



NEW HAMPSHIRE
FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

Connecting You to Life Outdoors

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
BIENNIAL REPORT
July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2011

Pursuant to RSA 206:9-a
Submitted October 1, 2011

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
11 Hazen Drive, Concord, N.H. 03301
(603) 271-3511
email: info@wildlife.nh.gov
www.wildnh.com



John H. Lynch
Governor

EXECUTIVE COUNCILORS

Raymond S. Burton
District 1

Daniel St. Hilaire
District 2

Christopher T. Sununu
District 3

Raymond J. Wiczorek
District 4

David K. Wheeler
District 5

As of 6/30/11



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

HEADQUARTERS: 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301-6500
(603) 271-3421
FAX (603) 271-1438

www.WildNH.com
e-mail: info@wildlife.nh.gov
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

October 1, 2011

His Excellency, Governor John H. Lynch
and the Honorable Council
State House, 25 Capitol Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Governor Lynch and Honorable Members of the Council:

In accordance with RSA 206:9-a, I am pleased to submit the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's Biennial Report for July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011. The Department takes the lead role in conserving fish, wildlife and marine resources and their habitats – keeping the state's wildlife and fish populations in a healthy balance and conserving wild places. These natural resources enrich our quality of life and support New Hampshire's economy; fish and wildlife-related recreational activities produce more than \$560 million in expenditures annually.

During the biennium, the Department has enthusiastically embraced an ongoing management initiative, "Adapting to Changing Times," to ensure that it can keep pace and remain relevant throughout the 21st century. This is a sweeping effort to examine current activities, conduct a stakeholder analysis, and broaden support for the Department's programs among the wider public that benefits from its services.

These efforts are critical because demand continues to grow for the wide range of services our self-funded agency provides to New Hampshire citizens, from rescuing hikers to raising fish, protecting endangered wildlife, and educating a new generation of conservationists. The state's fish and wildlife resources face ever-increasing threats associated with human population growth. While operational costs continue to rise and we meet new demands along with ongoing responsibilities, our staff has been pared back and our traditional revenue source – hunting and fishing license fees – remains flat. Another significant funding source – federal funds for work conserving nongame and endangered wildlife and habitats – lacks dedicated funding at the federal level and remains at risk.

In spite of limited resources and aging equipment, Fish and Game has met recent budget challenges through belt-tightening, careful management and seeking new revenue sources. We have continued to foster support from our nonprofit partner, the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire, and implemented a new saltwater recreational fishing license in January of 2011 (without which saltwater anglers would have had to pay a federal fee). Nonetheless, as the FY 10-11 biennium closed, and going forward, the fish and game fund reserve is being slowly depleted, adding urgency to our efforts to explore ways to invest the wider public in supporting the agency that is working every day to help connect them to life outdoors.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Normandeau".

Glenn Normandeau
Executive Director

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FISH AND GAME

REVENUE CHART..... BACK COVER

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION

The Mission of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department:

As the guardian of the state's fish, wildlife and marine resources, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department works in partnership with the public to:

- conserve, manage and protect those resources and their habitats;
- inform and educate the public about those resources; and
- to provide the public with opportunities to use and appreciate those resources.

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department was established on June 30, 1865, as the Fisheries Commission. It was reorganized in its current format in 1935 in accordance with R.L. 240:1 (RSA 206:1), which states that: "There shall be a Fish and Game Department under a Commission to be known as the Fish and Game Commission."

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Commission members are appointed by the Governor and Executive Council. There are 11 members, one from each county in the state, plus one representing the coastal area. No more than six commissioners can be members of the same political party. Commission members must be well informed on the subject of fish and wildlife. Their duty is to represent the citizens of New Hampshire and be the stewards of the fish, wildlife and marine resources of the State of New Hampshire and to set general policy for: conservation of wildlife; development, funding and implementation of a strategic plan for the operation of the Department; acquisition and development of public access to lands and waters; public education and building support for Department programs; and establishment of positions on proposed legislation that affects the Department and fish, wildlife and marine resources.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Fish and Game Executive Director has general supervision and control of all activities, functions and employees of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and enforces all provisions of state laws relating to fish, wildlife and marine resources. The Executive Director is nominated by the Commission and appointed by the Governor and Executive Council. Each candidate must be a competent administrator and have knowledge of, and experience in, the requirements for the protection, conservation and restoration of the fish and wildlife resources of the state. The Executive Director serves for a term of four years.

The Office of the Executive Director oversees budget development and oversight and coordination of federal aid, rules and legislation, environmental review and personnel administration. Within the Director's office, the Landowner Relations Program works in partnership with hunters, anglers and landowners to maintain access to private lands for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation. This program identifies issues and concerns that landowners face in keeping their properties open, and works proactively to address them. The Director's office also serves as the liaison with the nonprofit Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire.

