

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED), is pleased to submit its annual report to the Conservation Number Plate Advisory Committee. As required by RSA 261:97-f, this report details: 1) the amount of proceeds received under RSA 261:97-c; 2) total funds expended; 3) accomplishments achieved during the preceding fiscal year; and 4) an outline of the projects and programs to be conducted in the ensuing fiscal year with proceeds from the fund.

Proceeds Received

The Department of Resources and Economic Development received \$193,195 in fiscal year 2003 and \$195,292 in fiscal year 2004 from the Conservation Number Plate Trust Fund. The monies collected in the fund, as provided in RSA 261:97-b, are distributed to DRED and are used to support the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Program and the restoration of historic sites and buildings on New Hampshire State Park lands.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

The Division of Parks and Recreation maintains and manages recreational areas, historic sites and waysides through out the state on state park lands. The Division of Parks and Recreation and the Division of Historical Resources work collaboratively to manage and maintain New Hampshire's cultural resources located on DRED lands.

Project Status and Expenditures under Fiscal Year 2004

1. Bear Brook State Park, Allenstown

Barracks Building

Request by Fiscal Year:	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>Total</u>
Funding:	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$17,000</u>	<u>\$27,000</u>

Project Goals

The current use of the former CCC camp buildings is a complex of museums and park service buildings. Originally a complex of thirteen structures, nine buildings remain. The barracks building, the last remaining of its kind within the complex, requires the installation of stabilization brackets to pull the building back together.

Status

This project will be completed by Fall 2004.

Catamount Shelter

Request by Fiscal Year:	<u>2004</u>	<u>Total</u>
Funding:	<u>\$50,000</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>

Project Goals

This project was proposed for FY 2004, but not acted upon due to the changing needs of other FY 2004 projects. 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. These steps require resetting of the stones and repointing the mortar.

Status

This project will go out to competitive bid this Fall for work in Spring 2005.

2. John Wingate Weeks Historic Site, Lancaster

Request by Fiscal Year:	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>Total</u>
Funding:	<u>\$20,000</u>	<u>\$46,000</u>	<u>\$66,000</u>

Project Goals

This project involves the removal and replacement of the distinctive terra cotta roof tiles. After 90 years of service, tiles have fallen off the roof due to corroded copper nails and failing roof sheathing. This project is funded in part by an award of \$20,000 from the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the Division of Historic Resources.

Status

The project will be complete in Fall 2004.

3. Fort Constitution Historic Site, New Castle

Request by Fiscal Year:	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>Total</u>
Funding:	<u>\$15,000</u>	<u>\$10,077</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>	<u>\$45,077</u>

Project Goals

This 18th century colonial brick fort is in need of masonry repair, repointing and run off correction. Catastrophic failure of the outer southwest wall occurred early Spring 2003.

Status

Repair of the outer southwest wall is complete.

4. White Island Light Station, Rye

Request by Fiscal Year:	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>Total</u>
Funding:	<u>\$25,000</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>	<u>\$45,000</u>

Project Goals

White Island Light Station is located on White Island at the Isles of Shoals. White Island Lighthouse is a masonry light tower constructed in the middle of the 19th century. Visible cracks in the masonry and bricks are apparent inside and out. This project serves toward matching funds under a \$248,000 grant awarded DRED under the National Park Service Save America's Treasures program.

Status

The historic structure assessment and report was completed in November 2003. A marine landing feasibility study and hydrogeology study will be completed in Fall 2004. Permanent repairs will begin in Summer 2005.

6. Wentworth Coolidge Mansion, Portsmouth

Request by Fiscal Year:	<u>2004</u>	<u>Total</u>
Funding:	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>

Project Goals

The Division was awarded a \$35,464 grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) toward the development of a Moisture Management Plan to address the chronic moisture intrusion problems at the Wentworth Coolidge Mansion. The Division was also awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Division of Historical Resources. Conservation Plate funds will be used as match required by the IMLS program.

Status

Work has begun and is scheduled for completion in 2005.

Approved Projects for Fiscal Year 2005

1. Fort Constitution, Portsmouth

The stone steps to the upper areas of the fort wall and lookout tower require stabilizing the step foundation, resetting of the stones, repointing the mortar, and installing railings.

Proposed Funding: \$20,000

2. White Island Light Station, Rye

White Island Light Station is located on White Island at the Isles of Shoals. White Island Lighthouse is a masonry light tower constructed in the middle of the 19th century. Visible cracks in the masonry and bricks are apparent inside and out. This funding request serves toward matching funds under a \$248,000 grant awarded DRED under the National Park Service Save America's Treasures program.

Proposed Funding: \$25,000

3. John Wingate Weeks Estate, Lancaster

Previous Conservation License Plate funds addressed moisture infiltration from the basement and roof. Moisture had caused increased humidity within the house and caused the exterior

stucco to fall off the house. Conservation License Plate funds will be used to repair the stucco, the exterior woodwork, and to reset portions of the brick patio damaged by weather.

