

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 (CNPAC). As required by RSA261:97-f, this report details: 1) the amount of proceeds received under RSA 261:97c; 2) total funds expended; 3) accomplishments achieved during the preceding fiscal year with proceeds from the fund, and 4) an outline of projects and programs to be conducted in FY12.

Proceeds Received By DRED

The estimated FY11 budget for the Department of Resources and Economic Development Conservation Plate Fund was \$232,000. Actual revenue was \$236,823.50; the monies were divided equally between the Division of Forests and Lands Natural Heritage Bureau and the Division of Parks and Recreation Historic Sites Bureau. Separate monies are allocated to Parks and Recreation for marketing the Conservation Number Plate program.

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Division of Parks and Recreation

The Division of Parks and Recreation manages and maintains state recreational areas, historic sites and waysides. The Division works collaboratively with the Division of Historical Resources to maintain New Hampshire’s historical, cultural and archeological resources located on DRED lands.

Balance and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2011

Beginning Balance 2010 appropriation.....\$116,000.00
Balance as of 10/4/11.....\$429,237.22

Note: The current balance is the result of rolling over previous appropriations and includes \$350,000 set aside for the Weeks Estate Restoration, to be complete by 2013, the centenary of the site.

Project Status under Fiscal Year 2011 Funding

1. The Robert Frost Farm, Derry, NH. Home to poet Robert Frost from 1900-1911 and a National Historic Landmark, the farm currently has restoration projects under way. The Moisture management project including, but not limited to perimeter drainage, site grading, restoration of the barn apron and other repairs to the landscape surrounding the building was completed 4/15/10. A new Alaskan Cedar shingle roof with new lead flashing was also completed by the end of 7/30/10. A new fire and security alarm was installed 8/2011 to replace the broken, antiquated system, providing better protection for the building and collections. Other interior restoration to follow throughout the winter of 2011-2012.

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2. Old Patch Place at Rhododendron State Park, Fitzwilliam, NH. The old Patch Place was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. It is located in Rhododendron State Park whose 16 acre grove of native *Rhododendron maximum* was designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1982. The cottage was built by the Captain Samuel Patch family sometime between 1790-1816. The property was transferred to the state from the AMC in 1946. The basement staircase restoration was completed in the spring of 2010 and the proposed roof and sash repair project was partially completed during the 2010 building season due to a re-allocation of funds for the restoration of the Belknap Mountain Fire Tower Watchman's buildings as well as make emergency repairs to the White Island Lighthouse keepers cottage, Isles of Shoals.
3. The Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion, Portsmouth, NH. (WCM). A National Historic Landmark and home to New Hampshire's last Royal Governor Benning Wentworth. Based on a structural and cosmetic survey conducted by the Bureau of Historic Sites in 2008, the last building season has focused on substrate and clapboard repairs on the East, South and West facades. These repairs have been completed by in house personnel trained in the craft of old house repair. Beginning in June 2010, a contract was let for \$35,000 to complete exterior and structural repairs for the mansion. As of 10/4/11 95% of these repairs have been completed with the remaining to be completed by 6/30/12. In conjunction with this work, the parking lot and all exterior drainage was restored summer of 2010.
4. Franklin Pierce Homestead, Hillsborough, NH. The 1804 Homestead, a National Historic Landmark and home to New Hampshire's only U.S. President. After review of the drainage and site grade, it was decided that repairs to these two areas needed to be completed before other restoration could begin. These two items were completed in the spring of 2011. Currently a contract has been let for the remainder of the restoration project and the work is underway. This work includes the rebuilding of both chimneys, (chimney work completed September 2011), carpentry repairs on clapboards and structural members and a complete paint job. Remaining work to be completed by September 2012.

Proposed Projects for Fiscal Year 2012 Funding.

The Division of Parks and Recreation was provided the estimated revenue of \$116,000.00 of DRED's Conservation License Plate fiscal year 2011 apportionment. The Division proposes the expenditure of its funds for the following projects:

1. White Island Light Station, Isles of Shoals.....\$5,000

White Island Light Station, located on White Island, Isles of Shoals, has taken the brunt of two destructive storms over the last few years. During the summer of 2009 a restoration project was developed in-conjunction with a project funded by FEMA and donations received from the Lighthouse Kids, the official friends group for the island. Due to the difficult environment and project mobilization involve on the island, the decision was made to utilize Conservation / Heritage License Plate monies to enhance the restoration projects proposed for the 2011 season on the island. In 2011, continued restoration work was completed on the island including the restoration of the 1840, triangular, wooden walkway which was washed away in a 2007 winter storm. The Bureau proposes to continue the restoration of the walkway working in cooperation once again with FEMA and the Lighthouse Kids.

