureau plays a critical role in ensuring that the foods consumers purchase are available and safe and manages several federally funded, state-wide food assistance programs. The Maine Milk Commission, the Maine Harness Racing Commission, and the Board of Pesticides Control are also housed within the Bureau.

Program areas within the Bureau include:

- Plant Health: Hemp Program; Seed Potato Certification; Apiary (Beekeeping); Arborist; Horticulture
- [Animal Health](#); [Animal Welfare](#); Agricultural [Compliance](#) (composting, nutrient management, etc.)
- [Inspection Programs](#): Retail Food and Manufacturing; Meat & Poultry; Egg Inspection; Fed/State; Food Safety Modernization Act(FSMA); and Feed, Seed, and Fertilizer
- [Milk Program](#) (including Milk Lab)
- [Weights & Measures](#) (including Metrology Lab)
- [Technical Production and Marketing Assistance](#)
- [Financial Assistance](#) (e.g., Ag. Marketing Grant, Specialty Crop Block Grant, Dairy Improvement Fund, Farms for the Future, etc.)
- [Promotion and Events](#) (e.g., trade shows, [Real Maine](#) marketing program)
- [The Emergency Food Assistance Program](#) (TEFAP), [Senior FarmShare Program](#)

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES

Recent Initiatives Snapshot

- DACF hosted the Annual Agricultural Trades Show (ATS) in early January, the first in-person ATS since 2020.
- The Bureau's PFAS response team has grown to 6 FTE's with additional FTE's on the horizon. The Bureau works closely with DEP and Maine CDC to respond to producer needs. The Bureau also works closely with the Commissioner's Office to push for national and federal programmatic and financial support for states and impacted farmers.
- Distribution of federal ARPA recovery funds through the Agricultural Infrastructure Investment Program (AIIP), which will enable farms and agricultural businesses to pursue upgrades that will mitigate the adverse effects of COVID-19, increase the supply of Maine-grown food, enhance supply chain resilience, and help grow and sustain one of Maine's heritage industries. DACF awarded approximately \$19M million in federal funds to 64 diverse producer recipients throughout the state.
- Continued expansion of the Real Maine program, including robust producer and consumer engagement with website, and regional advertising, with approximately 900 members and growing.
- Promoting Open Farm Day, launching our first ever Maine Dairy Month promotion, and helping to support Wild Blueberry Weekend, Maine Maple Weekend, the Maine Fiber Tour, among many other events and activities, including Maine's agricultural fairs and the Big E.
- DACF convened the Agricultural Solar Siting Stakeholder Group to develop plans and consider ways to "discourage the use of land of higher agricultural value and encourage the use of more marginal agricultural lands when siting a solar array. DACF presented its report to the ACF Committee in January 2022 on this effort, including recommendations related to agricultural lands and solar array siting.
- Inspection of 1,998 retail licensed businesses selling food products.
- Inspection of eight meat and poultry processing facilities.

Looking Ahead

- Launch the Maine Healthy Soils Program.
- Launch the Maine Farmers Drought Relief Program and update irrigation guidance materials for producers statewide.
- Enhance grant and loan program assistance, including pursuing rulemaking improvements for the Agriculture Development Grant, Farms for the Future, Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund, and the Dairy Improvement Fund.
- Launch the Agriculture, Food, and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment Fund.
- Pilot a bulk purchasing process for Maine Senior Farm Share Program.
- Oversee AIIP grant disbursement.
- Continued expansion of the Real Maine program, including robust producer engagement with website, regional advertising, and wholesaler outreach and participation.
- Expand DACF's partnerships and cross-collaboration opportunities with state institutions, local food producers, wholesalers, and supply-chain resiliency efforts.
- Build and launch multi-agency PFAS database.
- License current and new hemp processors.
- Continue to research policy options for improving invasive species prevention and management.
- Increase surveillance for tropilaelaps, a new mite that threatens apiaries.
- Enhance efficiencies and support ongoing assessment of programmatic needs within the Animal Welfare Program.
- Develop more mobile friendly data collection technology for the Seed Certification program (and other plant health programs).
- Design and launch new database for the Feed, Seed & Fertilizer program.
- Participate in FDA's Retail Standards Program to facilitate effective inspections.
- Certify a minimum of two new GAP auditors to meet growing demand.
- Update Harness Racing rules and statute for improvements to the horse breeding program.

OUR BUREAUS



Bureau of Parks and Lands

Andy Cutko, Director



The [Bureau](#) protects and manages some of Maine's most unique and precious natural and cultural resources and provides a diverse array of recreational and educational opportunities that deliver environmental and economic benefits for current and future generations.

