March 30, 2012

His Excellency, Governor John H. Lynch
Office of the Governor
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable William L. O'Brien
Speaker of the House
PO Box 154
Mont Vernon, NH 03057

The Honorable Peter Bragdon
Senate President
PO Box 488
Milford, NH 03055

The Honorable Bob Odell, Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Statehouse
Room 302
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable Andrew Renzullo, Chairman
House Resources, Recreation & Development Committee
2 Heritage Circle
Hudson, NH 03051-3428

The Honorable Clifford Newton, Chairman
House Fish and Game Committee
168 Old Dover Road
Rochester, NH 03867-4548
Pursuant to RSA 233-A:2, IV, I am pleased to present the Public Water Access Advisory Board’s (“PWAAB” or “Board”) 2010 Annual Report. This report is organized starting with this general report of the PWAAB, followed by individual reports by most of the member state agencies of the Board as follows:

Department of Environmental Services

Department of Resources and Economic Development

Department of Safety

Department of Transportation

Fish & Game Department

Office of Energy and Planning

The above statute requires that the PWAAB’s Annual Report "shall include a list of existing public access points, and a target date for publication of all access points". That information is found in a number of different sources and media. The most comprehensive source is available on-line through the GRANIT Conservation Lands Viewer at: [http://mapper.granit.unh.edu/viewer.jsp](http://mapper.granit.unh.edu/viewer.jsp). That information is a product of an ongoing effort by the Office of Energy and Planning since the early 1990s to inventory all available public access to the State’s public waters, whether publicly or privately owned, whether they are free or charge a fee, etc.

The Fish & Game Department has published a "New Hampshire Boating & Fishing Public Access Map" since 1999. That map contains a list of and directions to mostly publicly owned and operated access sites to the State’s public waters. It has been widely distributed throughout the state including the state highway information centers, state agencies and Fish and Game license agents. The current edition was published in late 2009. This map is also available electronically at: [http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/access/access_map_2010.pdf](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/access/access_map_2010.pdf). In addition, all of the more than 220 access sites to public waters managed by the Fish & Game Department, as well as many managed by other agencies, are described in detail at that Department’s website: [http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Outdoor_Recreation/access_sites_table.htm](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Outdoor_Recreation/access_sites_table.htm).

The Fish & Game Department is in the process of putting all these sites and more on a GIS mapping system to assist in its duty to "establish priorities for the siting and development of public boat access areas, based on the demands and needs for different types of public boat access areas and public water bodies ...". RSA 233-A:4, I. Maps of over 400 lakes and ponds, with some showing access sites and information are also found at the Fish and Game website: [http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Fishing/bathy_maps.htm](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Fishing/bathy_maps.htm). Efforts to update these lists are ongoing.

The DES Coastal Program has also developed a map of those public access facilities in the 17 communities that make up the coastal zone. Their “New Hampshire Coastal Access Map” is available to the public in either hard copy or on the Coastal Program’s website: [http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/categories/publications.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/categories/publications.htm)
Much of the Board’s work with regard to advising, monitoring and coordinating state agency public water access efforts, is detailed in the attached reports of the above State agencies. In that regard, the Board and these agencies have been particularly focused on large lake access, one of the most expensive and difficult missions of the Board. The Board’s current focus is developing a trailer boat access site at Harilla’s Landing on Lake Winnipesaukee in Moultonborough, NH.

At the request of the Office of Energy and Planning, the Board continued its review and updating of the State’s 1991 Public Water Access Plan, focusing on the criteria for the number and types of boat access sites and beaches on lakes and rivers. Since surveys have shown that the public is most interested in access to the State’s largest lakes and rivers, the Board continued its individual review of existing general public access at the State’s 35 largest lakes (500 acres or more in size), looking at the adequacy of boating access and swimming access separately for each such water body.

The Board generally meets every other month. The Board took a field trip on August 30, 2010, visiting ten sites in the eastern Lakes Region comprising existing and proposed sites, including many that were developed and/or renovated by the Fish & Game Department. In addition, in 2010, the Board monitored legislation that concerned or affected public water access. It has also monitored state surplus land disposals where it has an advisory role to the Department of Transportation and the Council on Resources and Development with regard to the sale or lease of state lands that do, or could, provide public access to the State’s waters.

Thank you for this opportunity for providing information about our Board and its work. If you have any questions or would like further information please do not hesitate to contact me at 695-8641 or our Board’s secretary, Ellen Macneil at 271-2461.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Macneil

For Thomas Quarles, Jr., Chair

Public Water Access Board
During 2010, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) engaged in numerous programs and activities associated with recreational opportunities and public access to the state's waters; these items are described below. DES continues to be active in its efforts to expand and improve public access opportunities across New Hampshire.

**DES Bureaus and Programs that Support Public Access**

**Dam Bureau**

The DES Dam Bureau owns and operates 113 dams, and also operates and maintains 105 dams belonging to the NH Fish and Game Department (F&G). DES provides boating recreational opportunities by regulating the water level of these dam controlled waterbodies. Many of these dam sites have public access facilities, which require constant maintenance, repairs and enhancements. As part of the operation plans for each of the dams, the need and the opportunities to improve public access is fully evaluated.

**Maintain and Monitor Existing Lease Agreements**

The Bureau owns lake and riverfront parcels on waterbodies across the state and it leases many of these properties and facilities to several communities and other agencies across the state. DES works cooperatively with towns and agencies to provide public access opportunities at these locations: Bow Lake, Strafford; Lovell Lake, Wakefield; Goshen Lake, Goshen; Oliverian Brook Flood Control Impoundment, Benton; Deering Reservoir, Deering; Milton Three Ponds, Milton; and the Waumbek and Rowe sites on the Salmon Falls River, Milton.

**Site Enhancement Projects**

Due to budget cuts, DES did not receive funding for the Site Enhancement program or for temporary seasonal maintenance help in 2010. This lack of staff and funding resulted in no DES sites receiving any site enhancement work, or any site maintenance at existing public access sites.

**Maintenance, Repairs, and Upkeep to Existing Dams**

**Durham Reservoir Dam – Durham:** Accomplished the complete reconstruction of the dam to include rebuilding the earthen embankment, installation of a new outlet structure and reconstruction of the access bridge over the auxiliary spillway. Other project tasks included tree removal and stone work in the discharge channel.

**Dollof Dam – Nottingham:** Repaired deteriorated concrete within stoplog bay structure, completed significant tree removal and installed surface and groundwater monitoring equipment.

**Hawkins Pond Dam – Center Harbor:** Constructed cast-in-place concrete wall upstream of laid stone wall to reduce seepage through the structure. Other minor work included tree removal, stop-log replacement and installation of a dry hydrant for the Town of Center Harbor.

