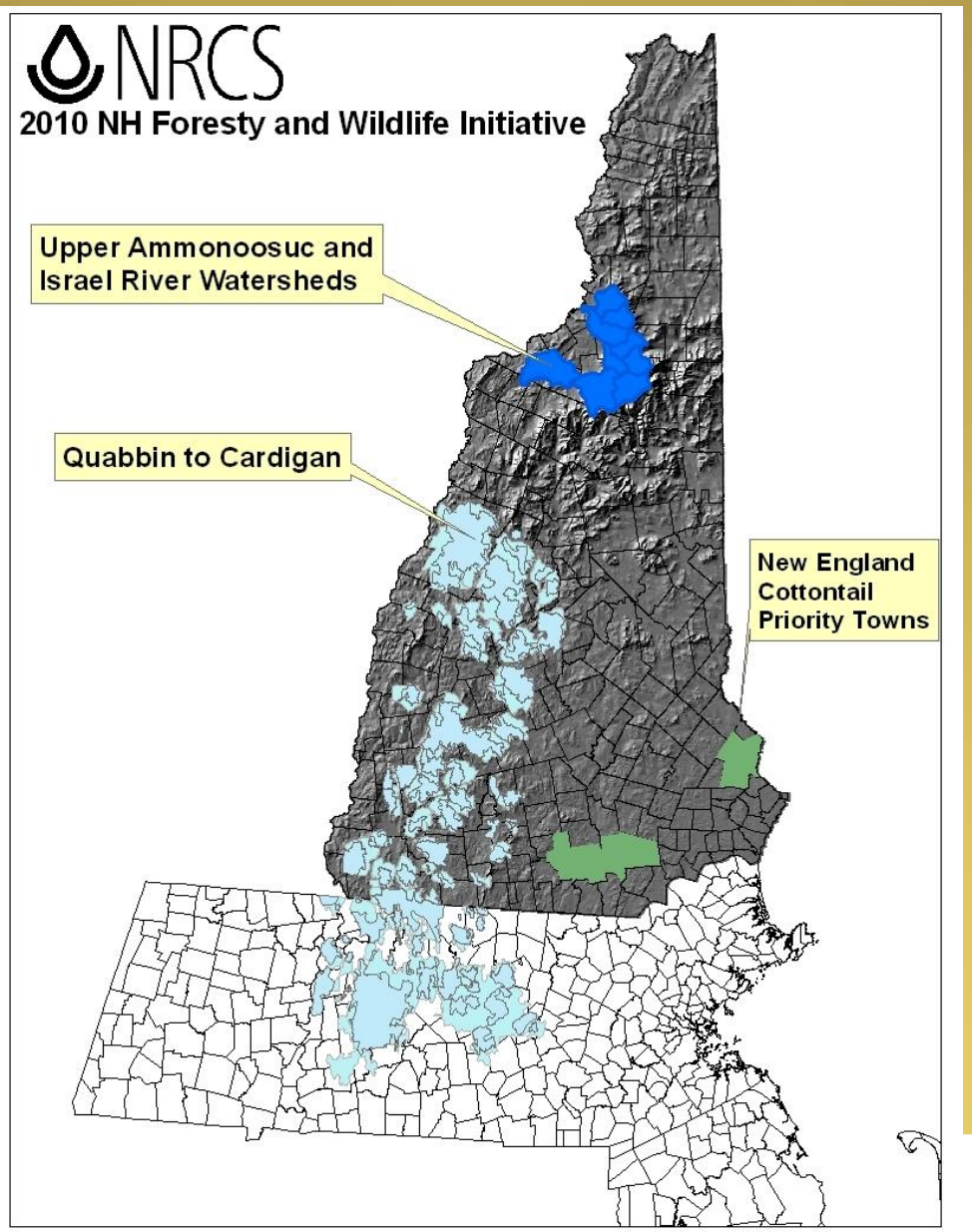
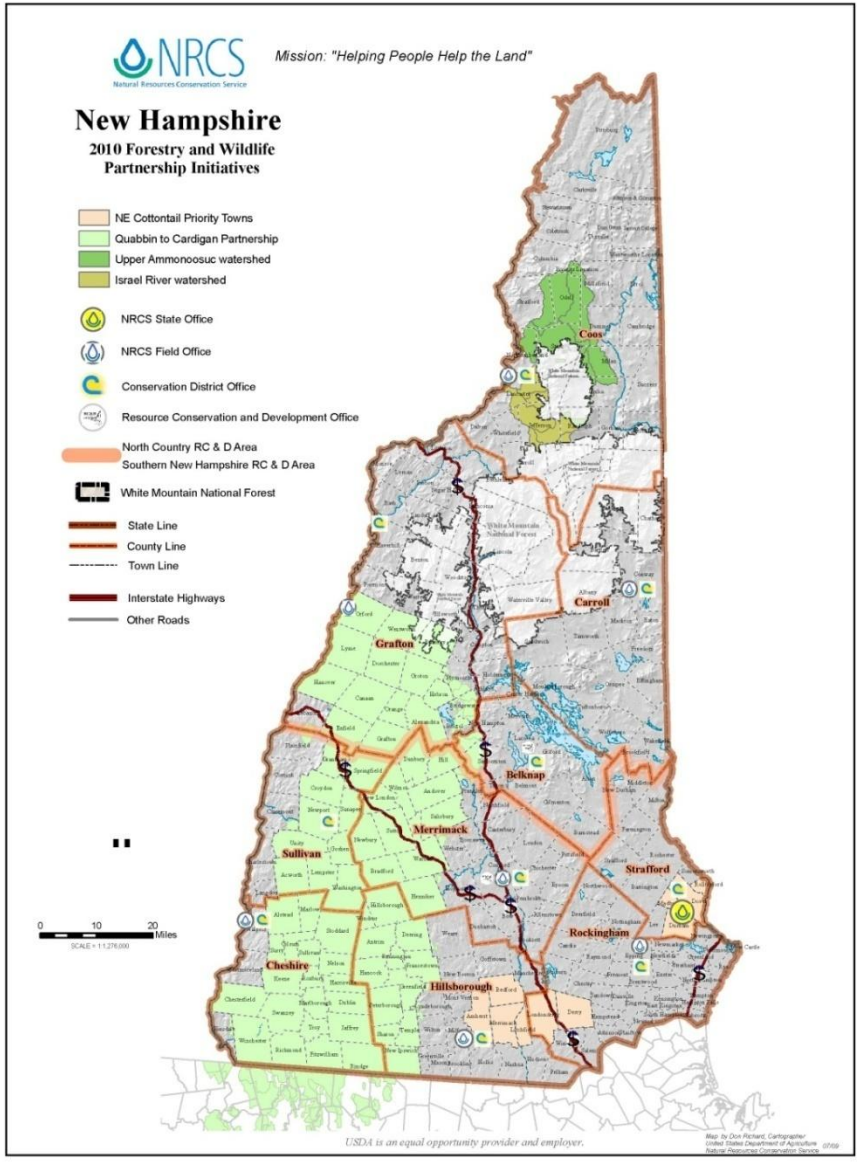
USDA
NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
2008 Farm Bill
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Programs authorized by the Food,
Conservation and Energy Act of 2008
2008 Farm Bill
Reauthorized Until 2012


