March 16, 2015

Senator Edgecomb
Representative Hickman
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

Following is the DACF response to questions regarding our biennial budget for FY16/17.

Committee members have posed the following questions concerning budget proposals related to the Animal Welfare Fund:

Questions related to the third initiative on page A-43:

1. **If the surcharge assessed on pet food products is eliminated, what impact will this have on the Department of ACF and on programs within the Department?**
   If the surcharge is eliminated, the funding for the Companion Animal Sterilization Fund (CASF) will be reduced by $100,000. Based on FY14 revenue, approximately $145,000 would remain to operate the program. The reduction in funding would result in an average of 1,000 pets not being authorized as recipients of program funding.

2. **What is the Animal Welfare Fund currently used for?**
   The Animal Welfare Fund program consists of three Other Special Revenue accounts: Animal Welfare Fund, Animal Welfare Auxiliary Fund and Companion Animal Sterilization Fund (CASF). The funds are used for salaries, equipment, investigation of animal crimes, care and medical expenditures of animals in the custody of the State.

3. **Because elimination of funds generated by the surcharge (beyond the $100,000 specifically dedicated to the Help Fix ME program through the CASF) will no longer go into the Animal Welfare Fund, what other programs will be impacted? What effect will reduced funds have on the programs funded by the AWF?**
   There are two accounts that receive funding from the surcharge. CASF receives $100,000 and the remainder is deposited to the Animal Welfare Fund operating account. The program will continue to look for efficiencies while maintaining current levels.

Questions related to Sec. K-48 of the language portion:

4. **Why also remove the voluntary check off provision to donate to the CASF on state income tax return forms established under Title 36, §5284-A?**
   This was included in Part K as part of a statewide initiative to eliminate all tax check-off programs except Maine Clean Election Program.
Committee members have posed the following questions concerning budget proposals related to the Division of Animal Health and Industry:

Questions related to the final initiative on page A-51 and Part V of the language portion:

5. What is the impact of making a position no longer subject to appointment by the Commissioner? Beyond any monetary considerations, what is the rationale for changing this to a classified position?
   Salary schedules are set by the Bureau of Human Resources. This reorganization moves the position from appointed to classified. This brings them in line with their peers within the Bureau, as well as the rest of the department. These positions were not appointed prior to a change a few years ago.

Committee members have posed the following questions concerning budget proposals related to Forest Protection and Forest Health and Monitoring:

General questions and data requests:

6. On an annual basis, what is the risk of fire in Maine forests? How does that risk compare to the risk of fire in other forests around the country?
   At times of the year, risk can be high. For instance, risk is higher after the snow melts and before fields and forests “green up”. Dry periods in the summer and after leaf fall are other periods during which risk of fire peaks. On an annual basis, risk appears quite low with between 225 and 500 fires/year and about 200 acres impacted by fire.
   An unpredictable fire risk comes from arsonists that specialize in woodlands fires. During the past 4 years, the largest wildfire (214 acres) was set by an arsonist. These people are very dangerous because they can set multiple fires. Most arsonists receive minimal jail time. See attachment on page 9.

7. How does Maine compare to other states in regard to the ratio of forest acreage and the number of forest rangers actively serving? See attachment on page 9.

8. How will Maine residents benefit from having their State Parks, Snowmobile and ATV trails and Boating facilities, Land Use Planning and regulatory activities, Surficial and Marine Geology programs, Coastal Zone management programs and Land for Maine’s Future managed in one Bureau? What is the Department’s vision for that proposed new Bureau?
   These are very focused programs with limited staff. With the Public Lands component moving to the Bureau of Forestry, the outreach ability of the rest of land based programs becomes a function of providing management support. The vision is to continue offering the most resources possible at the program level to partner with the private and public sector.

