

# **New Hampshire Conservation License Plate Program 2002 Moose Plate Projects**

## **Historic Sites**

### **Bear Brook State Park**

The park contains many former Civilian Conservation Corps camp buildings and recreation improvements. The camp at Bear Brook is one of most complete set of CCC buildings in the country and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Originally a complex of thirteen structures, nine buildings remain. The current use of the buildings is a complex of museums and park service buildings. All the buildings need preventive maintenance including structural and cosmetic work. The last remaining barracks building requires the installation of stabilization brackets to pull the building back together. A key structure at the Catamount Swim Area is the stone shelter and bathhouse. Graceful granite steps link the upper picnic area with the lower beach. The steps require resetting of the stones and repointing the mortar.

**Agency Sponsor: NH Division of Parks and Recreation**

**Moose Plate Contribution: \$ 80,000**

### **Contoocook Covered Railroad Bridge**

The Contoocook Covered Railroad Bridge in Hopkinton was originally constructed in 1849-50 and is the oldest covered railroad bridge still standing in the United States. Funds will be used to protect the bridge against fire by installing a fire detection system, dry sprinkler systems, and by applying chemical retardants. Safety lighting will be added to the interior to provide security. The exterior will be painted and a State Historical Marker will be installed.

**Agency Sponsor: NH Division of Historic Resources**

**Moose Plate Contribution: \$17,500 matched with a \$70,000 TEA-21 grant**

### **Fort Constitution**

Fort Constitution, originally named Fort William and Mary, is located on New Castle Island. It was one of seven forts built to protect Portsmouth Harbor. The forts were used as a basic defense system to protect the colonists of the fledgling nation in the 1700's. The fort was given to the United States by the State of New Hampshire in 1791. In addition, the ruins of the old forts that were used in the War of 1812 and the Civil War can be seen today. The brick fort is in need of masonry repair, repointing, and roof run-off correction. The work proposed this year represents the first of a multi-year project. In addition, the Magazine building, once used to store ammunition, needs a new roof.

**Agency Sponsor: NH Division of Parks and Recreation**

**Moose Plate Contribution: \$24,000**

### **The Robert Frost Farm**

The Frost Farm in Derry, NH was bought for Robert Frost by his grandfather, William Prescott Frost, in 1900. The farmhouse was built in 1880 on a thirteen-acre lot. The accomplished NH poet lived on this location from 1900-1909 with his wife and their four children. At this farm, Frost wrote many of the poems for his first book. The farm was acquired by the state upon Frost's request, and made a Historic Landmark. A grant is being sought after to continue work on the farm and its surrounding land. A conservation assessment report is one of the first steps in identifying conservation strategies for historic buildings. The Division of Parks and Recreation will be applying for Conservation Assessment Project grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services and these funds will be used to match Moose Plate funds.

**Agency Sponsor: NH Division of Parks and Recreation**

**Moose Plate Contribution: \$5,000**

## **The Weeks Estate**

The Weeks Estate was built atop Mt. Prospect in Lancaster, NH as a summer retreat for John Wingate Weeks. Weeks was known for his political work concerning the environment at the turn of the 20th century. He worked aggressively to pass the “Weeks Act,” authorizing the government to purchase land to be permanently reserved, held, and administered as national forest land. The main house of the estate was built with fieldstone and stucco. Recently the stucco has begun to deteriorate. The restoration project from last year is still in progress and needs a continuation of funding.

**Agency Sponsor: NH Division of Parks and Recreation**

**Moose Plate Contribution: \$30,000**

## **Cultural Heritage**

The Department of Cultural Resources is working to identify and prioritize potential cultural resource projects for the 2002 Moose Plate funds.

## **Wildlife**

### **Common Nighthawk Conservation Project**

The common nighthawk was once a common sight over New Hampshire’s villages and cities during early morning and evening flights. These birds often nest on flat rooftops of buildings in the state’s more developed landscapes. During the past decade, their population has shown a persistent decline. Presently, this species is state-endangered. The NH Fish and Game Department, in partnership with the Audubon Society of NH, proposes to work with volunteers in the Merrimack and Lower Connecticut Valleys to gain a better understanding of the current status of the population in those areas and develop strategies for common nighthawk recovery. We will work with the building owners of existing or potential nesting habitat to develop and implement steps to increase nesting and fledgling success.

**Moose Plate Contribution: \$12,000**

### **Seabird Restoration at the Isles of Shoals**

Moose Plate funds are being sought again to continue this extremely successful conservation effort led by the Audubon Society of NH and the NH Fish and Game Department. The highlight of last year was the return of the federally and state-endangered roseate tern. This species has not nested on the Shoals in over 50 years. In addition, the common tern colony has expanded to more than 800 pairs since the restoration effort began six years ago. This project has been a model of collaboration with the involvement of several state agencies, private foundations, non-profit organizations, and local businesses. The total cost of the **Seabird Restoration Project is estimated at \$35,000.**

**Moose Plate Contribution: \$15,000**

### **Grassland Bird Monitoring**

Grassland birds have been declining as a result of habitat loss throughout the Northeast and New Hampshire, and several species are on the New Hampshire List of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife. In an effort to better understand the status and management needs of three such species (upland sandpiper, purple martin, and grasshopper sparrow), the Audubon Society of NH will conduct regular visits to current and historic breeding sites throughout the state. The purpose of these visits will be to collect data on population size, distribution within the state, habitat use, and nesting success. This data can then be used to make management recommendations that may aid these species’ recovery or stem further declines.

