

Federal funding opportunities for habitat protection and restoration in Maine

Gulf of Maine Coastal Program



Greater Pleasant Bay

North American Waterfowl Management Plan Grants

Common acronyms:
NAWCA (pronounced naw-ca)
North American

Large Grant Application deadlines: March and July
Small Grants Application deadline: Nov.-Dec.

For more information, contact:
Lois Winter
USFWS, Gulf of Maine Coastal Program
phone: 781-8364
e-mail: lois_winter@fws.gov

Andrew Milliken, Regional NAWCA
Coordinator: 413-253-8687
www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/NAWCA/grants.htm

For information on any of these programs:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Gulf of Maine Coastal Program
4R Fundy Road
Falmouth, Maine 04105
(207) 781-8364
FAX (207) 781-8369
fw5es_gomp@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/gulfmaine>
Project Leader, Stewart Fefer

The federal grant programs described below focus primarily on grants supported through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal Program for fee and easement acquisition and habitat restoration. This handout also identifies other key grant programs regularly used in Maine that are available through other federal, state and/or non-government conservation partners. Nationally important habitats that are likely to compete successfully for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funds include coastal wetlands, coastal nesting islands, or habitat for migratory waterbirds, diadromous fish and/or federally endangered/threatened species. These federal grants generally require matching funds and the participation of multiple conservation partners and willing landowners.

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan, established to conserve our continent's remaining wetlands and increase migratory bird populations, is funded with appropriations from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). This international effort supports a Large Grants Program that provides matching grants (up to \$1,000,000 in federal funds) to manage, restore and/or acquire habitat. In addition, a Small Grants Program (up to \$75,000 in federal funds) is available to encourage new partnerships for habitat protection and restoration. A much smaller Migratory Bird Conservation Fund has not yet been used in Maine.

In Maine, we have received 12 Large and 22 Small NAWCA grants. These grants have contributed \$11.7 million (of the \$126.8 million total) to permanently protect 1.5 million acres of high value wetland and waterbird habitat. Successful Small Grant projects have ranged in size from 20 acres to 8,600 acres, and Large Grant projects have ranged in size from 762 acres to more than 762,000 acres. While many Maine projects have focused on coastal fee and easement acquisition to protect wildlife values in perpetuity, some of the largest Maine projects have been completed on landscape-scale inland tracts, with easements established to eliminate residential development options, provide for sustainable harvest by timberland owners, and ensure benefits in perpetuity to fish and wildlife resources.

To be nationally competitive, NAWCA proposals should provide more than 200% in non-federal matching funds and provide clear wetland and associated upland buffer benefits for waterbirds, federally endangered/threatened species, and diadromous fish. Other migratory birds identified as Species of Concern in national and regional Bird Conservation Plans also add a competitive edge to proposals. Non-federal match can be derived from donated lands, bargain sales, cash or in-kind services. Lands used as match must be permanently protected in fee or easement \pm two years from the date of the grant application, and NAWCA funds should be spent within two years.

The Maine Wetlands Protection Coalition (Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, The Nature Conservancy--Maine Chapter, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Gulf of Maine Coastal Program, Trust for Public Lands and Ducks Unlimited, Inc.) meets regularly to identify land protection priorities and coordinate many of the successful grant application efforts. Lands acquired with NAWCA funds are being protected and managed in perpetuity by Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, regional and local land trusts, or the National Wildlife Refuge system.



National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants

Common acronyms:
Coastal Wetland Grant
CWPR (pronounced quip-rah)

Application deadline: May or June

For more information, contact:
Lois Winter
USFWS, Gulf of Maine Coastal Program
phone: 781-8364
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Dan Leahy, Regional Office Federal Aid
Coordinator: 413-253-8687
<http://www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalGrants/>

www.fws.gov/cep/cwvcover.html

Hog Island



This matching grant program, funded and administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Aid Program, directs funds from the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act to state conservation agencies to acquire, restore, or manage coastal wetlands for fish and wildlife values. Grants can range up to \$1,000,000. To be nationally competitive, proposals should provide approximately 50% or more match in non-federal funds. Match can be derived from donated lands, bargain sales, cash or in-kind services. In Maine, the Maine Wetlands Protection Coalition (see description of NAWCA on the previous page) has often taken a lead role in identifying land protection priorities and coordinating Coastal Wetland Grant applications. Frequently, biologists at the Gulf of Maine Coastal Program assist local partners in developing successful proposals.