MAJOR DIVISIONS

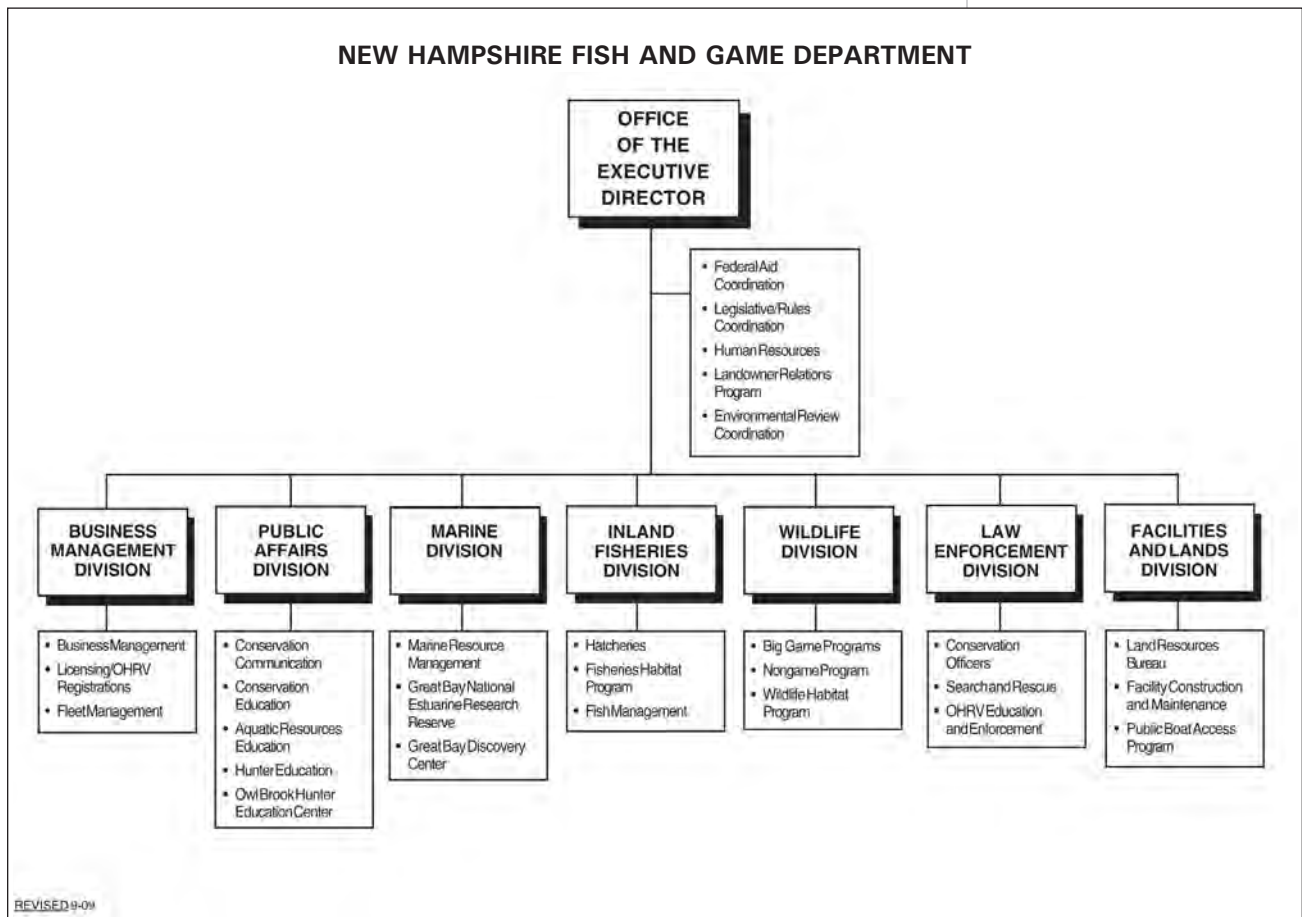
The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department carries out its mission through the work of seven divisions: Business, Facilities and Lands, Inland Fisheries, Law Enforcement, Marine Fisheries, Public Affairs and Wildlife.

The **Business Division** facilitates all business functions for the Department, including preparation and submission of the biennial budget. It is responsible

for issuing and collecting the revenue from the sale of fishing and hunting licenses and associated permits, as well as the processing of all accounts payable, accounts receivable, cash management, Federal and other grants financial management, and inventory control. Division staff supervise the purchase of all equipment, materials and supplies and coordinate all contracts. The Business Division also oversees fleet management and manages the Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle registration program. Division staff interact daily with other state agencies and provide all shipping and receiving functions, mail and courier duties for the Department.

The **Facilities and Lands Division** is responsible for the management and maintenance of all Fish and Game properties statewide, including approximately 160 buildings, 140 boat ramps, 130 dams, and more than 72,100 acres of Wildlife Management Areas and conservation easements. The Division also provides the design and construction of boating access facilities, fabrication of information kiosks and portable sanitary facilities. The “Lands” side of the division negotiates land and habitat acquisitions and manages conservation easement areas.

The **Inland Fisheries Division** is responsible for all freshwater fish within state and interstate waters. Fisheries biologists and fish culturists work to



ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION

protect and restore fish resources and aquatic habitat and to provide New Hampshire anglers with a diversity of fishing opportunities. This Division is responsible for operating Fish and Game's six fish hatcheries, which during the biennium produced more than a million fish each year to meet a variety of management needs.

The **Law Enforcement Division** is primarily responsible for enforcement of all laws and rules pertaining to fish, wildlife and marine resources. Conservation officers prosecute all of their own cases involving offenders of wildlife law. By law, they also are responsible for search-and-rescue operations and for enforcing snowmobile and off-highway recreational vehicle (OHRV) regulations.

The **Marine Fisheries Division** manages estuarine and saltwater species, including fish, lobsters, clams and oysters. The Division also manages the Great Bay Estuarine Research Reserve and the Great Bay Discovery Center. Its staff works closely with other states and federal agencies to protect and maintain marine resources for both commercial and recreational fisheries.

The **Public Affairs Division** informs and educates, building public support for conservation and the Department's mission and encouraging participation in hunting, angling and other outdoor activities. The Division provides information through its website and a wide variety of publications, including *New Hampshire Wildlife Journal* magazine, as well as television, radio, videos, advertising, exhibits, media relations, shows/events and marketing. Its educational programs include: hunter, bowhunter and trapper education; Let's Go Fishing and watershed education; wildlife education and teacher training; and a variety of workshops for the public, such as hunting and fishing talks, hands-on workshops for hunters and anglers, and Becoming an Outdoors-Woman programs.

The **Wildlife Division** manages and maintains the state's game and nongame species at levels consistent with available habitat and public desires. Wildlife biologists conduct surveys to monitor populations; promulgate hunting regulations to balance competing public interests; oversee applied research; and conduct intensive restoration efforts. Division staff protect, restore and actively manage wildlife habitat on public lands throughout the state and work with private landowners to enhance, protect and manage wildlife habitat. The Division works closely with U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services staff to prevent or reduce wildlife damage to orchards, agricultural lands and other private property. Division staff also provide technical assistance to local, regional and statewide planning boards to minimize the impact of development on New Hampshire's wildlife resources.

PERSONNEL DATA

<u>Current Number of Employees</u>	<u>6/30/10</u>	<u>6/30/11</u>
Unclassified	1	1
Classified	190	190
Temporary*	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	196	191

*Permanent employees are those occupying positions permanently established by the Legislature, whereas temporary employees are those whose service is authorized for a limited or intermittent period.

PHYSICAL PLANT AND PROPERTY APPRAISAL

	<u>6/30/10</u>	<u>6/30/11</u>
Equipment	\$10,850,295	\$10,948,183
Physical Plant	\$88,986,205	\$89,141,820
Farm	0	0
Highway	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	\$99,836,500	\$100,090,003

RECEIPTS

Tax Collections	0	0
Federal Funds	\$ 7,266,274	\$ 7,937,114
Fees and Registrations	12,018,108	12,514,593
All Other Sources	<u>7,459,130</u>	<u>8,257,966</u>
TOTAL	\$26,743,512	\$28,709,673

EXPENDITURES

Permanent Personnel	\$ 8,890,378	9,096,676
Current Expense	2,649,300	2,612,534
Equipment	394,980	496,442
Other Personnel Service	977,901	1,059,169
Benefits	4,757,233	5,021,919
Travel In-state	317,851	369,250
Travel Out-of-state	43,845	42,665
Transfers to Other State Agencies	3,788,974	4,455,952
Retirees' Health Insurance	886,305	744,810
Contractual and Consultants	1,735,650	1,593,064
Grants	330,452	1,312,162
Interagency Transfers	1,119,613	1,198,423
Miscellaneous	<u>851,030</u>	<u>706,607</u>
TOTAL	\$26,743,512	\$28,709,673

