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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1903

COMMITTEES:  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND  
TRANSPORTATION

OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES AND  
COAST GUARD SUBCOMMITTEE

FINANCE

INTELLIGENCE

RANKING MEMBER, SMALL BUSINESS

May 15, 2009

Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman  
Senator Thad Cochran, Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
131 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein, Chairman  
Senator Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
131 Dirksen & 125 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510

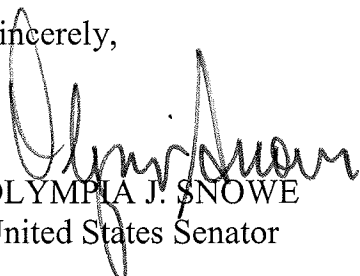
Dear Senators Inouye, Cochran, Feinstein, and Alexander,

I am writing to request your support for funding in the Fiscal Year 2010 (FY2010) Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for programs and projects that are important to Maine. A description of these requests in alphabetical order by organization follows.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family members has a pecuniary interest in the congressionally directed spending items that we have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 or Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

Once again, thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact my staff with any further questions.

Sincerely,



OLYMPIA J. SNOWE  
United States Senator

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**BioDiversity Research Institute, Maine Mercury Monitoring Network, Gorham, Maine - \$250,000.**

BioDiversity Research Institute (BRI) requests funding to initiate a Maine Mercury Monitoring Network to track mercury pollution hotspots, assess the impact of mercury emission policies, and protect human and ecosystem health in Maine. Despite the need for expanded national mercury monitoring by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Inspector, there is currently no statewide or national network in place. The protocol for this network will be based on an ongoing effort by a multi-agency national effort to establish a national mercury monitoring plan. Maine could provide a leadership role for this national plan. The results will be used to evaluate the risks to both public and ecosystem health, and how these areas are responding to policy and management efforts.

**City of Brewer, Brewer Water Pollution Control Facility Shoreline Stabilization, Brewer, Maine -- \$500,000.**

A significant shoreline erosion problem along the Penobscot River at the Brewer Water Pollution Control Facility (BWPCF) is undermining the century old cribwork and placing valuable environmental protection infrastructure at risk. In the last 12-24 months, the pace of erosion along the shoreline has increased exponentially as nearly 20 feet of shoreline has eroded from behind the remaining cribwork and several large sinkholes have appeared near the water's edge indicating erosion below the land surface. The immediate wastewater treatment plant infrastructure in the vicinity of the erosion problem includes a 60-foot peak flow clarifier, secondary splitter box, chlorine contact chamber with process building, and a 30-inch treated effluent discharge pipe. If any of this infrastructure is lost, it would be impossible for the facility to meet its license limits and fulfill the City's mission of protecting public health and water quality along the Penobscot River. It is imperative that the century old cribwork be replaced with a combination of steel bulkhead and riprap to prevent the loss of critical environmental protection infrastructure at the Brewer Water Pollution Control Facility.

**City of Calais, Pleasant Street Sewer Improvements, Calais, Maine -- \$250,000.**

The City is seeking grant funds to replace 550 linear feet of sanitary sewer on Pleasant Street. This work is designed and was included in a bid in June 2008. When bids came in more than the budget, work was delayed until funds could be found. This sewer replacement work can begin immediately upon receipt of required funding. The City of Calais has been implementing a master plan of sewer system improvements as required by Consent Agreement with the Maine DEP. When it rains, there are often discharges of raw sewage as Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO's) to the St. Croix, an international waterway. The STAG will allow completion of a high priority sewer repair per DEP requirements.

**Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park Operating Increase, Bar Harbor, Maine -- \$1,000,000.**

Friends of Acadia is requesting a \$1 million increase in the base operating budget for Acadia National Park, Maine's premier natural destination, which receives over two million visits annually. Half of the funding received through this request will be used to augment Acadia's interpretive and education programs. Funding would allow a 29% increase in the number of interpretive programs offered each week, benefitting 65,000 visitors. The park will operate the Islesford Museum seven days a week in season, enabling 12,000 more visitor contacts. Through the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program, where teachers serve as seasonal interpretive rangers and bring the national parks to their classrooms throughout the year, education contacts will increase by 20%. Funding will also increase visitor contacts through the internet and in-person at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center, which serves 1.3 million visitors annually.

