

MEMORANDUM

To: Melanie Loyzim, Commissioner, Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Grace Moses, Chief, Technical Support Branch, ACOE New England District

From: Bryan Emerson, Mitigation Program Manager, The Nature Conservancy

Re: **2025 Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program Funding Allocations**

The Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program (MNRCP) was created in 2007 to manage the allocation of funds collected by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) through its In Lieu Fee Compensation Program. This voluntary program allows entities that are impacting natural resources, primarily wetlands, to make a payment directly to DEP as an alternative to the traditional mitigation process. Fees collected by DEP are deposited in a Natural Resource Conservation Fund administered by The Nature Conservancy in Maine (TNC). To date, a total of \$46,833,954 in resource compensation fees have been received.

On November 19, 2025, the MNRCP Review Committee was convened by DEP to evaluate 11 full proposals that were received in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) released in July 2025. The Review Committee evaluated the proposals for consistency with core program requirements, and ranked all proposals based on the review criteria included in the RFP. The committee then developed recommendations for grant funding from MNRCP.

On January 7, 2026, the MNRCP Interagency Review Team (IRT) was convened by DEP and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (ACOE) to consider the Review Committee recommendations and to approve the seventeenth round of funding from MNRCP. Attached is the list of projects reviewed and the resulting approved funding amounts, for your concurrence.

Upon receipt of this authorization signed by the IRT Co-Chairs, and prior to the release of any MNRCP funds, TNC and DEP will enter into project agreements with each of the approved project sponsors. The project agreements shall be in general conformance with the sample "Agreement" included in Appendix C to the "State of Maine In Lieu Fee Program Instrument" between DEP and ACOE, unless otherwise authorized by DEP and ACOE.

Attachment – MNRCP 2025 Funding Allocations

Concur: 
Melanie Loyzim, MNRCP IRT Co-Chair

Date: 1/8/2026

Concur: 
Grace Moses, MNRCP IRT Co-Chair

Date: 1/8/2026

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program 2025 Funding Allocations

Region and Project	Sponsor	Funds Requested	Fund Awarded
Southern Maine			
Beaver Brook Restoration	Town of Scarborough	\$ 562,000.00	\$ 562,000.00
York River Marsh Enhancement	Maine Coast Heritage Trust	\$ 374,900.00	\$ 374,900.00
Region Total:		\$ 936,900.00	\$ 936,900.00
Central Interior and Midcoast			
Alford Brook Preserve Restoration	Georges River Land Trust	\$ 464,880.00	\$ 420,559.00
Great Salt Bay Eelgrass Restoration	Maine Coastal Program	\$ 850,546.00	\$ 850,546.00
Rawson Brook Headwaters	Downeast Salmon Federation	\$ 591,500.00	\$ -
Royal River Dam Removals	American Rivers, Inc	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00
Region Total:		\$ 2,315,426.00	\$ 2,271,105.00
Central and Western Mountains			
Brush Mill Dam Removal	American Rivers, Inc	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00
Upper Magalloway Restoration	Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust	\$ 243,500.00	\$ 243,500.00
Region Total:		\$ 593,500.00	\$ 593,500.00
Downeast Maine			
Cathance Lake Secondary Outlet	Project SHARE	\$ 241,538.40	\$ 241,538.40
Great Meadow Restoration	Friends of Acadia	\$ 308,000.00	\$ 308,000.00
Region Total:		\$ 549,538.40	\$ 549,538.40
Aroostook Hills and Lowlands			
Gardner Creek Bridge	Town of Wade	\$ 282,300.00	\$ 282,300.00
Region Total:		\$ 282,300.00	\$ 282,300.00
Grand Total:		\$ 4,677,664.40	\$ 4,633,343.40