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E-Newsletter **2/9/10**

State Issues:

Moose Permit Lottery Begins

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (IF&W) is now taking applications for the 2010 Moose Permit Lottery. IF&W encourages hunters to apply online for permits through its website at <http://www5.informe.org/online/moose/>. This year, 3,140 permits will be allocated statewide. For the dates of the hunting season in each area, visit http://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting_trapping/hunting/dates_limits_2010.htm.

If, however, an interested hunter is unable to apply online, they may print an application and mail it to IF&W; visit the office in person at 284 State Street in Augusta; or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to IF&W, and department personnel will mail back a paper application. Applications and requests for applications should be sent to: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, 41 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0041. Paper applications must be postmarked by April 1.

For more information on the 2010 Moose Permit Lottery, please visit <http://www.mefishwildlife.com>. You may also call 207-287-8000 or e-mail IF&W at info.online@maine.gov if you have any questions.

Department of Education Releases Information On School Aid

The Maine Department of Education has released the preliminary levels of education aid school districts across the state will receive in Fiscal Year 2011. These allocations reflect a \$92 million reduction in state aid to public schools, proposed as part of the governor's supplemental budget. Final amounts are subject to legislative approval.

For full information on the amount of aid expected for each district, visit the Department of Education website at <http://www.maine.gov/education/data/eps/fy11/index.html>.

U.S. Census Officially Underway

The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is underway as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data. With the process beginning, it is important to be able to recognize official Census employees. The U.S. Census and the Better Business Bureau offered the following advice:

- If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.
- Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information.
- Do not give your Social Security number, credit card, or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.
- No matter what they ask, you really only need to tell them how many people live at your address.
- Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. They will never request any information via e-mail.

If you have a question about your participation in the U.S. Census, please contact the Northeast regional office in Boston at (617) 223-3700.