



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Scott R. Mason
Executive Director

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September 25, 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 14:30-a, VI, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG) requests authorization to accept and expend federal funds in the amount of \$797,125 from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the purpose of acquiring 635 +/- acres in the town of Springfield, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approvals through June 30, 2024. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds to be budgeted as follows:

Wildlife Habitat Conservation						
03-75-75-751520-21550000						
Fiscal Year 2024						
Class	Expense Account	Class Description	Revenue Account	Current Budget	Requested Change	Adjusted Budget
000		FEDERAL FUNDS	404705-16	1,659,034	797,125	2,456,159
007		CLNA ENDOWMENT FUNDS	407629-24	39,946	0	39,946
008		HABITAT STAMPS/PRINTS	405234-10	1,469,832	0	1,469,832
009		INTEREST EARNINGS	405462-14	3,115	0	3,115
Total				3,171,927	797,125	3,969,052
Expense						
010	500100	PERSONAL SERVICES PERMANENT		57,584		57,584
020	500200	CURRENT EXPENSES		1,300		1,300
022	500255	RENTS/LEASES		564		564
029	500290	INTRA-AGENCY TRANSFER		15,000		15,000
030	500311	EQUIPMENT		170,073		170,073
033	500150	LAND ACQUISITIONS & EASEMENTS		2,205,876	796,328	3,002,204
041	500801	AUDIT FUND SET ASIDE		1,660	797	2,457
049	584935	TRANSFER TO OTHER STATE AGENCY		45,247		45,247
050	500109	PERSONAL SERVICES TEMPORARY		35,000		35,000
060	500612	BENEFITS		25,643		25,643
070	500704	IN STATE TRAVEL		2,000		2,000
073	500578	GRANTS NON FEDERAL		60,000		60,000
080	500719	OUT OF STATE TRAVEL		3,000		3,000
304	500841	RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT		498,980		498,980
305	500845	HABITAT ACQUISITION & MANAGEMENT		50,000		50,000
Total				3,171,927	797,125	3,969,052

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Explanation

NHFG proposes to acquire the fee interest from Daniel K. Thorne to 635 acres of land located in the Town of Springfield, Sullivan County, which will be added to the statewide Wildlife Management Area system for the protection of wild birds and mammals and their habitat, and to protect and provide for compatible public access to these resources.

This acquisition project presents an opportunity to protect substantial acreage of upland forest directly abutting the 6,679 acre Gile State Forest and to build greater connectivity between existing conservation lands in the area. The 635+/- acre Aaron Ledge property will extend the area of contiguous state land at that location to more than 7,300 acres, and improve connectivity to McDaniel's Marsh WMA, Grafton Pond Reservation, Springfield Town Forest, and the Johnson Farm (a 289 acre parcel to be bequeathed to the Department). There is an additional 185 acres owned by Jennifer Shaw that shares a 3,000-foot boundary line with Aaron Ledge to the south that the Department is also in the process of acquiring. The increased acreage of conservation land will enhance the wildlife corridor areas for wide ranging mammals such as bear, moose, fisher and deer.

The property's land cover is dominated by northern hardwood/conifer containing areas of mast producing species such as oak and beech. Along with the species mentioned above it will also provide breeding and feeding habitat for turkeys and numerous neo-tropical migrants. The 2015 NH Wildlife Action Plan identifies 6.5% of the parcel as highest quality habitat in the biological region with the remainder being supporting landscape.

The property will be acquired by NHFG using federal USFWS Wildlife Restoration Program funds. The appraised fair market value of the property is \$920,000, and the total project costs are \$1,062,834. The required 25% non-federal share of \$265,709 will be provided for in part by a \$150,000 cash donation received by the Department and approved by the NHFG Commission on September 19, 2023, with the difference of \$115,709 being provided through the value of Department owned lands previously donated or acquired with non-federal funds.

This acquisition is part of an effort to use Wildlife Restoration Program funds from the USFWS to expand and enhance the statewide Wildlife Management Area system under grant W-108-L-2. The purchase of this property will protect significant wildlife habitats and add to the area that is permanently available to the public for hunting, fishing and other wildlife related recreational activities. Approved federal grant F21AF04030 (NH W-108-L-2) includes \$797,125 in available federal funds from the USFWS for the fee purchase and associated project expenses, which represents 75% of the total project costs.

