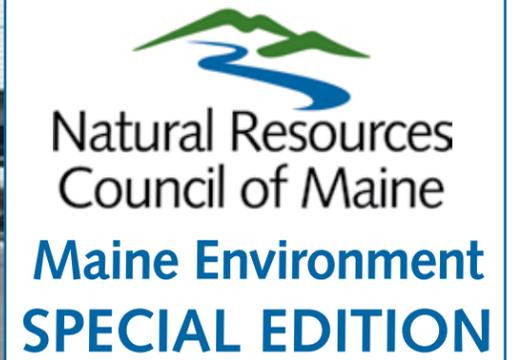




Join Us for Citizen Action Day Tuesday, February 25!



2014 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES for Maine's Environment



Increasing solar power for Maine people, protecting our lakes, and defeating weak mining rules are among NRCM's top legislative priorities this year. But, as always, with so much happening at the State House, our staff will be weighing in on many additional bills that could affect the future of Maine's land, air, water, and wildlife.

This year is the "short session" of the 126th Legislature, which leaves us with a lot of work to be done before lawmakers adjourn in late April. More than 350 bills currently are under consideration, including 215 that were carried over from last year, and 135 new bills.

NRCM already is deeply involved in researching, drafting, and delivering testimony; crafting amendment recommendations; and talking with legislators and colleagues daily. We're working closely with the other 27 organizations that participate in the Environmental Priorities Coalition (EPC), which for the past 10 years has announced a shared legislative agenda.

Here are a few of the top issues that are the focus of our attention, with additional bills described later in this report:

- 1) **Defeat Weak Mining Rules.** Maine's Board of Environmental Protection recently adopted weak rules that will not protect Maine's environment and taxpayers from the risks of metal mining. We will work to defeat these rules.
- 2) **Boost Solar Power in Maine.** While solar has become increasingly economical and practical, Maine is lagging behind neighboring states in promoting solar power. Now is the time for the Legislature to make solar power a priority for Maine and establish ambitious goals so that more Mainers get their power from the clean, renewable power of the sun.

- 3) **Protect Maine Lakes.** Maine's lakes are among our most valuable resources, but the state's lake protection program has been decimated in recent years. In follow up to our investigative report from this summer (see page 4), we are working to pass legislation this year to strengthen the safety net for Maine's lakes.

- 4) **Study Ocean Acidification.** Increased carbon pollution in the atmosphere is causing our oceans to become more acidic, threatening Maine's shellfish industries. We support creation of a commission to identify solutions to this issue.

- 5) **Invest in Clean Water.** We support and will be working to help pass a \$50 million bond that would protect drinking water, allow communities to prepare for extreme storm events, conserve habitat for recreational fisheries, reduce stormwater pollution, and improve stream crossings.

These are some of the major issues we're working on this session, and we hope you'll help us advance this agenda. As always, our success at the State House depends on the support of NRCM members and activists like you. If you are not a member of NRCM's Action Network, please sign up today at www.nrcm.org.

During the months ahead, we will keep you informed and let you know when and how to contact your elected officials as priority legislation moves through the State House. You can also visit our website for detailed updates on our legislative work. I also encourage you to register today for our annual Citizen Action Day in Augusta, to be held Tuesday, February 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Elected officials have said, time and again, that the voices of their constituents make a big impression upon them. Meeting with them in person is a great way to make sure they know how you expect them to vote. Citizen Action Day was created for you, just for this purpose.

As always, thank you for your support.

—Pete Didisheim, NRCM Advocacy Director

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MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

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Help protect the nature of Maine! (See page 4)

◀NRCM member Paula Day of Starks meets with Senator Rodney Whittemore during Citizen Action Day 2013

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