



PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
between

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
and
PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY - CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) and Plymouth State University (PSU), through its Center for the Environment (CFE or the Center) share common goals for the protection and wise management of New Hampshire's environment.

Formed in January 1987 by state statute RSA 21-O, DES was legislatively created through the consolidation and reorganization of four previously separate agencies: the Air Resources Agency, the Office of Waste Management, the Water Supply and Pollution Control Commission, and the Water Resources Board. The protection and wise management of the State of New Hampshire's environment and public health are the important goals of DES. The department's responsibilities range from ensuring high levels of water quality for water supplies, ecological balance, and recreational benefits, to regulating the emissions of air pollutants, to fostering the proper management of municipal and industrial waste, to managing water resources for future generations.

CFE addresses the science, policies, culture and economics of the natural environment in northern New England through research, education, and collaboration. The Center engages on- and off-campus partners to define, acquire, and provide science-based knowledge to make informed decisions. Established at PSU in 2004 with the dual purpose of building research capacity at PSU and providing the region with knowledge on environmental issues, CFE's specific objectives are to:

- Prepare PSU students for lives and careers that demand a thorough understanding of human interactions with the natural, human, and built environment.
- Contribute in major ways to the solution of significant environmental problems in our region.
- Foster relations and encourage collaborative efforts within PSU and with environmental agencies and organizations.

The Center has a special commitment to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire and PSU, and it is geographically well situated to serve this role. The work of the Center enhances the Lakes Region and North Country economies, and fosters regional environmental understanding and literacy.

DES and CFE have a history of working together having previously entered into a Partnership Agreement with a work plan for the time period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011. DES and CFE have partnered to establish the Center's Environmental Research Laboratory as a satellite lab for the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) and Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP) to

meet the goal of providing laboratory services to North Country communities and Lakes Region associations. DES has participated in the Hubbard Brook Research Experience for Undergraduates program which is coordinated by CFE with Hubbard Brook Research Foundation. Both parties have worked together on the successful annual New Hampshire Water and Watershed Conference designed to provide the latest research and information to New Hampshire's communities, non-profit watershed organizations, researchers, and water resource professionals. DES and CFE have also had a contractual partnership on road salt and milfoil prevention projects. We jointly desire to extend and formalize opportunities for collaboration through this agreement.

Given the common goals of the partners and the benefits of cooperation, DES and PSU hereby enter into this Partnership Agreement. It is anticipated that this Partnership Agreement will result in enhanced communication between DES and CFE and enable joint projects for improved environmental protection with an emphasis on building understanding and involvement among local communities and organizations in the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire. The specific partnership areas are detailed in the attached Partnership Work Plan, which is the result of discussions between representatives of DES and CFE. The tasks are non-binding and voluntary and can be revised at any time by mutual written agreement of both parties. Specific projects to be undertaken as a result of this agreement shall be in writing and approved by authorized signers of each party.



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner, DES

Date: 1/28/2013



Joseph N. Boyer, Director
Center for the Environment, PSU

Date: 1/25/13



Sara Jayne Steen, President, PSU

Date: 1/25/13

PARTNERSHIP WORK PLAN

I. Timeframe: This Work Plan shall be for the period from the date of signature through December 31, 2015, and may be amended from time to time by mutual written agreement of the parties.

II. Program Areas and Tasks

A. Laboratory Services and Environmental Data: DES and CFE will work together to provide and promote the use of the CFE Environmental Research Laboratory as a satellite laboratory that is operated in compliance with the DES Jody Connor Limnology Center and NH Department of Health and Human Services State Laboratory standards for volunteer water quality monitoring groups and other services, as needed.

1. DES will, to the extent possible, provide supplies and equipment to CFE that may be needed by the volunteers for sample collection.
2. CFE will provide the facilities and testing services to process and analyze samples collected by volunteer water quality monitoring groups. CFE may charge for testing services at a rate that is comparable to the rate charged by the Department of Health and Human Services laboratory.

B. Environmental Research and Outreach Projects:

1. CFE will:

- a. Work with DES to develop research and outreach projects that contribute to the work of DES and to the education and research experience of PSU students. These projects will focus on current environmental issues, add value to the work of DES, contribute to the regional mission of PSU, and have a focus on, but not be limited to, the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire.
- b. Provide opportunities for qualified students to work on these projects.
- c. Provide appropriate oversight from PSU faculty and staff for the administration and completion of these projects.

2. DES will:

- a. Work with CFE to develop research and outreach projects that contribute to the work of DES and also to the education of PSU students. These projects will focus on current environmental issues, add value to the work of DES, and have a focus on, but not be limited to, the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire.
- b. Provide opportunities when appropriate for qualified PSU students to apply for internships or volunteer at DES to enhance their learning experience. DES and PSU agree to explore opportunities for these internships to be part of graduate students'

education by combining DES internships with the students' PSU program of study and thesis-based research.

- c. Provide opportunities for DES employees to apply their work to cooperative projects with CFE and receive academic credit when appropriate.
- C. Analysis and Interpretation of Applied Environmental Problems to the State of New Hampshire and its Northern Regions: CFE and DES will work together on a coordinated and supported effort for research; data collection, storage, and analysis; and education and exchange of environmental knowledge that supports the northern and central regions of New Hampshire.
- D. Partnering to Raise Awareness and Understanding of Environmental Issues in the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire: CFE and DES will work together to facilitate the development of forums, conferences (*e.g.*, the New Hampshire Water and Watershed Conference), workshops, and programs on supporting environmental science and corresponding policy decisions for the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire as needed.
- E. Participation in Academic Endeavors: Qualified DES staff will be allowed to apply for External Affiliate Faculty status in CFE (as per USHN Policy <http://usnholpm.unh.edu/USY/V.Pers/C.6.htm>). DES Staff holding such status may be authorized to participate in the teaching of in-class or field courses and to serve on, but not chair, Master's thesis committees. External Affiliate Faculty are not eligible for compensation, but do receive PSU identification and may use all relevant PSU facilities, including the library.
- F. Resources to Implement Partnership Agreement:
1. CFE will provide staff and Laboratory support to meet the goals of this Partnership as time and budget permit.
 2. DES will provide staff support to meet the goals of this Partnership, subject to budgetary limitations.