



# **Landowner Relations Program**

**2022 Annual Report**

**Warden Corporals Rick LaFlamme & Kris MacCabe**

**Landowner Relations Specialists**



**OUTDOOR  
PARTNERS**



## INTRODUCTION

Whether it was hiking, walking, biking, camping, hunting, fishing, or utilizing recreational vehicles – the outdoor boom was still present and at times still burdening our public and private landowners.

The Landowner Relations Program continued to provide support to numerous landowners who reached out for assistance with signage or guidance on how to better control who was actively using their land. Additionally, the program worked with game wardens across the state to investigate and resolve cases of land abuse.

In an effort to take a more proactive outreach approach, we worked closely with the Department’s Information and Education division to perform targeted outreach to increase landowners’ awareness of the program. The effort resulted in a larger and broader email distribution list for the program to utilize when sharing helpful information to Maine’s landowners. Additionally, the outreach effort helped to gain a better picture of landowner’s current needs. The results of the included survey showed a high level of interest in additional information about managing habitat for both game and non-game species as well as forest management.

The Landowner Relations and Keep Maine Clean programs remain a top priority for MDIFW. Throughout the year we have been successful in cleaning up countless dump sites around the state with the largest effort focused on the annual Landowner Appreciation Day which occurs every fall. The success of these two programs is paramount in continuing the free and open access to private lands. We are now considering ways to increase participation in the annual event, such as moving it to a date in the spring or offering two days. Several other ideas may include having food trucks at each dumpster location bringing landowners in for an appreciation meal.

There will always be a need to provide the “one on one” attention Maine landowners deserve. We recognize the fragility of these relationships because without their cooperation we would all lose an important tradition we have all enjoyed. The very thing that makes Maine a great state to live in, could be gone if not nurtured. Let us not forget to respect Maine’s landowners.

Landowner Specialists Rick LaFlamme and Kris MacCabe field many calls from the public, department biologists, warden staff, DACF staff, ATV / Snowmobile clubs and private landowners throughout the year. The calls are handled or vetted by the appropriate personnel or advice is given to remedy the problem. There are times when the complaint is handled in-house and special attention is given to the complainant, who is usually a landowner.



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## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Large Landowners Corporal Rick Laflamme

#### Training:

- Met with new warden cadets for landowner relations training;
- Built 8 new LOR gear bags and distributed them to the new wardens and training component;
- Training for department sponsored outdoor ethics class (landowner relations portion); and
- Finished all annual training required of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy

#### Education/Outreach:

- Attended the 4th annual American Forest Management Bear meeting with their staff, all permitted hunters and IFW staff;
- Attended the annual spring veteran's turkey hunt at Pineland in Gray; and
- Assisted and organized staff with an Aroostook County landowner who coordinates the Veteran's Moose hunt in mid-September.

#### Landowner Issues:

- Meetings with landowners and snowmobile club in Glenburn to discuss future trail re-route. Worked with warden Rick Ouellette for enforcement and signs in the closed area;
- Assisted a landowner in Milford with gate and signs to keep ATV trail open;
- Met with large turf farm owner in southern Maine again this year due to a yearly problem with geese. Unfortunately, they don't qualify for a depredation permit (not considered agricultural). Provided hazing information and cracker shells for deterrent;
- Met with Shady Nook Lake Association to discuss open lands for hunting and lake association. Reviewed all bylaws, maps and documents to assist with mirroring state law;
- Assist wind tower landowners in Bingham with abuse issues. Supplied cell cameras and LOR overtime to staff in that region. Most of damage has been done by vehicles, towers have been shot and defaced;
- Worked with large landowner in Hollis in conjunction with staff and snowmobile club to resolve land abuse issue. Warden staff installed cameras and caught violators;
- Assisted warden staff and landowner with installing a couple of gates, that were being misused by motorized vehicles;
- Meetings with warden staff and Weyerhaeuser, on land use policies and discussions about electronic mapping of recreation trails;
- Attended meeting with Brian Bronson regarding discontinued town roads and ATV use in Madison;
- Assisted several landowners with depredation permits for nuisance wildlife; and

