



The State of New Hampshire  
**Department of Environmental Services**

**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**



October 20, 2021

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
and The Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, NH 03301

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

Pursuant to the provisions of RSA 487:29, this document provides the report for State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2020 and 2021, on the Milfoil and other Exotic Plants Prevention and Research Grant Program (the Program), including a description of prevention and research projects funded by the program and the extent of aid to municipalities or subdivisions of the state, non-profit corporations, and research institutions. New Hampshire has 91 infested waterbodies (11 river systems and 80 lakes and ponds). Grant funds are managed to maximize effectiveness at reducing the spread of infestations, and managing those infestations already in state waterbodies.

**Background:**

Funds associated with the milfoil prevention and research grants began accumulating following the enactment of RSA 487:26 on January 1, 2003. Per the legislation, *"The grant program shall be funded by the portion of the lake restoration and preservation fund, established in RSA 487:25, and allocated to the milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants prevention program. Approximately 3/4 of the moneys distributed from the fund to the milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants prevention program shall be allocated for the purposes of milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants prevention and the remainder shall be allocated to milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants remediation research, as appropriate, based on grant requests."* Fee funds are derived from a \$9.50 fee from motorized boat registrations annually, yielding about \$893,000 of program funds each year.

A Request for Proposals is issued in September of each year for projects that meet the criteria outlined in Chapter Env-Wq 1300 of state administrative rules. All prevention grant proposals are reviewed by a committee comprised of a designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, a designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Safety, and a member of the New Hampshire Lakes Management Advisory Committee. The research grants are reviewed by a team of biologists from within the Biology Section of the Watershed Management Bureau. All proposals are reviewed for eligibility and ranked based on standard review criteria for this program. These teams review the grant applications for the quality and quantity of work that is proposed, and to ensure that work is in line with programmatic goals. Applicants typically have long-established relationships with NHDES, and work with the agency to provide applications for projects that are well-planned and comprehensive in terms of their goals for prevention, research or control.

Summary of SFY 2020 and 2021 Prevention and Research Grant Awards:

Table1 below provides summaries of the prevention grant awards made in SFY 2020 and 2021.

**Table 1  
 SFY 2020 and SFY 2021 Exotic Aquatic Plant Prevention Grants**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Project Summary</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
2020	NH LAKES	The purpose of the NH LAKES project is to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species into lakes and ponds in New Hampshire by continuing to expand and administer the Lake Host Program on public access sites throughout the state. This program has a proven track record of success, and since its inception in 2002, greater than 1600 saves have been catalogued (a save is when a Lake Host removes an identified piece of an invasive aquatic plant from a boat or trailer entering or leaving a waterbody). Organizations participating in the Lake Host Program staff public access sites to conduct inspections of boats, trailers and other recreational gear as they enter and leave public waterbodies.	\$280,000
2021	NH LAKES	The purpose of the NH LAKES project is to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species into lakes and ponds in New Hampshire by continuing to expand and administer the Lake Host Program on public access sites throughout the state. This program has a proven track record of success, and since its inception in 2002, greater than 1600 saves have been catalogued (a save is when a Lake Host removes an identified piece of an invasive aquatic plant from a boat or trailer entering or leaving a waterbody). Organizations participating in the Lake Host Program staff public access sites to conduct inspections of boats, trailers and other recreational gear as they enter and leave public waterbodies.	\$280,000

No grant funds were awarded for research activities in SFY 2020 or 2021.

In addition to the grants outlined above, funds are also awarded for control of invasive aquatic plants. These control grants are awarded to local entities (municipalities, lake associations and other such groups) for projects to control exotic aquatic plant growth in waterbodies in the state. Cost sharing on grants for exotic plant control activities is outlined under RSA 487:21. Grant match is determined based on an annual evaluation of projects, requests for funds and funds available. The requests for control grants are expected to continue to exceed the current budgeted amount for control activities, which put more of the burden of cost on a local entity, like a municipality or nonprofit organization.

Table 2 shows an estimate of cumulative project costs and grants made each year from 2020-2021. Philosophically, we believe that incremental reductions in invasive species is more beneficial to the state as a whole, as opposed to focusing all resources on a single or handful of projects each year, and it is a model that

has worked to reduce the overall degree of infestation over time, helping to leverage local funds for the project as well. State grant funds are not sufficient to pay for 100% of the management of all infestations in the state. Funding is cost-shared with local entities to expand management capabilities to more groups.

**Table 2**  
**Invasive Aquatic Plant Control Grants**

Year	Requests for Grants	Cumulative Cost of Projects	Available to Grant	Grants Awarded
2020	47	\$1,353,316	\$550,161	47
2021	42	\$1,300,664	\$528,813	42

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at 603-271-2958 or at [Robert.Scott@des.nh.gov](mailto:Robert.Scott@des.nh.gov) or Amy Smagula, Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator, at 603-271-2248 or [Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov](mailto:Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov).

Sincerely,



Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner

cc: The Honorable Chuck Morse, President of the NH Senate  
The Honorable Sherman Packard, Speaker of the NH House