Undesignated Fish and Game Fund Balance	\$5,031,462	\$4,289,269*
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*Preliminary/Unaudited

Statement of sales or exchanges (promotional expenditures) related to licenses:

During the biennium, 19 nonresident honorary licenses were issued in 2009, and 25 were issued in 2010.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION

UNDEVELOPED LAND ACQUIRED DURING THE 2010 – 2011 BIENNIUM

July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

TOWN	PARCEL NAME	F&G INTEREST	ACREAGE*
Barrington	Parkhurst Tract, Stone-house Pond	Fee	11.59
Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	Fee	334.74
Dover	Ayer Tract, Cocheco River WMA	Fee	13.19
Durham	Cheney North Tract, Great Bay NERR WMA**	Fee	44.07
Durham	Willey Tract, Great Bay NERR WMA**	Fee	81.80
Durham	Moriarity Tract, Great Bay NERR WMA**	Fee	48.26
Effingham	Ossipee River Boat Access Area	Fee	1.64
Greenland	Underwood Tract	Fee	9.54
Newmarket	Klien Tract, Great Bay NERR WMA**	Fee	37.25
Webster	Young Tract, Leonard WMA	Fee	137.00
Total Fee Owned			719.08
Lempster	Phase 1 Ashuelot River Headwaters CE Area	Easement	1277.00
Lempster	Phase 2 Ashuelot River Headwaters CE Area	Easement	479.00
Newmarket	Schneer III	Easement	15.27
Shelburne	Croftie Farm	Easement	352.99
Shelburne	Philbrook Farm Inn	Easement	427.31
Total CE Area			2,551.57
Total	Lands Conserved		3,270.65

* Figures rounded to nearest hundredth of an acre

** National Estuarine Research Reserve Wildlife Management Area

**UNDEVELOPED LAND ACQUIRED
DURING THE 2010 – 2011 BIENNIUM**

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

TOWN	PARCEL NAME	F&G INTEREST	ACREAGE*
Canterbury	Muchyedo Banks WMA	Fee	294.02
Columbia	BBC Lands, Hedgehog Brook WMA	Fee	156.50
Columbia, Ervings Loc.	Ursa Major Tract, Hedgehog Brook WMA	Fee	464.50
Dover	Olde Forest Tract, Cocheco River WMA	Fee	27.96
Dover	Wood Tract, Cocheco River WMA	Fee	11.10
Odell	Long Mt. Parcel	Fee	220.00
Odell	Mt. Muise Parcel	Fee	60.00
Millsfield	Bayroot Tract, Mt Kelsey WMA	Fee	762.00
Millsfield	Ursa Major Tract, Mt. Kelsey WMA **	Fee	519.00
Newmarket	Cont. Adv., Great Bay NERR WMA **	Fee	3.60
Stratham	Cabernet Bldrs., Great Bay NERR WMA **	Fee	18.60
Total Fee Owned			2,537.28
Durham/ Newmarket	Popov IV	Easement	63.37
Newmarket	Popov III	Easement	27.95
Newmarket	Macintosh	Easement	76.80
Sutton	SPNHF/Black Mountain	Easement	1,054.00
Total CE Area			1,222.12
Total	Lands Conserved		3,759.40

* Figures rounded to nearest hundredth of an acre

** National Estuarine Research Reserve Wildlife Management Area

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION

LAND ACQUIRED BY BIENNIUM

ALL	TOTAL ACREAGE THIS BIENNIUM	EASEMENT	FEE
Previous years	31,771		
2001-2003	56,954	0	25,183
2003-2005	57,970	830	186
2005-2007	59,499	611	918
2007-2009	60,733	797	467
2009-2011	69,726	4,134	3,256

EASEMENT	TOTAL ACREAGE THIS BIENNIUM	EASEMENTS ACQUIRED
Previous years	11,764	
2001-2003	11,764	0
2003-2005	12,594	830
2005-2007	13,205	611
2007-2009	14,002	797
2009-2011	18,600	4,134

FEE	TOTAL ACREAGE THIS BIENNIUM	ACQUIRED IN FEE
Previous years	20,007	
2001-2003	45,190	25,183
2003-2005	45,376	186
2005-2007	46,294	918
2007-2009	46,761	467
2009-2011	51,126	3,256

Note: Data in bold type are from the new database. Discrepancies in totals for years prior to 2009 are the result of earlier reporting methods. The improved accuracy is due to the new database.

TOTAL FISH AND GAME PROPERTY INTERESTS

Fee Owned	51,126 acres
Conservation Easements	18,600 acres
Other Interests	2,772 acres

BUSINESS DIVISION

- Effectively managed the complex finances of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, a self-supporting agency with an intricate network of funding sources.
- Online sales of hunting and fishing licenses and permits continued to represent a large proportion of sales, improving cost efficiency for the Department and enhancing convenience for consumers. At least 40% of license sales were purchased online during the biennium.
- Coped with loss of personnel due to budget cutbacks, a development that has significantly impacted division staff capacity to deal with an increasing workload.
- Implemented the state's new accounting system NHFIRST (New Hampshire Fundamental Improvements to Revitalize Systems/Services Technology) at Fish and Game.
- Hired a full-time mechanic to cut down on the staggeringly high cost of outsourcing Department vehicle maintenance and repair services.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

- Administered 66 separate Federal Assistance grants and cooperative agreements totaling \$15 million. These funds were awarded from three Departments of the Federal government through 15 different funding programs.
- Through the Landowner Relations Program, secured hunter access to over 46,000 acres of private land through the Operation Land Share Hunter Access Project.
- Maintained pheasant hunter access to 25 sites through the Pheasant Hunter Landowner Relations Project and maintained turkey hunter access through the Turkey Hunter Landowner Relations Project.
- Restored, maintained and enhanced angler access to 2½ miles of the Cochecho River through the Cochecho River Angler Access Project.
- Developed the Ice Fishing Access Project, focused on maintaining and enhancing access for ice fishing.
- Human Resources continued its work with the Division of Personnel and other state agencies on the Work Force Development initiative, culminating in the second annual Work Force Development Symposium, held on October 15, 2010.
- Through the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire:
 - Provided over \$86,000 of financial assistance in support of nine critical Fish and Game programs.
 - Received donations from the Barry Camp Challenge in order to fund camp facility improvements and establish an endowment to fund future operations and maintenance.
 - Provided major financial support for expansion of Owl Brook Hunter Education Center, Great Bay Discovery Center and Operation Land Share.