## Landowner Relations Program – Annual Report 2022

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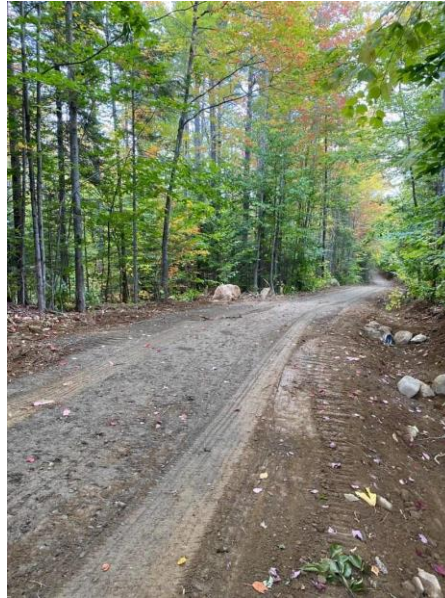
- Worked on joint project with Piscataquis County Water District, K.I. (Katahdin Ironworks) riders ATV club on fixing a road access to “the look out, and outdoor classroom”. Repaired road for all access.

### **Administrative:**

- Meeting with Snowmobile council, Maine Snowmobile Association (MSA), and Joe Higgins to discuss future of Backwoods and off trail riding (came up with verbiage for new law proposal from MSA);
- Worked with ONXMAPs software owner to update some landowner information in Northern Maine and had discussions with DACF and their staff regarding the future of recreational trails (renewed memberships for all warden staff) and updated some of our technology;
- Continue with several meetings throughout the summer and fall with CMP, DACF, MDIFW staff and other landowners in the Bingham and Embden area to resolve ATV trail and landownership dispute;
- Continue with meetings with Office of Tourism and stakeholders on their branding and messaging to the general public about responsible use of private property;
- Met with biological staff and AFIS to review the beaver removal guidelines and make sure law updates were distributed;
- Met with Waste Management administrative staff to discuss future of program and meet and greet with Kris MacCabe;
- Assisted DACF with nuisance beaver, at several locations across the state;
- Meetings with Maine woodland owner’s executive director and asst. director;
- Phone conference with executive director of North Maine Woods;
- Obtained several more motion sensor propane cannons to assist farmers & landowners with wildlife conflicts, approximately 16 cannons now offered on a loaner program;
- We purchased and delivered 15 thousand signs, which included the Access by Permission, No Motorized Vehicles, “No discharge of firearms in this area, Access Permitted, and Safety Zone signs that are available to landowners for the upcoming year. We work to identify the landowner needs and use the signs to address misuse of their land;
- We purchased 40 more live feed cameras to assist landowners with misuse issues; and
- Purchased 4 more electric mountain bikes for warden staff in the Ashland, Bangor and Gray regions. To deal with patrolling some more remote areas. Operation Game Thief also purchased two more.

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## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES



### Small Landowners Corporal Kris MacCabe

#### Training:

- Statewide MOSES Training with Licensing Division – explanation of the benefits of the OPP program and answered questions and
- MSA Trail meeting at Maine Annual Snowmobile Show.

#### Education/Outreach:

- Worked with I&E Division to design the Outdoor Partners themed display at Fryeburg Fair;
- Participated on the Sportsmen’s Alliance of Maine youth committee;
- Worked with Johnson Outdoors (owners of Old Town Canoe) on Clean Earth Initiative and cleanup at Old Town Boat Launch;
- Working on “Private for Public Podcast” that will premiere in 2023;
- Working with Prentiss and Carlisle and other Large working Forest Land Managers on tips on recreating in working forest;
- Madawaska Snowmobile Club Landowner Appreciation BBQ;
- Central Maine Power Training in Augusta;
- Piscataquis County Soil and Water District landowner training; and
- Fielded numerous calls from landowners and land users, gave advice and educated to solve issues that arose.

