



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Stephanie L. Simek, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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May 28, 2025

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 4:8 Gifts to the State, authorize the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to accept a donation of \$5,000.00 from the John Berry Family Trust, to be donated to the Law Enforcement Division to be utilized for Search and Rescue Missions conducted by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Advanced Search and Rescue Team, from the date of Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2025. Funds to be deposited as follows:

	<u>FY 2025</u>
Funds to be deposited into 020 07500 21120000 407364 Search & Rescue Fees	\$5,000.00

EXPLANATION

The John Berry family trust has been making annual financial donations to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Law Enforcement Division for the past several years. This donation is made each year to honor New Hampshire Fish and Game Officers and to recognize all the work they do during challenging search and rescue missions throughout the state. This donation will provide much needed financial support to outfit the Conservation Officers and the Canine teams with lifesaving safety equipment and essential training that is utilized to complete a myriad of search and rescue missions each year. This donation will greatly assist the members of the Advanced Search and Rescue Team to be successful in achieving improved public safety and education with the challenges faced during the various off trail backcountry search and rescue issues.

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Commission voted unanimously to accept this donation at their February 18, 2025, Commission Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie L. Simek Ph.D.
Executive Director

Kathy Ann LaBonte, Chief
Business Division

2c.) The Commission accepted the donation of \$100.00 from Frank Dubisz, Manchester, NH, made to the "Let's Go Fishing" Program. Frank was a volunteer instructor for the "Let's Go Fishing" Program.

3.) Commissioner A.J. DeRosa moved to accept the donation of \$5,000 made to the Search & Rescue Account from John Berry and Commissioner E. Stohl seconded. This donation was made to honor NH Conservation Officers & what they do during search & rescue missions. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

4.) Commissioner A.J. DeRosa moved to accept the donation of \$2,500 made to the Search & Rescue account from Duncan Sutherland and Commissioner E. Stohl seconded. This donation was made to honor and thank the responding Conservation Officers for assistance he received after suffering an injury and required assistance off Mt. Morgan Trail in Holderness, NH. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.) Andy Timmins, Game Programs Supervisor, came before the Commission seeking approval to enter into the formal rulemaking process for the draft initial game management rules.

Andy reported that he was before the Commission seeking approval to enter the formal process for wildlife related rules, season structure and method and manner of take.

He further reported that the draft proposals would be presented to the Commission at the March 18, 2025 Commission Meeting.

Director Simek added that we were going through the process with JLCAR (Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules) now. She stated that if the Commission decides to approve, once completed, the draft rules would be posted online and shared with the Commission well in advance of the next Commission Meeting, with a formal presentation before the Commission at the March 18, 2025 Commission Meeting.

Commissioner A.J. DeRosa moved to enter the formal rulemaking process and Commissioner E. Stohl seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1.) Financial Statement – Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Business Division, informed the Commission that license sales are \$937,000 ahead of last year at this time.

Commissioner A.J. DeRosa inquired if she contributed it to the cold & snow this year.

Kathy responded that she believed it very well could be the reasoning for the increase.

In addition, Chairman R. Green asked that Commissioner B. Temple meet with Kathy LaBonte & Director Simek regarding the Commission's budget.