Online sales of hunting and fishing licenses and permits continued to represent a large portion of sales, improving cost efficiency for the Department and enhancing convenience for consumers.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FACILITIES AND LANDS DIVISION

- Developed a comprehensive new lands database that includes all Fish and Game-owned facilities, a tool that enhances management of land use and monitoring of conservation easements.
- Engineering staff created building inventory forms and distributed to all divisions for easier reporting and tracking of maintenance needs.
- Acquired 2,551.57 acres of land for conservation, and an additional 719.08 acres for wildlife habitat in FY 2010.
- Construction staff built the Purity Pond Carry-down Boat Access in Eaton, with timber and gravel steps to the innovative stone landing mattress for canoes and kayaks, and an environmentally friendly parking area.
- Reconstructed the Lake Umbagog Public Boat Access Facility in Errol with new 3-foot-wide concrete planks and gravel parking for 20 trailered vehicles.
- Refurbished the Beaver Lake Public Boat Access Facility in Derry.
- Reconstructed and improved the boat access to Merrymeeting Lake.
- Reconstructed the town dock at Bow Lake.
- Completed a pipeline consolidation project at the Twin Mountain Fish Hatchery and installed a composite sampler building for environmental monitoring and compliance.
- Replaced the boat access to the Winnepesaukee River in Northfield.
- Completed improvement of the Weeks Wildlife Management Area in Greenland.
- Designed and managed improvements to the Region 3 Office and the Great Bay Discovery Center.
- With assistance from other divisions, enhanced Fish and Game headquarters grounds, including tree removal, constructing a new lawn and planting beds, and installation of a timber guardrail; repaired the garage roof and painted siding of the garage and cold storage buildings.

Fish Culturists produced 978,236 pounds of fish and distributed 3.3 million trout and landlocked salmon to meet management needs.

INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION

- With the completion of the Pipeline Discharge Consolidation Projects, all six fish culture facilities are National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit compliant.
- Fish Culturists produced 978,236 pounds of fish and distributed 3.3 million trout and landlocked salmon to meet management needs.
- A summer-long study was performed in 2009 to estimate the population size of black bass in Clement Pond, Grassy Pond, Gregg Lake and Warren Lake; study results supported these waters being managed (effective 2011) for quality black bass, via a winter slot-length limit.
- As a partner of a sixteen-state effort to implement the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture's conservation action plan, 280 stream sites were surveyed in New Hampshire and 139 of these sites had self-sustaining populations of brook trout populations.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Landlocked Salmon Anglers' Pledge was initiated as a cooperative, volunteer effort to help sustain the quality of the landlocked salmon fisheries in New Hampshire's large lakes. Anglers who take the Pledge are committing to stewardship principles that lead to "conserving this unique fishery through responsible angling."
- Coordinated over 314 fish surveys to add to a statewide fish database, including 3.5 miles of previously unmapped American brook lamprey (state endangered) habitat and 400 acres of bridle shiner (state threatened) habitat.
- Two significant dams were removed, three impassable culverts were replaced with bridges in the Nash Stream Watershed, two miles of instream habitat have been restored in Nash Stream, and ongoing research continues to more clearly define the role of instream wood and riparian forests to sustainable, healthy populations of wild brook trout.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION

- Completed comprehensive re-design of the Fish and Game website at www.wildnh.com.
- As part of agency-wide Social Media Team, N.H. Fish and Game launched a popular Facebook presence at www.facebook.com/nhfishandgame.
- Coordinated teacher professional development activities, including workshops and summer institutes, to help teachers build science literacy and develop the ability to do field investigations.
- Produced over 28,000 copies of *Discover Wild Times* and distributed them directly to classrooms around the state twice a year.
- Barry Conservation Camp reopened with upgraded facilities, thanks to the efforts of hundreds of dedicated sportsmen and women who have donated time, money and materials. The camp's 25th anniversary was celebrated in June 2011.
- Reached an estimated 96,000 people with Fish and Game information and messages over the biennium through 43 public events, including shows, seminars and other face-to-face interactions. License sales and merchandise sales at shows totaled \$25,977 and \$18,288 respectively, for a total of \$44,265 in gross sales over the biennium.
- Broadcast New Hampshire hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching-associated television programming to more than 250 million households in the Boston-NH market to recruit and retain hunters and anglers and build support from new outdoor constituents through two Fish and Game television programs. The "My Outdoors" television program was broadcast via WZMY-TV in Derry, N.H., and "Granite State Outdoors" was broadcast through 32 New Hampshire community TV access stations. Through these two programs, the Department broadcast 976 hours of Fish and Game programming and on-air promotions over the biennium. The Department's net earned advertising value over the biennium for these broadcasts exceeded \$160,000.

The Landlocked Salmon Anglers' Pledge was initiated as a cooperative, volunteer effort to help sustain the quality of the landlocked salmon fisheries in New Hampshire's large lakes.

As part of agency-wide Social Media Team, N.H. Fish and Game launched a popular Facebook presence at www.facebook.com/nhfishandgame.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Conservation Officers participated in 314 Search and Rescue missions for a wide variety of victims, including hikers, snowmobilers, elderly people and children.

Operated and monitored fish ladders on six coastal rivers to provide access to freshwater spawning habitat for more than 180,000 diadromous fish.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

- During this biennium, the Law Enforcement Division participated in 314 Search and Rescue (SAR) missions for a wide variety of victims, including hikers, snowmobilers, elderly people and children. Of these, 17 dive recovery missions were conducted for people who drowned on New Hampshire's lakes and rivers.
- Completed training for officers in GPS and ground navigation, Maptech computer use to aid in conducting search missions, High Angle Rescue, High Water Rescue techniques, and Avalanche Terrain Navigation and Rescue techniques.
- Conducted first-ever concentrated one-week Warden's School to provide newly hired law enforcement trainees with training in search-and-rescue techniques, navigation, water craft use, coastal marine enforcement and conducting hunting-related shooting investigations.
- Continued to promote and receive endorsements for the hikeSafe educational program, in an effort to help educate the outdoor recreating public. This biennium, the hikeSafe program was adopted and endorsed by Baxter State Park in Maine and the Adirondack Mountain Club in upstate New York.
- Coordinated over 330 volunteer OHRV and snowmobile instructors who, along with part-time OHRV Regional Coordinators, conduct safety classes across the state with the assistance of local clubs, police/fire agencies and volunteers.
- Continued snowmobile enforcement efforts to control excessive speed and modified exhausts while working cooperatively with landowners and snowmobile clubs to keep the trails safe.
- Conducted ATV and trail bike enforcement patrols during the warmer months to address landowner complaints of unlawful operation off approved trails.