**Pittsfield Mills Dam – Pittsfield:** Completed the re-facing of the right cast-in-place concrete abutment.

**Hubbard Pond Dam – Rindge:** Assisted DRED in the installation of gates and barricades to prevent off road vehicles from continuing to damage the dam embankments.

**Pleasant Lake Dam Phase I – Deerfield:** Phase I work included replacement of the discharge culvert and construction of a downstream headwall.
Milton Three Ponds Dam – Milton: The work included the reconstruction of the right cast-in-place abutment, rehabilitating the gatehouse and replacing the two wooden slide gates.

New Projects in the Design, Permitting, Planning Stages or Waiting Subject to Funding (Calendar year 2011)

Drowns Dam – Nottingham: Replacing failed laid stone downstream training wall with cast-in-place concrete training wall. Includes minor tree removal and fill placement to level left embankment.

Alton Power Dam Phase I – Alton: Phase II work to be completed in the Summer/Fall of 2011 will include stabilization of the left embankment.

Akers Pond Dam – Errol: Work will consist of re-facing the existing concrete spillway and repairing the right embankment to meet dam safety requirements. Other minor work will include tree removal, stump grinding and rip-rap placement.

Perkins Pond Dam – Weare: Work will consist of raising the left concrete wall section, fully reconstructing a portion of the right concrete wall section, installing a rip-rap armored overflow spillway, and repairing the stoplog bay structure.

Souhegan Site 33 Dam – Wilton: Work will consist of replacement of a failed culvert at the dam outlet under Dale Road. New upstream and downstream cast-in-place headwalls will be constructed and the outlet channel will be armored with interlocking concrete block.

Hubbard Pond Dam – Rindge: Work will include armoring the left and right earth abutments to reduce ongoing damage due to unauthorized access by off-road vehicles.

Bunker Pond Dam Removal – Epping: Work will include removing the spillway of Bunker Pond Dam to restore the river to a free-flowing condition and eliminate public safety threats currently presented by the deteriorated dam.

Buck Street Dams – Pembroke/Allenstown: Work will include removing the west dam to restore the river to a free-flowing condition and eliminate public safety threats currently presented by the dam.

Pleasant Lake Dam Phase II – Deerfield: Phase II work will include the full reconstruction of the concrete outlet structure and the installation of a second discharge conduit. The new outlet structure will reduce lake level fluctuations during high flow events.

Milton 3 Ponds Dam – Milton: The work will include rehabilitation of the concrete across the entire spillway and the reconstruction of a failed left downstream training wall.

Dam Removals
Homestead Woolen Mill Dam in West Swanzey

Wetlands Bureau

The Wetlands Bureau continues to ensure that public access is provided whenever a marina is proposed for a lake, a river, or the seacoast. The bureau has a liaison staffer who works with the F&G Public Access Program to coordinate reviews and approvals of various jurisdictional programs within DES in an effort to facilitate construction of public access sites proposed by F&G.
Watershed Management Bureau

The Watershed Management Bureau (WMB) uses a holistic and integrated approach to achieve clean water goals. Both regulatory and non-regulatory programs work together within the Bureau to integrate science, policy, planning and education to address nonpoint source pollution, stormwater, and exotic species. There are over 20 programs and activities within the Bureau several of which contribute to and support public access in New Hampshire.

Clean Vessel Act Program
The New Hampshire Clean Vessel Act (CVA) program is a result of a cooperative effort between the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Federal Clean Vessel Act provides funds to states for the construction, renovation, operation and maintenance of pumpout/dump stations. New Hampshire funding has been applied to the operation of a mobile pumpout service along the coast since 2002 and within inland waters since 2010. Initiated in 2006, these grants have also been used to implement an Operation and Maintenance Funding program that continues to assist marinas in general seasonal upkeep costs to ensure existing pumpout resources remain in proper working condition. These options are key factors in maintaining a No Discharge Area (NDA) for recreational boater discharge. Federal law prohibits the discharge of treated or untreated boat sewage in water that is designated a NDA. All waters within three miles of the New Hampshire shoreline and the Isles of Shoals are part of the coastal No Discharge Area. Tidal and estuarine waters, including all bays and rivers to the tidal dams, are incorporated in the NDA. New Hampshire also enforces "No Discharge" laws for inland waters. Boats cannot contain devices that will allow for overboard discharge of treated/untreated boat sewage or graywater.

Coastal Waters – No new pumpout facilities were funded for the state’s coastal waters during 2010, but four stationary pumpout locations and one mobile pumpout boat continue to be available to the boating public. Two marinas were awarded operation and maintenance funding for existing pumpout facilities. Great Bay Marine in Newington recorded 119 vessels discharging 2,915 gallons while Wentworth Marina in New Castle recorded 119 vessels discharging 20,067 gallons. The NH DES mobile pumpout service contributed approximately 17,380 gallons of the total for the Wentworth Marina facility with 9,555 of these gallons originating from Wentworth patrons.

To date, more than 88,000 gallons of sewage have been removed from recreational boats just through the use of the coastal mobile service. The 2010 pumpout program season serviced 697 boats and pumped out approximately 20,000 gallons of sewage. The volume of sewage collected by the pumpout boat continues to increase each year, an indication of the popularity and effectiveness of such a resource for recreational boater sewage.

The NH CVA program anticipates funding a new facility in Portsmouth NH and replacement equipment in Dover NH for 2011/2012.

Inland Waters – The Lakes Region has a total of fourteen pumpout facilities with thirteen devoted to Lake Winnipesaukee and one to Lake Winnisquam. A dump station is located within Sunapee Harbor on Lake Sunapee. One replacement pumpout facility was installed at Channel Marine on Lake Winnipesaukee in April 2010. Four marinas, also on Lake Winnipesaukee, were awarded operation and maintenance funding for existing pumpout facilities. Meredith Marina, Meredith and Lakeport Landing Marina, Laconia recorded 710 and 3,137 gallons of sewage respectively. Paugus Bay Marina, Laconia recorded 983 gallons of boat sewage discharge to the municipal system. Totals from Channel Marine, Weirs Beach are pending.

A pilot program for the 2010 season involving the operation of an inland mobile pumpout service was initiated using the retired coastal pumpout boat. Newfound Lake, Bristol and Sunapee Lake, Sunapee
were targeted as prospective service areas as there are no stationary facilities available on Newfound Lake and only a dump station within Sunapee Harbor at Sunapee Lake. It was the intention of the program to approach this first season concentrating on outreach to potential patrons. Administering this service for the 2011 season will assist the CVA program in assessing the usefulness in investing funding for this purpose. The potential of a floating restroom facility would increase the feasibility of keeping an inland mobile pumpout service funded for NH.

The NH CVA Program anticipates funding construction and renovation of two stationary systems, in addition to a floating restroom facility, within the 2011/2012 season.