In Maine, ten Coastal Wetland Grants have been accepted for funding, leading to the permanent protection of more than 2,500 acres of coastal wetlands and associated upland buffer. Coastal Wetland Grants have contributed nearly \$3 million towards total acquisition costs of almost \$5 million. Islands and coastal mainland properties with large mudflats and salt marsh that provide high value habitat for nesting eagles, nesting seabirds, migrating shorebirds, breeding, migratory and wintering waterfowl, other waterbirds and searun fish, have been acquired with these funds.

All Coastal Wetland Grant funds are directed to Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) as the Grantee. MDIFW may designate a Subgrantee such as a local land trust, to own and steward the property in perpetuity.

Fish Passage Program

For more information, contact:
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<http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/FWSMA/fishpassage/FPPrgs/R5/Region5.htm>

Administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this program provides matching funds to support searun fish restoration projects -- by restoring fishways, bypassing barriers, removing dams, or any other appropriate methods. Sometimes, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funds are matched with non-federal matching funds from the Fish America Foundation before being distributed to partners. Grants generally range in size up to \$25,000.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Branch of Habitat Conservation

Gulf of Maine Coastal Program
Partners for Fish and Wildlife
For more information, contact:
Stewart Fefer
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Ron Joseph
USFWS, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Gulf of Maine Coastal Program in Falmouth, ME provides technical, habitat mapping and biological assistance, along with knowledge of federal funding opportunities, to protect and restore nationally important fish and wildlife habitat through partnerships in the Gulf of Maine watershed (with a strong focus on the State of Maine). The Coastal Program partners with other federal, state, tribal, town, land trust or private organizations. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, administered out of the Maine Field Office in Old Town, provides technical and biological assistance to restore fish and wildlife habitat on private lands in Maine. The Gulf of Maine Coastal Program and the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program may access limited funds from their own program funds or from Regional accounts, and/or help partners access nationally competitive federal funding sources to support habitat protection and restoration initiatives that benefit migratory birds, searun fish, federally endangered species, wetlands and upland buffer, streamside habitat, and coastal nesting islands.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grants

Common acronym: NFWF (pronounced nif-wif)

For more information, contact:

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Jonathat Mawdsley
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
202-857-0166
<http://www.nfwf.org>

For more MASCF information, contact:

Jed Wright
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e-mail: jed_wright@fws.gov

For more MHRP information, contact:

Sandra Lary
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Salt marsh restoration monitoring

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Common acronyms:
Land and Water
L-W-C-F

For more LWCF information, visit:
<http://ipl.unm.edu/cwl/fedbook/lwcfact.html>

For more state-side LWCF information, visit: <http://www.state.me.us/doc/parks/programs/community/lwgrants.html>

Jordan's Delight



The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a non-profit organization, was established by Congress to provide funds to conserve and restore fish, wildlife, native plants and the habitat on which they depend, through community-based partnerships. Federal funds directed from several federal land management agencies (including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) are used by the Foundation as seed money to attract additional private donations. Ultimately, the Foundation releases funds to grant recipients on a matching grant basis. To be nationally competitive, non-federal match should typically be twice as much as the NFWF funds requested. Grants generally range from several thousand dollars to \$150,000 and can be directed to federal, state and local governments, educational institutions and non-profit organizations. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation awards General Matching Grants to specific projects and also manages the following two Special Grant Programs that are directed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal Program:

The Maine Atlantic Salmon Collaborative Fund (MASCF) supports habitat protection, restoration and habitat assessment work along Atlantic salmon rivers -- with a focus on rivers that harbor federally listed "wild Atlantic salmon." Non-federal match requirements vary. In recent years, NFWF has provided between \$1.5 - \$2 million annually to support this initiative.

The Maine Habitat Restoration Partnership (MHRP) supports habitat restoration work in coastal wetlands, grasslands and along sea-run fish rivers. Non-federal match requirements vary. Grants typically range from \$1K - \$25K. High priority projects are funded on an as-needed, first-come, first-served basis.



elvers



Atlantic salmon

Congressional approval is needed to access and appropriate all LWCF funds, which are derived from surplus property sales, motorboat fuel taxes, offshore oil and gas extraction, and user fees collected at National Parks and other federal fee collection areas. These revenue sources raise about \$900 million annually, but funds actually appropriated by Congress are much less. LWCF funds may be available through two separate funding pools. Federal land management agencies, with support from partners, can request money from "federal-side LWCF" to acquire lands for federal recreation, historic and conservation values. Funds are provided for federal acquisition through Congressional earmark. There is no requirement for matching funds. Federal LWCF has been instrumental in providing land acquisition funds for all of Maine's National Wildlife Refuges and Acadia National Park.

