

## Public Grant Funds Available for Maine Conservation

Compiled by Maine Coast Heritage Trust

Updated June 20, 2025

Funds Administrator	Grant Program	Category	Deadline(s)	Keywords (search using Ctrl+F)	Program Summary	Match Required	Annual \$ Available	Max Award	Typical Award	Eligible Recipients	Degree of Difficulty*	RFP Location
US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)	NAWCA	US Standard Grants	February, July	land protection, wetlands, restoration, migratory birds, waterfowl, habitat	<a href="#">Program link</a>	1:1	\$45-50 million	\$3 million	\$1-3 million	Fed, State, NGO	High	<a href="#">Program Website</a>
	NAWCA	US Small Grants	October	land protection, wetlands, restoration, migratory birds, waterfowl, habitat	<a href="#">Program link</a>	1:1	\$3 million	\$250,000	\$ 100,000	Fed, State, NGO	Medium	<a href="#">Program Website</a>
	Recovery Land Acquisition Grants		January	land protection, endangered species, Atlantic Salmon	<a href="#">Program link</a>	25%	\$14 million	\$14 million	\$300,000 to \$5.25 million	State (w/funds transferred to NGO)	High	<a href="#">Grants.gov</a>
	Maine Partners for Fish and Wildlife		Rolling deadline	fish and wildlife habitat, enhancement, technical assistance, focus areas, fish passage, grasslands	<a href="#">Program link</a>	None (1:1 preferred)	\$60,000 (\$15 million nationally)	No max	\$30,000	All landowners	Medium	<a href="#">Grants.gov</a>
	National Fish Passage Program		Year round	fish passage, barrier removal, connectivity, in stream	<a href="#">Program link</a>	1:1 suggested	Unknown	No max	\$70,000	Tribal, NGO, Education, Local gov't, for-profit	High	<a href="#">Program Website</a>
	Tribal Wildlife Grant Program		June	fish and wildlife habitat, technical assistance, planning, implementation, research	<a href="#">Program link</a>	None	\$6.1 million	\$200,000	No data	Federally recognized tribes	Unknown	<a href="#">Package instructions</a>
	Candidate Species Conservation Fund		September	candidate, at risk, enhance partnerships, voluntary action, prevent listing	<a href="#">Program link</a>	None	\$500,000	Not specified	No data	Tribal, NGO, Education, Local gov't, for-profit	Unknown	<a href="#">RFP link</a>

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	National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants		July	wetlands, restoration, protection, coastal, threatened and endangered species, long term	<a href="#">Program link</a>	25%	\$18-20 million	\$1 million	\$300,000 to \$1 million	MDIFW (w/funds transferred to NGO)	High	<a href="#">RFP Link</a>
US Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Community Forest Program		January	community forest, public access, recreation, habitat, demonstration sites, local economy, fee title only	<a href="#">Program link</a>	1:1	Not specified	\$600,000	No data	NGO, Local gov't, Tribal	Medium	<a href="#">RFP Link</a>
	Landscape Scale Restoration		November	water quality, habitat improvement, climate adaptation, wildfire management, restoration	<a href="#">Program link</a>	1:1	Not specified	\$ 600,000	No data	Tribal, NGO, Education, Local gov't	Unknown	<a href="#">RFP link</a>
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Atlantic Salmon Habitat Restoration Partnership		Rolling deadline	species recovery, Gulf of Maine, habitat restoration, fish passage	<a href="#">Program link</a>		Not specified	\$1.5 million	\$100,000 to \$700,000	Tribal, NGO, Education, Local gov't, for-profit	Unknown	<a href="#">Grants.gov NOFO</a>
Inflation Reduction Act & Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act	Multiple - numerous grants related to climate action		Multiple	climate, resilience, coastal, disaster risk reduction, climate-ready infrastructure, coastal ecosystems, blue economy	<a href="#">Link to interactive funding opportunities table - many programs</a>	See Guidebook	\$21.7 billion	See Guidebook	See Guidebook	See Guidebook	See Guidebook	<a href="#">Interactive Funding Table</a>
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)	America's Ecosystem Restoration Initiative	Conservation & Restoration Implementation (DOI)	July	implementation, landscape conservation, restoration, public lands, tribal lands	<a href="#">Program link</a>	10% (States), 3% (Tribal)	\$116 million (combined)	\$5,000,000	\$1 to 5 million	States, Tribal-affiliated orgs, Tribal gov't	High	See program page

