



Project Summary 2007

SB-2007-ME-54589: **Blackwoods Byway
Planning and Implementation**

State Submission Date

Mar 2, 2007

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 and Cherryfield. 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.

The proposal implements the Corridor Management Plan adopted by the host communities and the State of Maine in August, 2005, affecting the entire byway. The Corridor Management Plan and other byway information is available at www.blackwoodsbyway.org.

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 implement the Corridor Management Plan adopted by the host communities and signed by the State of Maine in August, 2005. This plan highlights scenic, historic, geological and recreational assets located on this unique road first designated as a scenic byway by the state of Maine in 1971. The Corridor Management Plan is available online at www.blackwoodbyway.org. This first corridor management plan identifies goal, objectives and strategies for byway promotion, preservation, education and safety.

Byway Benefits

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

This project benefits the byway traveler by organizing and supporting local byway advocates to promote and preserve the unique and largely undiscovered assets along this byway. Funding will support significant improvements in the fledgling website www.blackwoodsbyway.org, production of a byway map brochure, planning and administration for projects along the byway and local organizing for byway litter control, graffiti removal and other visitor-friendly byway priorities.

Narrative

Project Summary

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

Project Summary

- **Goals** * This project will implement the Corridor Management Plan adopted by the host communities and signed by the State of Maine in August, 2005.
- **A Brief History** * The State of Maine recognized that the Blackwoods Road had the essential characteristics of a scenic byway, and designated as one of the first state scenic byways in 1971. At that time the planning requirements for scenic byways were extremely modest. Documentation for this designation was limited to a few typed pages.

Following the 1971 designation change has come slowly. Among the improvements in the ensuing 35 years are:

1. Byway entrance signs were placed on both ends of the byway.
2. One short section of Route 182 was rebuilt
3. One public boat ramp has been maintained, though some services, such as the privy have been removed from the site.
4. A small parking area was walking to another pond
5. A ban on personal watercraft have been placed on two pristine lakes along the byway

Not all changes have been planned or positive. In the last thirty years overhead power lines were extended into one portion of the byway, resulting in loss of the historic tree canopy over that section of road. The problem of graffiti on granite rock outcroppings grew, with sporadic efforts to remove paint having limited impacts.

- **Corridor Management Plan and New Conservation Controls*** In 2003 the Hancock County Planning Commission and the Washington County Council of Governments worked with residents in Cherryfield, the Unorganized Territories and Franklin to craft a corridor management plan. The plan, available online at www.blackwoodsbyway.org, cleared the final administrative hurdles in August 2005.

The Blackwoods Byway CMP highlights scenic, historic, geological and recreational assets located on this unique road. The layout includes the original 12.5 mile designated byway connecting to historic Maine villages, Franklin and Cherryfield. The visitor experience is somewhat longer, extending several miles on either end into the village centers. The harmony between resource-base communities and the forested mountains that provided the timber for these villages provides visitors with a piece of living history. Visitors can visit historic villages, crystal clear lakes, hiking trails through mountains, wild blueberry barrens, pine forests and rocky ridges. Boating, swimming, fishing, and hunting compliment the network of hiking trails.

Current plans to convert an eighty mile section of inactive rail road track to a multi-use trail will create a unique opportunity for visitors to travel through the Blackwoods by car, bike, horse, snowmobile or ATV. The attached map illustrates the close proximity of the planned rail-trail, which crosses the Blackwoods Byway in the village center of Franklin then again close to the center of Cherryfield.

The plan also documents the state of transportation infrastructure on the byway. As with many scenic roads, the character of the Blackwoods Byway also challenges modern standards for road surface, width, alignment and maintenance. The art of improving this byway will be to balance the introduction of modern standards with preservation of the scenic character of this historic road. Clearly many changes can be made and are advocated by residents along the byway.

- **Goals and Objectives** * This first corridor management plan identifies goal, objectives and strategies for byway promotion, preservation, education and safety. The section on Goals, Objectives and Strategies is included with the attachments.