The second half of the funding will cover increasing utility costs and building operations at the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC). Acadia National Park presently receives only about a third of the funding needed to operate this learning center. Acadia Partners for Science and Learning, the non-profit partner that operates SERC in cooperation with the Park Service, served 1,270 students and teachers, 34 schools, 51 universities, and approximately 600 members of the public in programs last year. The proposed base budget increase will allow continued growth of SERC operations, and better educational and research programming.

**Friends of Acadia, Modernizing Transportation Information Systems and Infrastructure for the Island Explorer, Bar Harbor, Maine -- \$553,500.**

This funding request will be of significant benefit to all Maine residents because it will improve operations of the Island Explorer bus service. This fare-free, propane-powered bus system carried 2,929,941 passengers in its first 10 operating seasons, eliminated an estimated 1,083,382 private vehicle trips, reduced greenhouse gases by 10,258 tons, and prevented 16 tons of smog-causing pollutants. Investing in Intelligent Transportation Systems technologies and bus stops for the Island Explorer will make the bus system even more user-friendly, encouraging ridership, and thereby decreasing road maintenance needs and air pollution emissions.

This project meets the criteria of the programs from which funding is sought because the Island Explorer is a transit system that operates within Acadia National Park, a unit of the National Park System. The bus system is propane-powered and served an average of 4,983 passengers a day in the summer of 2008. The Island Explorer is a model among national park transit systems, and Acadia was selected as a demonstration site for Intelligent Transportation Systems technologies in national parks.

**Jackson Laboratory, Mitigation of Light and Noise Impact on Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor, ME -- \$1,000,000.**

The Jackson Laboratory is working to design and retrofit features of their campus to suit its rural surroundings. The campus is adjacent to Acadia National Park, a destination for over two million visitors a year, making it the single most visited attraction in Maine and a major force in the state's tourist economy. The goal is to have all aspects of the landscape transition as smoothly as possible to the neighboring park.

The priorities for campus environmental improvements are to retrofit more of the exterior lighting to protect Acadia's dark skies and to develop and implement a noise abatement plan that will minimize any disturbance to the community and to visitors to Acadia. The Lab would continue improving existing external campus lighting to full cut-off lights and install shielded and directed lighting and motion-activated lighting systems. They would implement the master plan for noise abatement, including shielding and insulation of noise sources such as vehicles, equipment, and air exhaust from HVAC stacks. Reducing industrial noise and light on campus is in the best interest of the employees, the neighbors and visitors to Acadia National Park.

**Limestone Water and Sewer District, Greater Limestone Regional Wastewater Treatment Facilities, Limestone, Maine -- \$3,000,000.**

The proposed project will consist of the second phase of upgrading the LWSD's wastewater treatment facility (formerly Loring Air Force Base Wastewater Treatment Facility) and extending the outfall pipe from the Little Madawaska River to the Aroostook River. This will consist of a new effluent pump station and 20,000 linear feet of new force main/gravity outfall pipe which will tie into the Caribou Utilities District's existing outfall pipe. The improvements will also consist of the installation of energy efficient and green (solar voltaic panels) equipment for the effluent pump station. The treatment facility improvements will consist of replacement of the antiquated electrical distribution system and emergency standby generator, the pretreatment equipment to prolong the life of the LWSD's pump stations, and the process equipment not replaced in the Phase I treatment facility improvements. Lastly, the proposed project will allow for the waste discharge to be removed from the Little Madawaska River and for the emergency bypass to be removed from the Greenlaw Brook, thus improving the water quality to both streams and minimizing the increase in sewer user fees for LWSD and LDA customers.

