

What are Wetland Reserve Easements?

Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) offer landowners the opportunity to voluntarily restore and protect wetlands on their property and focus on restoring hydrology and plants as well as protecting wildlife and migratory birds. NRCS provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. Floodplain forests and coastal marshes are among wetlands restored through WRE.

Protecting wetlands provides wildlife habitat, as well as enhancement of soil, water, plants, and related natural resource concerns. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection.

Restoration Projects include:

- Invasive species management
- Installation of water control structures
- Removal of stream impediments
- Early successional habitat development and management



How WRE Works

Landowners may file an application for a conservation easement or a cost-share restoration agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture



(USDA) to restore and protect wetlands. Participants voluntarily limit future use of the land, but retain private ownership.

The Benefits of WRE

WRE participants benefit by:

- Receiving financial and technical assistance in return for restoring, protecting and enhancing wetland functions and values;
- Having technical and financial assistance to develop wildlife recreational opportunities on their land.
- Having wetlands that provide fish and wildlife habitat, improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals, reduce flooding, recharge groundwater, protect biological diversity, and provide opportunities for educational, scientific, and recreational activities.

Permanent Easement

Permanent easements are conservation easements in perpetuity. NRCS pays 100 percent of the easement value for the purchase of the easement. Additionally, NRCS pays between 75 to 100 percent of the restoration costs. NRCS also pays all costs associated with recording the easement in the local land records office, including recording fees, charges for abstracts, survey and appraisal fees, and title insurance.

Land eligible for wetland reserve easements includes farmed or converted wetland that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored. NRCS will prioritize applications based on the easement's potential for protecting and enhancing habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.

NRCS enters into purchase agreements with eligible private landowners to develop and implement a wetland reserve restoration easement plan to restore, protect, and enhance the wetland.

Is My Land Eligible?

To be eligible for WRE, land must be restorable and be suitable for wildlife benefits.

This includes:

- Wetlands farmed under natural conditions;
- Farmed wetlands;
- Prior converted cropland;
- Farmed wetland pasture;
- Farmland that has become a wetland as a result of flooding;
- Range land, pasture, or production forest land where the hydrology has been significantly degraded and can be restored;
- Riparian areas which link protected wetlands;
- Lands adjacent to protected wetlands that contribute significantly to wetland functions and values; and
- Previously restored wetlands that need long-term protection.



How Do I Apply?

Applications are accepted through a continuous sign-up process. Applications may be obtained and filed at any time with your local USDA Service Center or conservation district office.



Ineligible Land. Ineligible land includes wetlands converted after December 23, 1985; lands with timber stands established under a Conservation Reserve Program contract; Federal lands; lands owned by an agency of the United States; lands owned in fee title by a State; land subject to an easement or deed restriction which provides similar protection as in WRE; and lands where conditions make restoration impossible.

For more information on WRE in
New Hampshire visit:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/nh/programs/easements/?cid=stelprdb1253556>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NRCS and New Hampshire Conservation District Offices

NRCS Easement Team:

NRCS NH State Office
2 Madbury Rd.
Durham, NH 03824
603-868-9931

Sue Knight, All Easement Programs, x118
susan.knight@nh.usda.gov

Jeremy Lougee, WRE
Easement Contact, x142
jeremy.lougee@nh.usda.gov

Brooke Smart, WRE
Restoration Contact, x106
brook.smart@nh.usda.gov

Ryan DuBois, ALE Easement Contact, x124
ryan.dubois@nh.usda.gov

Belknap County Conservation District
2 Airport Rd., Unit 1
Gilford, NH 03249
603-527-5880

Concord Field Office Merrimack County Conservation District
10 Ferry Street, Suite 211,
Concord, NH 03301
603-223-6023

Conway Field Office Carroll County Conservation District
73 Main St.
Conway, NH 03818
603-447-2771

Epping Field Office
Knighly Plaza
629 Calef Highway, Suite 203
Epping, NH 03042
603-679-1587

Lancaster Field Office Coos County Conservation District
4 Mayberry Lane,
Lancaster, NH 03584
603-788-4651

Milford Field Office Hillsborough County Conservation District
Chappell Professional Ctr.,
#468, Rte. 13 South,
Milford, NH 03055
603-673-2409

Orford Field Office Grafton County Conservation District
19 Archertown Rd., Suite 1
Orford, NH 03777
603-353-4651

Rockingham County Conservation District
110 North Road,
Brentwood, NH 03833
603-679-2790

Sullivan County Conservation District
95 County Farm Rd.
Unity, NH 03743
603-863-4297

Strafford County Conservation District
264 County Farm Rd.
Dover, NH 03820
603-749-3037

Walpole Field Office Cheshire County Conservation District
11 Industrial Park Dr.
Walpole, NH 03608
603-756-2988



United States
Department of Agriculture

Wetland Reserves Easements in NH



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Helping People Help the Land