- The Bureau manages 48 [State Parks and Historic Sites](#), including 12 State Park Campgrounds, contributing more than an estimated \$250 million to Maine's economy in indirect benefits.
- In addition, the Bureau manages more than 6300,000 acres of [Public Lands](#) for recreation, cultural and historic preservation, wildlife and biodiversity, water quality, and timber production. Conservation easements, leases, and management agreements bring the total land area with BPL legal involvement to over 2 million acres.
- The [Boating Program](#) manages public boat launches and maintains navigational aids on Maine's most heavily used lakes.
- The [Off-Road Recreational Vehicle](#) Program provides grants to recreational clubs and municipalities to maintain ATV and snowmobile trails.
- The [Submerged Lands](#) Program administers submerged lands leases and provides grants for harbor management.
- The [Maine Conservation Corps](#) is a job-training program that works collaboratively with state agencies and conservation organizations.
- The [Community Grants and Recreation Program](#) administers the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreational Trails Program.

BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS

Recent Initiatives Snapshot

- State Park campgrounds set a record for use in 2022, and day use attendance was very close to the 2021 record. State Parks thrive on partnerships, and recent collaborative efforts involved the Nature Based Education Collaborative (State Park passes for minority groups and individuals), LL Bean (beach boxes of loaned equipment), Impact Melanoma (sunscreen dispensers), First Light Journey (connections with Maine tribes), and the Portland Museum of Art (art on the trail).
- BPL is infusing \$50 million in ARPA recovery funding in State Parks across Maine. Projects include roads, bridges, Park entrance stations, washrooms and plumbing improvements, campsite re-designs, and much more.
- COVID impacts to the economy created challenging timber markets in 2021, with a relatively low harvest of 85,000 cords on Maine Public Lands. However, timber markets rebounded in 2022, and the Bureau harvested roughly 116,000 cords. The Public Lands Division is almost entirely funded through timber revenues.
- BPL is working with Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife staff on modeling and managing deer wintering area (DWA) habitat on the Scraggly Lake Public Land Unit. This collaborative effort can serve as a model for other DWA management plans.
- BPL completed the purchase of the Madison Branch rail trail, a 32-mile corridor from Madison to Embden. Contractors are working on converting the trail to recreational use.
- BPL purchased a significant addition to the Kennebec Highlands Public Lands, and BPL has several other projects in the pipeline, including East Grand Lake (Weston area), Quill Hill/Perham Stream (Rangeley area), Chadbourne Tree Farm (Bethel Area), Square Lake (Aroostook County), and Big Falls (New Gloucester).
- The Bureau's Grants and Community Recreation Program recently worked with Americorps interns to create a [web-accessible map](#) of more than 800 projects funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Looking Ahead

- BPL is finalizing a State Park Minimum Staffing Report authorized by Title 12 §1804(7). This report will assess the staffing required to adequately maintain State Parks and Historic Sites in light of the current 3.3 million visitors annually.
- As ARPA funds must be obligated to State Park projects by December 31, 2024, staff are working diligently to administer contracts, adhere to state procurement procedures, and minimize disruptions during busy State Park seasons.
- Like State Parks, Maine's Public Land trails, campsites, and boat launches continue to experience heavy use. Sites like Tumbledown Mountain and the Cutler Coast are seeing some degradation from overuse. Public lands need trail maintenance and construction, educational information kiosks, parking, and access improvements. The Bureau will continue to assess capacity and resources required to address these needs.
- Municipal Recreation Sites: Through the federal Great American Outdoors Act, Maine has received increased funding from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. These federal funds, directed to states and municipalities, require 50% match, and the state and local municipalities are currently challenged to meet this match requirement. In conjunction with the Commissioner's Office and other national partners, the Bureau is advocating to improve the efficiency of the LWCF, including changing the match requirement and adding administrative funding.
- The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) plays a vital role in job training for conservation careers. MCC recruiting is limited by the lack of suitable housing for MCC volunteers; the Bureau continues to explore possible funding and housing options.
- Off-road vehicle use has increased dramatically in recent years. The opening of the 32-mile Madison Branch should provide an excellent resource for rail-trail users. On other trails, the Bureau is working to address challenges imposed by ownership, multi-use compatibility, and liability concerns.

OUR BUREAUS



Bureau of Forestry
Maine Forest Service

Patty Cormier, Director



The [Bureau of Forestry](#) - Maine Forest Service (MFS) - was established in 1891 and works to ensure that the state's trees and forest lands will continue to benefit present and future generations of Mainers. The Bureau includes three divisions.