MARINE DIVISION

Management and Resource Monitoring

- Worked with federal and state partners via the New England Fishery Management Council and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to rebuild groundfish stocks, enhance habitat and protect and improve species such as Atlantic herring, striped bass and lobster.
- Operated and monitored fish ladders on six coastal rivers to provide access to freshwater spawning habitat for more than 180,000 diadromous fish.
- Worked with other government agencies and conservation partners to remove the Winnicut River head-of-tide dam, making this the only unobstructed river from headwaters to tidewater in Great Bay.
- Conducted resource surveys in New Hampshire's coastal and estuarine waters to monitor the abundance of more than 60 species of marine fish and invertebrates.
- Monitored the harvest of lobsters, striped bass and other marine species in New Hampshire by recreational and commercial harvesters.

- Continued participation in the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, which aims to accelerate the conservation, protection, restoration and enhancement of habitat for coastal, estuarine and diadromous fish species.

Great Bay Research Reserve

- Secured National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) funding for a new metal roof with integrated photovoltaic and thermal systems to replace the existing asphalt roof on the Great Bay Discovery Center, which will significantly reduce energy costs in operating the facility.
- Designed and installed exhibits in the newly created Special Collections Room at the Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center, featuring artifacts related to hunting, fishing and trapping in the Seacoast.
- Conducted school programs for over 7,000 students in Grades 1-5.
- Created a new web page for the Reserve program (www.greatbay.org).
- Established a Seacoast-wide Climate Adaptation Workgroup to assist coastal communities in dealing with climate change impacts.
- Developed a vertical control plan for the Reserve to monitor long-term environmental changes.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Game Program

- Deer, moose, bear, turkey, waterfowl and migratory game birds, and multiple furbearer and small game species were successfully managed and sustained in accordance with the public's desire for multiple values on behalf of present and future New Hampshire citizens.
- Implemented research studies in partnership with the University of New Hampshire (UNH) on the survival, activity patterns and behavior of relocated nuisance bears and rehabilitated cubs, and the value of local ordinances designed to discourage bear/human conflicts.
- Initiated cooperative research with UNH to evaluate the current fertility and fawn production of New Hampshire's deer and possible implications for deer management.
- Completed the second year of a four-year study on bobcats and wrapped up research on moose/tick relationships and moose impacts on forest regeneration. USDA Wildlife Services worked in cooperation with the Wildlife Division to initiate preliminary data-gathering on feral hogs in New Hampshire.
- Fish and Game's cooperative animal damage control project with USDA Wildlife Services, handled over 4,100 inquiries and requests for technical assistance.
- Annual statewide grouse, woodcock, waterfowl, turkey, furbearer, deer and dove surveys were completed and biological data were collected at registration stations on nearly 12,000 deer; 9,200 wild turkeys; 1,460 black bears; and 640 moose.

The newly created Special Collections Room at the Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center, features artifacts related to hunting, fishing and trapping in the Seacoast.

Biological data were collected at registration stations on nearly 12,000 deer; 9,200 wild turkeys; 1,460 black bears; and 640 moose.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Nongame biologists continued to closely monitor bat populations in New Hampshire as White Nose Syndrome continued to spread, killing bats throughout the Northeast.

Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program

- Nongame Program and UNH Cooperative Extension staff provided eight Wildlife Action Plan workshops, presentations, events, displays, and technical assistance to the public.
- Nongame biologists continued to coordinate the Rangewide New England Cottontail Initiative, an effort that spanned six New England states during 2009-2011.
- Nongame biologists continued to closely monitor bat populations in New Hampshire as White Nose Syndrome continued to spread, killing bats throughout the Northeast.
- Over 1,200 individual RAARP reports (reptiles and amphibians) were submitted, including more than 170 reports of species listed in the N.H. Wildlife Action Plan as species of greatest conservation need.
- Nongame biologists surveyed 17 sites across central and southwestern N.H., focusing on areas that historically supported timber rattlesnake populations or could potentially be occupied by timber rattlesnakes.
- Potential habitat maps were generated for black racer snakes, and sites were identified and prioritized for surveys.
- Twenty locations for Blanding's turtles were surveyed to identify the best remaining habitat areas in New Hampshire, so that priority areas for this state-endangered turtle can be incorporated into conservation planning.
- Over 5,300 proposed projects (from energy production to transportation) were checked for the presence of rare species; of these, more than 575 were flagged as having potential impacts to rare, threatened or endangered wildlife and were reviewed by Fish and Game.

Habitat Program

- Timber cutting operations to benefit ruffed grouse, American woodcock, snowshoe hare, New England cottontail, bobcat and other wildlife were completed on six wildlife management areas, yielding revenue exceeding \$162,000.
- Shrubland and young forest habitat was enhanced on four WMAs covering 135 acres as part of the Regional New England cottontail Restoration Initiative.
- Mowed 356 acres of fields to maintain nesting and foraging habitat for grassland birds, wild turkey and other species.
- Department regional biologists reviewed 106 timber harvests in northern N.H. involving nearly 32,000 acres on 16 large forestland ownerships, providing guidance for improving and protecting wildlife habitat during these operations.
- Initiated a multi-state effort to develop a communications plan to enhance public knowledge and support for managing and sustaining young forest habitats, that are critical to reversing declines of many wildlife species of conservation concern.

- The wildlife division received the prestigious Conservation Partner Award in September 2009 from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests in recognition and appreciation of the extraordinary spirit shown in our mutual efforts to successfully conserve land and wildlife habitat.
- Wildlife biologists evaluated and ranked habitat conservation proposals submitted for competitive grant funding to the N.H. Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, the N.H. State Conservation Committee, and the Open Space Institute. Grants provided by these organizations protected 25 properties totaling more than 11,000 acres.

The Wildlife Division received the prestigious Conservation Partner Award in September 2009 from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests in recognition and appreciation of the extraordinary spirit shown in our mutual efforts to successfully conserve land and wildlife habitat.

2010 SESSION

- **HB1144** Title: relative to the definition of a set line used for taking fish. This bill clarifies the definition of a set line in the taking of fish. This bill is a request of the fish and game department. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, CHAPTERED LAW: 0018
- **HB1175 –FN** Title: relative to duplicate registrations for snowmobiles. This bill authorizes the fish and game department to issue duplicate registrations for lost snowmobile registrations. This bill is a request of the fish and game department. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, CHAPTERED LAW: 0025
- **HB1201** Title: (New Title) including loaded muzzleloaders in the prohibition of hunting from a vehicle. This bill adds loaded muzzleloaders to the provisions prohibiting hunting from a motor vehicle, OHRV, snowmobile, boat, or aircraft. This bill is a request of the fish and game department. SENATE, LAID ON TABLE
- **HB1317 –FN** Title: establishing an exotic game license for hunting in a game preserve. This bill establishes an exotic game hunting license to be issued by the fish and game department, in addition to any other license or permit, for hunting wild boar, elk, or bison in a game preserve. HOUSE, INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE
- **HB1331** Title: relative to extending the days for recreational taking of clams following an emergency closing. This bill requires the executive director to extend or add to the number of days persons may take clams for recreational purposes for each day of an emergency closing of a clamming area. HOUSE, INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE
- **HB1425** Title: relative to the regulation of the processing of lobster tails. This bill requires persons to acquire a lobster tail permit issued by the fish and game department to engage in the processing of cooked lobster tail meat. This bill is a request of the fish and game department. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, CHAPTERED LAW: 0056
- **HB1507 –FN** Title: relative to hunting and fishing licenses for disabled veterans, active duty members of the armed forces, and residents returning from active duty. The bill allows resident and nonresident active duty members of the armed forces, as well as residents returning from active duty, to receive free hunting and fishing licenses. This bill also allows veterans with a disability rating of 20 percent or greater to receive free hunting and fishing licenses. HOUSE, INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE
- **HB1514 –FN** Title: prohibiting the sale of raw skins or unskinned carcasses of fur-bearing animals. This bill prohibits the sale, possession, and transportation of raw skins or unskinned carcasses of fur-bearing animals. HOUSE, INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE
- **HB1660 –FN** Title: repealing the authority for the assessment of an administrative penalty for various OHRV and snowmobile violations. This bill repeals the authority for the fish and game department to assess an administrative penalty, in addition to other penalties, for various OHRV