Goal 1: Protect the natural, historic and scenic resources that make this byway unique

Goal 2: Maintain a safe and efficient transportation corridor connecting Cherryfield and Franklin

Goal 3: Promote the local economy through diversified economic activities, including forestry, farming, manufacturing, retail and tourism

Goal 4: Promote community participation in protecting and enhancing the byway

Goal 5: Encourage education about this byway for our residents and visitors

These goals are clearly very general though to a degree we can measure whether we are heading in the right direction. Each of the goals has several milestones, or specific objectives and strategies that we believe will help us to accomplish the objectives. For instance, the second objective under the first goal is, "Maintain a clean and natural environment along the byway that is free of litter and graffiti." The Corridor Committee, Friends of Tunk and Maine Department of transportation assisted community groups to conduct road side cleanups for the last two years. Plans are underway to repeat the cleanup for 2007.

In 2007 the Bureau of Parks and Lands will complete a general management plan governing a large portion of the lands surrounding the byway. This plan creates land use districts, preserving some as wilderness reserves and opening others for additional hiking trails and camping opportunities. Regional land trusts have acquired more than 10,000 additional acres of land near to the byway that will also be preserved for public use. Finally, the Down East Sunrise Trail (www.sunrisetrail.org), an 86 mile rail to trail conversion is moving forward. This trail intersects the byway at both ends, in Franklin and in Cherryfield. This will create new opportunities and will draw many new outdoor-recreation tourists to the region.

Workplan for 2008-2009

The confluence of so many pro-conservation and pro-visitation forces in this small part of Eastern Maine has generated a lot of excitement. Local entrepreneurs are awakening to new opportunities in what has been a very tough economy for many years. We anticipate that 2008 and 2009 will require higher levels of coordination than in the past. This coordination will take place on several levels:

1. Consistent monthly coordinating meetings of the Byway Corridor Committee: including representation of the towns, the Department of Transportation, Department of Conservation, Land Use Regulation Commission, USDA Rural Conservation and Development and regional planning commissions.
2. Project construction planning and administration: work during this time period is expected to include improvements to lake access, hiking trail planning, construction and management, addition of visitor amenities and coordination with privately funded initiatives.
3. Visitor information and education: this byway has many remarkable assets that are overlooked by motorists as they pass through. We need to increase the amount and quality of information and interpretation along the byway. Funds from this grant will help us to move ahead on planning and implementation of informational programs, both through the byway's website, printed materials and interpretive stations.
4. Protection of scenic assets: A conference on Scenic Viewshed Preservation is convening in March, 2007. This conference will launch new initiatives along Maine's byways to open scenic vistas that have been blocked by tree growth as well as protect vistas through better land use planning.

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.

Byway travelers are already benefiting from activation of this long dormant byway. Partners from local, regional and state government are working together to improve conditions along the road. The center piece Tunk Lake boat launch area has expanded parking and will soon have a new privy facility. The state increased priority for road resurfacing with is anticipated to occur in 2007 and 2008. Shoulders will be added in several sections which will improve safety and comfort for travelers.

This funding will provide support for local staff to organize community support for the byway, provide area residents and visitors with educational information about the Blackwoods Scenic Byway and fund travel of corridor committee members to state and regional Scenic Byway conferences and workshops.

The direct benefits to travelers will be most evident in the educational materials that we provide through our website, www.blackwoodsbyway.org, and through state tourism information and in printed maps and brochures.

The larger, indirect benefits arise out of the improvements that we are making to the byway with an activated and organized base of citizens, regional and state representatives.

Our dual goals of promoting preservation and visitation require planning and management. Efforts in the coming year will include coordinating an increasingly complex mix of users, including cars, RVs, ATVs, snowmobiles, bicycles, boats and hikers. As we improve trails that cross and in some cases run parallel to the byway, we will be working to segment our visitors, providing ATV's with multiuse trails and providing hikers and paddlers with quiet places to recreate. Failure to implement this transportation network in coordination with the byway may dampen visitors' experiences and harm the environment.

