



**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
and
PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY**

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 the NH Department of Environmental Services. 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.

Established in 2004, The Center for the Environment is a collaborative effort among Plymouth State University academic departments, government agencies, and regional nonprofit organizations. The goal of the Center for the Environment is to address the science, policies, culture and economics of the natural environment in northern New England through research, education and collaboration.

The Center has a special commitment to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire and PSU is geographically well situated to serve this role. The Center focuses on applied environmental problems and engages local communities and organizations in environmental demonstration projects that integrate the natural and human environments. The work of the Center enhances the North Country economy, and fosters regional environmental understanding and literacy.

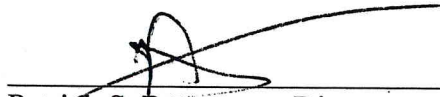
Between 2005 and 2009, DES and CFE have already partnered to establish the Center's Environmental Research Laboratory as a satellite lab for the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) to meet the goal of providing laboratory services to North Country communities and lake associations. DES has participated in the Hubbard Brook Research Experience for Undergraduates program which is coordinated by CFE with Hubbard Brook

Research Foundation. 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.

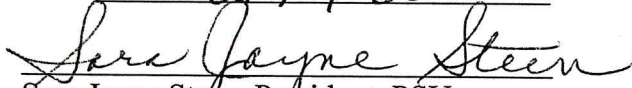
Given the common goals of the partners and the benefits of cooperation, DES and PSU hereby enter into this Partnership Agreement. It is anticipated that this Partnership Agreement will result in enhanced communication between DES and CFE and enable joint projects for improved environmental protection 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 nonbinding and voluntary and can be revised at any time by 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: 6/5/2009


Patrick S. Bourgeron, Director
Center for the Environment, PSU

Date: 6/5/2009


Sara Jayne Steen, President, PSU

Date: 6/5/09

PARTNERSHIP WORK PLAN

- I. **Timeframe:** This Work Plan shall be for the period from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011 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 DES State Laboratory standards for volunteer water quality monitoring groups.
 1. DES will 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.
 - 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 work as interns at DES to enhance their learning experience.

- 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, workshops, and programs on supporting environmental science and corresponding policy decisions for the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire as needed.
- E. Resources to Implement Partnership Agreement
 - 1. CFE will provide staff and Laboratory time to meet the goals this Partnership as time and budget permit.
 - 2. DES will provide staff support to meet the goals of this Partnership, subject to budgetary limitations.