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2. The Weeks Estate, Lancaster, NH.....\$350,000

The Weeks Estate, a National Historic Register site and summer home to Lancaster native John Wingate Weeks has not had any large scale restoration work, (with the exception of its roof), since 1964. With the Weeks Act Centennial occurring in 2011, (the act establishing the Eastern National Forests), the Bureau of Historic Sites has proposed leveraging the national event for restoring the entire built environment, including landscape on Prospect Mountain. Using Moose Plate funds to match an applied for \$250,000 *Save America's Treasures Grant* campaign for 2010, the Bureau hopes to provide half of the \$1,000,000 project cost.

Work to be completed will include, but will not be limited to restoration of the Weeks lodge back to its pre-1964 original floor plan, Restoration of the stone Fire Tower, restoration of the Guest Cottage and the restoration and re-adaptive use of the Carriage Barn into a visitor center / exhibition space. Fund raising both local and national for this project has begun and other grant opportunities are being sought.

Note: The Tillotson Foundation awarded the Weeks Estate \$25,000 in their last grant round and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation awarded the site a \$5000 Express Grant for our capital campaign survey work. The captital campaign survey was completed spring 2011.

3. Franklin Pierce Homestead, Hillsborough, NH.....\$79,000

The work described in the *project status* portion of this report will be completed by September 2012. It should also be noted that DRED's Memorandum of Agreement is up for renegotiation with the Town of Hillsborough, (Hillsborough Historical Society), in 2013. This is the only agreement of its type within the Bureau of Historic Sites.

4. Daniel Webster Birthplace, Franklin, NH.....\$5,000

The Daniel Webster Birthplace and its companion the 1790 Sawyer House is arguably the site that helped create the Bureau of Historic sites. Although it is one of the states least visited sites, it still remains a valuable historic resource. Work is currently underway to install drainage around the Sawyer House and to stop moisture infiltration which has wreaked havoc on the foundation and chimney stack under pinning. The Bureau proposes to clean out the Sawyer House and create a sustainability plan for the entire site. Along with this planning work the Bureau also proposes to repair the plaster and sash in the 1913 recreated Webster Birthplace. The drainage or moisture management project was completed spring of 2011.

FY 2010-2011 Total.....\$439,000.00

Natural Heritage Bureau

The New Hampshire Legislature found and declared that "for human needs and enjoyment, the interests of science, and the economy of the state, native plants and natural communities throughout this state should be protected and conserved; and that native plant numbers should be maintained and enhanced to insure their perpetuation as viable components of their ecosystems for the benefit of the people of New Hampshire" (Native Plant Protection Act of 1987, NH RSA 217-A). Furthermore, "This state shall assist in the protection of species of plants that are determined to be endangered, threatened, or of special concern by prohibiting the taking, possession, transportation, processing, sale or offer for sale, exportation from this state, or shipment within this state of such species without required and valid federal and state permits".

The Natural Heritage Bureau, administered within the Department of Resources and Economic Development Division of Forests and Lands, "collects and analyzes data on the status, location, and distribution of rare or declining native plant species and natural communities in the state, and develops and implements measures for the protection, conservation, enhancement, and management of native New Hampshire plants". Pragmatically, the Natural Heritage Bureau performs four tasks:

- Collects and analyzes data on the status, location, and distribution of rare or declining native plant species and exemplary natural communities
- Determines if any species of plant should be protected
- Develops and implements measures for the protection, conservation, enhancement, and management of native plants
- Acts as an information resource program to assist and advise state and local agencies, and private sector development and conservation projects upon request

Natural Heritage efforts serve four purposes:

- Promote travel and tourism
- Attract and retain businesses
- Maintain ecosystem services
- Ensure a high quality of life for residents.

Balance and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2011

Beginning balance	\$116,000.00
Allocated funds brought forward	\$19,023.00
Revised budget	\$135,023.00
<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>\$116,000.00</u>
Available Balance (as of 6/30/11)	\$19,023.00

Project Status for Fiscal Year 2011

Illustrated Guide to New Hampshire's Natural Communities

Project Goal

The Natural Heritage Bureau will create an illustrated guide to the natural communities of New Hampshire.

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Status

The Nature of New Hampshire: Natural Communities of the Granite State University Press of New England (UPNE) was published in April. University Press of New England is distributing and marketing the book. Natural Heritage promoted the book at a launch at UNH and a special event at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord, and continues to promote the book at Bureau workshops and presentations. The book received terrific reviews, and was the basis for a State Conservation Award from the New England Wildflower Society. About 1,000 books have been sold as of 30 August 2011.

Visiting New Hampshire's Biodiversity

Project Goal

Natural Heritage will develop and print two additional 'Visiting New Hampshire's Biodiversity' guides, bringing the total to 18, and initiate development of a book based on the 'Visiting NH's Biodiversity Guide' series.