**Landowner Issues:**

- Worked with Citizens from the Town of Winthrop on Boat Mooring ordinance. Also looked at several other mooring ordinances in the Central Maine area;
- Hocomock Island, met with concerned abutting landowners who expressed their concern for year-round traffic on road into Department Land;
- Meet with Diano Circo from IF&W on issues with Illegal camping and litter on Bald Mountain Pond boat launch and fishing area;
- Worked with Diano Circo from IF&W and wardens in the Augusta Area on removal of boat that was full of narcotic needles from Cobbossee Lake boat launch;
- Working with Fisheries, Wildlife and other IF&W Department staff on issues at Department owned boat launches and land where watercraft are left and become litter after being left behind for years;
- Met with CMP regarding recreational use on property;
- Assisted Landowners and Department Staff with locating landowners that would allow for PFAS testing of wildlife in restricted areas of Fairfield, Norridgewock, Skowhegan, Smithfield;
- Assist Wdn. Osgood with removal of watercraft left in Wyman’s blueberry barrens;
- Worked with Wdn. Sgt. Mckenney to provide detail opportunities at the Barnyard ATV event in Livermore Falls; (6 OUI’s)
- Worked with Wdn. Latti on ATV issues in his area, addressing complaints from landowners with details. 82 ATVs checked, 7 summons, 10 warnings issued in a 4-hour detail;
- Worked on ATV complaints from neighboring landowners at the Summerhaven gravel pit “pit play area”. Worked with Pike Gravel on posting the area as closed to ATV’s;
- Worked with Wdn. Dyer on cleanup at Dutton Pond in Knox County. This is a small trout pond with a private launch that the public is allowed to use. Town of Belfast Transfer Station allowed us to dispose of debris at no cost;
- Organized the Landowner Appreciation Day and Keep Maine Clean initiative;
- Assisted with various signage requests for landowners and the water access program.
- Assisted with multiple small clean ups utilizing the Keep Maine Clean Program;



- Assisted many landowners with the LOR signs.
- Handled trespass complaints for various landowners.
- Assist with SWOAM with land abuse; Illegal ATV use, unlabeled game cameras, illegal tree stands;

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Assisted landowner in Auburn with piles of shingles and working on providing him a parking area for recreational use;
- Assisted with Veterans' moose hunt in Aroostook County causing broccoli damage.
- Assisted with Veterans' turkey and deer hunt at Pineland Farms in New Gloucester to lower population on the campus; and
- Worked with Sebasticook Land Trust on proper signage on land trust land in the Unity area where people were shooting at deer on land where no hunting is allowed.

### Administrative:

- Assigned and authorized landowner related details for ATV, snowmobile, hunting, fishing, land abuse and littering issues – statewide;
- Appointed to serve on the Maine Abandoned and Discontinued Road Commission;
- Conducted various meetings with landowners by request;
- MWS Supervisory Staff meetings; MWS Division meetings; LSRAB meetings; Maine Guide Testing; Maine Department of Tourism;
- Work with Warden Service Command Staff on Landowner Relations Deputy Program;
- Working with Landowner Relations Deputy Mike Connely on setting up weekly work schedule;
- Worked on nuisance wildlife policies within the MDIFW to make it easier on landowners to handle nuisance issues;
- Assist with a document for Direction on Boat Mooring Ordinances in Maine;
- Assist with town ordinances on hunting. Met with Augusta PD about hunting ordinance in Augusta; and
- Working with MDIFW staff on permit restrictions for Coyote Predation Program.

### Collaboration with Other Agencies:

- Meeting with American Forest Management on Illegal bear bait issues;
- Working with Maine Forest Service and issuing landowner gear bag as well as 16 cellular cameras for use by field staff;
- Worked with US Fish and Wildlife Service on donation of confiscated moose antlers from Newfoundland that were illegally brought into Maine and donated to the landowner relations program for carvings donated to landowners.

### Landowner Relations Program Mission Statement

*Prioritize and address Maine's landowner concerns by quickly responding with assistance and enforcement while continuing to educate and bring awareness to all land users.*

## Program Funding

## Landowner Relations Program – Annual Report 2022

The use and access to private lands is unique to the Northeast and is of extreme importance to the State of Maine and its economy. The open and free access has been a longstanding tradition in which we all rely upon. The practice has been a long accepted and welcomed partnership amongst most landowners and users. This historical practice of free, public access to private lands has been acknowledged to be significant by the State of Maine as it relates to its citizens and economic well-being.

The initial creation of the Landowner Relations {LOR} Program approximately 27 years ago and newly created Keep Maine Clean {KMC} Program; was a direct result of the Legislature’s understanding of the importance of the free access given graciously by Maine’s private landowners. In 2018, MDIFW – Warden Service with support of the Landowner Sportsman Relations Advisory Board added another Landowner Specialist position to the program.

The following are funding sources the two programs have utilized for personal services, capital equipment, general expenses, etc. The “Support Wildlife” motor vehicle registration, the yearly \$150,000 General Fund allotment, and the Outdoors Partners program helps ensure the mission of the two programs {which share the funding} will continue well into the future and provide benefits to the landowners and land users of this great State of Maine.

