

Mission Statement

The mission of the Division of Forest Protection is to protect homes and Maine's forest resources from wildfire, respond to disasters and emergencies and to enhance the safe, sound, and responsible management of the forest for this and future generations.

Illegal dumping

Maine's forest rangers investigate illegal dumping and if there is sufficient evidence, can help prosecute violators. If you suspect someone has illegally deposited trash, please write down the license plate, provide a description of the vehicle (as well as the occupants) and call the Maine Forest Service.

In 2011, the penalties for littering have increased significantly. Not only have the fines increased, but a person convicted of title 17 S 2263 is now required to complete 100 hours of public service relating to the removal of litter.

Landowner Appreciation Cleanup Day



During the fall of 2011, Maine's forest rangers partnered with SWOAM for the first statewide Landowner Appreciation Cleanup Day. Forest Rangers and volunteers took this opportunity to show their appreciation to landowners who allow recreational access to their property by cleaning up over 130 sites throughout Maine. This collaborative effort brought 95 tons of illegally discarded items (including 908 tires) to dozens of transfer stations. If you would like to report an illegal dump site or volunteer to help clean one up, please contact the Maine Forest Service.

Damaging Forest Roads



Forest landowners across Maine are often victims of this type of activity when people operate their cars and trucks on forest roads. Typically, these muddy conditions exist in the months of April and May when those roads are soft from the spring thaw. As landowners can attest, the effects caused by these activities can quickly result in thousands of dollars in damage to their roads. It can also lead to erosion and sedimentation that can harm fish habitat. To correct the damage caused by people "mudding" on

private roads, landowners often have to pay contractors to bring in specialized equipment, like road graders, which can cost up to \$200 per hour.

Please contact the Maine Forest Service if you have unauthorized "mudding" in your area. Rangers investigate all complaints from landowners and can also actively patrol areas which are susceptible to this type of damage.

Recently, rangers have had several successful prosecutions of the statute related to the damage of forest resources (including roads). Under this statute (Title 17, section 3853-D), a person who operates a motor vehicle on farmland or forest land and damages or destroys crops, forest products, personal property or roads on farmland or forest land, commits a Class E crime. If convicted, a person can receive a fine of up to \$500, up to 364 days in jail and can be ordered to pay restitution for the costs of repairing damaged roads or cropland. Those interested in "mudding" with vehicles will need to obtain written permission from the landowner or do it on their own land, in areas that don't drain into streams or lakes.

Maine's landowners have a great tradition of granting public access to their properties for recreational use. Maine forest rangers are committed to helping to preserve this unique tradition.

They are available to do preventative work to see that illegal dumping and damaging forest roads with a motor vehicle does not occur in the first place. For more information, please contact the Maine Forest Service.



Maine Forest Service
Forest Protection Division

Wildfire Control
Natural Resource Law Enforcement
Incident Management
Disaster Response

1-800-750-9777



For more information, please visit
www.maineforestservice.gov or call the
numbers below:

Southern Region Dispatch, Augusta
207-624-3700

Central Region Dispatch, Old Town
207-827-1800

Northern Region Dispatch, Ashland
207-435-7963

Toll free: 1-800-750-9777

Maine's Forest Rangers are honored to serve
the citizens and visitors of the State of Maine.

*Illegal dumping/
damaging forest
roads hurts
everyone*



MAINE FOREST SERVICE
FOREST PROTECTION
DIVISION