



# New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301-6500  
(603) 271-3421  
FAX: (603) 271-5829

www.wildlife.nh.gov  
Email: info@wildlife.nh.gov  
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

Stephanie L. Simek, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

April 7, 2026

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, NH 03301

## REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG) to accept and expend federal funds in the amount of \$1,672,500 from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the purpose of acquiring approximately 1,308 acres of land in the towns of Marlow and Alstead, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2027. Hunting and fishing are permissible uses on the land. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds are to be budgeted as follows:

Wildlife Habitat Program						
03-75-75-751520-21550000						
Fiscal Year 2026						
Class	Expense	Class Description	Revenue	Current	Change	Adjusted
000	404705	FEDERAL FUNDS	404705-16	\$558,914	\$1,672,500	2,231,414
007	407629	CLNA ENDOWMENT FUNDS	407629-24	77,978	0	77,978
008	405234	HABITAT STAMPS/PRINTS	405234-10	366,888	0	366,888
009	405462	INTEREST ON INVESTMENT	405462-14	4,976	0	4,976
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$1,008,756</b>	<b>\$1,672,500</b>	<b>\$2,681,256</b>
<b>Expense</b>						
010	500100	PERSONAL SERVICES-PERMANENT		67,274	0	67,274
020	500200	CURRENT EXPENSES		1,300	0	1,300
022	500255	RENTS/LEASES		564	0	564
029	500290	INTRA-AGENCY TRANSFERS		15,000	0	15,000
030	500311	EQUIPMENT NEW/REPLACEMENT		3,349	0	3,349
033	500033	LAND ACQUISITIONS & EASEMENTS	404705-16	135,500	1,670,827	1,806,327
041	500801	AUDIT FUND SET ASIDE	404705-16	559	1,673	2,232
049	584922	TRANSFERS TO OTHER AGENCIES		35,000	0	35,000
050	500109	PERSONAL SERVICES - TEMPORARY		16,499	0	16,499
060	500602	BENEFITS		27,488	0	27,488
070	500704	IN STATE TRAVEL		2,000	0	2,000
072	500578	GRANTS NON-FEDERAL		40,000	0	40,000
080	500710	OUT OF STATE TRAVEL		2,500	0	2,500
304	500841	RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT		617,004	0	617,004
305	500845	HABITAT ACQUISITION & MGM		44,719	0	44,719
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$1,008,756</b>	<b>\$1,672,500</b>	<b>\$2,681,256</b>

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

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte  
and the Honorable Council

### EXPLANATION

NHFG proposes to acquire approximately 1,308 acres of land in the towns of Marlow and Alstead, Cheshire County, from The Conservation Fund, which acquired the property in August 2024 as an interim step to allow NHFG time to obtain federal and state approvals for the acquisition. The property will be added to the statewide Wildlife Management Area system for the protection of wild birds and mammals and their habitat, and to provide compatible public access, including hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing.

This acquisition represents an opportunity to protect a large, contiguous block of habitat that will enhance connectivity with existing conservation lands in the region. The property has been managed to promote wildlife habitat and contains a diverse mix of forest types, wetlands, and riparian resources associated with Grassy Brook, a headwater stream of the Ashuelot River. These habitat features support a wide variety of species, including upland gamebirds, waterfowl, furbearers, and large mammals such as deer, bear, and moose. The majority of the property is identified in the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan as important habitat, including significant areas ranked as Tier 1.

Hunting and fishing are permissible uses on the land. The property will also be open to compatible public uses, including trapping, wildlife viewing, hiking, snowshoeing, and other non-motorized recreation, in accordance with Wildlife Management Area rules and applicable state laws. Motorized uses are not permitted, except for an existing snowmobile trail, which the Department intends to continue to allow under permit following acquisition. Additional uses may be allowed by special use permit in accordance with Department rules and regulations.

The appraised fair market value of the property is \$1,890,000. Total project costs are \$2,230,000, including acquisition, appraisal, appraisal review, survey and boundary marking, environmental review, title, and other due diligence expenses. NHFG has entered into a purchase and sales agreement with TCF to acquire the fee interest at the appraised fair market value of \$1,890,000 utilizing \$1,672,500 in federal funds, representing 75% of the total project cost. The remaining 25% will be met through non-federal match, including in-kind contributions and Department owned lands previously donated or acquired with non-federal funds.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved the project under the Wildlife Restoration Program and allocated \$1,672,500 in federal funding for the acquisition of the property and associated project costs under Grant No. F21AF04030 (NH W-108-L-2).

Funds are budgeted in the following expense classes:

Class 033 – Land Acquisitions, for the purchase of the land.

Class 041 – Audit Fund Set Aside, in accordance with RSA 124:16.

General funds will not be requested to support this project.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephanie L. Simek, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



Kathy Ann LaBonte, Chief  
Business Division

**New Hampshire Fish & Game Department  
FY 26 Fiscal Situation**

**Wildlife Habitat Conservation  
03-75-75-751520-21550000**

Total Federal Authorization	\$	9,509,302.00
Less Budgeted in 2155 FY26	\$	135,500.00
Less Budgeted in 2150 FY26	\$	192,540.00
Less Budgeted Indirect FY26	\$	37,256.00
Less Funds Expended in Prior Fiscal Years	\$	3,624,756.00
Total Available for Budgeting	\$	5,519,250.00
Available to Budget at a Later Date	\$	3,846,750.00
<b>REQUESTED ACTION</b>	\$	<b>1,672,500.00</b>

Federal Grant	Grant Amount	Expended or Budgeted	Balance
F21AF04030 (W108L2)	\$9,509,302.00	\$3,990,052.00	\$5,519,250.00

**Note:** The Department's Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) allows for indirect costs on salaries and benefits only. The figure shown above for budgeted indirect includes the total estimated amount of federal reimbursement for agency indirect costs associated with this grant.