



Protecting Public Lands & Forest Ranger Enforcement

Governor LePage's 2016/17 Budget proposes to break apart the Bureau of Parks & Lands and gut Maine Forest Service law enforcement

Preserving 600,000 acres of Public Lands for recreation, wildlife, and sustainable forestry. Supporting the essential role Forest Rangers play in enforcing environmental laws.

The Legislature directs that Maine's Public Lands be managed for multiple uses: outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, and sustainable forestry



- The Governor's budget proposes to subsume Public Lands within the Maine Forest Service.
- Public Lands and the MFS have radically different management directives and objectives: Public Lands are managed for multiple uses. The MFS's focus is forest health and timber extraction.
- This reorganization will result in outdoor recreation and wildlife habitat management taking a back seat to timber extraction.
- This is undoubtedly part of the Administration's effort to increase cutting on Public Lands and divert funds to unrelated programs.

Maine's Public Lands are iconic and well managed

- Maine's Public Lands contain 600,000 acres, including the iconic Bigelow Preserve, the vast Nahmakanta Public Reserved Lands, and breathtaking Cutler Coast. These areas are prized for their exceptional recreation opportunities and outstanding wildlife habitat, including some of Maine's only old growth forests.
- The Bureau of Parks & Lands currently manages Public Lands and has a reputation of practicing exemplary forestry. They have been used as an example of how to manage forests for multiple uses, while producing a sustained yield enough to support BPL programs (timber harvesting revenue goes into a dedicated fund).

The proposed "reorganization" of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry will not save money or result in efficiencies

- Under the proposed budget, the DACF General Fund appropriations increase by 10%.
- The Administration has not demonstrated that the reorganization will result in meaningful efficiencies.

Maine's Forest Rangers play an essential role in enforcing essential environmental laws; their role and jobs are gutted in the proposed budget

- The proposed budget eliminates 22 Forest Ranger positions and creates 7 Natural Resource Law Enforcement Officers (NRLEO). The remaining 46 positions are stripped of their law enforcement authority, which is passed to the NRLEOs.
- Forest Rangers play an indispensable role in protecting Maine's environment. They enforce the Forest Practices Act and water quality standards, as well as monitor timber harvesting.
- Under the proposed budget, the number of positions that can enforce these important laws will decrease by 90%, from 74 to 7 positions.
- Significantly reducing enforcement capacity will weaken essential environmental laws; a law is no good if it is not enforced.



Do Not Support the Proposed DACF Budget

For more information, please contact Eliza Donoghue, Natural Resources Council of Maine, 207-430-0118 or eliza@nrcm.org.



Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 31 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine's economy can thrive.

Acadia Center	Maine Lakes Society
Appalachian Mountain Club	Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Maine People's Alliance
Bicycle Coalition of Maine	Maine Rivers
Conservation Law Foundation	Maine Wilderness Guides Organization
Environmental Health Strategy Center	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Environment Maine	Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter
Friends of Casco Bay	RESTORE: The North Woods
Islesboro Island Trust	Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	The Ocean Conservancy
Maine Audubon	The Trust for Public Land
Maine Center for Economic Policy	The Wilderness Society
Maine Conservation Alliance	Toxics Action Center
Maine Council of Churches	Upstream
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited	350 Maine
Maine Interfaith Power & Light	