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New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Scott R. Mason
Executive Director

July 26, 2021

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

His Excellency Governor Christopher T. Sununu
And the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

1. Pursuant to the provisions of RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFGD), to accept and expend \$560,290 in federal funds from the American Rescuc Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF), for the purpose of hiring three temporary full time staff members to provide assistance in permit application review, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2023. **100% Federal Funds.**
2. Pursuant to the provision of RSA 124:15, I, Positions Restricted, and subject to approval of item 1 above, authorize NHFGD to establish three full-time temporary positions using ARP Funds in support of the application review process for state permits, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2023. **100% Federal Funds.**

Funds are to be budgeted in FY2022 and FY2023 in the following account:

03-75-75-751520-24XX0000¹ NH Fish and Game Department
ARPA Project Review

Class	Description	FY22 Requested Budget	FY23 Requested Budget
020-500200	CURRENT EXPENSES	3,600	4,500
030-500311	EQUIPMENT NEW REPLACEMENT	7,500	300
039-500191	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	975	975
040-500800	INDIRECT COSTS	35,710	50,965
041-500801	AUDIT FUND SET-ASIDE	234	326
059-500117	TEMP FULL TIME	117,629	170,040
060-500612	BENEFITS	67,954	98,232
070-500704	IN STATE TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT	600	750
	TOTAL EXPENSES	234,202	326,088
000 400338	FEDERAL FUNDS	234,202	326,088
	TOTAL REVENUE	234,202	326,088

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All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602WB7501A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602WB7501Z.

EXPLANATION

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF) established under the American Rescue Plan Act includes New Hampshire State funding. NHFGD reviews projects requiring state permits such as NH Department of Environmental Services Alteration of Terrain or wetlands for potential impacts to protected wildlife. On June 8, 2021 use of FRF funding of \$161,939 was approved as part of the Department of Environmental Services request for administrative funds to support the increased administrative load to NHFGD that Water and Sewer Infrastructure Projects funded by FRF will require for review of alteration of terrain permit applications submitted to the DES by NHFGD. However, it has been determined that in order to timely process the anticipated Water and Sewer infrastructure projects to be funded with FRF funds, the existing backlog of alteration of terrain permits at NHFGD will need to be cleared and kept clear through the application process. These additional temporary staff position are therefore also necessary help ensure timely performance of consultations and review of permit applications for protected wildlife by NHFGD for Water and Sewer Infrastructure Projects.

Funds are budgeted as follows:

Class 020 – Current Expenses – office supplies, paper, postage, and printer ink for staff

Class 030 – Equipment – Office equipment for staff

Class 039 – Telecommunications – phones and phone lines for staff

Class 040 - Indirect Costs – Indirect Costs paid to SWCAP and internal cost recoveries

Class 041 – Audit Fund Set-Aside-.001 of federal funds payable to DAS for audit fees

Class 059 – Temp Full Time – for three temporary full-time position requested above

Class 060 – Benefits – for the three temporary full-time position requested above

Class 070 – In State Travel Reimbursement – mileage incurred for work related activities

The following information is provided in accordance with the Comptroller's instructional memorandum dated September 21, 1981:

1) *List of Personnel involved:*

One full-time temporary Project Planner II (LG21, \$43,621 - \$61,171)

Two full-time temporary Biologist II (LG 23, \$47,307 - \$66,729)

2) *Nature, need and duration:*

The period of performance runs until December 31, 2024.

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3) *Relationship to existing agency programs:*

The Department currently has a full time Biologist I position performing similar duties.

4) *Has similar program been requested of the Legislature and denied? No*

5) *Why wasn't funding included in the agency's budget request?*

It was not known that these funds would be available at the time the agency established its FY22/FY23 biennial budget.

6) *Can portions of the grant funds be utilized for other purposes?*

These funds can only be used for the purpose of the grant award.

7) *Estimate the funds required to continue these positions:*

The plan is for this position to be funded half way through FY25, the estimated cost for years FY24 and FY25 is \$439,710.

8) *Geographic Area Served:*

Statewide

9) *Sources of Funds:*

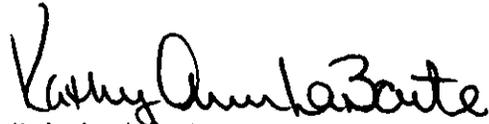
American Rescue Plan Act Funding-100% Federal

In the event that Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott R. Mason
Executive Director



Kathy Ann LaBonte
Chief, Business Division