



NH WILDLIFE COALITION – SUCCESSIONS AND CHALLENGES

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FISH & GAME DEPARTMENT SUMMARY



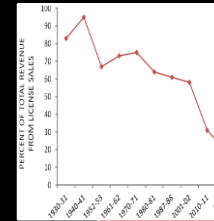
The People

- Executive Director
- Fish & Game Commission
- Wildlife Division Staff
- Non-Game Division staff
- Search & Rescue/Enforcement Staff
- Administrative Staff
- Legal Counsel



The Programs

- Hunting & Fishing Licensing & Regulations
- OHRV Registration & Enforcement
- Non-Game & Endangered Species Management
- Search & Rescue
- Land Conservation & Management



The Challenge

- **Funding**
- Declining Revenues, esp. License Fees
- Increasing expenses, esp. staff benefits
- Budget cuts have forced several unfunded positions to remain open
- Decision-making authority limited to F&G Commission
- **Lack of Representation**
- 11-member Commission has to hold active license

2007 AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Observation No. 1: Redefine The Role Of The Fish And Game Commission

Observation No. 2: Consider Changing The Name Of The F&G Department To Reflect Its Scope Of Responsibilities

Observation No. 3: Consider Broader Representation On The New Hampshire Fish And Game Commission To Include Other User Groups

Observation No. 4: Consider A Study Commission To Review The Long-Term Direction Of The F&G

Observation No. 5: Consider Reclassifying The Assistant Director And Division Chief Positions To Improve Management Cohesion

SUCCESSSES

- 2016 – Formed NH Wildlife Coalition
- 2017 - Rallied state to have Legislature overrule proposed Bobcat Hunt
- 2017 - Lobbied Legislature and passed SB48 to form F&G Study Commission
- 2018 – Forced Commissions hand on game management rules

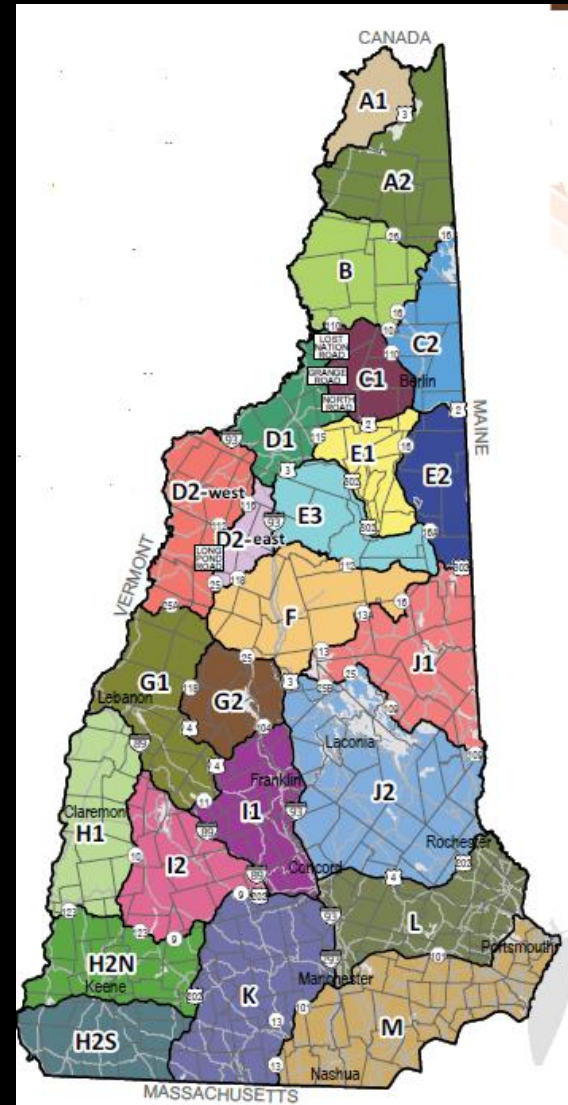


KEY TO BOBCAT HUNT BAN SUCCESS

- Participated in reviewing research that underscored the potential to re-open the bobcat season after 28 years
- Talked to lead bobcat trappers and researchers
- Talked with F&G staff about population statistics
- LOE's & Radio Talk Shows
- Leveraged public concern to build NH Wildlife Coalition
- Presented data to state at Fish & Game hearings
- Attended Commission meetings
- Testified at Legislature
- Solicited petition with VOW and presented to JLCAR

CHALLENGES AHEAD

- Fish & Game Commission primarily hunting interests
- Revenue primary concern going forward
- Declining CPUE's for many spp., esp. fox & fisher, yet no changes
- 4 Coyote Killing Contests still “allowed” by F&G
- Snowshoe hare live trapping for “training” beagles still allowed





Acknowledgments:

NH Wildlife Coalition
NH Fish & Game Staff
NH State Legislature