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.

While one previously funded byway grant is listed for 2006, these funds are yet to pass through the State of Maine for use on the Blackwoods Scenic Byway. As such, all financial support for planning and administration has been supported with state funds and other non-byway federal funds.

However, this grant proposal will follow on the heels of the 2006 Planning and Management grant and will be an important compliment to state and private support that we have received and anticipate receiving in the future. Related projects include:

- 1) Proposed hiking trail management plan, \$23,000 requested from the Quimby Family Foundation
- 2) Maine Department of Transportation - major investments planned for improving Route 182 in 2007 and 2008
- 3) Support from Hancock County and Washington County provided through services of the Hancock County Planning Commission, the Washington County Council of Governments
- 4) Staff support from the Maine Department of Transportation, Department of Conservation Bureau of Parks and Lands and Department of Inland Fisheries and Waterways.
- 5) Volunteer support from the Towns of Cherryfield and Franklin and the Friends of Tunk.
- 6) Volunteer support from the Down East Sunrise Trails Coalition

This grant will engage staff and volunteers in implementing the action plan described in the Blackwoods Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan, adopted in 2005.

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 + 3 days*	12 months	Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission	<p>This is a support activity that keeps the wheels spinning. Support for planning and administration for the Blackwoods byway will be essential in our second year of activity. In our first year of activity we have assembled tangible support from several state and local organizations. This grant will further our effort to coordinate resources.</p> <p>This work will be carried out by staff from the Hancock County Planning Commission and the Washington County Council of Governments.</p>
Corridor Committee Education and Travel	AAD + 3 days*	12 months	Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission	We propose to set-aside adequate funding for members of this committee to attend Eastern Maine, State of Maine and/or northern New England Scenic Byways and related workshops or conferences. If funds are adequate one representative might also be assisted in attending a national byways conference if any are held during this grant cycle. Our committee, while still relatively new to the byway process, is engaged in a number of parallel planning activities. This support will help them to integrate byway goals and objectives in their broader community service efforts.
Marketing and Communications	AAD + 30 days*	11 months	Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission	Pending receipt of planning and administration funds, we have agreed on the need to prepare educational materials to build greater awareness of the byway, increase visitation, and encourage low-impact uses. These are all educational initiatives which we will advance by creating small, but functional visitor brochures and informational postings at a number of popular stops. Funds will be used to improve and maintain the byway webpages and provide press releases to local news organizations about events, including our Annual Earthday roadside cleanup.

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

Budget

Cost Breakdown

#	Description	Total Cost	Requested	Match
1.	Planning and Administration	22,500	18,000	4,500
2.	Marketing and Education	6,250	5,000	1,250
3.	Committee Education and Travel	2,500	2,000	500
Total		\$31,250	\$25,000	\$6,250

Matching Funds

Source	Type	Description	Amount
Maine Department of Transportation	Cash		6,250
Total			\$6,250

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 Goals and Objectives**

These are the guiding goals, objectives and strategies that have been incorporated in comprehensive plans for the host communities and signed by the State Byway Committee.

Digital version: [BlackwoodsVisionGoalsObjectives.PDF](#) (40.3 KB)
-  **Blackwoods Byway Action Plan**

This six year plan implements the goals and objectives adopted for the Blackwoods byway. This grant will use this document to guide activities of the committee.

Digital version: [BlackwoodsActionPlan.PDF](#) (21.7 KB)
-  **Blackwoods Byway Map**

This map indicates the location of the proposed planning and administrative activities. Detailed maps are available on request.

Digital version: [blackwoodsbywaymap.JPG](#) (134.9 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: Robert LaRoche	Title: State Scenic Byway Coordinator
Signature:	Date: