



## WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL

**Title:** Lakes Lay Monitoring Program

The Lakes Lay Monitoring Program is an ongoing effort between the state of NH and the University of New Hampshire. The objective of the program is to provide a long-term assessment of water quality in the state's lakes. Lakes are a critically important component of the state's environmental and economic health. Tourism provides a significant fraction of the state's economic base, and high water quality drives much tourism activity. The ecological health of the state is also tied to the health of its lakes. Lakes provide much of the state's biodiversity as well as a quantitatively significant fraction of the state's total aquatic habitat.

Water samples are taken at approximately monthly intervals through the ice-free period in most of New Hampshire's major lakes. A total of over 100 lakes is sampled each year. *Water* samples are analyzed for chlorophyll a and total phosphorus; in situ monitoring of dissolved oxygen and Secchi depth are conducted by the volunteers.

In the Lakes Lay Monitoring Program, volunteers collect *water* samples and (University personnel provide technical supervision of the collection efforts and water quality analyses. Funds provided to the Program by the state of NH are used to organize the citizen volunteers and analyze the water samples. The role of the WRRC in this partnership is to provide assistance in the data synthesis and analysis necessary to derive the maximum benefit from this project for citizens of the state of New Hampshire. In the coming year, the NTHWRRC will find a portion of the salary of Jeremy Schloss, the scientist who is involved in statistical analysis of long-term trends in lake water quality. WRC staff will assist in developing links to the NHWRRC web site, and further developing that web site so that it provides maximum utility to the citizens of the state.