

Natural Resources Bond Fact Sheet

November 6, 2007: Vote Yes on Ballot Question 4

Do you favor a \$35,500,000 bond issue to invest in land conservation, water access, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting and fishing, farmland and working waterfront and to invest in state parks, historic sites and riverfront, community and farm infrastructure to be matched by at least \$21,875,000 in private and public contributions?

What will the bond do for Maine?

Land for Maine's Future Program - \$17,000,000: These funds will be used for the acquisition of land and interest in land for conservation; water access; outdoor recreation; wildlife and fish habitat; and farmland preservation that will leverage \$8,500,000 in other funds. The LMF program has been supported by Maine voters on three previous occasions (1987, 1999, and 2005). In 2005, 65% of Maine voters approved a \$12 million LMF bond issue that included \$2 million for working waterfront preservation (see below). The LMF Board has committed all of the farm and land conservation money approved in 2005.

State Parks & Historic Sites - \$7,500,000: These funds will be used to make necessary capital improvements in Maine's more than 40 State Parks and Historic sites. The Bureau of Parks and Lands has identified a list of priority projects to be funded.

Riverfront Community Development - \$5,000,000: Under the newly created Riverfront Community Development Program, these funds will be used for investments in competitive river-based community and economic revitalization projects that will leverage \$10,000,000 in other funds.

Working Waterfront Preservation - \$3,000,000: These funds will be used for working waterfront preservation that will leverage \$3,000,000 in other funds. In 2005, the State Legislature created a pilot program that was funded with \$2 million in bond monies. The program is administered by the LMF program. To date, LMF has supported 6 projects and committed most of the available money.

Agricultural Water Source Development Grant Program -\$1,500,000: These funds will be used to assist farmers in the development of environmentally sound water sources to manage weather-related risk and to comply with in-stream flow rules that will leverage \$375,000 in other funds.

Municipal Investment Trust Fund - \$1,500,000: These funds will be available to municipalities for public service infrastructure grants and loans.