



# New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Stephanie L. Simek, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

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August 13, 2025

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

## REQUESTED ACTION

- 1) Authorize the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG) to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Council on Resources and Development (CORD) relative to the funding of conservation easement monitoring, pursuant to RSA 162-C:8 effective from the date of Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2035. **No cost.**
- 2) Contingent on the approval of Item #1, authorize NHFG to deposit \$50,000 from the Town of Milan into the State of NH Monitoring Endowment, administered by CORD, to support the annual monitoring and stewardship of easements on Town of Milan property that were previously approved for acquisition by Governor and Council at the May 21, 2025 meeting (item #66). **No cost.**

## EXPLANATION

NHFG periodically receives gifts, donations, or grants to provide for long-term monitoring and stewardship of conservation easements purchased by the State of NH by and through NHFG. RSA 162-C:8 authorizes such funds to be deposited into the Monitoring Endowment, which is administered by CORD, for this purpose. The proposed MOA provides the authority for NHFG to deposit funds into the Monitoring Endowment so that they will generate interest to financially support easement stewardship.

Related to this, NHFG acquired conservation easements on two properties, totaling 782 acres, in the Town of Milan which were added to their community forest. The purchase of the easements was approved by G&C at the May 21, 2025 meeting and closed on July 9, 2025. A contribution to the state's Monitoring Endowment is required for any easement purchased by NHFG. Through fundraising that they and their partners did, the Town of Milan is providing \$50,000 to the State of NH for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie L. Simek, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

Kathy Ann LaBonte, Chief  
Business Division

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**Between the**  
**COUNCIL ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**and the**  
**NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT**  
**for the**  
**Funding of Conservation Easement Monitoring under Endowment**

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is entered into by the Council on Resources and Development (CORD) and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG).

**Whereas**, NHFG is mandated by RSA 206:4-a to conserve, protect and manage fish, wildlife, and marine resources and to acquire, develop and manage lands and waters for recreational purposes; and

**Whereas**, NHFG acquires conservation easements in perpetuity to protect fish and wildlife habitat and to provide public access to said lands; and

**Whereas**, NHFG periodically receives gifts, donations and grants as endowment to ensure that stewardship monitoring and enforcement will occur in perpetuity on said lands; and

**Whereas**, CORD is responsible for managing and administering the lands acquired and funds established under the land conservation investment program (LCIP) under RSA 162-C:6;

**Whereas**, CORD is authorized under RSA 162-C:8 to accept gifts, donations, and grants to the Monitoring Endowment to be utilized for monitoring and enforcing other land conservation interests that may be acquired by the state; and

**Whereas**, CORD has the authority under RSA 162-C:8 to provide funds from the monitoring endowment to NHFG to cover the costs of monitoring other land conservation interests held by the state of New Hampshire;

**Now Therefore**, all parties agree as follows:

- 1) This Agreement applies to all gifts, donations and grants deposited into the Monitoring Endowment by NHFG pursuant to RSA 162-C:8, and to stewardship of the associated non-LCIP conservation easements held by NHFG for which the funds were received.
- 2) This Agreement covers a ten (10) year time period commencing on the date of Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2035. However, it is the intention of the parties to continue the long-term stewardship of conservation lands through timely renewal of this Agreement. This Agreement may be amended in writing if necessary, with the consent of both parties.
- 3) CORD and NHFG agree to cooperate as follows:

NHFG agrees to:

- 1) at NHFG's discretion, deposit funds into the Monitoring Endowment in accordance with RSA 162-C:8 for the purpose of providing conservation easement stewardship support for the specific

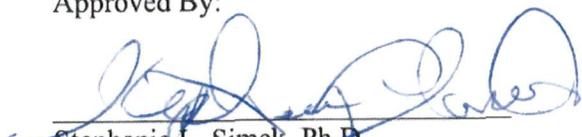
easement lands for which the funds were received. The donated amount shall be deemed to be sufficient to generate interest in the long-term to support stewardship efforts for the easement land in perpetuity; and

CORD agrees to:

1) at CORD's discretion, accept endowment contributions from NHFG into the Monitoring Endowment and allow expenditures from the endowment in accordance with RSA 162-C:8 for the purpose of providing conservation easement stewardship support for NHFG-managed conservation easements not already covered by the Monitoring Endowment (i.e., NHFG-managed easements not associated with the former Land Conservation Incentives Program).

In witness whereof, the respective parties hereunto set their hands on the dates indicated.

Approved By:

  
Stephanie L. Simek, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
NH Fish and Game Department

8/19/2025  
Date

  
Heather Shank, Director  
Division of Planning and Community Development  
Department of Business and Economic Affairs  
and CORD Chair

8/12/2025  
Date

Approved by the ATTORNEY GENERAL this 28 day of August, 2025.

Assistant Attorney General Keely Lovato  
Keely Lovato

Approved by GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL

Deputy Secretary of State \_\_\_\_\_