



State of New Hampshire
 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES
 DIVISION OF FORESTS & LANDS

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March 24, 2025

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

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
 and the Honorable Council
 State House Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), Division of Forests and Lands respectfully requests authorization to accept and expend a Federal Grant Award #25-DG-1194200-065 in the amount of \$2,000,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture, United States Forest Service for the mitigation and risk reduction activities related to spruce budworm outbreaks on state and private lands in northern New Hampshire, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council approval through June 30, 2025. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds to be budgeted in the following account:

03-035-035-351010-35160000, Forest Health - Federal

Class-Account- RG	Class Description	FY25 Current Adjusted Authorized	Requested Action	Revised FY25 Adjusted Authorized
000-404796-16	Federal Funds	\$514,721	\$2,000,000	\$2,514,721
Total Revenue		\$514,721	\$2,000,000	\$2,514,721
010-500100	Personal Services Perm Classified	\$91,136	\$90,000	\$181,136
018-500106	Overtime	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000
020-500200	Current Expenses	\$24,083	\$80,000	\$104,083
022-500255	Rents-Leases Other than State	\$1,560	\$0	\$1,560
023-500291	Heat Electricity Water	\$5,869	\$0	\$5,869
029-500290	Intra-Agency Transfers	\$105,188	\$0	\$105,188

030-500311	Equipment New/Replacement	\$19,347	\$60,000	\$79,347
039-500188	Telecommunications	\$3,477	\$0	\$3,477
040-501587	Indirect Costs (20.01%)	\$21,752	\$18,009	\$39,761
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	\$625	\$2,000	\$2,625
042-500620	Additional Fringe Benefits	\$11,495	\$37,000	\$48,495
050-500109	Personal Service- Temp/Appoint	\$39,148	\$20,000	\$59,148
060-500612	Benefits	\$78,627	\$45,000	\$123,627
070-500704	In-State Travel Reimbursement	\$3,557	\$30,000	\$33,557
072-500572	Grants Federal	\$9,667	\$1,577,991	\$1,587,658
080-500713	Out-of-State Travel	\$36,200	\$10,000	\$46,200
103-502664	Contracts for Operational Service	49,272	\$30,000	\$79,272
211-500757	Catastrophic Casualty Insurance	\$1,717	\$0	\$1,717
Total Expenses		\$514,721	\$2,000,000	\$2,514,721

EXPLANATION

The Division of Forests and Lands requests authorization to accept and expend Spruce Budworm Mitigation Grant #25-DG-1194200-065 funds of \$2,000,000 to provide funding to landowners at risk of severe economic and environmental damage from the massive North American outbreak of spruce budworm occurring across the boreal forests of southern Canada and eastern U.S. Funding will help treat infested forests, improve monitoring techniques, perform precommercial thinning in young stands, plant white spruce, and improve access to high-risk forests likely needing treatments.

This spruce budworm grant is the result of collaboration between large forestland owners in NH and Maine, State Forestry Agencies and the Senatorial offices of Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Senator Susan Collins. This Federal allocation is part of the American Relief Act 2025.

The following additional appropriation authorities are being requested:

Class 010-Personal Services Perm. Classified- Additional appropriation for time working in this budworm program of existing positions.

Class 020-Current Expenses- Appropriation to pay for pesticides, pheromones, lab supplies.

Class 030-Equipment New Replacement- Appropriation for vehicle costs over \$3,000 dollars.

Class 040-Indirect Costs- Appropriation needed to pay for required indirect costs associated with the grant.

Class 041-Audit Fund Set Aside- Appropriation needed for required audit fund set aside to comply with RSA 124:16 that requires all agencies which receive federal funds to set aside a percentage (0.1%) of the federal revenue amount received to pay for financial and compliance audits.

Class 042-Additional Fringe Benefits- Appropriation for required post-retirement benefits.

Class 050-Personal Service-Temp- Appropriation for seasonal summer technician work in the north of existing positions.

Class 060-Benefits- Appropriation for additional benefits related to time spent on this project of existing positions.

Class 070-In-State Travel- Appropriation for costs associated with fuel, vehicles, overnight per diem.

Class 072- Federal Grants- Appropriation for the development of a landowner grant program to fund activities on State or Federal lands.

Class 080- Out of State Travel- Appropriation for working with regional partners in New England and Canada.

Class 103- Contracts for Operational Services- Appropriation for anticipated forestry work on State lands.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick D. Hackley

Patrick D. Hackley
Director

Concurred,

Sarah Stewart 

Sarah L. Stewart
Commissioner

**FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
AWARD OF DOMESTIC GRANT 25-DG-11094200-065
Between The
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE - DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL
RESOURCES
And The
USDA, FOREST SERVICE
EASTERN REGION, STATE PRIVATE AND TRIBAL FORESTRY**

Program Title: New Hampshire: Eastern Spruce Budworm Mitigation

Upon execution of this document, an award to State of New Hampshire- Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, hereinafter referred to as “the Cooperator,” in the amount of **\$2,000,000.00**, is made under the authority of Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, P.L. 95-313 as amended, 16 U.S.C. 2104. The Federal Assistance Listing (formerly Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance - CFDA) number and name are 10.680, Forest Health Protection. State of New Hampshire - Department of Natural and Cultural Resources accepts this award for the purpose described in the application narrative. Your application for Federal financial assistance, dated 02/27/2025, and the attached Forest Service provisions, ‘Forest Service Award Provisions,’ are incorporated into this letter and made a part of this award.

This authority requires a match of 1:1 which has been waived.

This is an award of Federal financial assistance. Prime and sub-recipients to this award are subject to the OMB guidance in subparts A through F of 2 CFR Part 200 as adopted and supplemented by the USDA in 2 CFR Part 400. Adoption by USDA of the OMB guidance in 2 CFR 400 gives regulatory effect to the OMB guidance in 2 CFR 200 where full text may be found.

Electronic copies of the CFRs can be obtained at the following internet site: www.ecfr.gov. If you are unable to retrieve these regulations electronically, please contact your Grants and Agreements Office at sm.fs.r9spfgrants@usda.gov.

The following administrative provisions apply to this award:

- A. **LEGAL AUTHORITY.** The Cooperator shall have the legal authority to enter into this award, and the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project, which includes funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs, when applicable.
- B. **PRINCIPAL CONTACTS.** Individuals listed below are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this award.



Principal Cooperator Contacts:

Cooperator Program Contact	Cooperator Administrative Contact
Kyle Lombard 172 Pembroke Rd. Concord, NH 03301 603-464-3016 Kyle.d.lombard@dncr.nh.gov	Leslie Sherman 172 Pembroke Rd. Concord, NH 03301 603-271-3456 Leslie.a.sherman@dncr.nh.gov

Principal Forest Service Contacts:

Forest Service Program Manager Contact	Forest Service Administrative Contact
Michael Bohne 271 Mast Road Durham, NH 03824-0640 603-868-7708 michael.bohne@usda.gov	D Penny Berry 626 E. Wisconsin Ave. Milwaukee, WI 934-899-0167 Penny.Berry@usda.gov

- C. **SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT (SAM).** The Cooperator shall maintain current organizational information and the original Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) provided for this agreement in the System for Award Management (SAM) until receipt of final payment. This requires annual review and updates, when needed, of organizational information after the initial registration. More frequent review and updates may be required for changes in organizational information or agreement term(s). Any change to the original UEI provided in this agreement will result in termination of this agreement and de-obligation of any remaining funds. For purposes of this agreement, System for Award Management (SAM) means the Federal repository into which an entity must provide information required for the conduct of business as a Cooperative. Additional information about registration procedures may be found at the SAM Internet site at www.sam.gov.
- D. **ADVANCE AND REIMBURSABLE PAYMENTS – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.** Advance and reimbursable payments are approved under this award. Only costs for those project activities approved in (1) the initial award, or (2) modifications thereto, are allowable. Requests for payment must be submitted on Standard Form 270 (SF-270), Request for Advance or Reimbursement, and must be submitted no more than monthly. In order to approve a Request for Advance Payment or Reimbursement, the Forest Service shall review such requests to ensure advances or payments for reimbursement are in compliance and otherwise consistent with OMB, USDA, and Forest Service regulations.