**Boat Inspection Program**
State budget funding reductions lead to the termination of the Boat Inspection Program position in 2010. The program was initiated with the intention to promote proper boating practices by conducting inspections for freshwater vessels with marine sanitation devices (MSD) on Lake Winnipesaukee and Winnisquam. The program had focused attention on these particular lakes since a high percentage of large boats with such facilities tend to recreate there. Currently RSA 487:2-3 prohibits the discharge of gray or black water into New Hampshire’s inland waters.

No inspections were completed for the 2010 season.

**Public Beach Inspection Program**

**Coastal Program**
New Hampshire receives an annual US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant to enhance the existing Coastal Beach Program. The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act grant focuses on implementing and enhancing current monitoring and notification programs. New Hampshire has several goals, including: 1) to identify and implement an improved beach advisory notification system; 2) to better identify sources of Enterococcus (bacteria) and initiate Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce bacteria loading; 3) to establish a beach recognition and rewards program for public beaches that provide safe and healthy recreational experiences, and; 4) to employ recent technological advances in beach monitoring. The NH Coastal Beach Program maintains a strong working relationship with municipalities and utilizes grant money to further the state’s efforts to protect public health.

The NH DES Beach Program is in the second phase of a special study to isolate possible Enterococci sources to designated beach areas within three coastal watersheds. The project is a combined effort among FB Environmental (Portland ME), the DES and coastal beach communities. Watershed based plans are being drafted for the Little River (North Hampton State Beach) and Parsons Creek (Wallis Sands Beach at Wallis Road) watersheds while an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Findings and Recommendations report is being produced for New Castle Town Beach. Possible bacteria sources and suggested mitigation processes will be outlined in these final reports and made available to the public and municipal officials. The project is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2011.

DES inspected a total of 16 coastal public swimming beaches in 2010. Ten beaches were inspected twice weekly and six were inspected weekly according to their tiered monitoring assessment. Within 322 summer inspections and 15 off season inspections, 1299 samples were collected and analyzed for Enterococci. Six coastal beach advisories were issued for exceeding the Enterococci state standard at five beaches for a total of 16 posted days. The swim season was 98 days long in 2010 for each of the 16 beaches, translating into 1,568 beach days. The 16 advisory days account for one percent of the days of the beach season while the remaining 99 percent of the days were suitable for primary recreational use.

**Freshwater Program**
DES inspected a total of 151 freshwater public swimming beaches once a month for three months, and 76
juvenile camps once for the season giving a total of 652 inspections for 2010. Forty-seven freshwater beaches were issued a total of 57 advisories for exceeding the public beach water quality standard for E. coli. Thirteen beach advisories were issued at Ahern State Park in Laconia as a result of a pre-emptive advisory protocol following rainfall greater than 0.25 inches.

Nine freshwater beaches were issued 10 cyanobacteria advisories for the presence of a potentially toxic cyanobacteria bloom. DES initiates a cyanobacteria beach advisory if it is microscopically determined that an algae bloom contains greater than 50 percent of a cyanobacteria type. Lake warnings for elevated cell concentrations of cyanobacteria on waterbodies without designated beaches or for areas of a lake away from the designated beach were implemented again during the swimming season of 2010. Twelve cyanobacteria lake warnings were issued in 2010. Typically counts of 70,000 cyanobacteria cells/mL or greater initiate a cyanobacteria warning however, New Hampshire does not currently have an established state standard for cell or toxin concentration. Both advisories and warnings are not based on a toxin evaluation and are intended only as a precautionary measure for short term exposure.

Exotic Species Program
Milfoil Control Funds
DES provided milfoil grant funds to eleven (11) organizations to chemically control the growth of exotic aquatic plants in 2010, and five grants to perform non-chemical control activities. Additionally, DES staff performed numerous non-chemical control strategies on various waterbodies, including hand-pulling, benthic barrier placement and diver-assisted suction harvesting work.

Milfoil and Other Exotic Plants Prevention Fund
DES issued grants to the New Hampshire Lakes Association for a Lake Host Program. One Milfoil Research Grant was awarded to a consulting firm to evaluate the difference in control of variable milfoil between three different formulations of 2,4-D.

Public Education and Outreach
DES distributed numerous milfoil signs and educational pamphlets throughout the state. There are more than 500 volunteer Weed Watchers from across the state working in cooperation with DES on more than 300 waterbodies.

Management of Exotic Plants
DES worked with more than 30 waterbodies using techniques such as hand-pulling, placement of bottom barriers, harvesting and the application of herbicides to control exotic plants.

New Infestations of Exotic Plants
There was one new infestation of variable milfoil in New Hampshire in 2010 in Willand Pond in Dover. Two new infestations of Eurasian water milfoil were documented in the Nashua River in Nashua and in Post Pond in Lyme.

Clean Lakes Program
The Clean Lakes Program at DES involves the diagnostic evaluation of water quality within a given watershed. Lakes and ponds in New Hampshire are recommended for the Clean Lakes Program if data from other monitoring programs, like the DES Lake Survey Program or the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) show signs of declining water quality over time. Diagnostic studies are designed to determine the sources and magnitudes of phosphorus entering a lake, and to make recommendations to reduce the phosphorus load. Studies generally last 12 to 16 months, and all tributaries and the outlet are sampled for water and phosphorus inputs. Since the early 1980s, 19 diagnostic feasibility studies have been completed. Most recently completed were Rust Pond, Wolfeboro (2007) and Perkins Pond, Sunapee (2009).
In addition to Diagnostic Feasibility Studies, the Clean Lakes Program manages EPA Section 319 (Non-Point Source Pollution) Watershed Based Plans and pollutant load reduction projects. Most recent plans have been completed for Cobbetts Pond, Windham (2010). At this time plans with supporting watershed and in-lake studies are being developed for Granite Lake, Stoddard; Lake Winnipesaukee (Meredith, Paugus and Saunders Bays); Lake Winnisquam, Sanbornton; Mirror Lake, Tuftonboro; Rust Pond, Wolfeboro; and Lake Wentworth, Wolfeboro.

The Clean Lakes Program has also managed completion of several pollutant load reduction projects in 2010 including a porous asphalt project on Webster Lake, Franklin, stormwater treatment for the lower Fossa Road subwatershed on Cobbett's Pond, Windham, stormwater treatment/road improvement projects for Maple Circle on Lake Winnisquam, Sanbornton; North Shore and West Shore Roads on Granite Lake, Nelson; Wolfeboro Road on Goose Pond, Canaan; and the Norway Pond Town Beach, Hancock. Other pollutant load reduction projects currently underway include stormwater treatment and community septic for Webster Lake, Franklin; stormwater treatment for Baboosic Lake, Amherst; and stormwater treatment for the upper Fossa Road subwatershed on Cobbett's Pond, Windham.