9. How does this budget affect the Commercial Forestry Excise Tax and does it have implications for revenues to the General Fund?
   This past year, the tax was $0.27 per acre and in 2016 and 2017 is projected to be $0.29 and $0.28 respectively.
10. Why is the Director of Forestry being reallocated from its own account (Forestry Administration) to the Forest Health and Monitoring account? (See A-41, A-65). Does this signal a shift in priorities from overseeing all Forestry programs to primary emphasis on Forest Health and Monitoring?  
This budget consolidates all non-fire Bureau of Forestry accounts into one new Forest Resource Management program to increase flexibility of resources and transparency. The Director will continue to have oversight of the entire bureau.

11. Why are the 19 positions being transferred from Forest Policy and Management to Forest Health and Monitoring? (See A-65, A-68). How will this transfer impact Forest Policy and Management? Are any new programs being implemented at Forest Health and Monitoring that require this change? (See A-65).  
This consolidates all non-fire Bureau of Forestry accounts into one new Forest Resource Management program to increase flexibility of resources and transparency. The budget creates additional staff positions to support forest resources and community wildfire programs.

12. What was the percentage of spruce and of fir stocking on public lands in the year 2014? Of the cutting that occurred last year, how many acres were in the Outcome Based Forestry stands? What percentage of all cut volume came from OBF and what were the average cords per acre per cut? In the OBF stands, what percentage of the cuts were spruces and what percentage were fir?  
The Bureau of Parks and Lands conducted land base inventories in 1999 and 2011. In 1999, the average stocking was 20.9 cords per acre, and 35.8% was spruce and fir. In 2011, the stocking was 22.9 cords per acre, and 36.8% spruce and fir. Each inventory showed spruce volume to be about three times that of fir.  

Having no 2014 inventory and looking at harvests for 2012-2014, it is probable that the spruce/fir component is about the same as in 2011. Therefore it is estimated that spruce stocking is 27.3% and fir stocking is 9.5% of total inventory.

In 2014, harvests related to Outcome Based Forestry (OBF) covered 517 acres and produced 7% of the total Bureau harvest, yielding 22 cords per acre.

This all occurred in the Western Region, in stands commercially thinned from 1996 to 2001, and which had established dense regeneration rich in white pine. Except for a few high risk trees, all overstory white pine were retained for maximum growth of clear wood, as part of the low density pine objective.

The volume from OBF harvests in 2014 were 95% spruce and fir, essentially all spruce as the fir had almost all been removed in earlier thinnings.

13. When did Public Lands become aware that it was going to exceed the 141,500 cord Annual Allowable Cut? When the Bureau became aware, why didn’t they contact the ACF Committee to explain what was going on as it was happening?  
The Bureau was aware that the actual harvest would exceed the 141,500 target in late winter of 2014. The Bureau reports to the ACF Committee on a fiscal year (FY) basis. FY 14 ended in June of 2014 and information about FY14 activities is contained in the report submitted March 1, 2015.
Questions related to the creation of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Officers (NRLEO):

14. Who will Natural Resources Law Enforcement Officers report to? Who will the Natural Resources Law Enforcement Officer- Supervisor report to? Please provide a detailed breakdown of the proposed chain of command.
The NRLEOs will report to a NRLEO Supervisor stationed at a central location. The NRLEO Supervisor reports to the Director, Bureau of Forestry, who reports to the Commissioner. The Officers will also communicate with the District Ranger in whose District they reside. The NRLEO Supervisor will be in constant communication with the State Supervisor, Forest Fire Control. See attachment on page 10.

15. Under this new proposal, what is a forest ranger expected to do when he or she comes across an illegal operation that requires a timely response?
Forest Rangers have policies that direct them on how to avoid risky situations, and the Regional Rangers have written “operational directives” to further guide Forest Rangers on how to interpret the safety policies. Forest Rangers also have interactive (role playing) training on interpersonal relationships to help further defuse risky situations.