- [Forest Protection](#) is committed to the prevention and suppression of forest fires. Some still remember the widespread devastation resulting from the 1947 fires, which brought about significant and positive changes to the MFS that have continued over the decades. While the number of wildfires has been trending upward the last few years and we face increasingly unpredictable climate conditions, MFS is prepared to knock down fires quickly because of its upgraded training, improved field communications, and air fleet.
- [Forest Policy and Management](#) is dedicated to assisting the public and landowners with forest-related issues and education. Ten [District Foresters](#) across the state are available to help woodland owners make good choices about their land. [Project Canopy](#), Maine's urban and community forestry program, provides grants to municipalities to develop management plans for their community woodlands. Our [Direct Link Loan](#) program provides reduced-interest loans to help loggers purchase equipment and protect water quality. The MFS completes forest inventory annually, and this information is vital for public policy decisions and strategic decisions by members of the forest industry. MFS Foresters also review timber harvest activities to assess the implementation and effectiveness of efforts to protect water quality and other resources.
- [Forest Health and Monitoring](#) is engaged in battle between Maine's forest and insects and diseases. Occasionally, insects or disease gets the upper hand, and either forests or people are affected to the point where action must occur. The MFS works to reduce invasive threats using many strategies. For those not having reached Maine, efforts continue to slow its spread by restricting the flow of contaminated wood. For others, the damage is mitigated by releasing biological agents.

BUREAU OF FORESTRY

Recent Initiatives Snapshot

- The first statewide Browntail Moth (BTM) Awareness Month of recent times happened in February 2022. Division staff provided more than ten virtual and in-person educational events, with more than 900 attending (and more learning from recordings). In support of this, the BTM News bulletin debuted, and we overhauled our website. These efforts resulted in increased traffic to the website from January through May 2022. Compared to the previous three-year average, the site had a more than 300% increase in visits in January, 200% in February, 100% in March, 90% in April, and 80% in May.
- The department purchased two Bell 407 helicopters this past year to help transition our aging helicopters to a more modernized, reliable fleet. One of the new helicopters has been put in service, while the second is retrofitted with components necessary for wildfire suppression operations. This update brings our aviation helicopter fleet to three 407 helicopters and 3 Huey UH-1H helicopters to ensure wildfire suppression needs, support search and rescue missions, and provide flight services to enable other state agencies to conduct their work.
- The Forest Operations Notification system is now fully accessible online. This step provides a more manageable format for woodland owners, foresters, and loggers and more efficient state operations.
- MFS staff will continue to assist the forestry community in responding to climate change by promoting good stewardship, adaptive best practices, and strong markets for forest products.
- A new webinar series on various forestry subjects is offered monthly, and all are available for viewing afterwards on our MFS website.

Looking Ahead

- The MFS will continue to adapt its support of management and maintenance of ash in response to the growing emerald ash borer threat. This support will include: a department collaboration led by the MFS to provide regular updates to cities and town leaders whose infrastructure will be impacted by dying ash trees; continued collaboration with Wabanaki natural resource managers in strategies to protect cultural ash resources; increased efforts to preserve the genetic diversity of ash; and increased efforts to support informed management of ash in the forest. Efforts also continue to monitor the extent of quarantines for multiple other invasive insect invasions.
- Implementing funding for municipalities for Browntail Moth mitigation.
- A new collaboration with multiple stakeholders is in its first stages of development. The focus will be to organize and catalog numerous forestry training available as a resource for anyone looking for training.
- Wildfire occurrences have increased in numbers over the last few years. Forest Rangers are increasing efforts to improve fire resilience by reducing wildfire risk across Maine's landscape. By working with stakeholders representing landowners, fire departments, counties, and communities, action plans are being completed to encourage wildfire preparedness. Community-wide protection plans, prescribed burning, mechanical chipping, external training, and other actions can reduce fuel loading in high-risk areas. Through comprehensive outreach, successful fire planning can help prepare for wildfire response and contain damaging spread and impact.
- MFS staff will continue to assist the forestry community in responding to climate change by promoting good stewardship, adaptive best practices, and strong markets for forest products.
- We look forward to onboarding the new carbon specialist and the three new foresters, who will increase landowner outreach capacity.
- With the increase in federal funding to support the Maine Forest Action Plan, various programs within the MFS will be able to expand programs designed to help Maine people, including the Project Canopy Program for municipalities, fire training, and programs for stakeholders along with a partnership with the Maine Tree program.

OUR BUREAUS



Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning

Judith East, Director



The [Bureau](#) provides science for resource management, conservation, and land use planning, and consists of six programs.