Advance payments must not exceed the minimum amount needed or no more than is needed for a 30-day period, whichever is less. If the Recipient receives an advance payment and subsequently requests an advance or reimbursement payment, then the request must clearly demonstrate that the previously advanced funds have been fully expended before the Forest Service can approve the request for payment. Any funds advanced, but not spent, upon expiration of this award must be returned to the Forest Service.

The Program Manager reserves the right to request additional information prior to approving a payment.

To expedite payment, please attach a list of expenses that match the approved project budget when submitting each SF-270. Each SF-270 shall include the award number (25-DG-11094200-065) in Block 4. If this award has multiple projects, each project must be identified in separate columns for tracking purposes in Block 11. A final SF-270 must have a final performance report submitted prior to its approval.

<p>The invoice must be sent by one of three methods:</p> <p>EMAIL (preferred): SM.FS.asc_ga@usda.gov</p> <p>FAX: 877-687-4894</p> <p>POSTAL: USDA Forest Service Budget & Finance - Grants and Agreements 4000 Masthead St, NE Albuquerque, NM 87109</p>	<p>Send a copy to:</p> <p>michael.bohne@usda.gov</p>
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- E. **INDIRECT COST RATES.** The approved indirect cost rate at the time of execution is **20.01%** as shown in the NICRA provided by the Cooperator.

As new NICRAs are agreed to between and their cognizant audit agency, the revised provisional or final rate(s) are automatically incorporated into this award, as appropriate, and must specify (1) the agreed upon rates, (2) the bases to which the rates apply, (3) the fiscal year for which the rates apply, and (4) the items treated as direct costs. The award obligation will not increase as a result of indirect cost rate increases. Updates to NICRAs will not affect the total funds available for this award unless documented in a formally executed modification.

If the NICRA is for a provisional rate, The Cooperator shall be reimbursed at the established provisional rate(s), subject to appropriate adjustment when the final rate(s) for the fiscal year are established.

- F. **PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL.** The Cooperator shall obtain prior written approval pursuant to conditions set forth in 2 CFR 200.407.

- G. MODIFICATIONS. Modifications within the scope of this award must be made by mutual consent of the parties, by the issuance of a written modification signed and dated by all properly authorized signatory officials, prior to any changes being performed. Requests for modification should be made, in writing, at least 90 days prior to implementation of the requested change. The Forest Service is not obligated to fund any changes not properly approved in advance.
- H. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE. This agreement is executed as of the date of the Forest Service signatory official signature.

The end date, or expiration date is **03/01/2030**. This instrument may be extended by a properly executed modification. *See Modification Provision above.*

- I. **AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES.** By signature below, each party certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the individual parties are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this award. In witness whereof the parties hereto have executed this award.

Sarah L.
Stewart

Digitally signed by Sarah L. Stewart
DN: CN = Sarah L. Stewart email = sarah.l.stewart@dnra.nh.gov C = US O = SoNH
Department of Natural and Cultural
Resources OU = Office of the Commissioner
Date: 2025.03.11 09:48:37 -0400'

3/17/25

Sarah L. Stewart, Commissioner

Date

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE- DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

ROBERT
LUECKEL

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ROBERT LUECKEL
Date: 2025.03.17
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3/17/25

ROBERT LUECKEL, DEPUTY REGIONAL
FORESTER
EASTERN REGION, STATE, PRIVATE AND
TRIBAL FORESTRY

Date

The authority and the format of this award have been reviewed and approved for signature.

DIONNE
BERRY

Digitally signed by
DIONNE BERRY
Date: 2025.03.14
14:36:44 -04'00'

3/14/25

D. PENNY BERRY
Forest Service Grants Management Specialist

Date