



The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner**

April 9, 2014

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan  
 and The Honorable Council  
 State House  
 Concord, NH 03301

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

In accordance with the provisions of RSA 487:29, this document provides the required report for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2013 on the Milfoil and other Exotic Plants Prevention Program (the Program), including a description of prevention and research projects funded by the Program and the extent of aid to municipalities or subdivisions of the state, non-profit corporations, and research institutions.

Milfoil prevention and research grant income was budgeted into the Program following the enactment of RSA 487:25 on January 1, 2003, and fees were increased in an amendment adopted in the 2009 legislative session. Per RSA 487:26, "The grant program shall be funded by the portion of the lake restoration and preservation fund, established in RSA 487:25, and allocated to the milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants prevention program. Approximately 3/4 of the moneys distributed from the fund to the milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants prevention program shall be allocated for the purposes of milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants prevention and the remainder shall be allocated to milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants remediation research, as appropriate, based on grant requests."

Table 1 is a summary of the revenue, expenditures, and balance in the Lake Restoration and Preservation Fund allocated for the program for SFY 2013.

**Table 1  
 Summary of Revenue, Expenditures, and Balance of the Lake Restoration Fund  
 For Prevention and Research Grants\***

<b>Category</b>	<b>Total</b>
Beginning Balance (July 1, 2012)	\$ 691,208.18
Revenues	\$ 680,568.75
Expenditures	\$ 694,157.50
Encumbrances	\$ 386,504.00
Ending Balance (June 30, 2013)	\$ 291,115.43

\*This is a non-lapsing account. Any balance will be carried forward to SFY 2014 and offered for grants in that year.

A Request for Proposals for SFY 2013 funding was issued in September 2012. The SFY 2013 grant cycle concluded the eleventh round of prevention grants and the tenth round of research grants. The Department received two proposals for prevention grants and one incomplete proposal for research grants in this reporting period.

The prevention grant proposals were reviewed by a committee comprised of a designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, a designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Safety, and a member of the New Hampshire Lakes Management Advisory Committee. The proposals were reviewed for eligibility and ranked based on standard review criteria for this program, and both were ultimately selected for funding. Table 2 shows a summary of the projects that were selected for funding in SFY 2013.

**Table 2**  
**SFY 2013 Exotic Aquatic Plant Prevention Grants**

Grantee	Project Summary	Grant Amount
<p>New Hampshire Lakes Association (NHLAKES)</p>	<p>The purpose of the NHLAKES project was to prevent the introduction of exotic aquatic plants into New Hampshire lakes and ponds through a successful and proven Lake Host Program conducted at public water access sites.</p> <p>During summer 2013, a total of 247 paid and 500 volunteer Lake Hosts conducted nearly 76,000 courtesy boat inspections at approximately 100 of the most highly-used public boating access sites in New Hampshire.</p> <p>A total of 153 aquatic nuisance species “saves” were recorded on 19 waterbodies—11 of these ‘saves occurred’ on six uninfested waterbodies, with eight of these saves occurring at the uninfested Pawtuckaway Lake.</p> <p>A significant amount of support was leveraged by this year’s \$210,000 grant as it was matched with \$527,789 (251% match) through a combination of cash and in-kind match from foundations, participating groups and individuals, and NH LAKES.</p> <p>NH LAKES coordinated all aspects of implementation for this program, including the hiring of lake hosts, payroll, and coordinating training of all participants.</p>	<p>\$210,000</p>
<p>New Hampshire Rivers Council (NHRC)</p>	<p>This was the fourth year of the NHRC River Runners program. This program serves to extend outreach and education activities related to exotic aquatic species to river and stream habitats. River Runners offered an invasive aquatic plant species identification and monitoring training program for river monitoring volunteers throughout the state.</p>	<p>\$9,988</p>

Prevention grant awards for SFY 2013 totaled \$219,988.00. These grants were paid from SFY 2013 funds. The 2013 Prevention Grant funds provided the state with an expanded ability to prevent new infestations and to better inform the public about the threat of the spread of exotic aquatic plants across the state.

Full final reports on each of the projects listed above are on file at DES and are available upon request.

No research grants were awarded in SFY 2013. A researcher from Dartmouth College proposed various topics for potential research, but none of the suggestions were sufficiently tied to exotic aquatic species to warrant pursuing a grant at the time.

These grant funds have proven valuable to the implementation of the Exotic Species Program for the protection of the ecology of New Hampshire's water. In turn, these efforts benefit those people who live around or visit our state waters.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this report, please do not hesitate to contact Amy Smagula, Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator, at 603-271-2248 or [Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov](mailto:Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov), or me at 271-2958 or [Thomas.Burack@des.nh.gov](mailto:Thomas.Burack@des.nh.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas S. Burack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" for Burack.

Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

cc: President of the Senate  
Speaker of the House  
Pam Urban Morin, Dept. of Safety