**Town of Machias, East Side Sewer Extension, Machias, Maine -- \$533,000.**

The Town has an existing municipal treatment plant, but the problem area is not currently served by public sewer. Machias would like to construct a sewer extension to serve the East Route 1 area of town. This area is densely populated and served by septic systems, many of which have failed – a violation of environmental regulations that also has

impacted downstream shellfish resources. The project would consist of extending public sewer, including a pumping station, 1,100 feet of sewer, and force main to cross the Machias River causeway at a cost of \$970,000. The remainder of the project would be locally funded.

**Maine Department of Conservation Bureau of Parks and Lands, Katahdin Forest Expansion, Millinocket, Maine -- \$3,700,000.**

The Katahdin Forest Expansion includes five parcels totaling more than 19,647 acres in the heart of Maine's north woods and will connect to existing recreation and conservation lands north and south of the Millinocket area. Two parcels at Seboeis Lake, more than 8,000 acres, to be protected by conservation easement lie adjacent to the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands' 13,372-acre Seboeis Public Lands Unit. Three parcels along the East Branch of the Penobscot River and just north of Millinocket Lake (the East Branch lands) consist of 11,583 acres of forestland and are in the view from the summit of Mt. Katahdin and the Appalachian Trail. All of the parcels are within 15 miles of the town of Millinocket. Continued conservation of recreation lands in this region is critically important. Both the Seboeis and East Branch tracts include portions of popular snowmobile trails and the Seboeis area also hosts ATV trails. \$3.5 million from state and private sources will be used to match federal funds.

**Maine Department of Conservation, Rangeley High Peaks Phase 1, Augusta, Maine -- \$3,460,000.**

This request is for federal Forest Legacy funding which will protect three parcels of forest land totaling 13,446 acres in the towns of Rangeley and Madrid and the Township of Mount Abram. These parcels are critical to the conservation values for the region. They build upon existing conservation in the area by the Federal Government (including the Forest Legacy Program, the National Parks Service, the National Wildlife Refuge System, and Federal Highways); the State of Maine; many conservation organizations; private foundations and conservation minded citizens to provide landscape level conservation and recreational access from Rangeley Lakes to the High Peaks region.

The High Peaks region is an ecological transition zone between northern boreal and southern temperate forests, and will increasingly serve as a north-south, low-high elevation migration corridor for both slow and fast moving species as their ranges shift due climate change. The project includes 4 miles of Orbeton stream, designated critical habitat for the federally endangered Atlantic salmon. Maine's Beginning with Habitat Program documents over 7,500 acres of habitat for Canada Lynx (federally listed as threatened); and more than 315 acres of habitat for the Bald Eagle (state listed as threatened). Also documented are some 350 acres of suitable habitat for Peregrine falcons (listed as endangered under the Maine Endangered Species Act), 1,000 acres of

habitat for the Bicknell's Thrush, rated the top land bird conservation priority in the Northeast by Partners in Flight.

**Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor, Maine -- \$3,050,000.**

In 2010, Acadia National Park has an opportunity to acquire two key parcels within its Congressionally-designated boundary. Available from willing sellers, these land acquisition opportunities will protect critical natural resources, enhance wildlife habitats, and bolster visitor experiences for the more than two million people who venture to Acadia each year. Specifically, this project will purchase 15 acres on Round Pond and 37 acres on Lower Hadlock Pond. Facing development pressure, both parcels would make ideal second home development locations. Currently, both areas provide excellent outdoor recreational opportunities: Round Pond is one of the quietest freshwater recreational opportunities in the Park and Lower Hadlock Pond is an integral part of a well-used network of hiking trails near Northeast Harbor.

In addition, both ponds are valuable freshwater wetlands that benefit numerous wildlife species, and, in the case of Lower Hadlock Pond provide a local water supply. In the end, this important land conservation project will ensure that 52 acres of valuable waterfront lands become permanent additions to New England's most popular National Park. The purpose of the funding is to acquire private land within the Congressionally-designated boundary of Acadia National Park and add it to the existing public ownership. Completing this type of project is the reason Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in 1964. The potential development threat to these well-used outdoor recreational areas makes this project a particularly valuable use of LWCF for the National Park Service.

**Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge Expansion, Topsham, ME -- \$1,650,000.**

The Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge is seeking to acquire five Nationally Significant Seabird Nesting Islands and a key parcel on a sixth island. Located along Maine's picturesque coastline, these six nesting locations are scattered among a collection of more than 4,500 islands of which 377 have been designated as Nationally Significant Seabird Nesting sites by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. These fragile ecosystems are home to an array of birds found nowhere else in the United States, including: common, Arctic, and endangered roseate terns; Atlantic puffins; razorbills; black guillemots; Leach's storm-petrels; laughing gulls; and common eiders. As of 2005, 151 of these Nationally Significant islands lacked permanent protection and 87 of these islands have been identified in the Maine Coastal Island National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan as appropriate for acquisition by the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

These six acquisitions, available to the Refuge in 2010 from a willing seller, are among the 87 islands in need of permanent protection. The purpose of the funding is to acquire private land within the Congressionally-designated boundary of the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge and add it to the existing public ownership. Completing this type of project is the reason Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in 1964. These unique resources will be critical additions to the existing refuge land, enabling the refuge to continue its efforts to enhance the populations of an array of seabirds found nowhere else in the United States.

**Maine Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat, Penobscot River Restoration Project, Augusta, Maine -- \$2,000,000.** Funding in FY2010 will allow the Penobscot Trust to finalize engineering designs for dam removal, for the removal at Great Works Dam to occur, and beginning work at Howland dam bypass. Over the next year, the Project will remove three significant barriers to fish migration, reconnecting upriver habitat to Penobscot Bay and the Gulf of Maine. To accomplish the goals set forth in this historic agreement, the Trust must secure approximately \$55 million in overall funding from both private and public sources. Having raised \$25 million for dam acquisition, the Trust and its partners are now focused on obtaining the additional funds needed for dam removal, bypass construction and other implementation costs. Funding for the implementation phase is expected to include both public and private funding.

The Penobscot River project is an innovative, national model for river restoration. It achieves for the first time in this country a balance between hydropower production in a major river system and meaningful and significant restored sea-run fisheries. The project will allow the federal resource agencies to achieve their mission of fisheries restoration in a tangible, cost effective manner. The project will provide culturally significant fish to the Penobscot Indian Nation and Bureau of Indian Affairs has repeatedly funded Penobscot Nation for salmon restoration. This project will vitalize the impaired fisheries that reach into in Sunkaze Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and the Appalachian Trail Corridor. In addition, the Department of Interior is a signatory to the agreement.

The Penobscot River is poised to transition to a sustainable balance between native sea-run fisheries and hydropower through the Penobscot River Restoration Project. It represents the first specific plan to address the root of the problem for declining migratory fish populations – high mortality associated with multiple up- and downstream fish passages. By working to remove dams, maintain hydropower generation and involve local communities, the project has become a national model for large-scale (eco-system based) river restoration. The Project aims to restore the full assemblage of 11 native diadromous fish species to the Penobscot River, including Atlantic salmon. The Penobscot Project offers our best opportunity to restore a significant run of Atlantic salmon to a large US river. For over a century, a diversity of federal projects (National

Marine Fisheries, USF&WS, and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission) has strived to help manage and recover North Atlantic ground fish stocks.

