0 JUL 24'23 PM 2:47 RCV

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTS AND LANDS
172 Pembroke Road Concord, New Hampshire 03301
Phone: 603-271-2214 Fax: 603-271-6488 www.nh.gov/nhdfl

48A

July 24, 2023

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court and

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

REQUESTED ACTION

1. Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), Division of Forests and Lands, Natural Heritage Bureau to budget and expending prior year carry forward funds in the amount of $319,014 for the purpose of supporting various program initiatives within the Natural Heritage Bureau, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2025. 100% Other Funds (Agency Income).

2. Pursuant to RSA 124:15 and contingent upon approval of Requested Action #1, authorize the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Forests and Lands, Natural Heritage Bureau to establish one temporary full-time Environmentalist III (LG 23) position and one temporary full-time Environmentalist I (LG 16) to support various program initiatives within the Natural Heritage Bureau, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council approval through June 30, 2025. 100% Other Funds (Agency Income)

Funds are to be budgeted as follows:

03-035-035-351010-21030000, Natural Heritage – Agency Income

Class-Account-RG	Class Description	FY24 Current Adjusted Authorized	Requested Action	FY24 Revised Adjusted Authorized
00S-000010	General Funds	$169,223		$169,223
001-484944-69	Transfers From Other Agency	$49,738		$49,738
004-408189-68	Intra Agency Transfers	$290,001		$290,001
009-401470-68	Agency Income	$39,693	$319,014	$358,707
	Total Revenue	**$548,655**	**$319,014**	**$867,669**
010-500100	Personal Services Perm Class	$262,447		$262,447
020-500200	Current Expenses	$7,000	$4,000	$11,000
026-500251	Organizational Dues	$1,000		$1,000
027-582703	Transfers To Doit	$36,874		$36,874
029-500290	Intra-Agency Transfers	$28,998		$28,998
030-500301	Equipment New/Replacement	$0		$0
039-500190	Telecommunications	$1,900		$1,900
040-500800	Indirect Costs	$2,000		$2,000
042-500620	Additional Fringe Benefits	$20,714		$20,714
050-500109	Personal Service Temp Appoint	$12,848		$12,848
059-500117	Temp Full Time	$0	$221,482	$221,482
060-500601	Benefits	$144,566	$89,532	$234,098
070-500702	In State Travel Reimbursement	$1,000	$4,000	$5,000
080-500712	Out Of State Travel Reimbursement	$4,000		$4,000
103-502674	Contracts For Op Services	$25,000		$25,000
211-501530	Property and Casualty Insurance	$308		$308
	Total Expenses	**$548,655**	**$319,014**	**$867,669**

EXPLANATION

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), Division of Forests and Lands, Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) provides information on native plants and natural communities to assist landowners and land managers. The ecologists and botanists in NHB analyze data on the status, location and distribution of rare or declining native plant species and natural communities on public lands and on private lands with landowner permission. NHB's database contains information on over 7,500 native plants, exemplary natural communities and wildlife (in partnership with NH Fish and Game) in New Hampshire (RSA 217-A).

NHB is requesting to create two full-time temporary positions to assist with this work and will utilize an existing carried forward balance of available funds comprised predominantly of the Conservation Plate

Funds per RSA 261:97-b. Your approval of this request allows NHB to develop and recommend measures for the protection, conservation, enhancement, and management of native New Hampshire plants and natural community systems on approximately 200,000 acres that DNCR manages as well as other interested local, state, federal and non-profit partners that manage lands.

The following appropriation authorities are being requested:

Class 020 – Current Expenses – Additional appropriation needed to pay for program supplies.

Class 059 – Temp Full Time - Additional appropriation needed for the cost of two full-time temporary positions.

Class 060 – Benefits – Additional appropriation for the cost of benefits for the full- time temporary positions.

Class 070 – In State Travel Reimbursement – For per diem, hotel and meals costs as well as fuel and fleet vehicle maintenance costs.

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

1. **List of personnel involved:** We are requesting to create an Environmentalist III, Labor Grade 23, full time temporary position. We are requesting to create an Environmentalist I, Labor Grade 16 full time temporary position.

2. **Nature, Need and Duration:** The budgeting of the balance forward funds will allow NHB to conduct surveys, apply scientifically rigorous ecological assessments and provide information and recommendations. NHB receives requests for information from landowners, this will refine the database (add and/or remove records in the database) for more accurate information. The duration is for the biennium.

3. **Relationship to existing agency programs:** These are additional positions to assist with NHB's program.

4. **Has a similar program been requested of the legislature and denied?** No.

5. **Why wasn't funding included in the agency's budget request?** A request was considered during budget development, however, due to fiscal uncertainty the request was excluded from the budget submission.

6. **Can portions of the grant funds be utilized?** Not applicable.

7. **Estimate the funds required to continue this position(s):** Approximately $159,507 per fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah L. Stewart
Commissioner