The Clean Lakes Program also manages several complaints and enforcement cases each year. In 2010, the Clean Lakes Program assisted the Attorney General's Office with preparing court documents and testified for the state in a case involving an untreated stormwater discharge from a construction site which impacted Penacook Lake, the City of Concord's water supply.

Lake Probabilistic-Based Sampling

The Lake Trophic Survey (LTS) program was discontinued in 2007 in order to participate in the EPA-sponsored National Lake Assessment (NLA) Program for randomly-selected lakes. In 2009 DES completed the third and final year of the three-year program to sample 50 randomly-selected lakes. Nineteen lakes were sampled in 2009. Lakes were sampled according to both NLA and LTS procedures and protocols (NLA samples were sent to contract laboratories). No lake assessments were conducted in 2011. The NLA program will hopefully be conducted in 2012 but is dependent upon federal EPA funding.

Mercury in Fish Program

With assistance from Fish and Game and volunteers, 112 fish were collected from the state's lakes and ponds in 2010. The fish were frozen upon collection and analyzed for total mercury in the DES Limnology Center in late 2010 and early 2011. Many of the lakes and ponds from which the fish were collected have public access facilities, including Mascoma Lake in Enfield and Lake Winnipesaukee.

Biomonitoring Program

In 2010 the DES Biomonitoring Program completed sampling 15 wadeable streams. These data will be paired with data collected in 2009 towards a statewide characterization of the condition of New Hampshire’s rivers and streams. As in 2009, coincident macroinvertebrate and nutrient samples were collected from 15 additional streams for the development of numeric nutrient criteria. Stream water temperature data were collected from approximately 30 sites for the purposes of water quality standards development.

Surface Water Quality Assessments

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to develop and adopt surface water quality standards that include: designated uses for all surface waters, criteria to support the designated uses, and an antidegradation policy. Designated uses are human uses of surface waters that are considered desirable and should be protected.

Water Quality Monitoring of Rivers

Since site-specific water quality assessments tend to focus on rivers and streams with known problems, the results of the assessments are not indicative of water quality statewide with respect to designated uses,
including "primary contact recreation/secondary contact recreation" and "aquatic life." To create a broader picture of water quality in the state's rivers for those designated uses, DES also conducted a probabilistic assessment of wadeable (fourth order and smaller) streams which was used for the 2010 water quality assessment report. In other words, streams were randomly sampled to make inferences about the water quality of all New Hampshire's streams. The assessment found that for "aquatic life" support, there was insufficient data for 47.8 percent of the streams, 37.9 percent supported the aquatic life standard, and 14.3 percent did not. For "primary contact recreation," (i.e. swimming) the percentages were 10.7 percent insufficient data, 83.2 percent supporting, and 6.1 percent not supporting.

Water Quality Monitoring of Lakes
The probabilistic sampling of New Hampshire lakes was completed in 2009 and the evaluation of that data in terms of supporting designated uses was used for the 2010 water quality assessment report. DES will "poll" (sample) a randomly-selected subset of lakes to predict the condition of all lakes. Fifty lakes out of a sample set of 1004 lakes greater than ten acres were sampled. The results showed that over 95% of the lakes supported the "primary contact recreation" (i.e. swimming) use. All lakes supported the swimming use based on bacteria; the non-support lakes were due to elevated chlorophyll (planktonic algal) levels or the presence of a cyanobacteria scum. All lakes fully supported the secondary contact (i.e. boating) use. Less than 4% of the lakes fully supported the "aquatic life" use. Lakes did not support "aquatic life" use for a variety of reasons, and a given lake could be impaired for multiple reasons. Low pH values were the main cause for non support (84%), followed by nutrients as represented by chlorophyll and total phosphorus (56%). Many of the lakes sampled had public access facilities.

Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP)
During 2010, approximately 500 volunteers throughout the state sampled a total of 182 lakes, and approximately 1,100 water quality monitoring stations at those lakes. In addition, the VLAP program generated approximately 15,000 total sample results in 2010. By sampling a lake several times each year over a period of years, long-term water quality trends can be discerned. The sampling efforts of the volunteer monitors supplement the sampling and assessment efforts of DES, saving the state personnel and travel costs. Only through the help of volunteer monitors can such a volume of sampling be accomplished throughout the state.

Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP)
During 2010, VRAP supported 23 volunteer groups. One hundred and ninety-eight VRAP volunteers monitored 239 river and stream water quality monitoring stations, providing over 6,900 water quality parameter measurements useable for the Clean Water Act mandated water quality assessments. For many of the VRAP rivers and tributaries, the volunteers are providing DES with its only source of water quality data. As with the VLAP, the VRAP volunteers provide the agency with high quality data while saving the state significant expense.

Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP)
In 2009, RMPP staff awarded an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 604(b) Water Quality Planning Grant to Southwest Region Planning Commission to develop an Ashuelot River Corridor Management Implementation Plan. The plan was completed in 2010 and contains four goals relative to public access: 1) encourage community support and use of trails, 2) provide for public access throughout the reach, and 3) promote the natural areas of the river corridor as tourist destinations.

In 2009, RMPP staff awarded an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 604(b) Water Quality Planning Grant to Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission and Southwest Region Planning Commission to develop the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Corridor Management Plan. The plan was completed in 2010 and one of the primary goals is to maintain and encourage safe and responsible public access and use of the rivers' resources.
Lakes Management and Protection Program
Since the Public Water Access Advisory Board (PWAAB) was first established in 1993, the Lakes Coordinator has served as the DES representative to the board. In addition to providing the PWAAB with information specific to proposed waterfront state surplus land reviews, making presentations regarding documents produced by DES that pertain to water quality and/or public access, working with the Dam Bureau to review and report the status of DES access sites, and working with the Wetlands Bureau regarding the permitting of access sites, the Coordinator provides assistance to the NH Fish and Game Department and the Board regarding existing and proposed public boat access facilities that are managed by DES and other agencies. During 2010, the Lakes Coordinator provided information to PWAAB and F&G regarding the development of a possible public access in Sawdust Cove of Pine River Pond in Wakefield, assisted with permitting issues pertaining to the development of a public access facility at Stinson Lake in Rumney, and provided assistance to resolve the issues specific to the existing public access at Deering Reservoir.

NH Coastal Program
In 2010, the Coastal Program supported the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation’s beach cleanup programs, including the Adopt-a-Beach Program, International Coastal Cleanup Day and monthly marine debris monitoring program at Jenness Beach, helping to keep public access sites along the coast clean and more enjoyable for visitors. The ultimate goal is marine pollution prevention, which cannot be accomplished by cleanups alone. The Blue Ocean Society used data from the cleanups, along with informative educational materials developed in past projects, to better inform the public of the prevalence and impacts of marine pollution.

