

Project Name

Blackwoods Sustainable Forestry Interpretation Project

Brief Description	Grant Category	Is there a Business Plan	
This project provides scenic byway visitors and residents with interpretive material on local history and current practices for sustainable forestry.	Small Grants (up to \$7,000)	Not Applicable.	
City	State	Eligible Area	# of Jobs Created
Township 10SD	ME	ME - Hancock County	0

Organization Name

Hancock County Planning Commission

Org. Type	Amount Requested	Total Project Cost
Non-Profit	\$ \$6,000	\$ 12,000

Contact Name and Address

James Fisher

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Ellsworth, ME 04605

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207-667-7131

Project Description, Applicant Organization and Partnerships:

This project is part of a larger initiative to leverage Maine's Scenic Byways for promoting public education about natural resources and resource management. In 1971 the Maine Department of Transportation designated Route 182, connecting Franklin and Cherryfield to be one of the state's first official scenic byways. The Blackwoods Byway traverses approximately 15 miles of unorganized territory, much of which is now included in the Maine Public Reserve Lands and managed by the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BP&L). These public lands are a scenic mix of forests, lakes, and small mountains. The BP&L is actively managing the forests to promote better quality timber and to recover their management costs through sales of the timber. However, to date there is no educational venue for people to learn about BP&L.

In 2005 the Black Woods Byway Corridor Management Plan was adopted by the state. The plan and other information is available at www.blackwoodsbyway.org. The management plan calls for protection of natural resources, promotion of the region for recreation and for education about the history and natural resources along this byway.

This small grant would leverage other state and local contributions to create the Black Woods Byway's first interpretive kiosks pursuant to public education about history and natural resources. The sustainable forestry venue would provide the BP&L with an opportunity to highlight how they are improving the quality of surrounding forests and can serve to motivate private landowners to adopt sustainable land use policies.

The Hancock County Planning Commission (HCPC) has a thirty-year history of working with communities to protect natural resources and promote local economic growth. In 2000 our Locally Grown Food and Low-Impact Forestry programs were recognized with a national award as a program of excellence by the American Planning Association. We are also the lead agency working with the Blackwoods Scenic Byway, having recently won more than \$40,000 in state and national grants to further out planning, preservation and education efforts. Our other projects include comprehensive planning, environmental planning, transportation planning, public health and historic preservation. In addition to the Blackwoods Byway website we maintain a much larger website supporting our activities at www.hpcme.org.

Since the Blackwoods Byway crosses into Cherryfield, Maine in Washington County, we are working closely with our sister organization, the Washington County Council of Governments (WCCOG). For this particular project we will be working closely with BP&L and the Blackwoods Byway Corridor

Management Committee to create an all weather, free standing exhibit incorporating one panel on the history of Col. Black's woods (thus the name) and a second panel on current practices of sustainability. Funds permitting we will add additional wayfinding information about the many trails that hikers can use to see more of the region. HCPC, WCCOG, BP&L and the corridor committee meet monthly to plan activities, projects and discuss priority needs for this corridor.

Project Budget:

Expenses

\$1,000 Project Management
 \$5,000 Interpretive Planning and Design
 \$5,000 Manufacturing of Interpretive Panels
 \$1,000 Installation of Interpretive Panels

Income

\$6,000 Northern Forest Partnership Program
 \$3,000 State Byway Support for Public Facilities

In-Kind Contributions

\$3,000 Research and Interpretive Planning provided by HCPC

Additional, non-monetized support will be provided by the Downeast RC&D, Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, Friends of Tunk, and other local organizations.

	Total Expenses	Total VALUE of ALL Income/In-Kind
	\$ \$12,000	\$\$12,000

Letter #1

Author

Thomas E. Martin, Executive Director
 Hancock County Planning Commission
Email: tmartin@hcpcme.org
Phone: (207) 667-7131

Letter

On behalf of the Hancock County Planning Commission, I am happy to support the Northern Forest proposal to design and construct interpretive information for the Blackwoods Scenic Byway.

The Hancock County Planning Commission has worked for more than thirty years to bring economic opportunity, education and conservation to our region. We have resources on hand to help staff interpretive planning, but request grants, like this one, to pay for materials costs.

I hope that you will give due consideration to this proposal and am available to provide additional information upon request.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Martin

Letter #2

Author

Judy East, Executive Director
 Washington County Council of Government
Email:
Phone:

Letter

As Executive Director of the Washington County Council of Governments -- WCCOG, I am writing to support the Blackwoods Byway Sustainable Forestry Interpretation project. This initiative will be a significant part of our larger effort to encourage sustainable forestry and eco-tourism in downeast Maine. The Blackwoods Byway provides a scenic connection between Washington County and the rest of Maine. Many residents in the western portion of our county travel this road daily, yet are unaware of the efforts of the Department of Conservation Bureau of Parks and Lands to improve the forests and provide long-term employment opportunities through quality wood resource management.

The WCCOG is working with a number of State and Federal Agencies to promote new forms of tourism and new ways to manage our natural resources. This project provides another opportunity to leverage scarce resources and communicate these important missions to residents and tourists.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Judy East

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