Status

The Natural Heritage Bureau completed on-line and hard copy guides to Audubon's Dahl Sanctuary in Conway, New Hampshire. Budget cuts required the termination of the responsible employee before a second guide could be completed. Funds originally intended for this project were diverted to completing and marketing *The Nature of New Hampshire: Natural Communities of the Granite State*.

Rare Plant Species Research and Documentation (Ongoing)

Project Goal

Natural Heritage will continue to update the list of endangered and threatened plant species, our database of rare plants and exemplary natural communities, and assess status and trends.

Status

Natural Heritage staff researched herbaria for new rare plant records, verified and documented rare plant submissions sent to our office, field verified rare plant populations, expanded web-based information, and collaborated with volunteers, conservation groups, universities, and partner agencies.

During the past fiscal year, Natural Heritage:

- Added or updated 1,827 database plant records
- Added or updated 295 database exemplary natural community records
- Added or updated 1,827 database wildlife records
- Conducted 89 field visits
- Performed six days of herbaria research
 - Added three new species to NH
 - Documented/updated 11 endangered and 13 state watch species
- Reviewed 104 plant samples submitted by credible botanists resulting in new occurrences for 34 endangered, 42 threatened, and 3 state watch species

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Public Outreach (Ongoing)

Project Goal

The Natural Heritage Bureau will develop outreach materials to inform the public about New Hampshire's rare plants and exemplary natural communities.

Status

Natural Heritage continued to develop its website to enhance interactive access to specific rare species and natural community information (e.g., natural community descriptions, natural communities of New Hampshire photo guide). In addition, Natural Heritage staff continued to reach out to public and private stakeholders through presentations, meeting participation, environmental reviews, and information distribution.

- Performed 3,392 environmental reviews
 - 3,032 with no potential impacts to rare species
 - 360 with potential impacts to rare species
 - 24 site visits in support of environmental reviews
- Released *The Nature of New Hampshire: Natural Communities of the Granite State*
 - Book launch events at UNH and Gibson's Bookstore
- Produced and distributed Dahl Sanctuary Biodiversity Guide
- Presentations and workshops for
 - Natural Resource Conservation Service
 - NH Fire Council
 - Squam Lakes Science Center
 - Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee
 - Green Mountain Conservation Group
 - NH Association of Conservation Commissioners
 - St. Anselms College
 - UNH
 - St. Paul's School
 - NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists
 - Beaver Brook 6th grade
 - Executive Councilor Burton
 - The Nature Conservancy
 - NatureServe
 - NH Wildflower Task Force
 - New England Botanical Club
- Developed presentation to be used by volunteers in the UNH Cooperative Extension Speaking for Wildlife Program
- Poster at Farm and Forest Expo
- Provided 25 photographs for UNH Cooperative Extension Habitat Stewardship Brochures
- Developed biodiversity-themed Parks Quest

Proposed Projects for Fiscal Year 2012

Natural Heritage requests concurrence from the Conservation Number Plate Advisory Committee to use Conservation Number Plate funds to conduct the following projects in FY11. Natural Heritage was allocated an estimated \$116,000 in the FY12 budget. Actual revenue provided to DRED was \$238,911.50, with \$119,455.75 allocated to Natural Heritage. Combined with \$19,023 carried forward, Natural Heritage has \$138,478.75 in funding for FY12.

“The Nature of New Hampshire” \$1,000

Project Goal

The Natural Heritage Bureau will continue to promote *The Nature of New Hampshire: Natural Communities of the Granite State*, primarily through use of the book at presentations and workshops. Natural Heritage is able to purchase books at half price from the publisher for resale at special events.

Visiting New Hampshire’s Biodiversity \$35,000

Project Goal

Natural Heritage will begin writing and producing a book based on the ‘Visiting NH’s Biodiversity Guide’ series. Natural Heritage will work with the Divisions of Travel and Tourism and Parks and Recreation to integrate them into the project.

Rare Plant and Natural Community Research and Documentation (Ongoing) \$36,000

Project Goal

Natural Heritage will continue to research herbaria for new rare plant records, verify and document rare plant submissions, field verify rare plant populations, expand web-based information, and collaborate with volunteers, conservation groups, universities, and partner agencies.

Public Outreach (Ongoing) \$32,500

Project Goal

Natural Heritage will continue to develop its website to enhance interactive access to specific rare species and natural community information, and reach out to public and private stakeholders through presentations, meeting participation, environmental reviews, and information distribution. The Bureau is working with UNH Cooperative Extension, and will discuss development of a program for the forest products industry with the Timberland Owners Association and other industry stakeholders.

Adequacy of Protection and Conservation Programs \$33,978

Project Goal

Natural Heritage will initiate a project to assess the adequacy of protection and conservation for New Hampshire native plants and natural communities. Project components will include comparing the location of rare species and exemplary natural communities with the location of conservation lands, determining which species and communities are underrepresented on

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conservation lands, and identifying mechanisms for ensuring adequate protection and conservation.

FY12 Total

\$138,478