This access can never be forsaken or taken for granted. At times, it has and will continue to take substantial funding to ensure we can continue to provide remedies to issues regarding private lands. Since 2018 the Landowner Relations and Keep Maine Clean Programs spend on average \$180,000.00 plus annually. This money is utilized for enforcement details, essential capital equipment, landowner needs and other services, as well as a sign program which provides a variety of signs, usually at no charge to the landowner. Any surplus money that is not utilized goes directly back to the LOR/KMC dedicated account and is able to be used later by the programs.

It would be extremely detrimental to make any eliminations or changes to the funding. This would undermine these two programs that have direct impact to the State’s economy and its citizens.

### Outdoor Partners Program



**OUTDOOR  
PARTNERS**

The Outdoor Partners program provides an opportunity for the outdoor users to donate to the Landowner Relations and Keep Maine Clean

Programs. It is a \$15 yearly

contribution and is available through the Department of MDIFW online store or at the time of license purchase. We also offer for sale, Outdoor Partner decals and hats of various colors and patterns. We had **1,673** participants in 2022 showing that the numbers for participation are holding steady to prior years.



The list of companies on our “Thank You” page has provided discounts for products, memberships or are assisted with our services. These relationships have been established with outdoor retailers, trash/tire disposal companies and organized clubs and associations to promote and provide an invaluable support system for Maine’s landowners and the Landowner Relations Program.



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## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

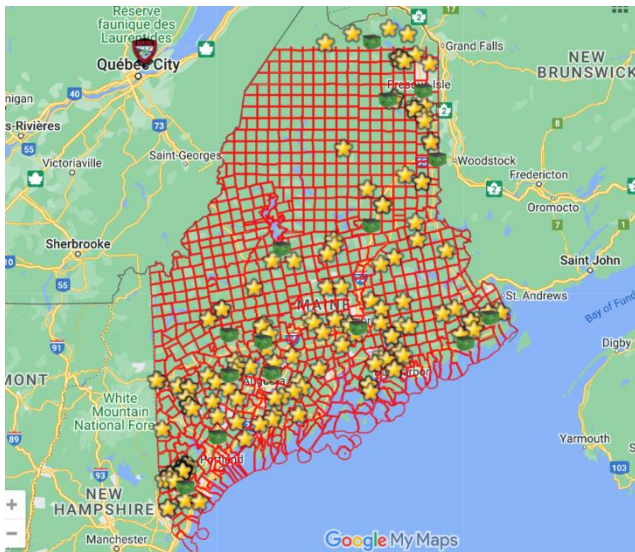
### KEEP MAINE CLEAN PROGRAM

Keep Maine Program was established and placed within the Landowner Relations Program of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The sole purpose is to provide relief and assistance to Maine’s landowners with illegal dumping {littering} issues. These illegal acts are a main reason for the POSTING of private property.

With the assistance and partnerships of the Maine Forest Service, BDS Tire and Waste Management the annual Landowner Appreciation Day which occurred on September 18<sup>th</sup> was a success. This litter is no longer on Maine’s landscape thanks to the program and the volunteers. The Keep Maine Clean Program is an essential and integral part for Landowner Relations and shall continue well into the future, to ensure we always Keep Maine Clean. 15 large dumpsters were filled statewide totaling **32.01 + tons of litter**; this does not include the tire totals listed below, which was taken by BDS tire disposal company in Fairfield Maine, for absolutely free! This phenomenal total of trash and tires were picked up within a day totally dedicated to Maine’s landowners.



## Landowner Relations Program – Annual Report 2022



### Dumpster locations and trash cleanup sites

### Warden Service

Division A – 149 tires

Division B - 137 tires

Division C – 449 tires

Division D - 9 tires

Division E - 120 tires

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**Statewide Total tires: 924**



The top four clubs who participated in the Annual Landowner Appreciation Day received prizes for most truckloads of trash. *Gift Cards graciously donated by Kittery Trading Post!*

1. Dennysville Snowmobile & ATV club
2. Wilton Fish & Game
3. Central Maine ATV Club
4. Winterport Snowmobile Club

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES**

9-19-22

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK WARDENS JASON LUCIE AND PETE HEARING FOR THE GREAT JOB THEY DID PICKING UP OLD TIRES AND OTHER DEBRIS FROM MY PROPERTY IN WINDHAM ONE SUNDAY SEPT. 18, LAND OWNER APPRECIATION DAY.