Rangers will have 5 additional levels of law enforcement agencies to draw upon (State Police, County Sheriffs, Town Police, Game Wardens and the new NRLEOs). With additional levels of law enforcement, and the relatively new usage of 24 hour central dispatch to draw upon, response time could be less than current response time.

16. In the Department's view, does this resolve the arming the rangers issue for the other Forest Rangers?
This is the first state budget to propose requiring full academy training, proper equipment and arming of any Rangers. With the NRLEOs, we are increasing the connection to other fully trained available law enforcement staff plus continuing to require Ranger training for dealing with risk related to the potential for human confrontation. Many of our DACF staff manage tense human interactions on a daily basis.

Questions related the elimination of Forest Ranger II positions:

17. In the Department's view, are local fire departments adequately prepared to adapt to the reduction in Forest Rangers?
This budget devotes staff support directly to the communities. Presently, Rangers are responsible for hundreds of state inspections plus maintaining a connection to communities. Many communities do not presently utilize the grant, training and human resources available to assist in fire protection. A dedicated staff presence to help fire departments and guiding them to state and federal support will be more beneficial to the communities. See attachments on pages 11 and 12 (from 2013 Forest Protection Annual Report).

18. Does the proposed budget provide the same level of protection against forest fires, illegal dumping, and property protection? If not, what is the rationale behind the reduction in forest rangers? Is there any data to support this proposed reduction?
This Ranger force is expected to “manage” fire events rather than build fire lines and run pumps. Forest Fire Protection relies on groups including private individuals, landowner employees, town fire
department personnel, prison crews, Bureau of Forestry laborer positions in Forest Protection, “hot shot crews”, FIA crews and others to assist Rangers to do the physical aspects of firefighting.

Non-fire duties will be reprioritized. Timber harvesting checks need to be focused towards the small group of operators that year after year are either fined or required to do mitigation work. The Bureau of Forestry has acquired aircraft that can identify fires and report on harvests with FPA issues. The second largest FPA violation was detected by air.

The Bureau of Forestry is not the lead agency for controlling litter. Our staff will continue to report any violations to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

19. **How will current enforcement levels be maintained with a reduced workforce?**
   This budget expands enforcement with the addition of a Regional Enforcement Coordinator trained for this work.

20. **How will a reduced force adequately respond to calls, conduct inspections, etc.? Will the short haul program be eliminated?**
   Forest Ranger duties focused on litter can be assumed by the statutorily responsible department, which has funding allocated for the task. The Bureau of Forestry has been analyzing the proper amount of oversight needed on timber harvests. The amount of time Forest Ranger II’s spend on this activity can be and is being reduced for several reasons:
   - The acreage under Outcome Based Forestry (OBF) agreements (replaces the Forest Practice Act (FPA)) is nearly up to 1.5 million acres and has the potential to grow further. Acreage under OBF agreements is currently monitored by the licensed Foresters of the Forest Policy and Management Division.
   - Third party certification covers nearly 8 million acres; certification auditors check to make sure the FPA is adhered to, and if not, that corrective actions are taken.
   - Training of harvesting contractors, landowners and land managers has increased compliance with the FPA and other forestry rules.
   - Over time, the Bureau of Forestry has found that the same harvesting contractors repeatedly violate the FPA. The Bureau of Forestry has been, and needs further redirection, to address this small component of FPA violators.
   - The second largest FPA violation was detected from the air. Many problem harvests are identified in this manner. Aerial patrols will be used more frequently to reduce time searching for violations through time-consuming ground checks.

Short haul is a new program that Forestry began performing in August 2012 and needs legislative approval. Per 5 MRSA, Section 1582(1), a department may not establish a new or expanded program until approved by the Legislature. Whether or not the program continues is your decision.

**Questions related to the creation of Forest Ranger III positions:**

21. **What are the duties of Ranger III positions? Why create them? Where will they be located? Has this been done before?**

   _See attached job description on pages 13 and 14 for a Forest Ranger III._

   The new Forest Ranger IIIs will manage the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP) and will liaison with landowners and fire departments to provide community support such as Volunteer Fire
Assistance (VFA) grants, training and coordination with the rural fire departments and landowners to assist Forest Ranger IIs manage wildfires. These positions will be centrally located trained firefighters and will respond to fire situations when needed.

