



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Stephanie L. Simek, Ph.D.
Executive Director

June 29, 2026

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG) to enter into a **sole source** Cooperative Project Agreement with University of New Hampshire (vendor code 315187) to conduct bat research and monitoring, for a total of \$22,357 from date of Governor and Council approval through April 30, 2027. Funds are 100% Federal.

Funds are available in the following account for Fiscal Year 2027:

03-75-75-751520-21250000 WILDLIFE PROGRAM – NONGAME MANAGEMENT

	<u>FY27</u>
20-07500-21250000-304-500841 Research and Management	\$22,357

EXPLANATION

The NHFG requests a **sole source** Cooperative Project Agreement with the University of New Hampshire (UNH) to carry out bat research and monitoring as detailed in Exhibit A. The purpose of this agreement is to investigate the impacts of white-nose syndrome (WNS) on bat maternity colonies and test methodologies to improve monitoring that will increase our capacity to identify, conserve, and restore quality habitat for bats.

New Hampshire's bat populations have declined dramatically due to WNS. Efforts to gain an increased understanding of species distribution, relative abundance, behavior and habitat preferences are critical to their conservation and recovery. Maternity colonies, where female bats gather to birth and raise their young, are a critical conservation priority and also offer an opportunity to monitor large numbers of bats. Through this project NH will monitor the impacts of WNS on these maternity colonies, learn more about seasonal phenology, and test methodologies to improve monitoring.

NHFG received a grant award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to complete this research and monitoring. UNH was an identified sub-recipient in the approved grant. The UNH Ecological Acoustics and Behavior Lab has extensive specialized expertise in technology and research for monitoring bats. In addition, UNH will provide in-kind support for the project through the use of equipment, supplies and services including thermal video recording equipment, bat acoustic detectors, custom software and use of a high-performance computer (which replaces an estimated 2,000 hours of processing time on a conventional personal computer) and 120 hours of volunteer time for manual counting of video segments to validate software counting.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie L. Simek, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Kathy Ann LaBonte
Business Division

COOPERATIVE PROJECT AGREEMENT

between the

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, **Department of Fish & Game**

and the

University of New Hampshire of the UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

- A. This Cooperative Project Agreement (hereinafter "Project Agreement") is entered into by the State of New Hampshire, **Department of Fish & Game**, (hereinafter "State"), and the University System of New Hampshire, acting through **University of New Hampshire**, (hereinafter "Campus"), for the purpose of undertaking a project of mutual interest. This Cooperative Project shall be carried out under the terms and conditions of the Master Agreement for Cooperative Projects between the State of New Hampshire and the University System of New Hampshire dated November 13, 2002, except as may be modified herein.
- B. This Project Agreement and all obligations of the parties hereunder shall become effective on the date the Governor and Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire approve this Project Agreement ("Effective date") and shall end on **4/30/27**. If the provision of services by Campus precedes the Effective date, all services performed by Campus shall be performed at the sole risk of Campus and in the event that this Project Agreement does not become effective, State shall be under no obligation to pay Campus for costs incurred or services performed; however, if this Project Agreement becomes effective, all costs incurred prior to the Effective date that would otherwise be allowable shall be paid under the terms of this Project Agreement.
- C. The work to be performed under the terms of this Project Agreement is described in the proposal identified below and attached to this document as Exhibit A, the content of which is incorporated herein as a part of this Project Agreement.

Project Title: **NH Bats—Monitoring, Research and Technical Assistance**

- D. The Following Individuals are designated as Project Administrators. These Project Administrators shall be responsible for the business aspects of this Project Agreement and all invoices, payments, project amendments and related correspondence shall be directed to the individuals so designated.

State Project Administrator

Name: Kathy Labonte
Address: NH Fish and Game Department
11 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Phone: 603-271-2741

Campus Project Administrator

Name: Gretchen Swain
Address: Sponsored Programs Administration
51 College Rd
Durham, NH 03824

Phone: 603-862-4865

- E. The Following Individuals are designated as Project Directors. These Project Directors shall be responsible for the technical leadership and conduct of the project. All progress reports, completion reports and related correspondence shall be directed to the individuals so designated.