**Rural Water Circuit Riders, Rural Water Grassroots Source Water Protection, and USDA Rural Water Grants and Loans; Support Requested by the Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA), Nationwide -- \$671,100,000.**

USDA Circuit Riders provide much-needed on-site technical assistance and aid Maine communities in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Ensuring that Maine rural water systems are in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act reduces the threat to public health. This includes not only the protection against disease, but also increased security to Maine drinking water supplies. USDA Source Water Protection and Groundwater Protection Initiatives encourage rural communities to work together in an attempt to identify threats to the water supply and take preventative protection actions. Protected water supplies not only safeguard the precious resource, but it also eliminates costly clean ups. Source Water Protection plans focus on the protection of Maine's resources from non-point source runoff. The economic viability of rural communities is directly related to its water supply and sanitation. To overcome their lack of density, rural communities have turned to USDA water loans and grants to build or extend water systems and repay the loans at reasonable rates and terms. Without this assistance, they could not construct new systems, expand existing ones, or comply with mandates. With new infrastructure, water and wastewater systems are able to come into compliance, therefore decreasing the number of MCL violations and affording better protection of public health.

**Rural Water Associations' EPA Training and Technical Assistance, Source Water Protection and Groundwater Protection Initiatives; Support Requested by the Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA), Nationwide - \$16,800,000.**

Maine's rural communities heavily rely on the Rural Water Association for compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act, as well as other federal and state laws. Rural Water technical assistance and on-site guidance is the backbone of small community compliance and environmental compliance. Communities depend on Rural Water to protect their drinking water quality. With the ever-increasing expansion of federal water regulations and water quality regulation, the Association's assistance is needed now more than ever. Under MRWA's Training and Technical Assistance program, it provided necessary training on Vulnerability Assessments and Emergency Response Plans. Rural communities often lose sight of the need for emergency preparedness. One of the primary focuses of the MRWA's EPA Training and Technical Assistance Program has been on the Disinfection Byproduct Rule (DBPR). MRWA provided training and assistance to approximately 25 surface water systems that have MCL violations as a result of the new Rule. By hosting roundtable discussions with affected water systems and the Maine Drinking Water Program, MRWA was able to



provide much needed guidance to systems struggling with the DBPR. Having a firm understanding of the intricate details of the Rule, as well as the administrative process (such as consent orders, administrative orders, etc.) will provide the water systems with the education necessary to comply with the DBPR. Additionally, many of Maine's public water systems will need to comply with the new groundwater rule. These systems rely on MRWA to understand which systems will become regulated and the necessary steps for compliance.

**Monson Utilities District, Water Distribution Main and Service Line Replacement Project, Monson, Maine -- \$373,500.**

This project replaces water mains and service lines which are old, undersized, and subject to breaks. The health and welfare of the users is at risk because the distribution system has lost its integrity. Main breaks open the door to cross connection and coliform contamination. The distribution system does not have valves to shut down portions of the system during main breaks. Additionally, this grant would provide funds to run a main extension to a 24 unit subsidized housing development. This grant permits the consolidation of two water systems and will have a positive economic benefit for all ratepayers. Finally, improvements to the water system will permit Monson to support new commercial development.

The engineering report of 2007 identified four critical weaknesses in the MUD water system: the source of supply, storage, distribution, and treatment. The USDA grant/loan of 2008 addressed problems with source water protection, the treatment process, and the construction of new storage buildings. The STAG grant application of FY09 should be adequate to replace an unprotected and undersized storage facility. The USDA grant made in calendar year 2009, is a start in replacing their antiquated distribution system. The FY2010 STAG grant prioritizes completion of the renewal of their distribution system.

**Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust, Invasive Aquatic Species Prevention and Education Project, Oquossoc, Maine -- \$250,000.**

In this project, Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust will implement a comprehensive prevention plan that it will coordinate locally and then offer to other communities in the state by providing technical support and training. On a local level this project will prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic plant species (IAPs) to one of Maine's most robust economic engines, the renowned Rangeley Lakes Region. By raising awareness and changing the behavior of boaters and fishermen it will keep species such as Eurasian Watermilfoil, Zebra Mussel, and Didymo at bay. It will also create jobs, protect Rangeley's world class, multi-million dollar fishery, and protect the second home market that underpins the local economy and the Franklin County budget. At the State level it will prevent the futile and extraordinarily expensive costs of treatment (despite state

expenditures of over \$20M/year to treat Hydrilla infestations in Florida, the size of the infestations increase each year).