and snowmobile violations. This bill is a request of the fish and game department. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, CHAPTERED LAW: 0066

- **SB399 –FN** Title: allowing the fish and game department to charge fees for the release of department records. This bill allows the fish and game department to charge a fee for the release of certain department records excluding personal information. The executive director shall adopt rules establishing fees and procedures for administration. HOUSE, INTERIM STUDY

2011 SESSION

- **HB35 –FN** Title: authorizing the acquisition of certain dams in the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Tract. This bill authorizes the fish and game department to acquire certain dams in the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Tract and to transfer rights in the properties to the department of environmental services for repair and maintenance. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, CHAPTERED LAW: 0102
- **HB93** Title: relative to medical documentation for a crossbow permit for a person with a disability. This bill adds an advanced practice registered nurse to the persons who may complete the medical documentation for a person with a disability applying for a crossbow permit with the fish and game department. This bill is a request of the fish and game department. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, CHAPTERED LAW: 0007
- **HB167** Title: naming the Enfield wildlife management area after former fish and game biologist Henry Laramie. This bill names the area known as the Enfield wildlife management area in Grafton County the Henry Laramie Wildlife Area. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, CHAPTERED LAW: 0010
- **HB194** Title: repealing the prohibition on having or carrying certain crossbow, rifles, or shotguns in vehicles. This bill repeals provisions in the fish and game laws prohibiting the having or carrying certain crossbow, rifles, or shotguns in vehicles. HOUSE, RETAINED IN COMMITTEE
- **HB195** Title: relative to special permits for transportation of deer. This bill clarifies the procedure for special permits for the transportation of deer allowed by the executive director of fish and game. This bill is a request of the fish and game department. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, CHAPTERED LAW: 0013
- **HB196** Title: relative to the certificates of completion of a basic hunter education program or bow hunter education program. This bill allows the fish and game department to suspend a person's certificate of completion of a basic hunter education program or specialized bow hunter education program pursuant to rules adopted by the executive director. This bill is a request of the fish and game department. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, CHAPTERED LAW: 0070
- **HB206 –FN** Title: establishing an apprentice hunting license. This bill allows the fish and game department to issue an apprentice hunting license to persons who have not completed a hunter education program or provided proof of previous hunting or archery license. This bill is a request of the fish and game department. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, CHAPTERED LAW: 0046

HB206 allows the Fish and Game Department to issue an apprentice hunting license to persons who have not completed a hunter education program or provided proof of previous hunting or archery license.

SB128 establishes a committee to study sources of funding for the search and rescue operations of the Fish and Game Department.

- **HB294** Title: relative to the distance from highways for the taking of moose. This bill provides that rules of the fish and game department shall not require a greater distance from highways for taking moose than is required for other hunting near class I-V highways. HOUSE, RETAINED IN COMMITTEE
- **HB439 –FN-L** Title: relative to claiming an invasive species as a habitat. This bill exempts invasive species from being claimed as habitats for endangered species. SENATE, REREFERRED TO COMMITTEE
- **HB446 –FN** Title: repealing the authority for regulation of certain professional occupations. This bill repeals the regulatory boards and authority for licensure or certification for barbering, cosmetology, and esthetics, including tanning facilities; landscape architecture; court reporting; athletic training; recreational therapy; family mediation; hunting and fishing guides; athlete agents; massage therapists; reflexologists, structural integrators, and Asian bodywork therapists; and hawkers, peddlers, and itinerant vendors. HOUSE, RETAINED IN COMMITTEE
- **HB483 –FN-L** Title: relative to mosquito control. This bill allows a municipality to commence mosquito control abatement activities on state lands where a public health threat is in effect or was in effect within the last year under RSA 141-C:25. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, CHAPTERED LAW: 0260
- **HB514** Title: relative to entry on private land. This bill prohibits certain entry on private property for data gathering without a warrant or the written consent of the landowner. HOUSE, RETAINED IN COMMITTEE
- **HB570** Title: relative to licensure of guides by the fish and game department. The bill exempts persons licensed as operators of for-hire vessels for recreational fishing in coastal and estuarine waters from requirements from licensure as a guide. This bill is a request of the fish and game department. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, CHAPTERED LAW: 0055
- **HB571 –FN** Title: relative to lobster and crab licenses issued by the fish and game department. This bill revises criteria and fees for lobster and crab licenses issued by the fish and game department. The bill also clarifies provisions for lobster tail permits and landing licenses for lobster and crab. This bill is a request of the fish and game department. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, CHAPTERED LAW: 0081
- **HB651** Title: allowing the sale and possession of monk parakeets. This bill allows for the sale and possession of monk parakeets, also known as Quaker parrots. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, CHAPTERED LAW: 0116
- **SB128 –FN-A** Title: (New Title) establishing a committee to study sources of funding for the search and rescue operations of the fish and game department. This bill establishes a committee to study sources of funding for the search and rescue operations of the fish and game department. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, CHAPTERED LAW: 0147

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES IN THE FEE STRUCTURE FOR ALL LICENSES AND PERMITS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department has no plans to change the existing license fee structure at the present time.

A. EFFECTS OF INFLATION RATES ON DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

Revenues are not keeping pace with expenses. The amount of money raised from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses is dependent on the price of the license and the number of people purchasing licenses. The number of people who buy hunting and fishing licenses is on the decline in New Hampshire as well as nationally.

Although hunting license sales have declined since 2003, fishing license sales have increased and were very good in fiscal year 2009; the Department is making every effort for this trend to continue.