State agencies and municipalities can request money from "state-side LWCF" to acquire land for active or passive public outdoor recreation. State-side LWCF requires 1:1 matching funds. State-side LWCF has contributed to the protection of the St. Croix River corridor, Mt. Blue/Tumbledown and the West Branch of the Penobscot. Funding can vary dramatically from year to year.

Tribal Wildlife Grants and Tribal Landowner Incentive Program

Common acronyms:
TWG (pronounced "twig")
TLIP (pronounced "T-Lip")
Application deadlines: typically, April

For more information, contact:
Gulf of Maine Coastal Program: 781-8364
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program: 827-5938
DJ Monette, Native American Liaison in the
Regional USFWS Office: 413-253-8662
<http://grants.fws.gov/tribal.html>

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funds and administers both of these programs to benefit fish, wildlife and their habitats -- including species not hunted or fished. Only federally recognized Indian tribal governments are eligible to apply. The **Tribal Wildlife Grants** can provide up to 100% of the funds for projects that benefit fish, wildlife and their habitats. The **Tribal Landowner Incentive Grants** can provide up to 75% of the funds to protect and restore habitats that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species on tribal lands. Applicants for both program are most competitive if they provide matching funds. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office in Hadley, MA coordinates the programs for tribes in Maine, notifies grantee of approved proposals and coordinates with successful applicants to develop grant agreements. Since the inception of both tribal grant programs, biologists at the Gulf of Maine Coastal Program and the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program have assisted Maine tribes in developing successful proposals. In FY05, the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Tribes received more than \$500K to remove dams and restore fishways, monitor water quality, and manage freshwater fish.

State Landowner Incentive Program

Common acronyms:
LIP (pronounced "lip")
L-I-P
Annual Project Summary and Final Application
deadline have been in the fall, but may change.

For more information, contact:
Bob Houston
USFWS, Gulf of Maine Coastal Program
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e-mail: robert_houston@fws.gov

Sarah Demers, ME Natural Areas Program:
287-8630
<http://www.maineaturalareas.org/docs/lip/>

With funds provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife administers, and Maine Natural Areas Program conducts outreach for this program designed to protect and restore habitat on private lands to benefit federally listed, proposed or candidate species, state-listed species and other species at risk. Maine LIP Steering Committee includes representative(s) from: ME Dept of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, ME Natural Areas Program, ME Forest Service, ME Department of Agriculture, USFWS Gulf of Maine Coastal Program, USFWS ME Field Office, The Nature Conservancy, Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Maine Audubon. LIP funds in Maine may be directed to different priorities each year, but the program currently focus on initiatives supporting individual at-risk species or specific geographic focus areas. Funds can be used to acquire conservation easements, develop cooperative management agreements or conduct habitat management projects, but have not been available for fee acquisition. Land trusts, municipalities, state agencies and other entities authorized to hold easements are eligible to apply for funds. In FY05, Maine received \$655K, one of the largest grants in the Northeast.

Private Stewardship Grant Program

Application deadline: March
For more information, contact:
Diane Lynch, USFWS, Regional Office
phone: 413-253-8628
e-mail: diane_lynch@fws.gov
http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/private_stewardship/FY2005/PSGP_2005_fultext.pdf

This relatively small grant program, funded and administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provides financial and other assistance to individuals and groups engaged in local, private, and voluntary conservation efforts conducted on private lands that benefit species listed or proposed as endangered or threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, candidate species, or other at-risk species. Factors used to evaluate the merit of the proposals include: (1) the number of endangered, threatened, candidate or at-risk species that will benefit from the project; (2) the importance of the project to the conservation of those species (i.e. duration of benefits, magnitude of benefits, and the urgency of the project); (3) the amount of non-federal matching funds; and (4) any other proposal merits, such as whether the project complements other conservation projects in the area, the project's unique qualities, etc. In FY05, Stratton Island received \$47K to support seabird restoration work.



