

## **DNCR FY 22-23 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

**Sarah Stewart, Commissioner**

Tuesday, March, 2, 2021

Good afternoon. It is an honor to be before you today to present the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources budget request for the 2022-2023 biennium.

This is just the second time DNCR has presented a budget - as it only became a Department in July of 2017 when Governor Sununu took advantage of an opportunity to leverage connections by merging Parks and Recreation and Forests and Lands with the State Library, Historical Resources and the NH State Council on the Arts.

These five divisions share a mission to protect, preserve, promote and manage the State's natural and cultural resources, supporting New Hampshire's high quality of life and strengthening the experiences of our residents and guests. The current COVID-19 pandemic has only reinforced the public's engagement with the great outdoors, longing for community connections and overall appreciation for cultural experiences. One illustration of this boom of support is our online donation button on the State Parks website. During the 2019 calendar year Parks received \$20,554 from online donations. So far in the 2020 calendar year Parks has received over \$84,000 in online donations!

The budget presented by the Governor includes \$8.3 million General funds in FY22 out of our total budget of \$56 million and \$8.6 million in General Funds in FY23 out of a total budget of \$57.7 million.

Comprised mainly of Federal and other agency income funds, our general fund amount comprises only 1/7<sup>th</sup> or 14% of our overall budget. *Much of these general fund dollars are needed to qualify for the Federal match we rely on in order to fulfill our statutory obligations.*

One way we have been able to reduce our general fund portion is by moving the Bureau of Historic Sites into the Parks and Recreation operating budget, which is operationally self-funded.

We have also transitioned funding for several of our Design, Development and Maintenance Bureau positions to now be 100% Parks funded, consistent with the

service these positions provide in supporting the Parks division and stewardship of our state lands.

It is also important for us to make clear that we plan to return millions of dollars in program revenue through various grant appropriations ranging from Bureau of Trails Grants in Aid programs and community trails and recreation maintenance, to outdoor recreation municipality grants, to arts development and historical artifact and site prevention programs and Conservation Plate Fund programs.

The work accomplished within the NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources clearly plays a vital role in maintaining the quality of life that we are all so proud of.

The work we do can also align with the goals set forth by our Governor as we are positioned to bolster our economic future through a robust and responsible outdoor recreation economy and a creative economy that is being recognized as a priority in communities large and small.

We have seen a draft of HB2 that includes about \$2million of investments within our state parks system. These investments will expand our revenue capabilities while making our parks safer and more accessible.

We also have two budget amendment requests that are included in your packet.

Thank you for your time today, I am joined by members of our agency's leadership team and we are available to answer your questions.

# State of New Hampshire

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 24, 2021

Commissioner Sarah Stewart  
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
172 Pembroke Road  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Commissioner Stewart,

Once again, it is time for the budget review. You will be meeting with members of Finance Division 1, and we look forward to discussing your agency, your budget, and your needs.

Before you come, please carefully review the following questions and present written responses. These meetings will primarily be hybrid meetings, with many of us meeting in a committee room but others listening and participating via Zoom. Details on that will be forwarded to you.

In addition to these questions, please be prepared to discuss the budget lines in your budget and answer members' questions.

1. What new full-time staff has been added to your budget? **No new Full time staff have been added.**

a. Cost for each staff member added (salary, benefits, IT, telecom, desk, equipment, office space).

b. Brief description of the need for each staff member added.

2. What new part-time staff has been added to your budget? **We intend to add the following positions to our Part time temp labor force:**

**1 Library Technician for our Library book distribution program, Federal Funds, Est \$30k;**

**Seasonal Wildfire Firefighters, Federal Funds, Est \$87k**

**Increase in part time staff for Connecticut Lake Headwaters (CLH) support, Trust Funds, Est \$29k in FY22 and \$79k in FY23**

a. Cost for each staff member added (salary, benefits, IT, telecom, desk, equipment, office space).

b. Brief description of the need for each staff member added.