22. Why create Ranger III positions and then cut Ranger II positions? What is the difference? What are the job descriptions of each type of ranger? The job classifications are based upon the Bureau of Human Resource audit of function and responsibilities. The work needed of a Forest Ranger III is more targeted to specific functions. This structure and funding are parts of the overall move toward more law enforcement training for some, more resource protection training for others and continuing the majority of functions Ranger's now perform. See attached job description on pages 13 through 16.

23. What will the $69,550 designated as "All Other" within the top initiative on page A-55 be used for? Why the discrepancy between the "All Other" in this initiative and the last initiative on page A-54? The basic 'All Other' is the same for these 2 Forest Ranger III positions and includes costs for technology, vehicles and uniforms. The only difference is on top of page A-55. The Forest Ranger III position that is the liaison position includes an additional $50,000 of 'All Other' for training and coordinating grants to local fire departments.

Question related to the second initiative on page A-53:

24. Why does helicopter upkeep funding (ongoing aircraft maintenance) remain constant when there is a reduction in the number of Ranger Pilots? The budget doesn't propose any changes to our aircraft fleet. Therefore, the costs remain the same.

Question related to the final initiative on page A-56:

25. Under the proposed initiative, how far will a helicopter have to travel if there is a fire in northern Maine? Helicopters are dispersed across the state during the fire season. We do not plan to be over 30 minutes from a fire. Our Bell 407 is much faster than a Huey so it can cut down on that time as well. For decades, we have moved a helicopter up to Ashland as weather demanded. The Bureau of Forestry believes moving a helicopter to Ashland during dry periods remains the most valid operational solution.

Committee members have posed the following questions concerning other budget proposals:

26. Where in the budget are Public Lands moved from the Bureau of Parks and Lands to the Bureau of Forestry? Does this change only occur in Part Y of the language portion? Are there any "Part A" initiatives connected to it? The language addressing this occurs in Part Y and allows us to move other programs under the Bureau of Forestry. Part A contains information dealing with positions that are going to the new bureau structure. The initiatives relate to the new bureau structure as they separate positions formerly shared between Parks and Public Lands programs.
27. How will the proposed reorganization that moves Public Lands Management to Forestry affect its mission as laid out in Statute -MRSA Title 12, Chapter 220, esp. §1832-1841, 1845-1858? The statute will continue to require multiple use management and all reporting requirements remain in place. The department will continue to follow the statutory mandates.

28. How will the legislative requirement for multiple-use management, including habitat management, ecological preservation and recreation as well as forest management, be assured? The Bureau of Forestry will still be required to follow the statutes.

29. What will happen to the camp lot lease program? Where will the money go? Who gets the revenues and who determines how they will be spent? The camp lot lease program will stay with the Public Lands program, continuing to be a source of revenue for the Public Lands Management Fund. As is the case now, the department will propose a budget for review and approval by the legislature.

30. Are there new statutory revisions being written for our review that will both guide the transition and the ongoing program administration? The Department is proposing no changes to the current Public Lands statutory guidance. All current Public Lands activities will exist when placed in the Bureau of Forestry.

31. After having substantial discussions about the organizational structure of DACF with the Committee in the previous session that resulted in the current 4-bureau structure, what has gone wrong that makes this reorganization necessary? Nothing is wrong. This structure better aligns with our legislative committee and continues to place more emphasis on programs.

32. Why are numerous positions being moved into the Commissioner's Office account? (See A-92 through A-95 for list of positions) All information technology (IT) costs are housed in one consolidated account in the Office of the Commissioner. Of the initiatives, 8 are for IT costs related to other position changes across the department. There are 4 actual position changes. The first one changes the funding of an existing position. The second is a transfer of a position for the Bolton Hill store house currently managed by the Bureau of General Services. The third is the reorganization of the Director of the Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning to a State Geologist. The final change is an increase in hours for one Office Associate II for the department wide reception office.

