**§202. Mission; guiding principles**

**1. Mission.**  The mission of the department is to serve as a steward of Maine's agricultural and natural resources. The department shall implement public policy that:

A. Supports the work of citizens who derive their livelihood through agricultural, conservation and forest-based interests and supports those who enjoy parks and conservation lands; [PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §9 (NEW).]

B. Through education, technical assistance, research, regulation and land conservation, promotes and protects the public health, the well-being of domestic animals, wise land usage and the preservation of the State's key conservation assets; and [PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §9 (NEW).]

C. Assists in creating added value for land-derived and forest-derived products as well as creating outdoor-based recreational experiences for local, national and international markets. [PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §9 (NEW).]

[PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §9 (AMD); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §17 (AFF).]

**2. Guiding principles.**  The following principles are adopted to guide the department in the performance of its duties:

A. Forestry, farming, conservation, public lands and other natural resource-based economic activity are important to the State's economy and quality of life; [PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §9 (AMD); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §17 (AFF).]

A-1. The State's rural jobs and multifaceted natural resources are at the same time a rich heritage to be carefully passed to successive generations and an evolving economic engine driving the recreation, food and fiber components of the State’s workplaces; [PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §9 (NEW).]

B. Strengthening farming, forestry, conservation, recreation, state parks, public lands and public access to the State's natural resources is vital to enhancing the State's natural resources economy; and [PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §9 (AMD); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §17 (AFF).]

C. The State's land and water are the common denominators for fresh, locally grown food, processed food, horticulture, livestock, sustainably managed forest products and the State's internationally recognized outdoor recreation and conservation areas. [PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §9 (NEW).]

[PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §9 (AMD); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §17 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. V, §1 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. V, §2 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §9 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §17 (AFF).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2025
 . The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.