Proposed Funding: \$55,000

Note: The Division recognizes that proposed projects for FY 2005 exceed anticipated revenue, however, due to the quickly changing nature of construction projects authorization is requested for proposed FY 2006 projects. This will allow the Division to respond to changing construction situations in a timely manner.

DIVISION OF FORESTS AND LANDS – NATURAL HERITAGE BUREAU

The Natural Heritage Bureau finds, tracks, and facilitates the protection of New Hampshire's rare plants and exemplary natural communities (which are different types of forests, wetlands, grasslands, etc.). Our mission, as mandated by the Native Plant Protection Act of 1987 (NH RSA 217-A), is to determine protective measures and requirements necessary for the survival of native plant species in the state, to investigate the condition and degree of rarity of plant species, and to distribute information regarding the condition and protection of these species and their habitats.

Project Status and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2004

1. Natural Community Guide and Classification of New Hampshire

Fiscal Year:	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>Total</u>
Funding:	<u>\$67,500</u>	<u>\$25,250</u>	<u>\$92,750</u>

Project Goals

Prepare, publish and distribute two publications on the natural plant communities of New Hampshire, to serve as definitive resources for landowners, land managers, developers, and the general public. A complete technical manual, for use by natural resource professionals and scientific researchers, will be furnished at no cost to all public libraries throughout the state. An illustrated version for use by the general public will be offered for sale in book stores; resulting proceeds will be kept in a revolving fund for revisions and additional printings.

Status

The text of the technical manual is nearly complete. Printing is scheduled for November and an expected release before January of 2004 is on schedule. Work on the illustrated version, including developing the text, assembling illustrations and obtaining estimates for publishing is also underway. Completion of the illustrated natural community book is expected in 2004.

2. Visiting Biodiversity

Fiscal Year:	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>Total</u>
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Funding: \$7,500 \$20,000 \$27,500

Project Goals

This project involves developing and distributing visitor brochures for places where people can view unusual and high-quality natural plant communities in person. Brochures are developed in collaboration with willing landowners. Sites are chosen that have facilities such as parking and trails, allowing people an easy way of experiencing the state’s diverse and unusual natural habitats.

Status

Two new visitor brochures are being prepared and will be completed by the end of 2003. Additional brochures are planned for 2004.

3. Revised Rare Plant List: Publicity of List and Documentation of New Species

Fiscal Year:	<u>2004</u>	<u>Total</u>
Funding:	<u>\$20,000</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>

Project Goals

The Heritage list of New Hampshire rare and endangered plant species is in the process of being updated and revised, as required by RSA 217-A: 5. The new list will differ from the existing list of state-listed rare plants: certain listed plant species will be dropped, and other “new” species will be added. In order for the new list to be used effectively to protect rare species, it must be publicized and interpreted to the general public. The Revised Plant List Project will allow Heritage to explain these changes to the public, through presentations, the media and written materials. Documentation for newly listed species is also needed, as the Heritage database currently contains no locations for these previously untracked species.

Status

Work is scheduled to begin in 2004.

Proposed Projects for Fiscal Year 2005

1. Heritage Information Outreach Project

This project was approved for FY 2004, but not undertaken due to the changing needs of other projects. This project will allow Heritage ecologists to provide specific, technical information concerning the identification, maintenance and management of rare plants and exemplary natural communities to individuals and organizations that would not receive Heritage assistance otherwise.

Proposed Cost: \$30,000

2. Revised Rare Plant List: Publicity of List and Documentation of New Species

Continuation of new species documentation and revised list outreach to the public.

Proposed Cost: \$10,000

3. Fact Sheets for Rare Species and Natural Communities (year 2)

This project was approved for FY 2004 but will be undertaken in FY2005. The project entails reviewing fact sheets from year 1 and updating as needed based on new information and feedback from recipients. Additional fact sheets will be produced that provide specific, practical advice to landowners, foresters, wetland scientists, and other resource professionals interested in managing for biodiversity. Once completed, the fact sheets will be distributed through a variety of media, including posting them on the NHI web site and making them available to DES to accompany wetlands permits involving these species and/or communities.

Proposed Cost: \$15,000

4. Visiting Biodiversity

Continuation of visitor brochure development and distribution for unusual and high-quality natural plant communities in New Hampshire.

Proposed Cost: \$15,000

5. Media Outreach

This project will allow the Natural Heritage program to develop outreach materials concerning new rare plant and exemplary natural community discoveries in the state. News of important discoveries by Natural Heritage, such as finding North America's oldest deciduous tree growing in New Hampshire, are currently unknown by the public and represent missed opportunities for tourism, nature appreciation, and education.

Proposed Cost: \$20,000