33. The Coastal Island Registry is transitioning from a small account of $107 per year to $524,737 in FY 2016. Please explain this increase. (See A-47) In part GG-11, we rename Coastal Island Registry to Island Registry and Submerged Lands program. The increase you see on page A-47 reflects the combination of these accounts under this program title.
34. The Maine State Parks Development Fund (See A-84-85) is increasing from about $1.1M per year to $1.55M per year. How will the revenues to this account sustain this increase? Do you have an agreement with Poland Springs to have them pump more water?

The majority of revenue in this account is paid by Poland Spring for water extracted each month from three well heads located on State property at Range Pond State Park. Other revenue in this account includes monthly interest payments, private donations and reimbursements from the federal Recreational Trails Grant Program (RTP). Additional allocation is necessary for the RTP grants because the reimbursement from the federal grant occurs after expenses are paid up front.

The water extraction limit is set by the DEP permit. The current Use Agreement and License between Parks and Lands and Poland Spring has a set rate of $0.0063 per gallon which expires in June 2015. Based on the existing Agreement, Poland Spring will use the producer price index for bottled water averaged over the preceding 5 calendar years to calculate a new rate. Our Agreement guarantees that the new rate will not go below the current rate, but could go up.

35. What functions did the GIS Coordinator, Outdoor recreation Planner, Senior Technician and Secretary positions perform in Lands that will not be performed if Lands goes to Forestry? What functions will they be performing for Parks?

These positions will continue to be available as needed and will be reimbursed as appropriate.

36. Please explain what the funding move from Parks General Fund to Land for Maine's Future General Fund means. (See A-73).

This corrects the accounting for the Executive Director position that was reorganized last session by the ACF committee from the Bureau of Parks and Lands to the Land for Maine’s Future program.

37. What is the status of the Land for Maine's Future program? Are there currently Funds to continue the acquisition of land for the people of Maine?

In early December 2014, Land for Maine’s Future Program Director Mr. Ed Meadows retired from State service. After an extensive interview process, Ms. Sarah Demers was selected and accepted the position of Director of the Land for Maine’s Future Program. Ms. Demers assumed the position February 16, 2015. Ms. Demers comes to the LMF Program from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife where she was the Department’s point person on land acquisition.

The Land for Maine’s Future Program has published its biennial report covering the time period between January 2013 to December 2014. This report is available for the ACF Committee and posted on the LMF website. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the activities undertaken by the LMF Board and staff during this time period.

38. Are there currently Funds to continue the acquisition of land for the people of Maine?

At their July 2014 Board meeting, the Land for Maine’s Future Board made allocations to 30 projects in the amount of $9,149,513. There is approximately $2,000,000 remaining in un-allocated funds. There are no plans at this time to issue another Request for Proposals.
## Comparison of State Wildfire Protection Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Maine</th>
<th>Georgia</th>
<th>Michigan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protected Acreage, State</td>
<td>18 Million</td>
<td>24.7 Million</td>
<td>28 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>$8,900,000</td>
<td>$22,000,000</td>
<td>13,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Wildfire Personnel</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Annual Wildfires</td>
<td>523*</td>
<td>6321**</td>
<td>576*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Annual Acreage</td>
<td>725*</td>
<td>49,235**</td>
<td>5895*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilots</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildland Engines</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Suppression Dozers</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Firefighters</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>120-140</td>
<td>150-200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooperative Agreements w/ Federal Agencies</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Excess Property Loaned to Towns</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Detection</td>
<td>Aircraft Patrol</td>
<td>Aircraft Patrol</td>
<td>Aircraft Patrol</td>
</tr>
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</table>