Funds are being budgeted in Class 033-Land Acquisitions to purchase this land.

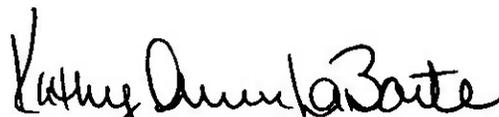
Funds are being budgeted in Class 041-Audit Fund Set Aside to comply with RSA 124:16 that requires all agencies which receive federal funds to set aside a percentage (.1%) of the federal revenue amount received to pay for financial and compliance audits.

General Funds will not be requested to support this project.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott R. Mason
Executive Director



Kathy Ann LaBonte, Chief
Business Division

1. DATE ISSUED MM/DD/YYYY 1a. SUPERSEDES AWARD NOTICE dated 08/03/2023
 08/14/2023 except that any additions or restrictions previously imposed remain in effect unless specifically rescinded

NOTICE OF AWARD



AUTHORIZATION (Legislation/Regulations)

Pitman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act—Wildlife Restoration and Basic Hunter Education (16 U.S.C. §669 et seq., except as Pub. L. 106-

2. CFDA NO.
15.811 - Wildlife Restoration and Basic Hunter Education

3. ASSISTANCE TYPE Formula Grant

4. GRANT NO. F21AF04030-04 5. TYPE OF AWARD Other
 Originating MCA #

4a. FAJN F21AF04030 5a. ACTION TYPE Post Award Amendment

6. PROJECT PERIOD MM/DD/YYYY
 From 08/01/2021 Through 06/30/2026

7. BUDGET PERIOD MM/DD/YYYY
 From 08/01/2021 Through 06/30/2026

8. TITLE OF PROJECT (OR PROGRAM)
 NH W-108-L-2 State Wildlife Management Area Enhancement

9a. GRANTEE NAME AND ADDRESS
 NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH & GAME
 11 HAZEN DR
 CONCORD, NH, 03301-6502

9b. GRANTEE PROJECT DIRECTOR
 Ms. Joenne Elmsary
 11 HAZEN DR
 CONCORD, NH, 03301-6502
 Phone: 603-271-5825

10a. GRANTEE AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL
 Mr. Randy L. Curtis
 11 Hazen Drive
 Concord, NH, 03301-6500
 Phone: 803-271-0801

10b. FEDERAL PROJECT OFFICER
 Ms. Emily Blackman
 300 Westgate Center Drive
 Hadley, MA, 01035
 Phone: (571) 218-5042

ALL AMOUNTS ARE SHOWN IN USD

11. APPROVED BUDGET (Excludes Direct Assistance)	
I Financial Assistance from the Federal Awarding Agency Only	
II Total project costs including grant funds and all other financial participation	
a. Salaries and Wages	\$ 128,000.00
b. Fringe Benefits	\$ 72,000.00
c. Total Personnel Costs	\$ 200,000.00
d. Equipment	\$ 0.00
e. Supplies	\$ 0.00
f. Travel	\$ 3,000.00
g. Construction	\$ 0.00
h. Other	\$ 8,497,202.54
i. Contractual	\$ 171,375.00
j. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$ 8,871,577.54
k. INDIRECT COSTS	\$ 40,000.00
l. TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET	\$ 6,911,577.54
m. Federal Share	\$ 5,004,356.00
n. Non-Federal Share	\$ 1,907,221.54

12. AWARD COMPUTATION	
a. Amount of Federal Financial Assistance (from Item 11m)	\$ 5,004,356.00
b. Less Unobligated Balance From Prior Budget Periods	\$ 0.00
c. Less Cumulative Prior Award(s) This Budget Period	\$ 2,402,231.00
d. AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THIS ACTION	\$ 2,602,125.00
13. Total Federal Funds Awarded to Date for Project Period	\$ 5,004,356.00

14. RECOMMENDED FUTURE SUPPORT
 (Subject to the availability of funds and satisfactory progress of the project):

YEAR	TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	YEAR	TOTAL DIRECT COSTS
a. 2	\$	d. 5	\$
b. 3	\$	e. 6	\$
c. 4	\$	f. 7	\$

15. PROGRAM INCOME SHALL BE USED IN ACCORD WITH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES:

- a. DEDUCTION
- b. ADDITIONAL COSTS
- c. MATCHING
- d. OTHER RESEARCH (Add / Deduct Option)
- e. OTHER (See REMARKS)

e

16. THIS AWARD IS BASED ON AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO, AND AS APPROVED BY, THE FEDERAL AWARDDING AGENCY ON THE ABOVE TITLED PROJECT AND IS SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS INCORPORATED EITHER DIRECTLY OR BY REFERENCE IN THE FOLLOWING:

- a. The grant program legislation.
- b. The grant program regulations.
- c. This award notice including terms and conditions, if any, noted below under REMARKS.
- d. Federal administrative requirements, cost principles and audit requirements applicable to this grant.