PLEASE APPLY THIS DONATION OF \$100.- TO OPERATION GAME TRAIL IN OUR NAMES.

THANK YOU,

From: Robert Chandler <[robert.chandler@hotmail.com](mailto:robert.chandler@hotmail.com)>  
 Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 3:23:00 PM  
 To: MacCabe, Kris <[Kris.MacCabe@maine.gov](mailto:Kris.MacCabe@maine.gov)>  
 Cc: Bart Chandler <[bart.chandler@gmail.com](mailto:bart.chandler@gmail.com)>  
 Subject: Re: Landowner Clean Up Day - Codyville

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Kris,

I just wanted to drop you a quick note thanking you for cleaning up the majority of trash on our property in Codyville. Josh Lugdin was very good at reaching out and updating us on the situation and the plan. They showed up yesterday morning in the rain and did a great job. Thanks for all your efforts.

Bob

**LANDOWNER AND SPORTSMEN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD**

The Landowner Sportsman Relations Advisory Board {LSRAB} is an advisory board to the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The following are goals of the Board that are set forth in law:

- Expand education to promote respect and appreciation for landowners;
- Continue support for nuisance wildlife damage issues on private property, especially farms;
- Ensure the importance of landowner relations and its program mission is delivered to the public;
- Continued coordination and cooperation between government agencies and landowners;
- Recognize non-traditional use is growing rapidly (hiking, biking, kayaking, over-landing with vehicles, back country snowmobile riding); and
- Acknowledge public access to private property is rapidly declining, due to lack of respect and abuse by users (litter, destruction of property, etc.)

**Advisory Board Members:**

- David Montague (Downeast Lakes Land Trust) - Chair
- James Cote (Maine Professional Guides Association)
- Tom Doak (Woodland Owners of Maine)
- Al Swett (Maine Snowmobile Association)
- Clark Granger (Maine Farm Bureau)
- Hannah Stevens (Seven Islands)
- Real Deschaine (Maine ATV)
- Kara Hodgin (Maine Tracking Dogs)
- Daniel Grenier (The Nature Conservancy)
- Rick Laflamme (Landowner Relations – MDIFW)
- Kris MacCabe (Landowner Relations – MDIFW)



The Maine Landowner Relations and Keep Maine Clean Programs would like to personally thank the following partners:

“THANK YOU”

