

Support the [Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program!](#)

You can donate when filing your Massachusetts state income tax by entering an amount on Line 32a:
"Endangered Wildlife Conservation" 

A critical part of the funding equation for the MA Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program are your voluntary contributions on your Massachusetts state income tax form. If you care about the future of our wildlife and wild places here in Massachusetts, please contribute.

For additional details, see below.

Thank you for your support of this important program!

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NHESP is responsible for the conservation and protection of hundreds of species that are not hunted, fished, trapped, or commercially harvested in the state. The Program's highest priority is protecting the 72 vertebrates, 104 invertebrates and 256 species of native plants that are officially listed as Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern in Massachusetts.

In 2012 contributions to NHESP dropped to their lowest level ever. Contributions in 2013 rose slightly. Contributions rose from 2012 to 2013 by 4.1% to almost \$178,000. The number of contributors (via the tax checkoff) rose by 2.3% to 18,098. The situation remains dire.

For several years, except for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2012, no general tax funds in the state budget have been allocated to support the NHES Program. Most of the operational budget of this program comes from sporting license fees (Inland Fish & Game Fund), permitting, grants and federal aid.

The NHESP has also been subject to an administrative indirect cost rate (ICR) fee (for overhead costs such as lights and electricity) on an annual basis since 2003. Annually the Program, after much time and effort has been expended, has received a waiver of the ICR. In 2011, a bill was filed to provide a permanent waiver of this fee, the legislation passed in both houses of the legislature, but was vetoed by the governor. On a positive note, the waiver for the administrative indirect costs was granted for FY13 and FY14 and has already granted for FY15. This waiver has only granted to NHESP on an annual basis and a permanent waiver would be a tremendous help. In years when the waiver is not granted, NHESP is charged around \$400,000, an almost unbearable hit for the Program.

To learn more about rare and endangered species conservation in Massachusetts, visit

www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dgf/dfw/natural-heritage/. Scroll down to and click on "Support us" for a downloadable flyer about the Program and more information on the tax checkoff and making a contribution.

You can donate when filing your Massachusetts state income tax by entering an amount on Line 32a: "Endangered Wildlife Conservation". Ask your tax preparer, if you use one, to do this.

If you have already filed your taxes, you can still make a direct donation to the NHESP by sending a check made payable to ***Comm. of MA NHESP*** to:

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
1 Rabbit Hill Road
Westborough, MA 01581.

Your contribution is tax deductible on the federal level, but not for state tax purposes.

If you have more questions, please contact the NHESP in Westborough at (508) 389-6360.

Additional things you can do to support NHESP:

- Contribute generously by making a donation of \$20 or more to support this worthwhile program!
- Help spread the word! Tell a friend or neighbor about this program and its important work. Share this information with your local bird clubs and other community groups.
- Get the information out in your community via websites, newsletters, letters to the editor, etc.

Thank you!