**Moose Plate Contribution: \$11,000**

## **New Hampshire Common Loon Recovery Initiative**

The Loon Recovery Initiative is a framework to consolidate the Loon Preservation Committee's (LPC) efforts to restore and maintain a healthy population of loons throughout New Hampshire. It will also integrate the monitoring, research, management, and educational efforts of LPC with its diverse partners working to preserve loons in New Hampshire and throughout the region.

The Loon Recovery Initiative will be carried out in three phases. Phase one will involve completing our relational database, assessing the state of our knowledge, and addressing gaps in our understanding of factors affecting loons in New Hampshire. Based on these findings, LPC will carry out phase two of the initiative, involving additional research to set population goals and implement specific management schemes to reverse negative trends. The final phase of the Loon Recovery Initiative will assess the effectiveness of efforts to date, set a specific time-line to achieve all goals set in phase two of the initiative, and identify long-term management needs to maintain New Hampshire's loon population at non-threatened levels.

With the inclusion of intensive work to complete LPC's 26-year relational database and to develop support among the business and corporate communities, costs for phase one of the Loon Recovery **Initiative are \$70,000 for year one.**  
**Moose Plate Contribution: \$15,000**

## **Amphibians as Indicators of Land and Water Habitat Quality**

Frogs and salamanders are extremely sensitive to changes in their environment. Scientists working in New Hampshire have documented several cases of deformed frogs, and scientists working around the globe have measured declines and extinctions of a variety of species. These alarming trends have led scientists to more closely study the relationship of these animals to the environment.

Dr. Kim Babbitt has been leading research efforts in New Hampshire to determine the relationship of these species to their habitats. They are good indicators of both land and water quality because both upland and wetland habitats are critical to their survival. Spotted salamanders, spring peepers, wood frogs, and other amphibians spend most of their time living in forest and field habitats. Therefore, changes to the uplands that species such as spotted salamanders and spring peepers depend on most of the year can be as important as the wetland habitats they return to in order to lay their eggs.

The overarching goal of the project is to provide critically needed information that can be used for assessing wetland habitat value for species utilizing seasonally impounded wetlands and for guiding wetlands protection and mitigation decisions. The current proposal builds on the results of previous research (Givens 2000; Tarr 2000) and will provide an assessment of the robustness of patterns of amphibian use of wetlands relative to upland landscape changes found in the previous study, as well as an examination of additional questions that will aid in conservation and management of wetlands and wetland functions. **The total cost of this project is \$67,000.**

**Moose Plate Contribution: \$25,000**

## **Native Plants and Communities**

### **Manual of New Hampshire's Natural Plant Communities**

The New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory will prepare, publish, and distribute a book on the natural plant communities of New Hampshire, to be used as a definitive resource for landowners, land managers, developers, and the general public. The book will be provided for free to libraries throughout the state and will be offered for sale in bookstores. Any proceeds resulting from the sale will be used exclusively for revisions and additional printings.

**Agency Sponsor: NH Natural Heritage Inventory**

**Moose Plate Contribution: \$67,500**

## **Guide to Visiting New Hampshire's Natural Heritage (Year 2)**

In cooperation with the Division of Travel and Tourism, the N.H. Natural Heritage Bureau will expand their already existing online statewide guide to include locations where exemplary natural communities – including old growth forests, can be viewed and enjoyed by the general public. At a few specific sites, trails will be created to make the natural communities accessible to the general public while protecting them from undue impact. Two new interpretive guides will be created and made available as hard copies and online.

**Agency Sponsor: NH Natural Heritage Bureau**

**Moose Plate Contribution: \$7,500**

## **Scenic Beauty**

### **Continuation of the Native Wildflower Program**

With its 2002 funds, the Department of Transportation continues to establish native wildflower fields at the first-year site on Route 302, on the southern edge of Crawford Notch State Park.

**Agency Sponsor: NH Department of Transportation**

**Moose Plate Contribution: Approximately \$40,000**

## **Community Conservation**

### **Continued Funding of LCHIP**

Funds from the Moose Plate Program are distributed to the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) to help cover the administrative costs of the state's only land conservation and historic preservation grant program. Through LCHIP, communities have conserved thousands of acres of land and dozens of historic sites. To learn more about how Moose Plate funds are used by the LCHIP Authority, please contact them or visit their website, [www.lchip.org](http://www.lchip.org).

**Agency Sponsor: Land and Community Heritage Investment Authority**

**Moose Plate Contribution: \$167,000 for FY02**

## **Community Conservation Grant Program**

For more information, please contact the State Conservation Committee.

**Agency Sponsor: NH State Conservation Commission Committee**

**Moose Plate Contribution: \$167,000 for FY02**