

MEMORANDUM

To: Maine Coast Protection Initiative Interested Parties
From: Megan Shore, Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Date: January 18, 2006
Re: GIS Capacity Grants Program

BACKGROUND

The Steering Committee of the Maine Coast Protection Initiative is pleased to announce the GIS Capacity Grants Program.

Because of intensifying development pressures along the Maine coast, it is now urgently important to accelerate the pace of our collective coastal conservation work while key opportunities remain. The Maine Coast Protection Initiative is a first-of-its kind public-private partnership designed to increase the pace and quality of land protection by enhancing the capacity of Maine's conservation community **to protect and steward high priority coastal lands**. This collaborative effort is led by the Land Trust Alliance, NOAA Coastal Services Center, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the Maine State Planning Office, and a coalition of supporting organizations in Maine. During 2004, over 70 organizations participated in a planning process to develop a Strategic Conservation Framework that guides the work of the Maine Coast Protection Initiative.

In order to effectively implement the Strategic Conservation Framework (available at www.protectcoastalmaine.org), selected organizations and agencies along the Maine coast will receive financial resources, technical assistance, training, technology, and group facilitation to translate Maine Coast Protection Initiative goals into locally-driven projects. All organizations with an interest in coastal land conservation that meet the eligibility requirements are invited to apply for Maine Coast Protection GIS Capacity Grants.

GIS CAPACITY GRANTS

This program will support projects that create and enhance the capacity needed to address the GIS needs of Maine's coastal land trust community as identified in the MCPI GIS Needs Assessment (available at http://www.protectcoastalmaine.org/Grants/Application_Info.htm).

Specifically, this grant program will support projects that 1) serve to increase GIS usage within Maine's coastal land trust community and/or 2) help to increase the capacity of GIS users and providers so that they are able to develop quality data that is easily shared with others for the purpose of regional conservation planning and data analysis that will, in turn, advance proactive coastal conservation in Maine.

Applicants should clearly demonstrate how the proposed project will advance these goals in support of MCPI's overall goals of: a network of conserved lands, sustainable land trusts, and public support and funding for coastal land conservation. A full description of these goals and additional background information can be found at (<http://www.protectcoastalmaine.org/>).

TIMELINE & PROCESS

Applications must be postmarked by **February 28, 2006**

Announcement of Implementation grant awards will be made by **March 31, 2006**.

Please mail Applications to:
MCPI GIS Capacity Grants
c/o Maine Coast Heritage Trust
1 Main Street, Suite 201
Topsham, ME 04086

GRANT GUIDELINES, APPLICATION FORMS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MCPI website: www.protectcoastmaine.org

INQUIRIES ABOUT GIS CAPACITY GRANT PROGRAM

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GENERAL INQUIRIES ABOUT MCPI

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PROJECT SPONSORS