State Project Director

Name: Sandra Houghton
Address: NH Fish and Game Department
11 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Phone: 603-271-5679

Campus Project Director

Name: Laura Kloepper
Address: University of New Hampshire
Spaulding Hall, Room 201h
Durham, NH 03824

Phone: 603-862-3897

- F. Total State funds in the amount of **\$22,357** have been allotted and are available for payment of allowable costs incurred under this Project Agreement. State will not reimburse Campus for costs exceeding the amount specified in this paragraph.

Check if applicable

☐ Campus will cost-share % of total costs during the term of this Project Agreement.

☒ Federal funds paid to Campus under this Project Agreement are from Grant/Contract/Cooperative Agreement No. **F25AS00296 (E-2-TW-8)** from **Department of Interior/Fish and Wildlife Service** under CFDA# **15.684**. Federal regulations required to be passed through to Campus as part of this Project Agreement, and in accordance with the Master Agreement for Cooperative Projects between the State of New Hampshire and the University System of New Hampshire dated November 13, 2002, are attached to this document as Exhibit B, the content of which is incorporated herein as a part of this Project Agreement.

G. Check if applicable

☐ Article(s) of the Master Agreement for Cooperative Projects between the State of New Hampshire and the University System of New Hampshire dated November 13, 2002 is/are hereby amended to read:

- H. ☒ State has chosen **not to take** possession of equipment purchased under this Project Agreement.
☐ State has chosen **to take** possession of equipment purchased under this Project Agreement and will issue instructions for the disposition of such equipment within 90 days of the Project Agreement's end-date. Any expenses incurred by Campus in carrying out State's requested disposition will be fully reimbursed by State.

This Project Agreement and the Master Agreement constitute the entire agreement between State and Campus regarding this Cooperative Project, and supersede and replace any previously existing arrangements, oral or written; all changes herein must be made by written amendment and executed for the parties by their authorized officials.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the University System of New Hampshire, acting through the **University of New Hampshire** and the State of New Hampshire, **Department of Fish & Game** have executed this Project Agreement.

**By An Authorized Official of:
University of New Hampshire**

Name: Dianne Hall

Title: Manager, Pre-Award Compliance

Signature and Date:

Dianne Hall

Digitally signed by Dianne Hall
Date: 2026.06.25 10:36:41
-04'00'

**By An Authorized Official of: the New
Hampshire Office of the Attorney General**

Name: Joshua Harrison

Title: Assistant Attorney General

Signature and Date:

Joshua Harrison

8/24/2026

**By An Authorized Official of:
Department of Fish & Game**

Name: Stephanie L. Simek, Ph.D.

Title: Executive Director

Signature and Date:

Stephanie L. Simek 23 July 2026

**By An Authorized Official of: the New
Hampshire Governor & Executive Council**

Name:

Title:

Signature and Date:

EXHIBIT A

- A. Project Title:** NH Bats—Monitoring, Research and Technical Assistance
- B. Project Period:** June 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027
- C. Objectives:** New Hampshire's bat populations have declined dramatically due to white-nose Syndrome (WNS). More specifically, little brown bat population declined by up to 90% due to WNS and they are now listed as endangered in New Hampshire. Efforts to gain an increased understanding of species distribution, relative abundance, behavior and habitat preferences are critical to their conservation and recovery.

Maternity colonies, where female bats gather to birth and raise their young, are a critical conservation priority and also offer an opportunity monitor large numbers of bats. Through this project NH will monitor the impacts of WNS on these maternity colonies, learn more about seasonal phenology, and test methodologies to improve monitoring. This research will increase our capacity to identify, conserve, and restore quality habitat for bats. To help meet this goal we propose the following objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1. Implement a research and monitoring program for bats at maternity colonies (7-10) in New Hampshire.

OBJECTIVE 2. Analyze a long term dataset from a little brown bat maternity colony for seasonal phenology and population trends.

- D. Scope of Work:** OBJECTIVE 1. Implement a research and monitoring program for bats at maternity colonies (7-10) in New Hampshire.