- **- A new Part time Library technician needs to be added to help meet the demands of the delivery program. This program is flourishing and requires additional support to maintain delivery schedules and handle volume.**
- **- Seasonal firefighter appropriations are being requested to be added in order to meet a potential busy firefighting season. The allocation of additional federal funds is available to support this contingency.**
- **- The increase in part time staff for CLH is needed in support of stewardship of the north country Connecticut Lake Headwaters maintenance and management needs that have continued to expand in this area. A strong fund trust fund balance has afforded us the ability to grow our stewardship resources at this time.**

3. What positions had to be eliminated in order to meet the governor's budget requirements? **We were able to meet our targets without the need to eliminate positions.**

a. Cost for each staff member added (salary, benefits, IT, telecom, desk, equipment, office space).

b. Brief description of the need for each staff member added.

c. How will work done by this position be accomplished without the position?

4. Is your agency adequately staffed to complete all work assigned to your agency in state law?

Currently, as a department, we are managing our assigned duties and responsibilities with the current staff we have. However, we are also evaluating our strategic plan across each division to determine what personnel changes we may seek to make as we go through an analysis of the efficacy and timeliness with which we are meeting our statutory obligations. This includes specifically, establishment of a Curator in the Division of Historical Resources. At this time, we seek to continue maintaining language in HB2 that suspends the curatorial services obligation until we can complete the necessary personnel changes needed to meet the resource requirement.

5. If the answer to Q. 4 is no, please describe.

a. If we cannot add adequate staffing, should we consider suspending that law for the biennium?

6. What things are you doing (found in state law) that could be eliminated and why? Currently, we have not identified any things we are doing that could be eliminated.

7. What priorities did you have that were not funded? All of our requested priorities were funded.

a. Cost?

b. Description?

c. Impact of not funding?

8. Please be prepared to discuss any HB2 sections that apply to your agency.

Please continue to keep the following language:

**Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; Curatorial Responsibilities**

**Suspended. Due to inadequate funding and staffing resources at the department of natural and cultural resources, the commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources may suspend the requirements of RSA 227-C and RSA 12-A relative to curatorial responsibilities, for each year of the biennium ending June 30, 2021.**

**Five hard copies** of the answers to these questions need to be delivered to Janet Clayman for use by division members during your testimony.

Additionally, **an electronic copy** should be submitted to me at Lynne.Ober@comcast.net. Should division members attend via remote access, digital copies will be sent to them.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Rep. Lynne Ober/jhc  
Chair, Finance Division I

## DNCR Additional Budget Requests – Finance Committee Division I Presentation

### AU 35290000 – State Fire Assistance

Class 50 – Temp Labor - \$81,000

Class 60 – Benefits - \$6,500

### AU 37450000 – Connecticut Lake Headwaters Stewardship Endowment

		Revised Request	
Expenditure		CLH Stewardship 3745	
Class	Description	FY2022	FY2023
010	Personnel –REMOVE	0	0
020	Current Expense	10,000	10,000
022	Rents-Leases	65,000	65,000
030	Equipment	36,000	3,700
047	Own Forces	500	500
048	Contracted Services	10,000	10,000
050	Personnel-Temp	30,000	81,000
060	Benefits	2,100	8,100
102	Contract for Program Services	0	25,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>153,600</b>	<b>203,300</b>

### AU 37460000 – Connecticut Lake Headwaters Maintenance

		Revised Request	
Expenditure		CLH Road Maintenance 3746	
Class	Description	FY2022	FY2023
020	Current Expense	65,000	135,000
022	Rents-Leases	33,000	53,000
030	Equipment	10,000	10,000
048	Contractor Services	10,000	10,000
050	Personnel-Temp	44,000	44,000
060	Benefits	4,400	4,400
	<b>Total</b>	<b>166,400</b>	<b>256,400</b>

