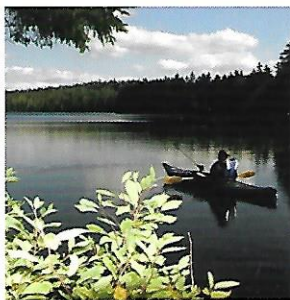
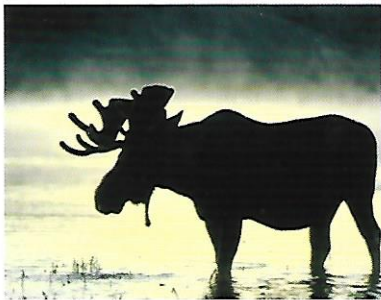


Wildlife Management in Maine



As Mainers, we care about the health and well-being of the wildlife we love.

Moose, puffin, bear, deer, fish and all of Maine's wildlife are carefully monitored to thrive and be enjoyed for generations to come.

With YOUR help, we can continue to keep Maine's wildlife strong. Here is how...

What's at stake?

Maine's wildlife populations are all under the careful eye of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and have been for over 100 years. In that time, species like turkey, moose, deer, coyote and bear have all been monitored by biologists for population numbers, population growth and to make sure there is suitable and sufficient habitat available to ensure overall their health and well-being.

Maine is rich in unique populations of wildlife! We have 292 species of birds, 61 species of non-marine mammals, 20 species of reptiles, 18 species of amphibians, 56 species of inland fish, and 313 species of marine animals, all part of the Maine that we know and love.

Wildlife management is KEY to healthy and stable populations - now and in the future. No one wants to see animals die over the winter or lose young in the spring due to disease or starvation. It is important to make sure that populations are maintained at healthy levels. In some cases, this means enacting special protections and habitat management to help species with low numbers. In other cases, it is necessary to use a variety of hunting methods (including dogs, trapping, decoys, or baiting) to bring populations to a level that is healthy for the species and the overall ecosystem.

Healthy reproduction in the spring and healthy overall population numbers across Maine is everyone's goal. The first step to making that happen is to protect the habitat of each species across Maine. The second is to stabilize population numbers through active and effective wildlife management.



Who helps monitor wildlife management?

- * Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Biologists and Game Wardens
- * Registered Maine Guides
- * Hunters
- * Fishermen
- * Trappers
- * Hikers
- * Campers
- * Bird watchers and others
- * Other Outdoor groups

Through the work of species specialists, regional biologists, Maine guides, hunters and the general public, the number of animals in any given area is carefully monitored, usually on an annual basis.

Other states look to Maine as an example of how to properly manage their wildlife! Tourists travel to Maine each year to view our moose, migratory birds and take part in our world renowned fishing and hunting opportunities.

Wildlife management is economically important to the people of Maine.



You know it's working when...

Each year, the number of hunting permits for any given animal can be changed due to the effects of a harsh winter, predation or parasites like ticks, or as a reflection of the number of animals in any given area relative to the population goal.

For example, Maine's deer herd in one part of the State may be lower after a harsh winter. When the herd is properly evaluated and all of the key groups communicate about their concerns and what they are seeing in the woods, hunting permit numbers can be adjusted to promote healthy habitat to maintain the deer at stable population numbers.

The success of Maine's turkey population is an example of **wildlife management at its best**. Turkeys have been thriving in Maine, so much so that in the spring of 2014, the rules for hunting them were changed to allow more birds to be taken in some areas, while other areas saw their season closed due to a harsh winter and the need for that regional flock to rebuild.

How you help

As lovers of the outdoors, we are the ones who are helping to keep these ecosystems healthy, while fighting against disease, overpopulation, predation and invasive species. ***We all want to see healthy animals across the State.***

Hunting and fishing brings upwards of ***\$200 million dollars to Maine*** each year, and the license money that hunters and anglers provide is the primary funding to keep the animals of Maine healthy and safe from disease, overpopulation and starvation.



Even if you do not hunt or fish consider purchasing a license to help fund this important work.

Support businesses, organizations and guides who support Maine's wildlife and work to protect it.

Maine's wildlife management is some of the most comprehensive in the United States. It is accomplished in a number of ways in order to create healthy habitats and populations for all of Maine's animals. These methods include:

- * A species planning process to determine public objectives for wildlife resources.
- * An intensive survey and research program conducted across Maine to gather information on wildlife populations.
- * Conservation and management of important wildlife habitats implemented regionally and statewide
- * Establishing annual hunting, fishing and trapping seasons
- * Using a variety of hunting and fishing methods to meet recommended harvest numbers.
- * Working with numerous partners to implement active management programs to restore and protect at-risk wildlife populations.
- * A public Advisory Council that provides regular input to on wildlife management initiatives.
- *The Maine Warden Service enforces the laws that are established to protect the State's wildlife.

Established in 1978, the Maine Professional Guides Association is proud to be the largest, oldest organization of Maine guides, with over 1000 members and a 35 year history.



The Maine Guides Education Fund is a 501c3 non-profit that educates and advocates on issues regarding outdoor recreation, public access, land conservation, land use policy, fish and wildlife management, and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Working with groups from all over Maine to ensure the future of Maine's outdoor recreation .