Monitor 7-10 bat maternity colonies using three methodologies: (1) emergence counts, (2) passive acoustic monitoring, and (3) at a subset of sites thermal camera recording. By comparing monitoring methodologies protocols may be refined to improve accuracy and efficiency. The emergence counts will follow the methodology of NH Bat Counts, a citizen science monitoring program. The accuracy of the emergence counts will be investigated by comparing them to counts obtained via thermal imagery. The acoustic data will be processed by converting the acoustic data to relative acoustic energy metrics, which can reveal seasonal increases in population size. The monitoring data will provide information on dynamics occurring at bat maternity colonies including seasonal phenology (e.g. juvenile volancy), impacts of weather, and estimates of colony growth rates. UNH will seek landowner permission for any private property accessed for surveys under this agreement. To meet this objective UNH will provide in-kind the use of equipment, supplies and services including thermal video recording equipment, bat acoustic detectors, custom software and use of a high-performance computer (which replaces an estimated 2,000 hours of processing time on a conventional personal computer) and 120 hours of volunteer time for manual counting of video segments to validate software counting.

OBJECTIVE 2. Analyze a long term dataset from a little brown bat maternity colony for seasonal phenology and population trends.

Analyze infrared videos from a long term dataset (2017-2025) collected at a little brown bat maternity colony. The infrared videos will be analyzed both via manual counting of sample videos, and through new software developed by UNH and integrated to their high performance computing center. Analysis of these videos will provide additional information on seasonal phenology and timing as well as changes in productivity between years. Additional monitoring data from this long term research site (e.g. birth dates; survival and recruitment data) may be incorporated in the analysis.

Any publications or publicity regarding these projects shall recognize funding sources and cooperative arrangements with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

D. Deliverables Schedule: Campus shall submit an interim and final progress reports (due December 31, 2026 and April 30, 2027, respectively). Reports shall include a comparison of actual accomplishments during the reporting period against the established project objectives and include any significant developments that either result in problems, delays or adverse conditions or which favorably impact the project. The final report shall also include site specific information, monitoring data and analysis. Campus shall also provide the State with any graduate thesis completed on the project. Articles, publications or media regarding the project shall reference the funding support provided by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under federal grant F25AS00296 (E-2-TW-8), 2025 White-nose Syndrome Grants to States and Tribes.

Any publications or publicity regarding these projects shall recognize funding sources and cooperative arrangements with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

F. Budget and Invoicing Instructions: Campus will submit invoices to State on regular Campus invoice forms no more frequently than monthly and no less frequently than semi-annually. Invoices will be based on actual project expenses incurred during the invoicing period, and shall show current and cumulative expenses by major cost categories as shown below. Campus shall invoice separately for each project as listed below. Facilities & Administrative (indirect) costs are calculated according to a reduced F&A rate of 26%. State will pay Campus within 30 days of receipt of each invoice. Campus will submit its final invoice not later than 75 days after the Project Period end date.

Budget Items	State Funding	Total
1. Salaries & Wages	\$15,877	\$15,877
2. Employee Fringe Benefits	\$1,097	\$1,097
3. Travel	\$770	\$770
4. Supplies and Services	\$0	\$0
5. Equipment	\$0	\$0
6. Facilities & Admin Costs	\$4,613	\$4,613
Total State Funding:	\$22,357	\$22,357

Budget Justification Narrative

1. Salaries and Wages: Salaried staff include the Director of the UNH Ecological Acoustics and Behavior Lab, a graduate student and an undergraduate student. The Director will be paid \$5,521 for 0.5 months to oversee the thermal and acoustic projects. The graduate student will be paid \$7,860 for

part-time summer support at published rate (\$30.23 per hour for 260 hours) to complete field surveys, deploy detectors and analyze the acoustic and thermal data with assistance from an undergraduate student who will be paid \$2,496 (\$16 per hour for 156 hours).