Roseate tern

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Grants: Section 6

For more information, contact:

Diane Lynch, USFWS Regional Office

phone: 413-253-8628

e-mail: diane_lynch@fws.gov

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/Section6/>

The Regional USFWS Endangered Species staff manages two grant programs that support State of Maine efforts to recover endangered species or species at-risk. Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), the only state agency that has a current Cooperative Agreement with the Dept. of the Interior, is the only state agency currently eligible to apply. MDIFW can apply for funding to support its own agency work, or MDIFW can apply on behalf of other state agencies or non-government organizations. Both of the following programs require 25% in non-federal matching funds. The **Conservation Grants Program** funds habitat restoration, species status surveys, public education, outreach, captive propagation and reintroduction, nesting surveys, genetic studies and development of management plans. **Recovery Land Acquisition Grants** provide funds for permanent habitat protection (fee or easement acquisition) in support of an approved or draft recovery plan for at least one federally listed species. Gulf of Maine Coastal Program worked cooperatively with partners to submit successful Recovery Land Acquisition Grants to protect riparian corridors for Atlantic salmon along the Machias River.

Farm Bill conservation easement program

Common acronym: Duck Stamp

For more information, contact:

Ron Joseph,

USFWS, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

phone: 827-5938

e-mail: ron_joseph@fws.gov

The federal Farm Bill permits landowners who have borrowed money from the Farm Service Agency, a branch of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, to reduce their debt by voluntarily establishing a conservation easement on their property. Generally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service accepts permanent management authority over the easements, but if the easement is adjacent to land trust or state property, those organizations are also eligible to manage the easement. Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Maine Field Office manages several thousand acres of Farm Bill conservation easements in Maine.

Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Funds

Waterfowl hunters are required to purchase a federal "duck stamp." Revenues are used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge system to acquire waterfowl habitat. If you know of wetland habitat near an existing National Wildlife Refuge, contact the Refuge Manager to explore the possibility of using Duck Stamp funds for acquisition.

Partnerships for Wildlife

For more information, contact:

Dan Leahy, USFWS, Regional Office Federal Aid

Coordinator: 413-253-8687



This matching grant program, funded and administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Aid Program, provides grants to Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to benefit nongame fish and wildlife. Game species, endangered and threatened species and marine mammals are eligible for funding. Priority is given to projects involving species at risk of becoming threatened or endangered. Grants can be used for resource management and research, land acquisition, restoration or enhancement, education and/or promoting non-consumptive forms of wildlife recreation (i.e. photography, viewing). States must provide 1/3 of the cost, private groups can contribute 1/3 of the cost, and the Partnership for Wildlife Program provides the final third. Each state is limited to \$250,000 annually from this program.

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership Important Habitat Protection Fund

For more information, contact:

Lois Winter, Gulf of Maine Coastal Program
phone: 781-8364

Chris Fichtel, Maine Coast Heritage Trust
phone: 729-7366

Karen Young, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership
phone: 780-4820

This grant program, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency through the locally-based Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, supports fish and wildlife habitat protection initiatives in the Casco Bay watershed -- with a focus on coastal habitat. Lands protected with these funds must have important habitat values documented in the statewide Beginning with Habitat initiative, or confirmed by other verifiable biological sources. Funds can be used to support the up-front costs of habitat protection, such as survey, appraisal and natural resource inventory, and the funds can also be used to purchase land in fee or easement. Generally, grants vary in size from a few hundred dollars to \$30K. Funds are distributed to high priority projects on a first-come, first-served basis and have supported 20 habitat protection projects in the Casco Bay watershed.

Other federal habitat protection and restoration opportunities

Mill Brook salt marsh restoration



Green heron

Smelt Hill Dam removal
Presumpscot River



Doweneast Lakes Forestry Partnership



U.S. Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program provides up to 75% of the funds needed to acquire (fee or easement) forestlands used for timber production that are threatened by development. Forest Legacy Funds have provided millions of dollars in support of two landscape-scale timberland easements in northern Maine. *For more information, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml>*

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) regularly uses its **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)** in Maine to fund wetland restoration projects, and the **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)** for river restoration projects. In addition to substantial funding, NRCS may provide technical support from its district conservationists, engineers and hydrologists. Gulf of Maine Coastal Program frequently partners with NRCS to implement salt marsh and river restoration projects. *For more information, contact NRCS State Biologist Jeff Norment at 990-9100x3 or visit <http://w.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/> and <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/>*