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		Conservation & Restoration Planning (DOI)	July	planning, collaboration, engagement, capacity building, community, partnerships	<a href="#">Program link</a>	10% (States), 3% (Tribal)		\$2,000,000	\$200,000 to \$2 million	States, Tribal-affiliated orgs, Tribal gov't	High	See program page
		Public Land Buffers (DoD, USFS)	July	conservation buffer, military, Sentinel Landscapes, invasive species, fish passage, water quality	<a href="#">Program link</a>	0% (DoD), 20% (USFS), 0% for Tribal		\$1,500,000	\$250,000 to \$1.5 million	States, Tribal, NGO	High	See program page
		National Forest Grants (USFS)	July	forest restoration, vegetation management, national forest	<a href="#">Program link</a>	20%, 0% for Tribal		\$1,500,000	\$250,000 to \$1.5 million	States, Tribal, NGO, Local gov't	High	See program page
		Forest, Range & Farmland Outreach (NRCS)	July	outreach, engagement, private landowners, voluntary conservation, Working Lands for Wildlife	<a href="#">Program link</a>	0% for Tribal, 50% other applicant		\$500,000	\$200,000 to \$500,000	States, Tribal, NGO	High	See program page
	Acres for America	May	land protection, habitat, national significance, public-private, Walmart, community, local economy	<a href="#">Program link</a>	1:1 (5:1 preferred)	\$4 million	Not specified	No data	State, NGO, Education, Tribal, Local gov't	High	<a href="#">RFP link</a>	
	Northeast Forests & Rivers Fund (USFWS, USFS, USDA)	June	habitat, freshwater fish, native birds, fish passage, connectivity, riparian, instream, restoration, forest blocks, aquatic ecosystems, agriculture	<a href="#">Program link</a>	1:1 preferred	\$2.3 million	Not specified	\$75,000 to \$300,000	State, NGO, Tribal, Education, Local gov't	Medium	<a href="#">RFP link</a>	
	National Coastal Resilience Fund (NOAA)	May (pre-proposal), July (full)	resilience, nature-based, restoration, coastal communities, coastal habitat, planning, design, coastal watersheds	<a href="#">Program link</a>	None	Not specified	No max	Varies widely from \$100,000 to \$10 million	Fed, State, Tribal, NGO, Education, Local gov't, For-profit	High	<a href="#">RFP link</a>	

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Restore America's Estuaries	National Estuary Program Watershed Grants (EPA)		January (LOI), April (Full proposal)	estuaries, NEP boundary areas, restoration, build capacity, sustainability	<a href="#">Program link</a>	23%	Not specified	\$500,000	\$200,000 to \$500,000	State, Tribal, NGO, Education, Local gov't	Unknown	<a href="#">RFP link</a>
ME Dept of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry (DACF)	Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Program	Conservation & Recreation Land	Not currently accepting proposals	public access, traditional use, hunting, trapping, fishing, habitat, land protection	<a href="#">Program link</a>	1:1	Not specified	Up to 50% appraised val. of conservation interest	\$500,000 to \$600,000	State, NGO, Local gov't, Foundations (State sponsor req'd)	Medium	<a href="#">Program Website</a>
		Public Access to Maine Waters Fund	Rolling deadline	water access, small parcels, boating, fishing, hand carry, swimming, clamming	<a href="#">Program link</a>	1:1	\$2 million (multiple years)	Up to 50% appraised val. of conservation interest	\$100,000 to \$200,000	State, NGO, Local gov't, Foundations (State sponsor req'd)	Medium	<a href="#">Program Website</a>
		Working Waterfront Access Protection	Not currently accepting proposals	working waterfront, coastal facilities, commercial fishing, marine access, clamming, worming	<a href="#">Program link</a>	1:1	Not specified	Up to 50% appraised val. of conservation interest	\$100,000 to \$200,000	Business, Local gov't, NGO, Other	Medium	<a href="#">Program Website</a>
		Working Farmland Access Protection	Not currently accepting proposals	easement, productive farmland, agriculture, local economy, new farmers, underserved community, multiple benefits	<a href="#">Program link</a>	1:1	Not specified	Up to 50% appraised val. of conservation interest	No data	State, NGO, Local gov't, Foundations (State sponsor req'd)	Medium	<a href="#">Program Website</a>
	Land & Water Conservation Fund		June	outdoor recreation facilities, facility development, public access, government, land acquisition	<a href="#">Program link</a>	1:1	Not specified	\$500,000	\$200,000 to \$500,000	State, County & local gov't, tribal	High	<a href="#">Program Website</a>

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	Recreational Trails Program		Not announced	trails, motorized, non-motorized, multiple use, recreation, maintenance, restoration, construction	<a href="#">Program link</a>	20%	Not specified	\$120,000	~\$50,000	Fed, State, NGO, Local gov't, Education	Low	<a href="#">Program Guidance Doc</a>
	Boating Facilities Fund		April (site inspection), July (full)	boating, recreation, public access improvements, motorized, non-motorized, development, renovation	<a href="#">Program link</a>	50%	Not specified	\$100,000	No data	State, Tribal, NGO, Local gov't, Community, Private	Medium	<a href="#">Application</a>
	Forest Legacy Program		May (initial contact), October (full)	land protection, private forestlands, conservation easement, partnership, public access, habitat, working forest	<a href="#">Program link</a>	25%	\$90 million	\$20 million	\$5 million to \$20 million	State (partnership w/landowners & NGO)	High	<a href="#">Guidance document</a>
Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME DEP)	Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program		June (pre-proposal), August (full)	mitigation, aquatic habitat, wetlands, land protection, restoration, enhancement, creation	<a href="#">Program link</a>	None	\$6.8 million statewide, varies regionally	Not specified	\$200,000 to \$500,000	NGO, Local gov't, Tribal, Public agency	Medium	<a href="#">Application links</a>
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Maine Office	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)		November	agricultural land easement, wetland reserve easement, farm	<a href="#">Program link</a>	1:1	\$1.4 billion over 4 years	50% of easement appraised value	No data	Private landowners (partner with easement Holder)	Low	<a href="#">Program Website</a>
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (MDIFW)	Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund		Jan & July (LOI), Feb & Aug (full)	habitat conservation, land acquisition, threatened and endangered species, public access	<a href="#">Program link</a>	33%	Not specified	Not specified	\$15,000 to \$20,000	NGO, Local gov't, Other (State sponsor req'd)	Medium	<a href="#">Program Website</a>

\*Degree of difficulty based on proposal complexity, recipient eligibility requirements, geographic constraints, competitiveness, required match and other factors