Meanwhile, however, the Department's expenses have steadily risen. The highest increases have been in the areas of retiree health insurance, salary and benefit costs of active employees, payments to the State of New Hampshire for general services and increases in funds paid to the Department of Information Technology. The Department cannot control these costs as we can our operational costs; they are dictated by health insurance companies, the Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Department of Administrative Services and the Department of Information Technology.

COMPARISON OF INDIVIDUALS HOLDING PAID LICENSES TO HUNT AND FISH (From Data Collected For USFWS Certifications)

HUNTING						
YEAR	RESIDENT HUNTING	NUMBER CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE	NON-RES. HUNTING	NUMBER CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
2003	51,875	(3,242)	-6%	12,100	(369)	-3%
2004	50,777	(1,098)	-2%	11,810	(290)	-2%
2005	49,165	(1,612)	-3%	11,572	(238)	-2%
2006	49,415	250	1%	11,661	89	1%
2007	48,786	(629)	-1%	10,982	(679)	-6%
2008	48,553	(233)	-0.5%	10,601	(381)	-3.5%
2009	48,947	394	0.8%	10,473	(128)	-1.2%

FISHING						
YEAR	RESIDENT FISHING	NUMBER CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE	NON-RES. FISHING	NUMBER CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
2003	95,911	(4,572)	-5%	45,150	(2,898)	-6%
2004	97,947	2,036	2%	45,888	738	2%
2005	95,923	(2,024)	-2%	44,672	(1,216)	-3%
2006	96,854	931	1%	43,970	(702)	-2%
2007	99,878	3,024	3%	46,631	2,661	6%
2008	99,833	(45)	0%	45,160	(1,471)	-3.2%
2009	103,657	3,824	3.8%	46,313	1,153	2.6%

B. PREVIOUS FEE INCREASES

Since 1935, the Fish and Game Department has been self supporting, depending primarily on funding derived from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and fees on outdoor activities and hunting and fishing equipment. Currently, on average, New Hampshire’s hunters and anglers pay more per individual to support the state’s fish and wildlife conservation programs than any other state in New England. These high fees are believed to be one factor in contributing to a decline in participation rates over the past 15 years. We have reached a point in the Department’s history where hunters and anglers are no longer able to provide the revenue necessary to sustain all Department programs or meet the challenges posed by a growing population and increased human development.

Over the last two years, the following license fee changes were implemented: In 2009, a Lobster/Crab Landing license was added, with a fee of \$50 for residents and \$500 for nonresidents. In addition, the fee for the nonresident commercial saltwater license was raised from \$300 to \$500, while the fee for the resident license remained unchanged at \$50. In 2010, the pheasant license fee increased from \$16 to \$26 for both residents and nonresidents, an increase implemented to cover the purchase of birds stocked in the program. (At a public hearing, pheasant hunters strongly supported the option of increasing the fee rather than reducing the number of birds stocked.)

Also in 2010, the Special Unit M Antlerless-Only Deer tag changed; instead of being restricted to a single tag, hunters now may purchase 1 tag for \$13 or 2 tags for \$26. On January 1, 2011, a new Recreational Saltwater Fishing License was implemented, with a fee of \$16 (\$1 of which is an agent fee). For N.H. saltwater anglers, this license replaced the mandatory National Angler Registry requirement and associated fee which took effect on the same date. Also on January 1, 2011, a new Saltwater Fishing Party Boat license requirement became effective, with a fee of \$151; and a Saltwater Fishing Charter Boat license was put in place at \$76 (\$1 of each of these is an agent fee). See page 26 for fee reductions made effective July 1, 2011.

License Fees in Contiguous States

While all states issue licenses to hunt and fish, each state employs different license and permit structures and fees. Seldom are activities permitted and/or the type and number of species that can be taken with a particular license or combination of licenses and permits identical. Consequently, it is difficult to draw simple comparisons among states.

COMPARISON OF COSTS FOR FRESHWATER FISHING ACTIVITIES, 2011

LICENSE TYPE	NH	ME	VT	MA
RESIDENT FISHING	\$35.00	\$25.00	\$22.00	\$27.50
NONRESIDENT FISHING	\$53.00	\$64.00	\$45.00	\$37.50

**COMPARISON OF COSTS FOR
SALTWATER FISHING ACTIVITIES AS OF JUNE 30, 2011**

LICENSE TYPE	NH	ME	VT	MA	RI	CT
RESIDENT	\$15.00*	\$5.00**	N/A	\$10.00	\$7.00	\$10.00
NONRESIDENT	\$15.00*	\$15.00**	N/A	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$15.00

*See page 26 for fee reductions made effective July 1, 2011.

**Fee to fish for striped bass

Comparison of Costs for Hunting Activities

In an attempt to provide a general comparison of hunting license fees among the New England states, the table below was compiled in 2011 by reviewing state regulations and conferring with states to determine which license, permit or combination of license and permits would be necessary to hunt for four species (deer, bear, turkey and moose). Fees include all costs that must be paid in order to lawfully hunt the species.

COMPARISON OF COSTS FOR HUNTING ACTIVITIES, 2011

LICENSE TYPES		NH	ME	VT	MA
Cost to hunt deer - regular season	RESIDENT	\$24.50	\$25.00	\$22.00	\$27.50
	NONRES.	\$105.50	\$114.00	\$100.00	\$99.50
Cost to hunt deer - archery only	RESIDENT	\$24.50	\$25.00	\$42.00	\$37.60 ¹
	NONRES.	\$75.50	\$74.00	\$75.00	\$104.60
Cost to hunt bear	RESIDENT	\$40.50	\$27.00 ²	\$22.00	\$32.50
	NONRES.	\$153.50	\$168.00	\$100.00	\$104.50
Cost to hunt turkey (spring)	RESIDENT	\$40.50	\$45.00 ³	\$42.00 ⁴	\$32.50
	NONRES.	\$136.50	\$168.00 ²	\$135.00	\$104.50
Cost to hunt deer (regular & archery), bear, turkey (spring)	RESIDENT	\$78.50	\$97.00	\$62.00	\$42.50
	NONRES.	\$257.50	\$316.00 ⁵	\$170.00	\$114.60
Cost to hunt moose	RESIDENT	\$174.50	\$77.00 ⁶	\$122.00	NA
	NONRES.	\$605.50	\$598.00	\$450.00	NA

¹ Add on to license

² To hunt bear outside the deer season

³ Additional 20.00 to hunt fall

⁴ 2 birds

⁵ A Superpack is now available for residents only. The package includes: combination for all species - fishing, archery, muzzle loading, waterfowl, pheasant, all turkey, bear and night coyote plus 6 free chances to the moose lottery and eligibility for any deer lottery for areas with at least 3,500 permits. The licensee can add crossbow if eligibility requirements are met. The supersport option which goes to landowner relations program is not included in the package.

⁶ Residents can purchase 3 chances for \$12, 6 for \$22; nonresident 3 for \$25, 6 for \$35, 10 for \$55 as well as multiples of 10 chances.

