



Project Summary 2008

SB-2008-ME-55202: **Blackwoods Byway Trailheads**

State Submission Date	Mar 28, 2008
Division Submission Date	not submitted
State Priority	0

This application must be completed online at <http://www.bywaysonline.org/grants/>, and submitted electronically and in printed form.

Project Category

Which category best describes the location of this project?

- Project that is associated with a highway that has been designated as a National Scenic Byway, All American Road, or one of America's Byways.
- Project along a State or Indian tribe scenic byway that is carried out to make the byway eligible for designation as a National Scenic Byway, an All-American Road, or one of America's Byways.
- Project that is associated with the development of a State or Indian tribe scenic byway program.

Choose from the following categories of eligible work the type that best fits your project.

- Byway Programs
- Corridor Management
- Safety Improvements
- Byway Facilities
- Access to Recreation
- Resource Protection
- Interpretive Information
- Marketing

Is this application a resubmission of an unfunded project from a previous year?

- Yes
- No

Project Location

State(s) involved in project:

Maine

Indicate the byway's regional location within the State. Reference prominent landmarks such as parallel major highways, natural features, counties, or large cities, that makes the byway(s) easy to locate in a road atlas.

The Blackwoods Scenic Byway is located in eastern Maine along State Route 182 between the historic towns of Franklin (Hancock County) and Cherryfield (Washington County). Persons arriving from the west pass through Ellsworth and proceed approximately 6 miles east on Route 1, turning right on Route 182 and continuing east 6 miles through Franklin to beginning of the designated byway.

Persons arriving from the east pass through the Town of Machias, heading 27 miles west on Route 1 to the Town of Cherryfield where the byway begins. A map is attached.

Briefly describe the project's location(s) on the byway using references to route numbers, byway gateway communities, project location communities and landmarks so any reviewer can identify the project sites.

This project establishes one or more trail heads on the Blackwoods Byway that will provide access to recreational hiking trails, paddling and camping. The proposed trail heads will be on the byway, and located in Township 10 SD in Hancock County at locations identified in an attached map.

Associated Byways

State	Byway Name
ME	Blackwoods Byway

Is this project consistent with the Corridor Management Plan(s) for the byway(s) involved?

- Yes
- No / CMP not available

Congressional Districts

State	District	Representative (at time of application)
ME	2	Michaud, Michael H.

Abstract

Project Description

Complete the sentence "This project will..." before adding remaining information.

This project will create one or two trail heads on the Blackwoods Scenic Byway. Each Trail head will provide adequate parking for a small number of vehicles, informational, directional and interpretive signage.

Byway Benefits

Complete the sentence "This project benefits the byway traveler by..." before adding remaining information.

This project benefits the byway traveler by providing easy access to the extensive hiking and paddling trail system that exists along the Blackwoods Scenic Byway. This trail system offers the only structured overnight backpacking and paddling opportunity in eastern Maine. Visitors will, for the first time, have a clearly designated parking area with adequate information for the adventure that lies ahead.

Narrative

Project Summary

Completely describe all the major elements of your proposed project in a concise but complete summary.

The Blackwoods Byway Corridor Management Committee is working with the Hancock County Planning Commission, the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, the Nature Conservancy, the Sunrise Trail Coalition and several local land trusts and conservation groups to create a sustainable hiking and paddling trail system over an area of approximately 25,000 acres of mountains, lakes and streams. The byway cuts right through the center of this emerging natural recreational area, and is the primary means by which visitors access the region.

This partnership has solicited funding from a variety of public and private sources in order to combine enhanced conservation of ecological preserves with new recreational opportunities in this large and growing area.

This grant compliments other resource by providing access to our emerging nature-based recreational network. A critical need in the larger scheme is to provide visitors with a safe place to park for day and overnight visits. Two trail heads have been established at the heart of the byway, but one or two additional sites are needed. These sites will require landscaping for parking, informational, directional and interpretive signage, weather proof trail information and a voluntary means for hikers to sign-in. Our goal is to make each trail head an educational opportunity as well as a safe and convenient point of embarkation.

Benefit to Byway Traveler

Describe how the proposed project will benefit a byway traveler, add to their travel experience or fulfill an important objective of your CMP.

Currently visitors to the Blackwoods Scenic Byway are missing many of our unique and rustic outdoor opportunities. This heavily wooded and mountainous area has great places to paddle, hike, fish and hunt, but much of it remains behind a veil of trees. In order to introduce this backwoods adventure to visitors, we need to provide better places for them to get off the road, learn more about recreational opportunities and we hope take a hike.

This project will provide visitors with more than a place to leave their cars. Travelers will gain a better understanding of how this working landscape has come to be. Interpretive panels will highlight deep history through our participation in Maine's Ice Age Trail, and sustainable forestry that seeks to use the products of the Maine woods while retaining their beauty and ecological significance.

We want travelers to enjoy the scenic byway dictum to "come closer", that is to get out of their cars and hike our green mountains and paddle in our clear lakes. We want our residents to join in this outdoor experience and to use these natural gifts to regain mental and physical well being.

This grant will help us to accomplish this, by providing better access and better information.

Prior Projects

Describe any relationship between this project and previously funded National Scenic Byways grant projects. In addition, discuss how the proposed work relates to any multi-year work plan byway leaders have developed.