In the event there are conflicting or otherwise inconsistent policies applicable to the grant, the above order of precedence shall prevail. Acceptance of the grant terms and conditions is acknowledged by the grantee when funds are drawn or otherwise obtained from the grant payment system.

REMARKS (Other Terms and Conditions Attached - Yes No)

An obligation of \$2,602,125.00 has been made to grant F21AF04030 NH W-108-L-2 State Wildlife Management Area Enhancement.

A revision to change the scope of work has been approved - Aaron Ledge fee property. NH is approved to acquire the Aaron Ledge fee property and drawdown the associated federal funds of \$797,125.

GRANTS MANAGEMENT OFFICIAL:

Shelley Dibona, GRANTS FISCAL OFFICER
 300 WESTGATE CENTER DRIVE
 HADLEY, MA, 01035
 Phone: 413-253-8509

17. VENDOR CODE	0070059517	18a. UEI XVNEMFW345H9	18b. DUNS 808590863	19. CONG. DIST.	02	
LINE#	FINANCIAL ACCT	AMT OF FIN ASST	START DATE	END DATE	TAS ACCT	PO LINE DESCRIPTION
5	0051040411-00010	\$2,602,125.00	08/01/2021	06/30/2026	5029	5222 NH

NOTICE OF AWARD (Continuation Sheet)

PAGE 2 of 4	DATE ISSUED 08/14/2023
GRANT NO. F21AF04030-04	

LINE#	FINANCIAL ACCT	AMT OF FIN ASST	START DATE	END DATE	TAS ACCT	PR LINE DESCRIPTION
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September 8, 2023

TO: NH Fish & Game Commission & Staff
FROM: Scott R. Mason, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **COMMISSION AGENDA – SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

There will be a meeting of the NH Fish and Game Commission on Tuesday, **September 19, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.**, at the NH Fish & Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301.

The public is entitled to attend all Commission Meetings and when recognized by the Chairman, the public may speak on any item on the agenda. The Chairman reserves the right to limit public comments to the extent necessary for the orderly conduct of the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1.) Approval of the August 15, 2023 Commission Minutes. (E. Stohl)
- 2.) Consent Agenda – The following items have been grouped together and noticed as consent agenda items to expedite action on routine matters, which may not require public discussion. Commission members may remove certain items, if further public input or discussion is deemed necessary.
 - 2a.) Approval to accept the donation of a cougar mount, valued at approximately \$500.00, in memory of John Harrigan, from The NH Wildlife Coalition. The mount was given to John by Chris Schadler's Father, at which time he requested it be donated to the NH Fish & Game Department upon his passing. (S. Mason)
 - 2b.) Approval to accept the donation of \$125.00 from the Weeks State Park Association. This donation was made in appreciation of a presentation provided by Colby Denison, Fisheries Biologist, at the Weeks State Park on August 10, 2023. (D. Timmins)
 - 2c.) Approval to accept the donation of \$300.00 from Cecilia Rai & Jim Koren. This donation was made in appreciation of services rendered by Conservation Officers while assisting Nicholas Swertlow off the Dickey Mountain Trail in Thornton, NH, after sustaining an injury. (K. Jordan)
 - 2d.) Approval to accept the following donations totaling \$100.00 made in memory of Peter Abair, avid sportsmen, of Springfield, NH, for deposit into the Small Gifts & Donations Account. (S. Mason)

• Susan Cutting, Springfield, NH -	\$50.00
• Pauline Fritts, Springfield, NH -	\$50.00
Total: \$100.00	
 - 2e.) Approval to accept the donation of \$150,000 from the Charles D. Parsons Family Trust, to be used as part of the non-federal match for the 63.5 acre acquisition of the Aaron Ledge property in Springfield, NH. (B. McNaughten)