2. Fringe Benefits: The partial fringe rate is 8.2% and is applied to the salaries for the Director and graduate student.
3. Travel: Travel costs consists mileage reimbursement associated with summer travel for monitoring visits to the sites (1,060 miles). The U.S. General Services Administration's Privately owned vehicle (POV) mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.725 per mile will be used.
4. Supplies & Services: No supplies are requested at this time.
5. Equipment: No equipment is requested at this time.
6. Facilities and Administrative Costs: Facilities & Administrative (indirect) costs are calculated according to a reduced F&A rate of 26%.

EXHIBIT B

This Project Agreement is funded under a Grant/Contract/Cooperative Agreement to State from the Federal sponsor specified in Project Agreement article F. All applicable requirements, regulations, provisions, terms and conditions of this Federal Grant/Contract/Cooperative Agreement are hereby adopted in full force and effect to the relationship between State and Campus, except that wherever such requirements, regulations, provisions and terms and conditions differ for INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, the appropriate requirements should be substituted (e.g., OMB Circulars A-21 and A-110, rather than OMB Circulars A-87 and A-102). References to Contractor or Recipient in the Federal language will be taken to mean Campus; references to the Government or Federal Awarding Agency will be taken to mean Government/Federal Awarding Agency or State or both, as appropriate.

Special Federal provisions are listed here: ☐ None or

The State, through New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG), is the recipient of federal grant award F25AS00296, titled "NH Bats—Monitoring, Research and Technical Assistance (E-2-TW-8)" from the Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. The approved grants include activities to be implemented by Campus as detailed in this Cooperative Project Agreement. Campus acknowledges that it is a subrecipient of federal funds through the State to complete the project. The following federal grant information and associated subaward information is included for reference and to comply with requirements for pass through entities in the federal assistance regulation at 2 CFR 200.332.

NHFG Subrecipient Agreement #: NHFG-2027-01

Subrecipient Name: University of New Hampshire

Subrecipient SAM UEI #: GBNGC495XA67

Prime Federal Grant Number: F25AS00296

Federal Grant Title: NH Bats—Monitoring, Research and Technical Assistance (E-2-TW-8)

Federal Funding Agency: United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Assistance Listing Number (ALN): 15.684 2025 White-nose Syndrome Grants to States and Tribes

Prime Federal Grant Recipient: State of New Hampshire, Fish and Game Department

Federal Award Date: June 1, 2026

Period of Performance: June 1, 2026– April 30, 2027

Budget Period: June 1, 2026– April 30, 2027

Total Award to NHFG: \$26,000.00

Amount of Subaward: \$22,357.00

Budget Period of Subaward: June 1, 2026– April 30, 2027

Uniform Requirements for Federal Awards issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) at 2 CFR Part 200 in lieu of Circulars listed in paragraph above. The federal regulations applicable to Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service recipients, subrecipients and contractors are incorporated by reference. Fish and Wildlife Service General Award Terms and Conditions with imbedded links to all regulations are available on the Service's website at <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/financial-assistance-general-award-terms-and-conditions>. See also the Department of the Interior's Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions on their website at <https://www.doi.gov/grants/doi-standard-terms-and-conditions>. These requirements include, but are not limited to, the following, as applicable:

a. Program Authorization / Legislation: 2025 White-nose Syndrome Grants to States and Tribes.

- b. 2 CFR Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.**
- c. 2 CFR Part 25, Universal Identifier and Central Contractor Registration.**
- d. 2 CFR Part 170, Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation.**
- e. 2 CFR Part 175, Award Term for Trafficking in Persons.**
- f. 2 CFR 184, Buy America Preferences for Infrastructure Projects.**
- g. 2 CFR 200.216 Prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment.**
- h. 2 CFR Part 200.321 Contracting with small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms.**
- i. 2 CFR Part 200.322 Domestic Preferences for Procurements.**
- j. 2 CFR Part 200.323 Procurement of Recovered Materials.**
- l. 2 CFR Part 1400, Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement).**
- m. 2 CFR Part 1401, Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance).**
- n. 2 CFR Part 1402, Federal Assistance Interior Regulation, supplementing 2 CFR 200 Parts A-D.**
- o. 43 CFR Part 17, Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs of the Department of the Interior.**
- p. 43 CFR 18, New Restrictions on Lobbying.**
- q. Executive Order 13513, Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging while Driving.**