Coordinated by RLHT, the initial local project will employ up to 25 local residents, produce and distribute 15,000 educational CDs; develop a set of invasive species activities for children; construct 10 informational kiosks; construct 10 wader and gear washing stations; and purchase 15 sets of 'sticky' waders to lend to visiting fly fishermen. RLHT has operated an award winning invasive plant program for the past 7 years; in that span of time it has inspected over 10,000 boats and educated an estimated 50,000 people.

**Saint Joseph's College, Milfoil Infestation, Mitigation, Eradication, R&D Initiative, Standish, Maine - \$1,250,000.**

A comprehensive grass roots initiative by Maine-based lake monitoring, protection and advocacy groups, seeks to commence a three-year \$4,000,000 assault on the milfoil threat to lakes in the State of Maine. This level of funding will make possible a three year program of applied research and development; public outreach and education; technical assistance; and mitigation plan development to apply 'best practices' and grassroots citizen efforts to attack milfoil and prevent its spread among Maine lakes. The initial phase of the project will focus on development of a seven-lake test bed of the best science and approaches to be applied to the milfoil threat to Maine lakes, with second phase to go after the most infested lakes. Saint Joseph's College is the lead on the project.

**Trust for Public Land for US Fish and Wildlife Service, Timber Point Property, Portland, Maine - \$3,500,000.**

The Rachel Carson NWR has an opportunity to acquire for half its cost a longstanding priority property in Kennebunkport called Timber Point. This 110 acre property includes 2.25 miles of undeveloped coastline, upland forests, wetlands, and marshes that provide critical habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. Permanent protection of the entire 110 acres, on which the refuge already owns a conservation easement over 35 acres, would ensure public access to Maine's coastline in a highly developed part of the state. Refuge-owned lands already protect the headwaters of the Little River, which empties into the Atlantic at Goose Rocks Beach – a popular public swimming area adjacent to Timber Point. Once acquired, the Timber Point parcel will enhance the refuge's ability to protect water quality in the estuary and important wildlife habitat by linking it to already conserved refuge lands in the Little River Division of the refuge. Federal funds will be matched by an equal amount of privately raised funding.

**University of Maine, Northern States Research Cooperative (NSRC), Orono, Maine**  
**- \$1,000,000.**

Funding Maine's share of the NSRC program greatly enhances Maine's ability to assure sustained productivity of the Acadian forest. The long-term effects of different modes of harvesting need to be addressed in terms of their effects on growth and yield, genetic diversity of crop trees, the benefits of trying to manage for late-successional forest types, and the maintenance of environmental quality. In addition, efforts on the genetic improvement of crop trees, like the development of disease resistant white pine and the strategic importance of high yield plantations can be expanded to improve overall quantity and quality of raw material. Management of Maine's hardwood resource badly needs additional resources to address stand improvement practices and the effects of harvesting practices on residual crop trees. The Northeastern States Research Cooperative (NSRC) was authorized by Congress to support cross-disciplinary, integrative, and collaborative research on ecosystems, economic development, community development, forest products, and conservation efforts to benefit the 26-million-acre Northern Forest. Partners in the NSRC include the USFS, the University of Maine, the University of Vermont, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in NY, and the University of New Hampshire.

**University of Maine, Managing Invasive Plants in Acadia National Park, Orono, Maine -- \$500,000.**

The University is requesting funding from the U.S. Department of the Interior to support basic and applied research to understand what contributes to invasiveness of Japanese barberry and purple loosestrife, and then to collaborate with Park personnel to develop management plans to control these highly invasive plants. The focus will be on prevention, eradication, and education. The proposed objectives are specific to Acadia National Park and the invasive plants Japanese barberry and purple loosestrife as follows:

- Develop an early detection network involving trained volunteers.
- Assess the spread and analyze the traits that contribute to increased vigor of invasive plants.
- Assess the economic impact of invasive species.
- Develop a management plan.
- Expand public education and outreach in Acadia National Park.