- [Maine Geological Survey](#) (MGS) is the primary source of information on the geologic framework of the state, its groundwater resources, sea level rise, and geologic hazards. Information is presented in free web pages and thousands of maps and publications, available as digital downloads and in paper formats.
- [Maine Natural Areas Program](#) (MNAP) facilitates the conservation of Maine's biodiversity by providing comprehensive information and scientific expertise on at-risk species, natural ecosystems, wildlife habitats, ecological reserves, and invasive plants to landowners, developers, resource managers, land trusts, towns, and other conservation partners.
- [Floodplain Management Program](#) (FMP) helps communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) with technical information, floodplain maps, and model ordinances.
- [Land for Maine's Future Program](#) (LMF) is the State of Maine's primary funding vehicle for conserving land for its natural and recreational value and provides funding to protect farmland and working waterfronts. The program was established in 1987 and has completed projects in all 16 counties protecting mountain summits; shorelines of rivers, lakes, and ponds; coastal islands, beaches; forests; grasslands; wildlife habitat; farmland; and wetlands.
- [Municipal Planning Assistance Program](#) (MPAP) provides land use planning expertise for Maine citizens, municipalities, regional planning organizations, state agencies, and the Legislature. The Program provides grants to towns for projects that improve water quality, increase resiliency, restore habitat, promote sustainable development, and enhance the economy while preserving natural resources.
- [Land Use Planning Commission](#) (LUPC) serves as the planning and zoning authority for the unorganized and deorganized areas of the State, an area greater than 10 million acres. The Unorganized Territories often referred to as the UT, include towns, townships, and plantations that either have no local government or have chosen not to administer land use controls at the local level.

BUREAU OF RESOURCE INFORMATION AND LAND USE PLANNING

Recent Initiatives Snapshot

- Coordinated with the Department of Environmental Protection to implement statutory rule changes recommended by the state's climate action plan, [Maine Won't Wait](#), to adopt official sea level rise projections and update the Growth Management Law.
- A sea-level rise ticker, updated monthly, provides the latest information and projections for changes in local sea level.
- Geologic mapping in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Maine located volcanic rocks in Aroostook County with a high concentration of rare earth elements used in electronics, defense industries, and electric vehicles. This is likely to be the largest concentration of iron and manganese in the U.S.
- Completed installation of over 450 long-term monitoring plots on the state's sentinel salt marsh sites from York to Lubec to assess and track ecological impacts to marshes from sea level rise.
- Conducted reviews for wildlife habitat, endangered and threatened species, climate resilience, and forest carbon for 49 proposed acquisition projects covering 154,075 acres from York to Aroostook County.
- Updated Focus Areas of Statewide Ecological Significance designations that contain concentrations of at-risk species and high-value habitats of importance for biodiversity, conservation, and climate resilience.
- Provided Coastal Community Grants to two towns and two Regional Planning Organizations to assist in planning for climate change adaptation activities.
- Completed a 5-year and 20-year review of the Rangeley Lakes Prospective Zoning Plan and began a public outreach process to update that Plan.
- Land for Maine's Future Board issued 4 Requests for Proposals and selected 37 new projects totaling \$15.9 million in new investments, which will be leveraged with \$40 million in public and private funding.

Looking Ahead

- Update the Service Center Analysis to identify any new municipalities that provide jobs, housing, retail sales, and services to Maine's diverse regions.
- Coordinate across BRILUP programs, DACF Bureaus, and sister agencies to implement *Maine Won't Wait*.
- MGS and the University of Maine researchers, in collaboration with U.S. Geological Survey, will continue to map and analyze rocks containing rare earth elements in northeastern Maine.
- Launch the second *Scientific Assessment of Climate Change and its Effects in Maine* for use by the Maine Climate Council and its multiple workgroups.
- Publish and distribute a comprehensive assessment of Maine's Conservation Achievements over the past 25 years to highlight milestones, identify gaps, and inform future conservation priorities.
- Facilitate the strategic planning, coordination, and implementation of the state's long-term monitoring of saltmarshes to track saltmarsh response to sea level rise long-term.
- Identify and guide management for ecologically significant areas of old forests which contribute to the state's biodiversity, and store and sequester significant amounts of carbon.
- Develop a 5-year strategic plan to identify, map, and manage terrestrial invasive plants.
- Initiate LUPC rulemaking to address accessory dwelling units, short-term rental units, and expand solar siting criteria.
- Finalize the enforcement work plan (draft approved by Land Use Planning Commission in December) and implement it to improve enforcement in LUPC's service area.
- Work with the City of Westbrook with FEMA funding to further understand landslide hazards in the City
- Launch the Land for Maine's Future Program online application process.



DACF works as an agency, and with our partners throughout the state, to help businesses and communities steward and celebrate our most cherished spaces and places: the crop and farmland that beautify our state and feed us, the woodlots and forests iconic to the Pinetree State where maple syrup also flows from sugarbushes, the thousands of acres we all enjoy when we spend time outside in our parks and public lands, and by providing important data and resources to enable landowners across the state to manage Maine's natural resources sustainably.

Thank You.



maine.gov/dacf

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