* Fire Statistics 2000 to 2014  
** Fire Statistics 2004 to 2014
MFS Chain of Command  
(Proposed)

Bureau Of Forestry  
(Director / State Forester)

**Division of Forest Fire Control**  
(Director / Chief Ranger)
- 3 Regions
- 6 Districts  
  (2 per Region)
  - 36 Rangers  
    (6 per District)

**Forest Health**
- (Existing Staff Remains)  
  - Additional Staff:  
    Resource Management Coordinator  
    3 Regional Enforcement Coordinators

**Policy & Education**  
(Formerly Forest Policy & Management)
- 4 Senior Planners  
  - Program Analyst  
  - Planning & Research Associate II

**Natural Resource Law Enforcement Officers**  
(CLEO Supervisor)
- 6 Conservation Law Enforcement Officers

**Public Lands**  
Existing Staff Remains except RTP & MCC  
Add 10 Foresters from former FPM Division
Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program:

The Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (VFA), formerly known as the Rural Community Fire Protection (RCFP) Program, provides financial assistance to rural Maine fire departments through the Maine Forest Service in the form of matching grants to help purchase wildland fire equipment. During 2013, eighty three local fire departments were awarded $122,502 in federal funds to be used with an equal amount of local funds to purchase equipment.

In 2013, funds were awarded to purchase the following items (list is not all inclusive):

**Personal Protective Equipment:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>Nomex Pants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Nomex Shirts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>Brush Coats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>Goggles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143</td>
<td>Helmets</td>
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<tr>
<td>175</td>
<td>Gloves</td>
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**Hose:**

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<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>lengths of 1.5&quot; Forestry Hose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>lengths of 1&quot; hose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>lengths of ¾&quot; hose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>lengths of 1.75&quot; hose</td>
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**Other Items:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>191</td>
<td>Five Gallon Pails of Class A Foam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Fireline Hand Tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Installation of Dry Hydrants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Backpack Pumps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Portable Pumps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>Portable Radios and Pagers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dump Tanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Chain Saws</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comment from local fire chief:**

"In these tough economic times, grant opportunities like these are how we survive and we appreciate the efforts put forth on our behalf by the Maine Forest Service. We thank you for your continuing support (financially and physically!) in preparing for and fighting wildfires. Without your services and programs, we would not be able to provide the level of protection we offer to our community."
Items for 2013 Annual Summary – Federal Excess Property

- During 2013, Forest Rangers inventoried over 300 pieces of federal excess equipment and vehicles, most of which are on loan to rural fire departments for wildland fire suppression as part of the FEPP program. Over thirty vehicles that are no longer in service have been turned in for disposal. A similar amount of military surplus vehicles and dozens of helicopter parts and tools have also been acquired through the FFP program. Several Rural Fire departments benefited from replacing worn out 2.5 ton 6 x 6 trucks in the FEPP program with newer 5 ton trucks in the FFP program, which they will own after two years.

This 1986 HEMMT was acquired in the FEPP program and will be converted to haul water.

Forest Protection Color Guard

During 2013, the Forest Protection Color Guard participated in several parades, funerals and trainings, and had some personnel changes.
FOREST RANGER III

Natural & Environmental Resources
Life Sciences
Natural Resource Protection
Working Supervisor

DESCRIPTION: This is investigative and protective services work in forest fire detection, prevention, presuppression, and suppression and the enforcement of forest fire laws. Responsibilities include developing and coordinating fire plans, overseeing fire fighting activities, recruiting temporary help, coordinating the work of fire suppression crews, and supervising Forest Watchpersons and Forest Rangers. Work also includes patrolling and inspecting assigned areas, maintaining equipment, training crews, keeping records, and preparing and submitting reports. Work is performed under limited supervision.

REPRESENTATIVE TASKS: (A position may not be assigned all the duties listed, nor do the listed examples include all the duties that may be assigned).