It is an understatement to say that the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's budget is stressed as we try to meet all the demands of the public, along with our statutory responsibilities.

C. BUDGET DEMANDS

It is an understatement to say that the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's budget is stressed as we try to meet all the demands of the public, along with our statutory responsibilities. In spite of limited resources, Fish and Game has met budget challenges over the past decade through belt tightening, careful management, elimination of vacancies, deferring maintenance on equipment and buildings, and reducing vehicle purchases to the point where our fleet is barely adequate to meet our needs. The fact is that sportsmen's and sportswomen's license purchases are level, while costs for fuel, agricultural products (such as fish food), utilities, and most especially healthcare costs for active as well as retired employees, continue to rise at alarming rates. Because of the dedicated efforts of the Department's staff, we were able to end FY 11 with a \$4.29 million balance in the Fish and Game Fund. Unfortunately, as we look to the future, there is not much financial light on the horizon.

Important New Funding Sources

In the fall of 2006, the Fish and Game Commission voted to have the Department develop legislation for a recreational saltwater fishing license as one of three potential new funding sources to address declining Department revenues and increasing costs. In addition, Federal legislation enacted by Congress in 2007 required that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) implement a National Saltwater Angler Registry in order to improve the estimates of fishing effort and recreational harvest of marine fish such as striped bass and cod. The registry came on line January 1, 2010, with a \$15 fee to be charged beginning in 2011. However, states could apply for an exemption from the registry for their anglers if they have a recreational saltwater license that collects the information needed by NMFS (name, address, phone number). Legislation passed during the 2009 legislative session implemented a \$15 (+ \$1 agent fee) license to fish in N.H. tidal waters effective January 1, 2011, and provided for collection of information needed to exempt N.H. anglers from the National Saltwater Angler Registry. The saltwater license was originally expected to generate approximately \$750,000 per year for the Department. However, during the FY 12 and FY 13 budget process (completed in the spring of 2011), the New Hampshire Legislature reduced the price by \$5 effective July 1, 2011. Revenues are expected to be reduced proportionally.

Federal Funds at Risk

The Department receives a significant portion of its revenue from the Federal Government. Budgeted Federal revenues for FY 12 are approximately \$9.2 million, or 29% of the total approved budget. Only \$5.3 million of this comes from dedicated sources (wholesale excise taxes at the federal level on sporting goods), the balance being in annual appropriations, which at the time of this writing are significantly in doubt.

Expanding our Constituency

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department continues its efforts to meet our obligations. Our agency-wide “Adapting to Changing Times” initiative is exploring ways to engage the larger public in supporting the Department, which provides a wide range of essential services to all New Hampshire citizens. Efforts are underway to secure alternative funding for search and rescue, which is a constant drain on the Fish and Game Fund. Our success in building a public-private partnership with sportsmen’s groups to reopen the Barry Conservation Camp, as well as the grant system we have developed with the nonprofit Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire, are examples of the “out of the box” thinking we are pursuing to keep us solvent and relevant as the Department marches into the future.

D. INTENSIVE ANALYSIS AND JUSTIFICATION FOR ANY GENERAL FUND SUPPORT FOR FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS:

Conservation of Nongame Species

Since 1988, the Department has received up to \$50,000 per year in general funds to match donations made to the nongame species conservation program made by individuals. The Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program is the steward for the state’s nongame wildlife – species not hunted, fished or trapped. Through wildlife monitoring and management, plus outreach and education, the Nongame Program works to protect over 400 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians, as well as thousands of insects and other invertebrates. The program works in cooperation with other New Hampshire agencies and organizations to develop and implement effective conservation strategies to protect and enhance this diverse group of wildlife. It has developed a state Wildlife Action Plan that is guiding conservation planning around New Hampshire.

New Hampshire has a legislative mandate to create a management plan for nongame species, established through the state Endangered Species Act (RSA 212-A) and the Nongame Act (RSA 212-B). By law, the Department is not allowed to use federal Wildlife Restoration funds to pay for the work of conserving endangered species. Thus, the legislative mandate for the Nongame Program places a significant financial burden on the Department. The small expenditure of \$50,000 in General Funds, as match for donations, in support of this valuable program, pays for itself many times over. It is far less expensive to keep common species common than to try to bring threatened or endangered species back from the brink.

Our agency-wide “Adapting to Changing Times” initiative is exploring ways to engage the larger public in supporting the Department, which provides a wide range of essential services to all New Hampshire citizens.

It is far less expensive to keep common species common than to try to bring threatened or endangered species back from the brink.

FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM



KEEPING OUR WILDLIFE — AND OUR TRADITIONS — HEALTHY

Purchases of fishing tackle, firearms, ammunition, archery equipment and motorboat fuels, along with license sales, help fund sport fish and wildlife restoration in New Hampshire. This provides opportunities for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-associated recreation.

Not so long ago...

In the middle of the 19th century in New Hampshire, numbers of many wildlife species were dwindling or gone altogether because of unregulated hunting and loss of habitat. Conservation efforts of the time were few – and frequently misguided or scientifically questionable – but leadership was beginning to understand that investing in wildlife and habitat pays great dividends.

A unique solution

The Pittman-Robertson Act, or Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, was passed in 1938. It was designed to counteract the wildlife crisis by providing local funding for wildlife management research; the selection, restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat; and public use and benefit related to same.

In 1950, the Dingell-Johnson Act or Sport Fish Restoration Act was created to provide similar management, conservation and restoration improvements for fisheries. Together, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs (WSFR) have transformed the landscape and immeasurably improved the conditions and prospects for New Hampshire's wildlife. In short, both acts encourage a scientific approach toward managing – and restoring – fish and wildlife.

User-pay, user-benefit

“Every time an American hunter buys a gun or ammunition he chips in to improve his sport,” said the author of a 10-year report on federal wildlife restoration released in 1949. It's just as true today: WSFR programs are funded by revenues collected from the manufacturers of sporting arms, handguns, ammunition and archery equipment, fishing rods, reels, lures and other fishing gear. Motorboat and small engine fuel taxes also help fund the system. The money is paid back to New Hampshire Fish and Game – and wildlife agencies in the other U.S. states and territories – to be used on specific wildlife restoration projects.

Meeting the public's wildlife needs

With the support of WSFR, salmon, wild turkeys and countless other creatures are now prospering in New Hampshire. Fish and Game's scientific research and management give species a solid chance to re-establish healthy populations, while at the same time improving habitats for all to enjoy. Along the way, WSFR helps Fish and Game meet the public's need for wildlife resources by improving boating access, providing aquatic education and outreach, maintaining quality hunter education programs and myriad related projects.

New Hampshire's hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers – including tourists – can thank WSFR's creators for starting a system that has protected our wildlife, our outdoors and our outdoor traditions through the years.