The 2006 Byway Planning and Management Grant has enabled Hancock County Planning Commission staff to work with the Blackwoods Byway Corridor Management Committee, the Bureau of Parks and Lands and other local organizations to create a vision for outdoor recreation. This grant will help us to implement that vision.

Project Coordinator

Please provide contact information for a person responsible for this project.

Name: James Henry Fisher

Title: Senior Planner

Organization: Hancock County Planning Commission

Address: 395 State Street
Ellsworth, ME 04605

Phone: (207) 667-7131

Fax: (207) 667-2099

E-mail: jfisher@hpcme.org

Work Plan

Milestone/ Task	Start Date	Duration	Responsible Party	Justification
Establish funding agreement with State	AAD*			
Planning and Administration	AAD + 1 day*	18 months	Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission	This task accounts for the back office and field worked planned for creating the trail network, trail heads, informational and interpretive signage required to make this project a success. HCPC will provide planning and coordination with support from the Bureau of Parks and Lands, the Nature Conservance, the Maine Conservation Corps and other organizations. The time and effort going into the step are provided through partnership agreements and are not charged to this grant.
Site Analysis	AAD + 6 months*	6 months	Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission	Planning is expected to take approximately six months in order to define the parameters necessary to verify preferred locations for one or possibly two new trail heads. Each of these sites will require additional environmental assessment, including GIS mapping, wetlands delineation, soils analysis and highway entrance permitting. Some of the likely sites present few difficulties in this regard while others are more challenging. This step will allow the site selection process to prepare more detailed plans for the parking and informational infrastructure.
Information and Interpretation	AAD + 6 months*	12 months	Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission	The trailheads will have one to two intepretive panels highlighting geological history, working forests, and natural resources. The sites are relatively remote, so the panels will be simple and stury in construction, but will conform to Maine Scenic Byway standards. In addition to interpretive panels, each site will have a durable all weather panel with a map of the byway, the location of that site and nearby trails. Additional information and direction signage will be included in this step to provide drivers with adequate warning of trail head locations and promoting “leave no trace” practices.
Construction	AAD + 12 months*	6 months	Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission	The prior step provides the details needed to move to this step in which the trail heads are built. These are intended to be very simple gravel parking areas that emphasize information, interpretation and access to trails and waterways. The cost of construction is driven primarily by site characteristics such as slope and soil characteristics.

* AAD = Actual Award Date (estimated to be August 01, 2008)

Budget

Cost Breakdown

#	Description	Total Cost	Requested	Match
1.	Planning and Administration	20,000	0	20,000
2.	Site analysis	10,000	0	10,000
3.	Construction	60,000	60,000	0
4.	Information and Interpretation	30,000	30,000	0
Total		\$120,000	\$90,000	\$30,000

Matching Funds

Source	Type	Description	Amount
Quimby Family Foundation	Cash		30,000
Total			\$30,000

Funding Allocation

Do the byways involved in the project cross any Federal Lands? (Check all that apply)

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- USDA Forest Service

If this project is selected for funding, please indicate your preference for carrying out the project (check one):

- FHWA allocates the funds for the project to the State DOT
- FHWA allocates the funds for the project to one of the Federal Land Management agencies marked above (provide contact information below)
- FHWA allocates the funds for the project to an Indian tribe or tribal government (provide contact information below)

If funding should be allocated to a Federal land management agency or Indian tribal organization, please provide contact information for that organization:

Name:
Title:
Organization:
Address:
Phone:
Fax:
E-mail:

Application Checklist

The following statements are for informative purposes. Please read and check each statement.

- I understand that this is a reimbursement program - funds are not available up-front.
- I have reviewed and responded to the Complete Application statements as outlined in the Grants Guidance.
- I have been in touch with the State scenic byway coordinator and have responded to recommendations or requirements of the State.
- I have verified with the State byway coordinator that this proposed project can receive authorization to proceed from the State and FHWA division before the end of the fiscal year for which the application is made.

Attachments

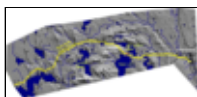
Use this as a checklist to verify that all attachments are provided with your printed application.



Blackwoods Byway Overview Map

This map indicates the Blackwoods Scenic Byway location.

Digital version: [blackwoodsbywaymap.JPG](#) (126.2 KB)



Hillshade map

Hillshade map indicating hiking and paddling areas.

Digital version: [hillshade.GIF](#) (56.2 KB)



Sample Trail Head Information Sign on Donnell Pond

This sign illustrates one relatively low-tech sign concept currently being used in the Blackwoods area.

Digital version: [DonnellRulesSign.JPG](#) (840.1 KB)



□ **Tunk Lake Trail Head**

This illustrates one of the existing trail heads which provides a boat launch onto Tunk Lake. An informational sign appears in the center.

Digital version: [tunkinfosign.JPG](#) (70.7 KB)

Signatures

Application Completeness

I certify that this application is complete and correct, and is eligible for National Scenic Byways funding. (This should be completed by the State's scenic byways coordinator.)

Please print name:	Title:
Signature:	Date:

Matching Funds Certification

I certify that the matching funds for this project are available for use at the time of application.

Please print name: Duane Scott	Title: State Scenic Byway Coordinator
Signature:	Date: