



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Scott R. Mason
Executive Director

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January 5, 2023

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

Pursuant to RSA 215-A:23, IX and RSA 215-C:39, X, authorize the transfer of \$2,133,400.00 of unexpended funds from Excess Registration Fees, Account Number 20-07500-11830000-009-405928 to the Fish and Game OHRV Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2023.

OHRV EDUCATION, TRAINING & ENFORCEMENT						
03-75-75-752520-11830000						
Fiscal Year 2023						
	Expense	Class Description	Revenue	Current		Adjusted
009		AGENCY INCOME	405928-68	\$6,900,369	\$2,133,400	\$9,033,769
Total				\$6,900,369	\$2,133,400	\$9,033,769
Expense						
010	500100	PERSONAL SERVICES - PERMANANT		\$302,903	\$0	\$302,903
018	500106	OVERTIME		220,000	0	220,000
019	500105	HOLIDAY PAY		105,000	0	105,000
020	500200	CURRENT EXPENSES		131,530	0	131,530
022	500255	RENTS, LEASES		500	0	500
023	500291	HEAT,ELECTRICITY, WATER		2,500	0	2,500
026	500251	ORGANIZATIONAL DUES		800	0	800
029	500290	INTRA-AGENCY TRANSFERS		900,000	0	900,000
030	500311	EQUIPMENT	405928-68	489,344	113,400	602,744
039	500191	TELECOMMUNICATIONS		900	0	900
049	584935	TRANSFERS TO OTHER STATE AG.	405928-68	4,269,473	2,000,000	6,269,473
050	500109	PERSONAL SERVICES - TEMPORARY		65,875	0	65,875
060	500602	BENEFITS		320,804	0	320,804
070	500704	IN STATE TRAVEL		30,000	0	30,000
080	500710	OUT OF STATE TRAVEL		5,000	0	5,000
103	502664	CONTRACTS FOR OPER. SERVICES	405928-68	55,740	20,000	75,740
Total				\$6,900,369	\$2,133,400	\$9,033,769

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EXPLANATION

Pursuant to RSA 215-A:23 IX, and RSA 215-C:39, X, "Any excess registration fees collected and not expended shall be non-lapsing and shall be retained by the snowmobile and OHRV program for future use." In each year of the biennium, the Fish and Game Department and the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) may expend the excess fees collected in the same proportion as described in this section with prior approval of the Fiscal Committee and the Governor and Council.

The Department's FY 2023, class 049, Transfers to Other Agencies, is insufficient for this fiscal year. During this current fiscal year and last fiscal year (2022), New Hampshire experienced above average sales of OHRV registrations. We surmise this is due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued desire for people to enjoy outdoor recreation. This coupled with a change in Legislation which increased OHRV registration prices for fiscal year 2021, has caused a significant deficit in our previously approved operating budget as approximately 72% of revenue from the sale of OHRV registrations is transferred to DNCR. We currently have insufficient funds to transfer the required funds to DNCR for their share of registrations sold. This transfer into class 049 will allow us to transfer required funds through the remainder of the fiscal year.

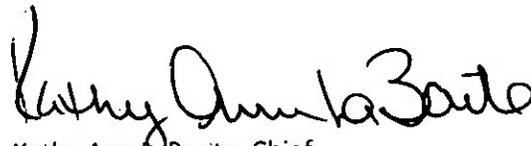
Class 030, Equipment, is being increased so the Department can purchase one Utility Terrain Vehicle, five dual sport trail bikes, two electric trail bikes, and four covered trailers. With the increase in fuel cost, these motor bikes would allow us to more efficiently and cost effectively enforce OHRV laws across the state. The enclosed trailers for towing snowmobiles/OHRVs would help us in maintaining our snowmobile and OHRV fleet. Within the past couple of years we have seen increased maintenance cost, particularly to our snowmobile fleet, due to road dirt and salt penetrating the snowmobile motors when transported on open trailers.

Class 103, Contracts for Operational Services, is being increased to pay for the development cost of migrating OHRV renewal registrations to an on-line platform. HB 1554 states "The executive director shall, no later than September 1, 2025, establish any procedures that may be necessary to enable the online payment of registration fees required or imposed under this chapter." These funds will be used to enter into a contract with our online vendor to provide this service.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott R. Mason
Executive Director



Kathy Ann LaBonte, Chief
Business Division

Fiscal Situation
OHRV Account 20-07500-11830000-009-405928

Balance Forward 07/01/2022	2,345,932
Total Additions (Revenue Estimate)	6,578,755
Less Operating Budget Appropriations	(6,578,755)
Total	2,345,932
Ending Balance	2,345,932
Less Current Request	<u>(2,133,400)</u>
Ending Balance June 30, 2023	<u>212,532</u>