



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FEBRUARY 10 04 DAS



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

January 29, 2015

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Dear Governor Hassan and The Honorable Council:

In accordance with the provisions of RSA 487:29, this document provides the required report for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2014 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 RSA 487:25 on January 1, 2003, and fees were again increased in an amendment adopted in the 2009 legislative session for these types of grants. 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 2014.

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

*This is a non-lapsing account. Any balance will be carried forward to SFY 2015 and offered for grants in that year.

| Category | Total |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Beginning Balance (July 1, 2013) | \$677,619 |
| Revenues | \$690,218 |
| Expenditures | \$745,610 |
| Encumbrances | \$483,941 |
| Ending Balance (June 30, 2014) | \$138,286 |

A Request for Proposals for SFY 2014 funding was issued in September 2013. The 2014 grant season concluded the twelfth round of prevention grants and the eleventh round of research grants. The Department received two proposals for prevention grants and no proposals 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 2014.

Table 2
2014 Exotic Aquatic Plant Prevention Grants

| Grantee | Project Summary | Grant Amount |
|---|---|--------------|
| New Hampshire Lakes Association (NHLAKES) | <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 2014, a total of 258 paid and 500 volunteer Lake Hosts conducted a record-breaking 83,463 courtesy boat and trailer inspections at 102 of the most highly-used public boating access sites in New Hampshire. A total of 58 aquatic invasive species ‘saves’ were recorded at 18 waterbodies—26 of these ‘saves’ occurred at 11 uninfested waterbodies, with 11 of these saves occurring at the uninfested Pawtuckaway Lake, and two ‘saves’ being made at uninfested waterbodies in the North Country for the first-time ever.</p> <p>Additional highlights of the 2014 program include the development of two new videos—an aquatic invasive species overview video and a Lake Host training video—to replace the original program videos produced in 2002 that had become outdated.</p> <p>A significant amount of support was leveraged by this year’s \$230,000 grant as it was matched with \$525,670 (228% match) through a combination of cash and in-kind match from foundations and individual donors, participating groups, participating individuals, and NH LAKES.</p> | \$230,000 |
| New Hampshire Rivers Council (NHRC) | This was the fifth year of the program, known as River Runners, coordinated by the New Hampshire Rivers Council. 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, and several workshops and training opportunities. | \$11,992 |

Prevention grant awards for SFY 2014 totaled \$241,992. These grants were paid from SFY 2014 funds. The 2014 Prevention Grant funds provided the state with an expanded ability to prevent new

infestations and to expand the DES message concerning 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 2014 because there were no proposals submitted.

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 that 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, or me at 271-2958 or 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 initial 'T'.

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner