



# Wood Turtles 101: Biology, Ecology, and Habitat

**Wood Turtle Workshop with Forest Landowners**

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# Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*)



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# Wood Turtle range





## Wood Turtle Ecology

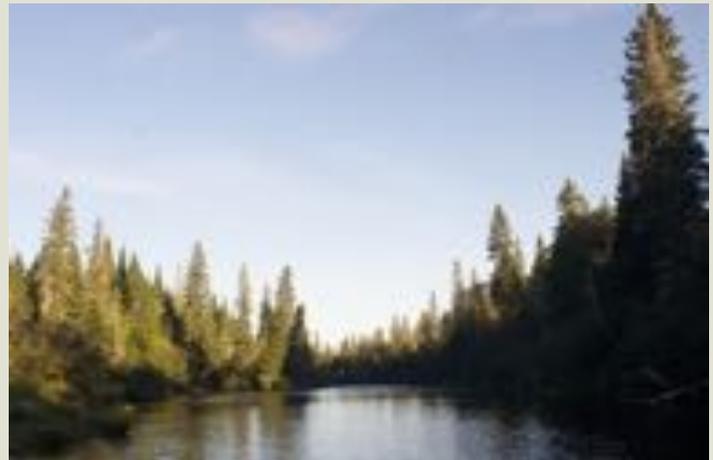
- Semi-terrestrial, inhabits clear, cold streams and rivers with predominant sand, gravel, or rock substrate and surrounding uplands
- Most upland use by species is within 300 feet of stream habitat



# Seasonal Activity Patterns



- Active April through October
- Extensive use of upland habitats such as forests, forest clearings, fields/early successional May – September
- Nesting occurs mostly in June
- Return to streams in early autumn
- Overwinter in streams



# Biology



- Long-lived, late to mature, high adult survival – populations sensitive to additive mortality
- Maturity at 12-20 years
- May live > 50 years
- Basking and foraging are important activities
- Omnivorous



# Threats and Status



- Threatened by habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, and direct sources of mortality such as road-kill, agricultural machinery, collection, elevated nest predation
- Maine State Special Concern species, IUCN Endangered, under review for federal ESA



# Wood Turtle Habitat in Maine



- Streams and rivers in predominantly forested context
- Sand, gravel, cobble substrates
- Meandering channels, pointbars/beaches, and open canopy flood/scrub veg. are hallmarks of prime habitat
- Dynamic stream systems















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# Wood Turtle Habitat in Maine



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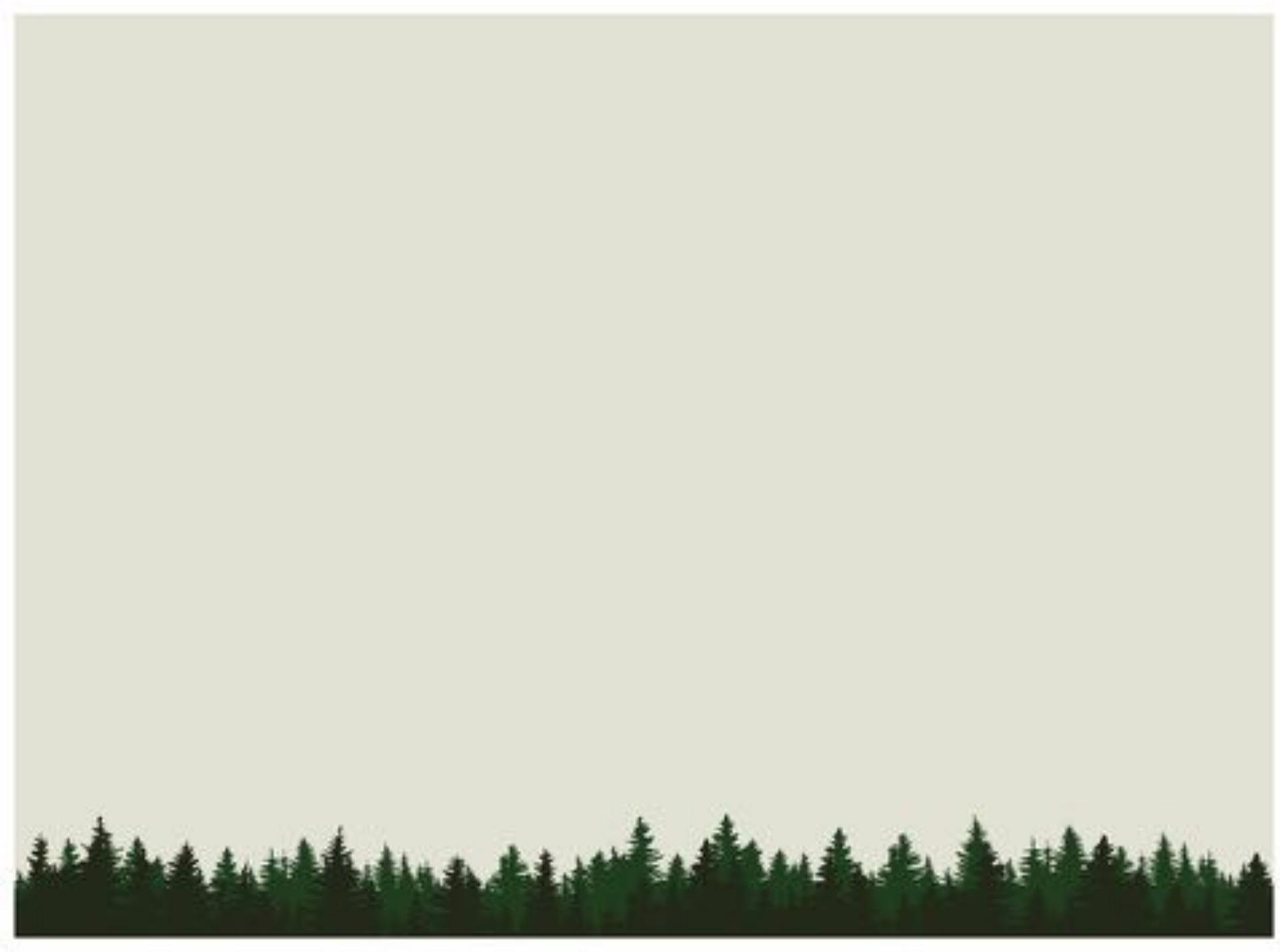
# Wood Turtle Habitat in Maine











## **Our Mission**

*Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife* protects and manages Maine's fish and wildlife and their habitats, promotes Maine's outdoor heritage, and safely connects people with nature through responsible recreation, sport, and science.



# Overview

*Maine Department of Inland Fisheries of Wildlife (MDIFW)* preserves, protects, and enhances the inland fisheries and wildlife resources of the state. Established in 1880 to protect big game populations, MDIFW has since evolved in scope to include protection and management of fish, non-game wildlife, and habitats, as well as restoration of endangered species like the bald eagle. In addition to its conservation duties, MDIFW is also responsible for enabling and promoting the safe enjoyment of Maine's outdoors — from whitewater rafting to boating, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation. The agency's constituents include the fish, wildlife, and people who call Maine home, as well as the visiting outdoor enthusiasts and ecotourists who call Maine Vacationland and contribute hundreds of millions of dollars each year to the state's economy.