NHCP funded the City of Portsmouth’s proposed seawall reconstruction project. The purpose of this project is to reconstruct the seawall at Mechanic Street. The seawall has experienced significant deterioration in recent years, and should it fail, there will be negative impacts on resources including an increase in storm water runoff as well as erosion of sediments from under the road bed impacting nearshore rocky habitats. In addition, the seawall is adjacent to the Mechanic Street sewage pumping station and supports a gravel parking area. The City of Portsmouth will prepare final engineering design plans of the proposed improvements, solicit bids from construction firms and select a contractor to reconstruct the seawall.

The Coastal Program coordinated the Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership, a coalition of agencies and organizations dedicated to the control of land-based invasive species. A number of projects at Odiome State Park have taken place as a result of this partnership and grants from the NHCP. These projects reduce invasive plants while improving public safety and access to the park and beach.
Department of Resources and Economic Development  
Public Waters Access Board  
Annual Report for 2010  

Through its Division of Forests and Lands, and Division of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Resources and Economic Development manages 214 fee owned tracts comprising 167,319 acres, 33 conservation easements comprising 216,749 acres, and manages 3 federally owned tracts comprising 13,446 acres for a range of natural resource values including public recreation and forest management. Many of DRED managed lands have water resources including developed beaches and boat launches, and lake, pond, river and stream access.

**Division of Parks and Recreation**

Heath Pond Bog Natural Area, Pine River launch, Ossipee  
Completed transferring management responsibilities for the boat ramp to Fish and Game.

Jericho Lake State Park, Berlin  
Beach Day Use Area  
The boat ramp was reshaped. Cleaned ditch lines and replaced stone filters. Concrete pavers were set on the existing ramp.

Hampton Beach State Park, Hampton  
A capital improvement project that saw the complete demolition and reconstruction of the main buildings and access to the beach including bigger bathroom facilities and new sidewalks.

**Division of Parks and Recreation - Land and Water Grant Assistance**

No new projects for 2010

**Division of Forests and Lands**

No new projects for 2010

**Forest Legacy Program**

The NH Forest Legacy Program, through Conservation Easements, protects and secures public pedestrian outdoor access and recreational rights. Outdoor recreation is defined as low-impact, non-commercial activities pursued during
leisure time and by free choice that provide their own satisfaction and that make use of nature and the elements in nature including, but not limited to, hiking, nature study, bird watching, walking, snow shoeing, camping, fishing, hunting and cross-country skiing; riding snowmobiles, mountain bicycles, and horses on designated trails, if any; and constructing and maintaining unpaved paths and trails.

Motorized recreational opportunities may be permitted upon written mutual agreement by the Fee Owner and Easement Holder. Specific snowmobiling rights are secured through a recorded Agreement.

The right to issue special use permits to enthusiasts for special recreational pursuits on the Easement area is allowed.

There were no new Forest legacy projects that affected public access to water.
November 1, 2010

His Excellency, John H. Lynch
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, N.H. 03301

Dear Governor Lynch and Honorable Councilors:

I am pleased to submit herewith the Annual Report for the Department of Safety covering the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

On behalf of myself, our management personnel and the dedicated men and women who make up the Department of Safety, I express for all of us a sincere appreciation to you, Governor Lynch, the Executive Councilors and members of the General Court for your support.

In recognition of dedicated and loyal service to the State of New Hampshire, I personally extend grateful appreciation to all employees at the Department of Safety who, through their continued hard work, have made possible the many successful results documented in this report.

I also thank all county and local emergency personnel for their continued cooperation and commitment to public safety.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
John J. Barthelmes
Commissioner

James H. Hayes Safety Building, 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305
The Division of Safety Services includes Marine Patrol, Boating Education, the Moorings Program, and Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety.

The Division operates out of two Lakes Region facilities. Headquarters, located on Lake Winnipesaukee in Gilford, houses the Director’s office, Marine Patrol headquarters, the boat maintenance shop and the Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety Bureau. The Belmont facility, located on Route 106, contains offices and boat storage space.

The Boating Education offices and the Moorings Program are located in Belmont, where the Division stores nearly 100 boats and trailers used by Marine Patrol officers during the boating season.

The state’s lakes, ponds, rivers and tidal waters provide New Hampshire residents and visitors with a variety of recreational opportunities ranging from “quiet water” uses such as kayaking and canoeing to regattas, races and water skiing competitions and power vessel operation.

The challenge for the Marine Patrol is to ensure a safe and pleasurable environment while maintaining a balance among those competing uses. The Marine Patrol strives to educate, inform and enforce laws and rules to maintain the residential, recreational and scenic values to which the state’s water users have become accustomed.

The Boater Education Program, established by the Legislature in 2000, oversees the state’s mandatory boating education certification program through classes for residents and visitors.

The Moorings Program, in place since 1988, oversees the regulation and permitting of moorings on seven of the state’s largest inland bodies of water. The state issues permits for individual applicants, congregate applications (from homogeneous groups applying for more than four moorings in an identified mooring field) and public mooring fields.

The Bureau of Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety is responsible for the registration and inspection of all mechanical ski lifts operating in the state’s 42 public ski areas as well as the investigation of all accidents occurring on those lifts.

The bureau is also responsible for the registration and inspection of all amusement rides and devices operating at amusement parks and water parks, as well as those that are part of traveling amusement shows that set up at the state’s numerous fairs and other public venues.

N.H. Marine Patrol
The Marine Patrol provides services on all 975

Mission Statement:

The Division’s mission is to provide a safe, enjoyable, and environmentally responsible use for all of the state’s public waters, ski lifts and carnival amusement rides. Through three of its sections: Operations, Aids to Navigation and Boater Education Program, the Division provides a comprehensive marine safety enforcement program, places over 5,000 aids to navigation and offers boater education for all recreational and commercial boat operators. and a comprehensive program of ski lift and carnival amusement safety.
public bodies of water throughout the state, including the 158 miles of shoreline in the Seacoast area. Ten full-time sworn personnel and more than 75 seasonal part-time officers conduct regular law enforcement patrols on approximately 200 bodies of inland waters during the boating season. Coastal patrols are conducted year-round.

The Marine Patrol’s mission on the Seacoast is to provide regular recreational boating law enforcement patrols during the boating season as well as providing year-round support to the U.S. Coast Guard in search and rescue efforts and in fulfilling the state’s Homeland Security obligations.

During the first part of this fiscal year, boat registrations dropped in response to the nation’s economic difficulties and less than ideal weather conditions. During 2010, the number of registrations held steady, with approximately 95,400 vessels being registered in New Hampshire.

Marine Patrol officers issued just under 5,000 warnings and 2,238 citations and responded to nearly 4,000 calls for service during this fiscal year.

While enforcement of boating regulations and criminal laws is an important component of the Marine Patrol’s mission, officers also conduct commercial boat inspections, commercial license testing, recreational boat inspections, vessel decibel testing and placement and maintenance of 3,500 navigational aids on inland waters.

