



Lee E. Perry
Executive Director

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Working for Wildlife... and You

As I travel around the state, I am commonly asked: Who do you work for?

What is the correct answer? The State of New Hampshire. The Fish and Game Department. The Governor. The Fish and Game Commission. While technical interpretations could support one correct answer, let's just say, “all of the above.”

In my opinion, the most accurate answer is the public. In our roles as employees of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, we serve many “bosses” with diverse needs and interests. Our work may be directed by a child who has wandered away and become lost in the woods; by a youngster in downtown Manchester who wants to learn more about urban wildlife; by a novice angler wanting to learn how and where to fish; by a young adult enjoying the thrill of off-highway vehicle competition; by a couple seeking solitude and sounds of wilderness on a country pond; by a hiker who is injured and in need of medical evacuation above the notches; by a bass angler engaged in tournament fishing; by a commercial fisherman setting and hauling traps on the coast; by a birdwatcher seeking information and opportunity to view a rare species; by a boater seeking access to one of New Hampshire's public waters; by a hunter seeking access to and enjoyment of the fall hunting seasons; by a planner seeking information to support the preservation of community open space; by a landowner seeking a remedy for public abuse of private property...the list goes on and on.

Few people ask: Who pays your salary? For decades, outdoorspeople have supported conservation efforts, both politically and financially. People who buy hunting and fishing licenses and pay for related goods and services pay our salaries. The Department operates out of a special revenue fund known as the Fish and Game Fund (*see back cover*). This fund is made up of restricted and unrestricted accounts and contains no general funds except for a \$50,000 matching appropriation for the Nongame Program.

While the historical focus of our programs has been restoring and maintaining game species and commercial and sport fisheries, the Department provides many additional benefits, such as addressing all fish and wildlife issues, enforcing fish and wildlife laws, providing aquatic, marine and upland habitat for fish and wildlife species, providing conservation information and education programs to people, administering the OHRV program, and searching for and rescuing injured or lost people.

We are a relatively small agency, but our diverse responsibilities affect more than New Hampshire's natural resources and the many people who engage in outdoor activities or who value the natural beauty and wild places of our state. Fish and Game's work has direct economic impact for people who operate businesses that depend on hunting, fishing, other fish and wildlife related activities and off-highway vehicle use. Research shows that \$619 million was spent on fish and wildlife associated activities in New Hampshire in 2001. Wildlife watching alone provided a direct economic benefit of \$343 million to the state's economy. And snowmobiling generates another \$453 million in direct economic benefit for the state, with nearly \$1.2 billion in overall direct and indirect economic impact — fully 1% of the gross state product and more than 10% of all traveler spending in New Hampshire annually.

Who do we work for? You. We work for New Hampshire's fish and wildlife and habitats — for the benefit of its residents and visitors who love and appreciate those wild resources. We bring you this special “biennial report issue” of *N.H. Wildlife Journal* to illustrate the breadth and depth of Fish and Game's activities and achievements. Happy reading, and thanks for your continued support of our many endeavors.

Question? Comment?
Story idea?

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