- Assigns and inspects the work of Forest Watchpersons and Forest Rangers I and II in order to distribute work load fairly and ensure work is accomplished properly.
- Schedules and instructs training programs for fire departments, hot shots, schools, industry, and other groups in order to have crews trained in forest fire fighting suppression techniques.
- Updates fire action plans each spring and periodically throughout the season in order to ensure up-to-date fire prevention, presuppression, and suppression plans.
- Operates fire danger stations in order to provide fire weather information and regulate forest fire prevention, presuppression, and suppression activities.
- Patrols assigned area; checks slash areas, woods operations, and heavy recreational use areas; notes road conditions and changes; posts signs; and contacts and confers with recreationists and woods workers in order to implement fire prevention and presuppression program.
- Enforces state forest fire laws in order to implement a fire prevention program.
- Services and maintains assigned equipment such as pumps, chain saws, mowers, vehicles, and fire fighting equipment in order to ensure operational readiness and safety in case of fire or other emergency.
- Reports violations of laws concerning other agencies in order to assist in violation detection within assigned area.
- Inspects campsites for proper permits and maintenance procedures in order to maintain clean and safe campsites.
- Enforces statutes, prosecutes violators, writes case reports, and testifies in court in order to follow through on case prosecution.
- Supplies first aid and emergency services in order to provide assistance to people in need.
- Contacts town fire wardens, landowners, mill owners, social organizations, industry, government groups, and others in order to inform them of fire potential and gain their active support in prevention and suppression programs.
- Fights fires and supervises fire fighting crews in order to carry out suppression duties.
- Prepares and submits reports as required in order to provide information.
- Constructs and maintains buildings, grounds, and towers in order to ensure facilities are properly maintained and well groomed.
- Attends training and receives instruction and education in various subjects in order to improve and/or maintain job proficiency.

KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES REQUIRED: (These are required to successfully perform the work assigned).

Forest Ranger III

☐ Knowledge of forest fire control training programs.
☐ Knowledge of forest fire fighting suppression techniques.
☐ Knowledge of fire action plans.
☐ Knowledge of state forest fire control laws.
☐ Knowledge of forest fire presuppression activities.
☐ Knowledge of radio operating procedures.
☐ Knowledge of forest fire fighting tools and equipment.
☐ Knowledge of assigned geographic area.
☐ Ability to instruct employees in fire fighting.
☐ Ability to supervise subordinate employees.
☐ Ability to plan forest fire protection activities.
☐ Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships.
☐ Ability to communicate effectively.
☐ Ability to write clearly and effectively.
☐ Ability to prepare reports.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: (Entry level knowledges, skills, and/or abilities may be acquired through, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO the following coursework/training and/or experience).

Two (2) years in forest fire control and forest fire law enforcement experience as a Forest Ranger II.

LICENSE/REGISTRATION/CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: (These must be met by all employees prior to attaining permanent status in this class).

None.

EXAM PLAN: (This must be successfully completed by all employees prior to attaining permanent status in this class).

Direct Hire.
DESCRIPTION: This is investigative and protective services work in the detection, prevention, presuppression, and suppression of forest fires, and in the enforcement of forestry, environmental, and conservation laws. Work includes preparing and updating fire action plans, training firefighters, and supervising firefighting operations; patrolling and inspecting an assigned area; observing, reporting, and/or prosecuting violations of forestry, environmental, and conservation laws; investigating suspicious fires and suspected criminal activities in violation of forestry, environmental, and conservation laws; conducting public information and education programs; and preparing records and reports. Work is performed under limited supervision.

REPRESENTATIVE TASKS: (A position may not be assigned all the duties listed, nor do the listed examples include all the duties that may be assigned).