Additionally, there were just under 1,000 water event permits, more than 370 swimline permits, and 88 slalom course permits issued on the state’s inland public waters during this fiscal year.

The Marine Patrol is also responsible for the investigation of any drowning or suspected drowning as well as all accidents on public waters resulting in death, serious injury or property damage of $2,000 or more.

The Marine Patrol has the primary responsibility for those investigations and for mandatory federal reporting requirements, although various agencies may exchange data and cooperate with each other to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts.

The Legislature’s passage of a speed limit law for Lake Winnipesaukee presented an additional challenge for the Marine Patrol this summer.

**Boating Education Program**

The Division’s Boating Education Program, now fully implemented, has certified more than 140,000 vessel operators. State law requires that any person operating a vessel of more than 25 horsepower must have completed a boater education course and possess a valid Boater Education certificate issued by the State of New Hampshire, the U.S. Coast Guard or the U.S. Power Squadron.

The state, through this program, offers a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators approved course for vessel operators. The courses are available in a classroom setting, online, and with home study courses.

During this fiscal year, state law mandated that anyone seeking a boating education certification must take a proctored exam to complete the certification process. The proctored exams are offered year-round in many locations throughout the state.

**Moorings Program**

The Moorings Program registers and issues more than 4,900 mooring decals each year on the state’s six largest lakes.

During this fiscal year, legislation was enacted to allow residents/taxpayers to petition the state to include other water bodies in the Moorings Program. To date, Bow Lake has been added to the Moorings Program.

Division personnel review applications, issue individual mooring permits, assist applicants with preparation of documents for congregate mooring applications which are submitted to Governor and Council for approval, and maintain database records for permitted moorings on inland waters.
Bureau of Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety

The Bureau of Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety oversees the safe operation of all ski lifts and amusement rides operating in New Hampshire. Bureau personnel oversee the installation of new or modified ski lifts, registration and annual inspection of lifts, and investigation of accidents and incidents involving personal injury or mechanical failure.

The bureau also works with the New Hampshire Tramway Board to review and approve applications for construction or modification of lifts to ensure that all safety code requirements are met.

During this fiscal year, bureau staff registered 145 mechanical lifts throughout the state. They also conducted more than 700 lift inspections. There were 119 reportable ski lift accidents during this fiscal year.

In addition to the ski lift registration and inspection program, the bureau registers and inspects all fixed and traveling amusement rides, water parks, go-kart tracks, bungee jumping and climbing walls operating in New Hampshire.

Fixed parks are inspected yearly. Traveling amusement companies have rides inspected each time they set up at a location in the state.

During this fiscal year inspectors registered approximately 1,000 rides or amusement devices and conducted more than 1,400 site inspections.

There were 65 amusement ride incidents reported in this fiscal year.

David T. Barrett serves as Director of the Division of Safety Services.

New Hampshire's 10 Largest Lakes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lake</th>
<th>Size (acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winnipesaukee</td>
<td>44,567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilford</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umbagog</td>
<td>7,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Errol</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squam</td>
<td>6,268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holderness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnisquam</td>
<td>4,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laconia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newfound</td>
<td>4,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunapee</td>
<td>4,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunapee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore</td>
<td>3,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Littleton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ossipee</td>
<td>3,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ossipee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wentworth</td>
<td>3,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfeboro</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massabesic</td>
<td>2,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
March 22, 2011

Mr. Thomas Quarles  
Chairman  
Public Waters Access Advisory Board  
11 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03302

Dear Chairman Quarles:

Throughout 2010 the Department of Transportation actively participated as a member of the Public Water Access Advisory Board and has continued to monitor and provide assistance with the following issues:

- Assists the progress of the Harrila’s Landing project.
- As part of the improvements proposed by the Department for the NH Route 12 project (DOT Project #:14747) in the Towns of Walpole and Charlestown, the Connecticut River Joint Commission requested an improved access point to the river. The Department has met with NH Fish and Game to review the site. Pursuant to this request the Department showed an easement at the project public hearing to provide this potential access. As part of the project the Department will provide a driveway access point from NH Route 12 to this easement area.
- The Departments Bureau of Rail and Transit met with Fish and Game’s Land Agent to discuss cartop access for Eagle Pond in the Town of Wilmot and came to a resolution regarding a rail road easement.
- Investigated the ownership issues for Deering Reservoir in Deering and Rocky Pond in Hollis.
- The Department has been asked by the PWAAB to provide signs for State owned Roads to Public Waters (RTPW’s). Ongoing discussions will clarify which roads specifically need signage.

The Department’s Division of Project Development continually investigates opportunities to improve access to public waters during the design process of our projects as well as through our regularly scheduled inter-agency coordination meetings with various natural resource agencies.

The Department shares the goal of the Board to provide adequate access to the public waters of our State and is glad to be a willing partner.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Urban  
Environmental Manager
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT
STATEWIDE PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department’s “Statewide Public Boat Access Program” focus is to provide fair, adequate and reasonable public access to the State’s waters. Funding for the program primarily comes from two sources: 1.) A five-dollar surcharge placed on New Hampshire boat registrations where this five-dollar surcharge and any other public access funds donated to the State are placed in a non-lapsing, continually appropriated, statewide public boat access fund; and, 2.) The Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program, which collects excise taxes placed on sport fishing equipment, trolling motors, flashers, motorboat fuels, and import duties on tackle, pleasure boats and yachts. When a state accepts Federal Sport Fish Restoration Funds, it must use at least 15 percent of these monies for motorized boating access projects. Federal boating access funds may be spent on the acquisition of land to develop new access facilities, or to renovate and improve existing facilities. Renovations and improvements may include items such as launching ramps, docks, fueling stations, buoys, retaining walls, parking lots, utilities and restrooms. Projects that help expedite access to open water may also be funded, they include; channel improvements, vegetation clearance and the installation of navigational aids.

The Department uses the aforementioned funds to carry out the provisions of the Statewide Public Boat Access Program established under RSA 233-A. This statute directs the Department to acquire lands, construct, refurbish, maintain, operate, enforce and inspect new and existing public boat access facilities.

During calendar year 2010, the governor transferred five hundred thousand dollars from the Statewide Public Boat Access Fund to the State General Fund as part of a budget balancing process. Despite this loss of funding, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department continued its work to expand and improve public access to State waters by performing the following: continued discussion with the Town of Newmarket for the reconstruction of the Water Street Boat ramp; entered the appeal process for
three permits for Sunapee Lake; continued discussion with landowner for acquisition of land for a boat ramp to Laurel Lake; secured permits for reconstruction of a ramp at Newfound Lake and for refurbishment of the access facility on Onway Lake; continued discussion with the Town of Hancock to enter lease agreement to reconstruct ramp to Lake Nubanusit; conducted an open house presentation with the Town of Marlborough for improvements to the ramp to Meetinghouse Pond; and, 141 existing sites were maintained and operated.

**LAND LEASE PROGRAM**

The Department is working with several towns that have expressed an interest in the “Land Lease” program initiative. This program is designed to provide Department assistance to landowners who enter into a lease agreement with the Department and agree that the facility will remain open for public use for the life of the capital improvements. In return, the Department agrees to design, construct, operate, maintain, manage, inspect and/or enforce regulations pertaining to these public water access sites, or any combination of the aforementioned services. Access facilities that qualify for the program will be under control of the Department and will be operated as a Department facility for the life of the capital improvements (30-years).

The Town of Orford was the first Town interested in participating in the Land Lease Program. The Department obtained Governor and Council approval in 2009 to execute a lease agreement with the Town of Orford, which will allow the Department to improve the town-owned, trailered boat access fronting the Connecticut River. In addition, the town of Newmarket (Lamprey River) continues looking into the program. Communications with the Town of Hancock began relative to a lease agreement for the Nubanusit Lake boat launch which is in need of repair. The Hancock Selectmen were in favor of the lease but wanted to put it before the townspeople at town meeting in 2011 prior to any agreement. It should be noted that this program is not limited to towns; private ownerships or county ownerships are all eligible, as long as they are willing to meet the conditions of the lease for the public good. The Department is also working on a 20 year lease agreement with the Town of Franklin for improvements to the access facility on Webster Lake. This project also involves a separate agreement with NH Department of Transportation as part of the facility is located with the DOT right of way.

The primary benefit of this program is that the public will enjoy increased boating and fishing opportunities, while the Department reduces its cost by not having to purchase land. The money that is saved can then be used towards additional construction projects. Conversely, a participating town or individual has a chance to have a new access site developed, or an existing site repaired, with funds through the Statewide Public Boat Access Program. It is expected that as the program grows, more cooperators will partner with the Department to improve public water access opportunities.
ICE DAMAGE REMEDIATION

In 2010, the Department’s engineer and construction personnel continued to monitor the problems of winter ice-damage to Department boat ramps and found minor damage at the Lake Umbagog ramp. Since New Hampshire waters are subject to a freeze up each winter, some ponds and lakes are susceptible to boat ramp damage caused by the horizontal and vertical forces exerted from these ice loads; e.g. Cedar Pond, Milan and Lake Umbagog, Cambridge are a few examples. The damage is mostly confined to the concrete logs used in the boat ramp design, and can be so severe that it renders a ramp inoperable the following spring. This damage requires the Department to prematurely replace these ramps.

The Lake Umbagog ramp damage was limited to heaving of the uppermost concrete logs. The concrete logs were removed and set back in place in the April 2010. The entire ramp was scheduled for replacement in the fall 2010 with a design similar to the one used at Cedar Pond. That replacement was completed. Ice damage previously identified at Clough Pond (Loudon) was checked in the spring of 2010. This ramp will likely last a few more years before it needs replacement.

The premature ice-damage to Department boat ramps is costing the Department monies that could be better used on other projects. Evaluation of the ice-damage remediation strategy will occur in the spring of 2011.

POWER LOADING

The Department is constructing longer and deeper ramps, where necessary, to deter the damage caused by loading and unloading boats from a trailer while under power, commonly referred to as “power-loading”. It will take several years to determine whether the power-loading problem has been solved. In the meantime, the Department will continue its ongoing education program to alert the public to the damage caused by loading a boat onto a trailer under power. Press releases, as well as signage at boat ramps are part of a program that alerts the public to the problem and asks for their cooperation.

Due to extremely low water levels in 2010, the ramp on Baxter Lake in Rochester exhibited signs of being impacted by power loading. Several calls were received from boaters indicating that their trailers had dropped off the end of the ramp making it difficult to launch and retrieve their boats. This ramp is scheduled for repair in 2011.

LAKE HOST PROGRAM

Similar to the last five years, the Department has collaborated with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and the New Hampshire Lakes Association with a “Lake Host
A total of 14 NH Fish and Game Department facilities were enrolled in the program in 2010 (Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waterbody</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Hosting Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beaver Lake</td>
<td>Derry</td>
<td>Beaver Lake Improvement Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clough Pond</td>
<td>Loudon</td>
<td>Clough Pond Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Lake</td>
<td>Enfield</td>
<td>Crystal Lake Improvement Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastman Lake</td>
<td>Grantham</td>
<td>Eastman Community Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Tarleton</td>
<td>Piermont</td>
<td>Lake Tarleton Association, Inc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrymeeting Lake</td>
<td>New Durham</td>
<td>Merrymeeting Lake Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newfound Lake</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>Newfound Lake Region Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pawtuckaway Lake</td>
<td>Nottingham</td>
<td>Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant Lake</td>
<td>Deerfield</td>
<td>Pleasant Lake Association of Deerfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand Pond</td>
<td>Marlow</td>
<td>Sand Pond Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squam Lake</td>
<td>Holderness</td>
<td>Squam Lakes Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stinson Lake</td>
<td>Rumney</td>
<td>Stinson Lake Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Lake</td>
<td>Alstead</td>
<td>Lake Warren Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnisquam Lake</td>
<td>Laconia</td>
<td>Lake Winnisquam Watershed Association</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lake Host volunteers provided free boat inspections at these Department boat access sites throughout the summer. The intent of the program is to educate boaters about exotic invasive aquatic plants and their accidental introductions into State waters by boaters. There is always the potential for invasive aquatic plant fragments to travel from lake to lake by being attached to fishing equipment, boat trailers, boats and their motors. Lake Hosts educate boaters and anglers on the proper way to inspect their equipment, where plant fragments tend to collect. In addition, anglers and boaters are taught how to properly dispose of invasive plant fragments so that accidental introductions can be prevented.

The Lake Host Volunteer Program reaches thousands of boaters and anglers and will continue throughout the 2011 boating season.

**LAND ACQUISITION**

Each year, the Department receives offers and suggestions to purchase lands fronting public waters, as well as requests to address ownership issues associated with existing State-owned properties. In addition, the Department reviews State surplus land proposals, ensuring that State lands that harbor water access potential are not disposed of by the State. The parcels that have the capability of providing public water access are transferred to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and are assimilated into the program for public use.
Each land offer requires staff to devote time to assess their access potential. Those properties that can provide opportunities to enhance water access, while meeting the legal, environmental, engineering and regulatory standards are purchased for subsequent public access activities.

