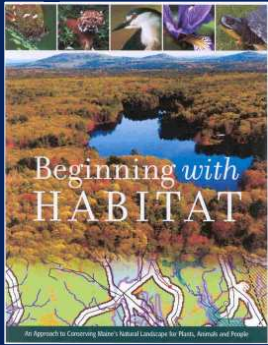


Maine State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grants Program has played an important role in the conservation of Maine's wildlife. The following are some of the projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



Beginning with Habitat,
Photo Courtesy of Maine
DIFW

Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife **Beginning with Habitat**

Beginning with Habitat is a cooperative effort of agencies and organizations working together to secure Maine's outdoor legacy. The goal of the program is to maintain sufficient habitat to support all native plant and animal species currently breeding in Maine by providing each town with a collection of maps and accompanying information depicting and describing various habitats of statewide and national significance in the town. *Beginning with Habitat* partners can then work with communities to design a landscape that accommodates the growth they need with the highest resource conservation. As our communities grow, this program will help us fulfill our responsibility to conserve wildlife and the places they live for future generations.

Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas **Bald Eagle Recovery**



Bald Eagle, Photo
Courtesy of USFWS

Bald eagles continue their dramatic comeback in Maine. Presently, the State is home to more than 300 nesting pairs, a remarkable 10-fold increase from the 30 nesting pairs reported in the late-1970s. Despite this accomplishment, our ultimate challenge is to provide suitable habitat for eagles in the future. Nesting eagles need mature trees and wooded buffers in shore lands, a niche habitat that will always be at risk from land development and recreational pressures. The purpose of this State Wildlife Grant project is to devise statewide strategies and identify optimal sites for long-term conservation of bald eagle nesting habitat. Such sites are the fundamental safeguard for a lasting recovery of the species in Maine. This "safety net" concept is the last pending objective for state reclassification of bald eagles from the current status of threatened.

Research: Gathering Information to Take Action **Understanding the Canada Lynx**



Lynx Cub, Photo Courtesy
of Maine DIFW

The Canada lynx has long been a rare carnivore in northern and western Maine. Until recently, its status was largely unknown and was based on anecdotal reports or a track in the snow. In 1999, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began an intensive study of Canada lynx in northwestern Maine. State Wildlife Grants allow research efforts to continue today. These studies provided a significant contribution to the understanding of lynx in Maine and will help to identify and prevent problems before they threaten this majestic species.

Congress has appropriated \$3.7 million in State Wildlife Grants to Maine since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$580 thousand state and partner dollars.