- Patrols and inspects assigned areas in order to promote fire prevention and to enforce forestry, environmental, and conservation laws.
- Responds to and assesses extent and complexity of forest fires; determines necessary equipment and human resources; and supervises fire fighting operations in order to provide on-site forest fire management and carry out suppression duties.
- Investigates criminal and civil violations; enforces statutes; arrest, detains, and/or prosecutes violators; writes case reports; and testifies in court in order to enforce laws and follow through on case prosecution.
- Establishes and maintains close working relationships with town fire wardens, landowners, mill owners, social organizations, industry, government groups, and others in order to exchange information regarding forestry, environmental, and conservation issues and gain their active support.
- Trains and nationally certifies firefighting personnel, attends firefighting training, and repairs and checks firefighting equipment in order to be prepared to fight forest fires.
- Schedules and instructs fire departments, hot-shots, schools, industry, and other groups in order to ensure well-trained firefighting assistance.
- Prepares and maintains activity, equipment, and inspection records and reports for assigned area in order to provide and maintain required information.
- Writes and updates fire plans in order to have current information and plans available.
- Inspects campsites for proper permits and maintenance in order to ensure fire-safe campsites.
- Oversees and/or assists in maintenance and construction projects in order to provide required facilities in assigned area.
- Provides first aid and other emergency services in order to assist people in need.
- Conducts timber volume and acreage determination cruises in order to inspect, investigate, and/or prosecute violations of forest practices and land use regulations.
- Assist other law enforcement agencies in search and rescue operations in order to cooperate with external resources.
- Travels to other state and Canadian forest fire emergencies in order to cooperate and assist the National United States Forest Service.
- Performs Homeland Security functions as necessary and to the extent trained.

ENTRY LEVEL KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED: (Applicants will be screened for possession of these through written, oral, performance, and/or other evaluations).

- Knowledge of basic forest fire control and safety practices.
- Knowledge of basic forestry practices.
- Knowledge of basic mathematics.

Forest Ranger II

- Knowledge of State and National Forest Service laws, rules, and programs.
- Knowledge of search and rescue methods and techniques.
- Ability to work independently over a large geographic area.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships in routine and emergency situations.
- Ability to work long hours under adverse and stressful conditions.
- Ability to communicate effectively.
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Ability to write clearly and effectively.
- Ability to use good judgment and make sound decisions under adverse and stressful conditions.
- Ability to interpret data from tables and charts.
- Ability to lift and carry fire fighting equipment weighing up to 75 lbs.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED: (These may be acquired on the job and are needed to perform the work assigned).

- Knowledge of weather and its effect on forest fires and work priorities.
- Knowledge of forest fire detection, suppression, presuppression, and prevention principles, methods, techniques, and practices.
- Knowledge of Homeland Security threat levels and appropriate emergency actions.
- Ability to evaluate fire situations and develop and implement a plan of action.
- Ability to supervise large numbers of firefighting personnel and manage firefighting equipment and resources.
- Ability to apply advanced forestry field techniques.
- Ability to navigate through remote forested areas during daylight and nighttime hours.
- Ability to enforce forestry, environmental, and conservation laws, rules, and regulations.
- Ability to conduct investigations of fire origin and cause and suspected criminal activities in violation of forestry, environmental, and conservation laws.
- Ability to prepare and implement fire prevention plans.
- Ability to plan and implement forest fire training programs.
- Ability to prepare and interpret maps and aerial photographs.
- Ability to operate emergency vehicles and equipment.
- Ability to administer first aid.
- Ability to repair and maintain buildings, roads, trails, and equipment.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: (Entry level knowledges, skills, and/or abilities may be acquired through, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO the following coursework/training and/or experience).

An Associates Degree which includes 15 hours of natural science (e.g. forestry, biology, geology, oceanography) -OR- an acceptable equivalent two (2) year combination of directly related education, training, and/or experience.

LICENSING/REGISTRATION/CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: (These must be met by all employees prior to attaining permanent status in this class).

Successful completion of the Forest Ranger Academy, and a Maine Driver's license.

EXAM PLAN: (This must be successfully completed by all employees prior to attaining permanent status in this class).

Direct Hire