In 2010, 8 property issues were addressed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body</th>
<th>City/Town</th>
<th>Access Type</th>
<th>Project Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arlington Mill Reservoir</td>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>Cartop</td>
<td>Town of Salem has property they would like FG to construct a cartop site on. After a site visit it was determined that lack of parking made this infeasible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamprey River</td>
<td>Raymond</td>
<td>Canoe/kayak</td>
<td>Private citizen offered land for sale. The site is not conducive to an access site due to steep grades, low water and highway location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Lake</td>
<td>Winchester</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>Sporting Club looking for help in fixing their access point. After talks, lease or sale to FG was not desired. FG offered technical advice for access improvements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamprey River</td>
<td>Newmarket</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>Department working to finalize &quot;Land lease&quot; agreement document. Lease approved by town and project is awaiting resolution of parking issues. Town is unresponsive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurel Lake</td>
<td>Fitzwilliam</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>Awaiting subdivision by private land owner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webster Lake</td>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>Working to finalize lease agreement with the town to refurbish existing town boat ramp. Finalize agreement with DOT associated with their portion of site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ossipee River</td>
<td>Effingham</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>Completed land transfer from DOT including existing boat ramp. Town will provide seasonal maintenance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine River</td>
<td>Ossipee</td>
<td>Trailered Boats</td>
<td>Management of 2.88 acres of DRED land including boat ramp was transferred to F&amp;G.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**PROGRAMMATICAL, LEGAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY ISSUES**

Securing all necessary permits; evaluating potential sites for hazardous wastes; investigating sites for potential historic resources; wetlands delineation; legal package preparation; threatened and endangered species reviews for plants and animals; National Environmental Policy Act Compliance and grant preparation and submittals are all examples of programmatical, legal, environmental and regulatory issues. This work must be completed before the Department can purchase property for subsequent access development, or to improve an existing Department-owned site. The tasks associated with this work exemplify the Department’s pro-active approach in addressing State and Federal requirements. This saves time and monies by addressing any issues that may create costly delays, or in the worst case, stop a proposed action from occurring. During the past year, programmatical activities were conducted at the following water bodies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Project Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut River</td>
<td>Orford</td>
<td>Refurbishment of boat ramp</td>
<td>Completed design phase. In permit phase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle Pond</td>
<td>Wilmot</td>
<td>To construct a cartop access site.</td>
<td>In design phase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Hole Pond</td>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>Refurbishment of boat ramp and fishing pier</td>
<td>In design phase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Umbagog</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>Construct floating dock.</td>
<td>In design phase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetinghouse Pond</td>
<td>Marlborough</td>
<td>Refurbishment of site, drainage to be improved.</td>
<td>Permitting complete, construction in 2011.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stinson Lake</td>
<td>Rumney</td>
<td>To improve ramp and erosion.</td>
<td>Permitting complete, construction in 2011.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

The NHFG construction crew was busy with five boat access related projects in 2010 in addition to other miscellaneous construction projects for the department. A cartop access facility was constructed on Purity Pond in Eaton. Construction of this facility involved new technologies including grassed paving for parking, timber box steps and a stabilized low-abrasion pedestrian/launching surface similar to that previously installed at Turtletown Pond in Concord. As mentioned previously, the ice damaged ramp at Umbagog Lake was replaced with the newer design. In addition, the parking lot was regraded with designated parking for trailers and cartop vehicles. Under an agreement with NH DOT, the Fish and Game Department refurbished the access site to the Winnipesaukee River in Northfield. This included the installation of a concrete log ramp for trailered access as well as grading the parking area. NH DOT will retain ownership and maintenance responsibilities of the site. Work at Beaver Lake in Derry consisted of replacing the damaged older concrete log ramp with the newer design and eradication of an invasive community of Japanese Knotweed . In the fall of 2010, construction began at the Merrymeeting Lake boat ramp in New Durham. The project consists of replacing the ramp, installing a floating dock and realigning/regrading the parking area. The majority of the ramp was completed during the construction season, with the remainder of the site scheduled for completion in the spring of 2011.

MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING FACILITIES

The Department takes its maintenance duties seriously. Since the useful life of a facility is directly correlated to its upkeep, a pro-active maintenance program is a necessity. The Department currently performs maintenance at 141 access facilities. Maintenance activities are divided into two categories: Type I – Construction Crew Maintenance Activities; and Type II - General Maintenance Crew Activities. Construction Crew Maintenance Activities are those jobs that require the use of heavy equipment, whereas, General Maintenance Crew Activities are jobs of a lighter nature, and are usually done on a routine basis. Regularly scheduled operation and maintenance activities ensure safe, functional, attractive, and user-friendly public access sites. In addition, pro-active maintenance initiatives prevent little problems from becoming bigger problems that require costly repairs. As new access sites are constructed, the costs of operation and maintenance of these sites continues to increase.
Type I Activities – 2010

Several access facilities were addressed during 2010. Work consisted primarily of regrading/repairing several roads, culverts and parking areas due to stormwater run off.

Type II Activities – 2010

Keeping abreast of minor maintenance issues are important. This past year saw seasonal employees collect several hundred 30-gallon bags of refuse from 141 Department access sites. The Department has a carry-in/carry-out policy. However, trash is still an issue that is addressed each and every operating season. Other maintenance activities from over 3000 site visits include repainting/replacing several signs and kiosks. All 141 sites required either mowing, brush removal and/or trimming. Forty-six rental toilets, twenty-four of which are handicap toilets were contracted and installed, as well as the pumping of the septic tank at the Department’s Newfound Lake access site. The Department steam cleans 12 vault toilets on a monthly basis each and every season.

Prepared by,

Jeffrey King
Statewide Public Boat Access Program Coordinator
The role of the Office of Energy and Planning as a member of the Public Water Access Advisory Board (PWAAB) is: 1) to assist in providing information and planning guidance regarding the development of access to New Hampshire's water bodies and 2) to provide an up-to-date inventory of the water access sites in New Hampshire.

Throughout 2010, the Office of Energy and Planning continued to visit public access sites in the state, in order to verify and update information on the sites stored in a geospatial database. New access sites were recorded in the database, and locations, available uses, and accessibility were updated and corrected where necessary for existing sites. As of the end of 2010, all public access sites as far north as Berlin have been visited. The updates have been provided to the GRANIT Data Mapper (http://mapper.granit.unh.edu/viewer.jsp), as well as to the Department of Fish and Game for the development of that department's Public Access Map. The remaining sites north of Berlin and Lancaster are scheduled to be visited in summer 2011.

At the Board’s meetings throughout 2010, and pursuant to OEP’s recommendation in New Hampshire Outdoors, Revised 2008-2013, New Hampshire's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), OEP has provided technical data to assist the Board in analyzing the sufficiency of public access facilities to the state’s 36 largest water bodies, namely, lakes larger than 500 acres. OEP developed a set of custom maps for the state’s largest lakes depicting all public access sites, conservation lands, road network, and water bodies.

The Office of Energy and Planning has been represented on the Board since December 2007 by Ken Gallager, principal planner and geographic information system specialist.