Outdoor Partner Members

Ben's Trading Post

Indian Hill Trading Post

Northwoods Sporting Journal

Maine Sportsmen

North Maine Woods

Fort Kent Ski Doo

Kittery Trading Post

LL Bean

Landowner Sportsman Advisory Board

Cabela's

BDS Tire

Waste Management

Mac's Trading Post

Bicycle Coalition of Maine

Small Woodland Owners of Maine

Poland Spring

Sportsman Alliance of Maine

Maine Snowmobile Association

ATV Maine

Maine Professional Guides

Operation Game Thief

Maine Trappers Association

Maine Farm Bureau

Maine Realtors Association

Various Large Landowner Corporations

Various Land Trusts

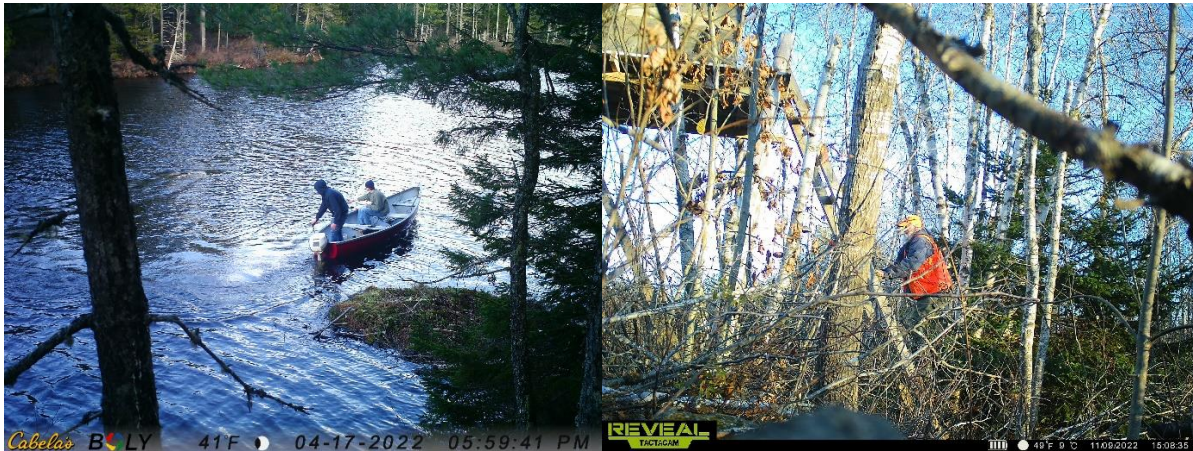
University of Maine

We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to all State of Maine employees, volunteers, and outdoor recreationalist who go out every day to help, educate or respect Maine’s landowners and keep Maine clean.

The Landowner Relations Program and the Department’s I&E worked together to have a larger social media presence to address issues surrounding land use by non-traditional users. The selling and mailing of signs and merchandise increased dramatically. We also reached out and campaigned specifically to landowners – it was well received with over 1,000 landowners signing up for the program / communication.

## 2022 Landowner Relations – Maine Game Wardens

Warden Joe McBrine is a continuous landowner advocate for the area he patrols in Washington County. He spends a significant amount of his time ensuring landowners have their issues resolved. Below are examples of how he used the latest cell camera technology to detect illegal fishing activity by placing a game camera after securing a search warrant to apprehend a person who had their hunting license revoked for hunting over bait in 2021. He was charged for hunting while under revocation and hunting over bait (again).



By using a cellular game camera, Warden Julia Horst was able to apprehend a suspect for criminal trespass as well as placing bait to entice deer.



Sgt. Carlton Richardson exhibiting excellent surveillance work with use of a game camera. He captured a subject trespassing by motor vehicle.



## Landowner Relations Program

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Other violations captured by Game Wardens included:

- Game Warden Matthew Tenan caught a pre-season bear baiter who we arrested on a warrant that was caught using your camera.
- Game Warden Matthew Tenan with a bear bait that was unlabeled and reported as being located on another person's property and the person was apprehended using your cameras.
- Warden Scott Martin Investigated a skidder that had been stolen in order to pull a truck out that was stuck. The skidder had been driven over 16 miles to get the vehicle out, causing damage to the road. The subject was charged with criminal mischief.

The following photos show the work between the LOR Program and Warden Service during the 2022 Veterans controlled moose, deer, and turkey hunts. Getting people outdoors to heal and give them an opportunity of a lifetime.





## New Technology used by the Landowner Relations Program

We have continued to build the Landowner Relations Program with new technology that we feel useful for assisting with landowner complaints in the field. We have continued to purchase cell cameras with 50 new Tactacam Reveal cameras being purchased in the past year. We also partnered with Operation Game Thief (OGT) this year on the purchase of 6 more Rambo E-Bikes for low impact patrol. LOR funds purchased 4 of the bikes and OGT purchased two more, with the goal of purchasing another two in spring of 2023 by OGT.

In 2022 we saw an increased request by landowners for propane cannons throughout the state. With the increased requests, we discovered it was difficult to track where the 15+ cannons we own were placed throughout the state. In 2023 the propane cannons will be fitted with an Apple Airtag to track the locations so we can move them to other locations nearby if needed.

We also purchased several Sky-High game camera mounting systems to try to work within the field and test to move away from climbing trees or using ladders.







**Maine Warden Service Landowner Related Calls for Service in 2022  
{As of December 7, 2022}**

- General trespass 134
- Snowmobile trespass - 61
- ATV trespass - 152
- Hunting trespass - 201
- Fishing trespass - 6
- Trapping trespass - 4
- Hunting dog trespass –17
- Littering / Dumping – 120
- Wildlife Conflicts: 2,717

**Maine Warden Service Landowner Related Summonses for 2022**

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**{As of December 7, 2022}**

- Snowmobile civil – 263
- Snowmobile criminal – 6
- Snowmobile OUI – 4
- ATV OUI-50
- ATV civil – 516
- ATV criminal – 43
- ATV OUI – 47
- Hunting – 431
- Fishing – 52
- Trapping – 6
- Abuse of Property – 11
- Trespass by Motor Vehicle- 4
- Criminal Trespass- 20
- Civil Trespass- 16