NOAA-Fisheries' Community-Based Habitat Restoration Program provides funding for wetland and river restoration activities. *For more information, visit http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/index.html* NOAA also provides funds to the **Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Habitat Restoration Partnership** for nearshore habitat and coastal wetland and river restoration projects. Grants support planning, design, implementation, monitoring and some inventory work. Grants range from \$5K to \$50K. *For more information, contact Jon Kachmar at the ME State Planning Office at 287-1913 or visit <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/habitatrestoration/>.* NOAA also funds **Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection (CELP)**, which provides up to \$1 million to acquire and protect important coastal and estuarine habitat. In its first few years, all CELP funding required a Congressional earmark, but in FY06, a portion of CELP funding may be available through a competitive grant application process. *For more information, visit <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/landconservation.html>.* In addition, NOAA provides funds to coordinate partnerships with the Land Trust Alliance and Maine organizations committed to "increasing the pace and quality of coastal land protection in Maine" through the **Maine Coast Protection Initiative (MCPI)**. MCPI is offering Implementation, Capacity Building and GIS Service Center grants, ranging up to \$30K. *For current information, contact Amy Owsley at 729-7366 or visit <http://www.protectcoastalmaine.org>.*

The **Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)** may provide 65% federal funds to plan, design and implement multi-million dollar wetland and river restoration projects through the **206 Program** and **1135 Program**. ACOE 206 funds and engineering services were used to help remove Edwards Dam and Smelt Hill Dam in Maine.

Damage compensation funds from coastal oil spills have been used in Maine to protect or restore degraded habitat, in order to mitigate for waterbirds killed and wetland values lost or damaged in the oil spill.

Transportation Efficiency Act (TEA-21) may be available through ME Dept. of Transportation and ME Dept. of Conservation for acquisition of scenic or historic sites, trail corridors, scenic views, trailhead parking, etc. linked to transportation corridors. *For more information, visit:*

<http://www.maine.gov/mdot/community-programs/enhancement-program.php>

<http://www.state.me.us/doc/parks/programs/community/trailsfund.html>

National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program also provides technical support to assist grassroots groups in capacity-building and construction of recreational trail corridors. *For more information, contact Burnham Martin at 729-4934*

State habitat protection opportunities

MOHF Summary Information Form deadlines:
Feb. 1 & Aug. 1
Full MOHF application deadlines:
Mar. 1 & Sept. 1



Machias River

Maine Outdoor Heritage Funds (MOHF) are derived from a state lottery and the loon drivers license plate. A small percentage of the funds can be used for acquisition of public lands, parks and wildlife conservation areas. (Most of these funds are reserved for state fish and wildlife management initiatives other than land protection). Non-profit organizations, educational institutions and state agencies can apply for funds through one of 16 designated state natural resource agencies. Non-state match greater than 1/3 of total project cost increases ranking. *For more information, contact Catherine Pineau at 623-2355 or visit <http://www.state.me.us/ifw/outdoorheritage>.*

State of Maine Duck stamp funds are also available to help acquire habitat for State Wildlife Management Areas.

The Land for Maine's Future Program, supported primarily by a statewide bond for land protection statewide, has expended \$50 million in the last several years. Currently, the LMFP has no remaining funds. A proposed \$10 million bond to replenish the LMFP is scheduled for state voter approval in the November, 2005 election. *For more information, contact : Tim Glidden or Steve Brooke at Maine State Planning Office at 287-6736 or visit <http://www.state.me.us/spo/lmf>.*

Currently, no state funds are available for habitat restoration partnerships.



Flag Island

Environmental Grantmaking Foundations



Florida Lakes

Private foundations support environmental initiatives, and major libraries have comprehensive reference books and CD's that list and describe the kinds of programs each foundation is likely to support. The Maine Philanthropy Center at the University of Southern Maine in Portland has references on funding sources, including the Foundations Center Database, a comprehensive and searchable CD for identifying grant sources. The Maine Philanthropy Center's website at: www.megrants.org describes the Center and its services, lists training opportunities on grantsmanship and also includes many (but not all) foundations included on the Foundations Center Database CD. The Maine Philanthropy Center has satellite sites providing similar services at the Camden Public Library, University of Maine at Machias and the Houlton Public Library. If you plan to visit the Maine Philanthropy Center at USM, call 780-5039 to schedule a time. First-time users need instruction, and repeat users need to schedule computer time. For more information, visit www.negrants.org. If the Maine Philanthropy Center is not convenient for you, another excellent source of information is Environmental Grantmaking Foundations, available as a CD and in hard copy through the Environmental Data Research Institute at 1-800-724-1857.



Robinson Woods and vernal pool

NOTE: Funding sources, staff and application deadlines can change from one year to the next. If you have updated information or know of other habitat protection and restoration funding sources not mentioned here, please contact Lois Winter at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal Program at 207-781-8364 or lois_winter@fws.gov in order to make this list most helpful and relevant to Maine conservation partners. Thanks!