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DNCR FACT SHEET						
Budget Summary (In Mil)	DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET				CAPITAL BUDGET	
	ACTUALS	ADJ AUTH	GOV PROPOSED	GOV PROPOSED	GOV PROPOSED	
	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 22-23	
General Funds	\$ 8.6	\$ 8.4	\$ 8.3	\$ 8.6	State Parks/Reservations	\$ 5.2
Federal Funds	\$ 4.3	\$ 9.2	\$ 8.5	\$ 8.7	Less: Federal Funds Match	\$ (1.2)
Other Funds	\$ 31.6	\$ 36.9	\$ 39.60	\$ 40.3		\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 44.5</b>	<b>\$ 54.5</b>	<b>\$ 56.4</b>	<b>\$ 57.6</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4.1</b>
POSITION COUNTS (FY 21)				DNCR FLEET		# vehicles
Division	Classified	Unclassified	Total			
Commissioner's Office	30	1	31	Passenger Autos	3	
Forest and Lands	50	1	51	Trucks	155	
State Parks	69	2	71	Vans / Buses	7	
State Library	31	1	32	Mobile Equipment	50	
Arts Council	6	1	7	Snowmobiles / OHRV	76	
Historical Resources	11	1	12	<b>Total</b>	<b>291</b>	
<b>Total Full Time Permanent</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>HISTORICAL RESOURCES</b>		
**Seasonal:	Winter - 400+ / Summer - 550+			Historic tax credit proj under review	20	
Part-Time			250+	Tax credit projects, investment value	\$157,810,495	
Full-Time Temp:			25	State & Natl Register listed properties	1,305	
<b>STATE RESERVATIONS DATA - FORESTS &amp; PARKS</b>				Inventoried property records	11,000+	
<b>Total Reservation and Easement Acreage Stewardship</b>			<b>514,739</b>	Archaeological sites	3,700	
DNCR Reservations (acres)			169,249	Historic Highway Markers	268	
Fish & Game Wildlife Management Areas (acres)			60,020	Preservation easement properties	41	
Federal Flood Control Areas under Management License (acres)			13,446	Fed & State project reviews	1,500+	
<b>Reservation Acreage</b>			<b>242,715</b>	Fed & State Agy regulatory partners	70	
<b>Conservation Easements Acreage</b>			<b>272,024</b>	Certified Local Govts, local commissions	107	
Miles of Boundary Line Maintained			1,100	<b>STATE LIBRARY</b>		
Average Acres Treated Annually			1,573	State Library Collection	650,000 vols	
Board Feet Timber Harvested Annually (10yr avg)			5.6 million	Blind and Physically Handicapped - Clients served	2,592	
Tons of Pulp Harvested Annually			22,000 tons	Inter-library loan prog items delivered	750,000 items	
Tons of Biomass Chips Harvested Annually			35,000 tons	Delivery milage	250,000	
Campgrounds / Sites			23 / 1,427	Technology instruction sessions	75	
Day Use Parks			38	Database usage	650,000 sessions	
Historic Sites			16	NH State Government Digital Document Depository	70,000 Docs	
Natural Areas / Waysides			8 / 7			
State Beaches (Lake & Ocean)			22			
Ski Areas (Downhill & X-country)			4			
Miles of Snowmobiles / OHRV trails			7,200 / 1,200			
Seacoast Metered Parking Spaces			1,644			
Retail Outlets in Parks			37			
DNCR BUILDINGS INFRASTRUCTURE				STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS		
Total Buildings - Various Types			884	FY20 Grants to Communities Total	\$834,688	
Total Sq Ft Buildings			870,387 sq ft	FY20 Number of Grants	142	
Building Value \$ (Millions)			\$65.06	FY19 Direct Spending Leveraged	\$47.7m	
Roof Area Sq Ft			973,090 sq ft	FY19 Artists employed via grant prgm	4,599	
<b>Other Structures:</b>				State Art Collection # of objects	650+	
Pit Toilets			110	Percent for Art Program # of artworks	350+	
Dams			26			
Bridges			22			
Wells			91			
Septic Systems			147			
Toilet/Bathhouse Buildings			86			
** FY21 Significant summer staff reduction due to COVID-19						