**Maine Warden Service Landowner Related Warnings for 2022  
{As of December 7, 2022}**

- Abuse of Property- 14
- Trespass- Hunting Dogs- 2
- Civil Trespass- 17
- Criminal Trespass-61
- Disposal of Offal; Litter- 3
- Violate Snowmobile Noise Level Limits-48
- Operate ATV on Land of Another Without Permission-70
- Trespass by Motor Vehicle- 5
- Littering- 5
- Illegal Placement of Bear Bait- 11

**Outreach and Education**

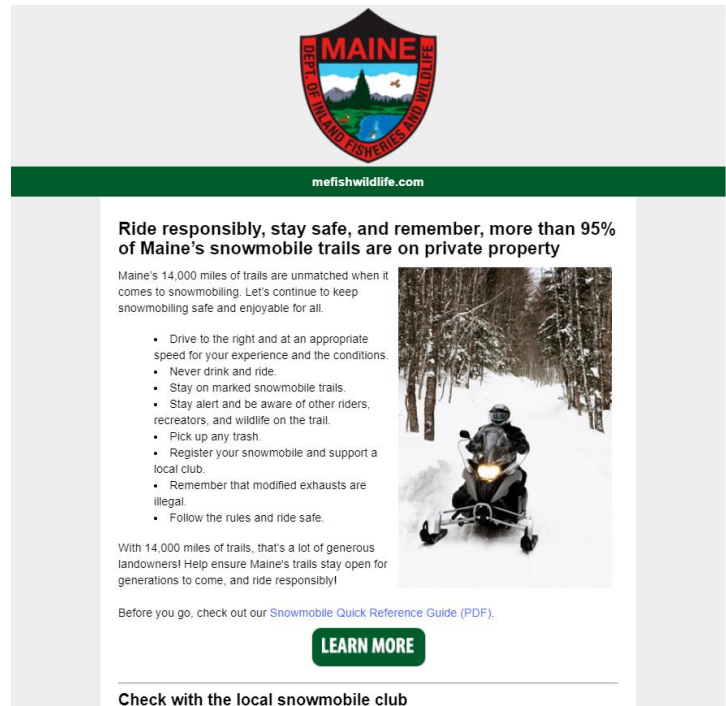
## Landowner Relations Program

The Landowner Relations corporals continue to work with Information and Education Division staff to educate both land users and landowners. Utilizing digital methods such as email communication, social media, and targeted digital ads, the Department can reach a specific targeted audience based on location, interests, and license or registration type at a specific time, such as the start of the fall hunting season or just before a long holiday weekend.

In 2022, the Department sent information to more than 60,000 snowmobilers who have snowmobiled in Maine within the past five years. Messages reminded snowmobilers that more than 95% of the 14,000 miles of trails are on private land, to stay on marked trails, modified exhausts are illegal, and other safe riding reminders. Information was sent through three separate emails (with nearly 30,000 unique people opening each message) and posted on Facebook and Instagram.

ATV reminders begin as soon as mud season starts in southern Maine, reminding excited ATV owners that trails do not open until May/June and to always check with a local club before making plans to ride. During the ATV season the Department sent information to more than 70,000 recent ATV registration holders, with reminders prior to each holiday long weekend. Messages remind riders of private landownership, to stay on marked trails, multi-use trails, to be mindful of dust on camp roads, access route laws, and other safe riding tips. Four ATV-related emails were sent in 2022, averaging around 30,000 unique individuals opening each message.

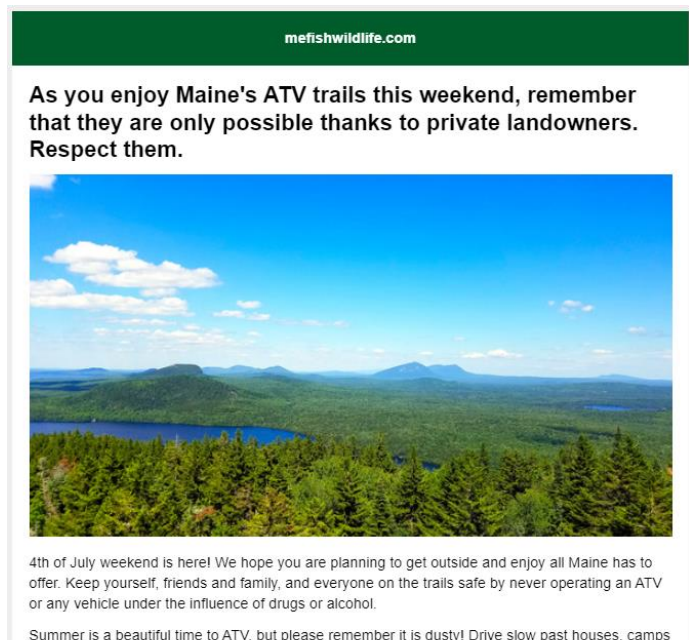
MDIFW regularly communicates with more than 200,000 licensed hunters and recent hunter education participants, sending multiple messages each month. On average, 75,000-100,000 hunters open each message. Landowner relations messaging is included in almost all hunter related messages, focusing on always asking for permission, and proper use of land.



The screenshot shows the top portion of an email. At the top center is the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife logo, which features a shield with a landscape scene and the text 'MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE'. Below the logo is a green bar with the website 'mefishwildlife.com' in white. The main body of the email has a white background with a dark green border. The headline reads: 'Ride responsibly, stay safe, and remember, more than 95% of Maine's snowmobile trails are on private property'. Below the headline is a paragraph: 'Maine's 14,000 miles of trails are unmatched when it comes to snowmobiling. Let's continue to keep snowmobiling safe and enjoyable for all.' To the right of this paragraph is a photograph of a person riding a snowmobile on a snowy trail through a forest. Below the paragraph is a bulleted list of safety tips: 'Drive to the right and at an appropriate speed for your experience and the conditions.', 'Never drink and ride.', 'Stay on marked snowmobile trails.', 'Stay alert and be aware of other riders, recreators, and wildlife on the trail.', 'Pick up any trash.', 'Register your snowmobile and support a local club.', 'Remember that modified exhausts are illegal.', and 'Follow the rules and ride safe.' Below the list is another paragraph: 'With 14,000 miles of trails, that's a lot of generous landowners! Help ensure Maine's trails stay open for generations to come, and ride responsibly!'. Below that is a link: 'Before you go, check out our Snowmobile Quick Reference Guide (PDF)'. At the bottom of the email body is a green button with the text 'LEARN MORE' in white.

Check with the local snowmobile club

*Email sent to snowmobile registrants*



The screenshot shows the top portion of an email. At the top center is the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife logo, which features a shield with a landscape scene and the text 'MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE'. Below the logo is a green bar with the website 'mefishwildlife.com' in white. The main body of the email has a white background with a dark green border. The headline reads: 'As you enjoy Maine's ATV trails this weekend, remember that they are only possible thanks to private landowners. Respect them.' Below the headline is a large photograph of a scenic landscape with a blue lake, green forest, and mountains in the distance under a blue sky with white clouds. Below the photograph is a paragraph: '4th of July weekend is here! We hope you are planning to get outside and enjoy all Maine has to offer. Keep yourself, friends and family, and everyone on the trails safe by never operating an ATV or any vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol.' Below that is another paragraph: 'Summer is a beautiful time to ATV, but please remember it is dusty! Drive slow past houses, camps'.

*Email sent to ATV registrants*

Each year, the message is customized based on themes wardens in the field are seeing or requests from stakeholder groups. This year the Department was requested to include reminders to label trail cameras and tree stands, as well as reminders to respect logging operations in northern Maine.

The Department also sends monthly fishing reports to more than 300,000 anglers, often including seasonal reminders on how to respect private landowners. For the past two years, the Department has sent private land law reminders to trappers. In all safe hiking reminders, outdoor enthusiasts are reminded to respect private landowners and always clean up after themselves.

The theme of the MDIFW booth at the 2022 Fryeburg Fair was landowner relations. The booth featured a map that illustrated Maine's private vs. public land, increasing the public's awareness that much of the land they recreate on is owned by individuals or corporations. Staff gave away updated landowner and land user informational brochures, branded Outdoor Partners swag, answered questions, and used a trivia wheel to educate the public on land use and private land in a fun, educational way complete with prizes.



*Landowner relations themed booth at the Fryeburg Fair*

*“Together we can keep Maine’s traditions alive and well by caring and respecting our Landowners”*