NRCS
2010 NH Foresty and Wildlife Initiative
Upper Ammonoosuc and Israel River Watersheds
Quabbin to Cardigan
New England Cottontail Priority Towns


NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Mission: "Helping People Help the Land"
New Hampshire
2010 Forestry and Wildlife Partnership Initiatives
NE Cottontail Priority Towns
Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership
Upper Ammonoosuc watershed
Israel River watershed
NRCS State Office
NRCS Field Office
Conservation District Office
Resource Conservation and Development Office
North Country RC & D Area
Southern New Hampshire RC & D Area
White Mountain National Forest
State Line
County Line
Town Line
Interstate Highways
Other Roads
0 10 20 Miles
Coos
Carroll
Grafton
Belknap
Merrimack
Sullivan
Strafford
Rockingham
Cheshire
Hillsborough
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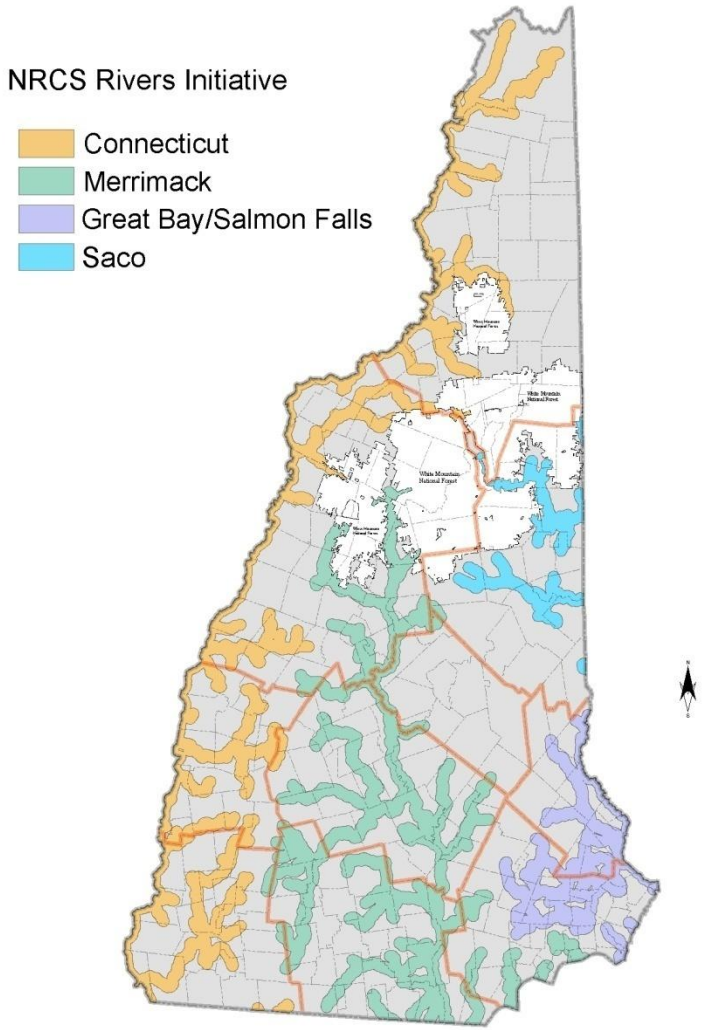
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
2012 Focus Areas



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to agriculture and forestry producers to promote agricultural production, forest management, and environmental quality as compatible goals.

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EQIP Organic:

- Assistance with conservation practices used for organic production and transition to organics
- Payments for practices with organic production benefits

For limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and beginning farmers:

- Up to 90 percent financial assistance on practices

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2008 Farm Bill

EQIP Payment Limitations

- $300,000 per person over a six-year period
- Up to $450,000 per person over a six-year period may be authorized for projects of environmental significance
- EQIP organic - $20,000 per year or $80,000 for any six-year period

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EQIP Practice Examples

- **Forestry**: Forest management plan, Forest stand improvement, Road closure, Stream crossing, Control of invasive species, Erosion control on trails and landings
- **Wildlife**: Riparian forest buffers, Tree and shrub establishment, Clearing openings and Planting grass/legume, Fish passage, Fish & wildlife plan
- **Livestock**: Nutrient management plan, Grazing plan, Animal trails, Waste storage facility, Wastewater treatment, Heavy use area, Pasture and hay planting, Prescribed grazing, Watering facility, Roof runoff structure, Ag energy plan
- **Crop**: High tunnels, Pollinator plantings, Cover crops, Crop rotation, Mulching, Nutrient management, Pest management, Residue and tillage management, IPM Plan, Micro-irrigation, Organic transition plan

EQIP: Eroded Cornfield Before

EQIP: Eroded Cornfield Restored to Hayland After

EQIP: Farm Barnyard Improvement Before – Mud and manure

EQIP: Farm Barnyard Improvement After – Gravel High Use Area

EQIP: Heavy Use Area During

EQIP: Heavy Use Area After

EQIP High Tunnels Before

EQIP: High Tunnels After

EQIP High Tunnels Before

EQIP: High Tunnels After

EQIP: Heavy Use Area Before

EQIP: Heavy Use Area After

EQIP: Heavy Use Area Before

EQIP: Heavy Use Area After

EQIP: Heavy Use Area Before

EQIP: Heavy Use Area After

EQIP: Manure Storage Before

EQIP: Manure Storage After

EQIP: Manure Storage Before

EQIP: Manure Storage After

EQIP: Access Road Before

EQIP: Access Road After

EQIP: Forest Road Before

EQIP: Forest Road After

EQIP: Animal Trail Before

EQIP: Animal Trail After

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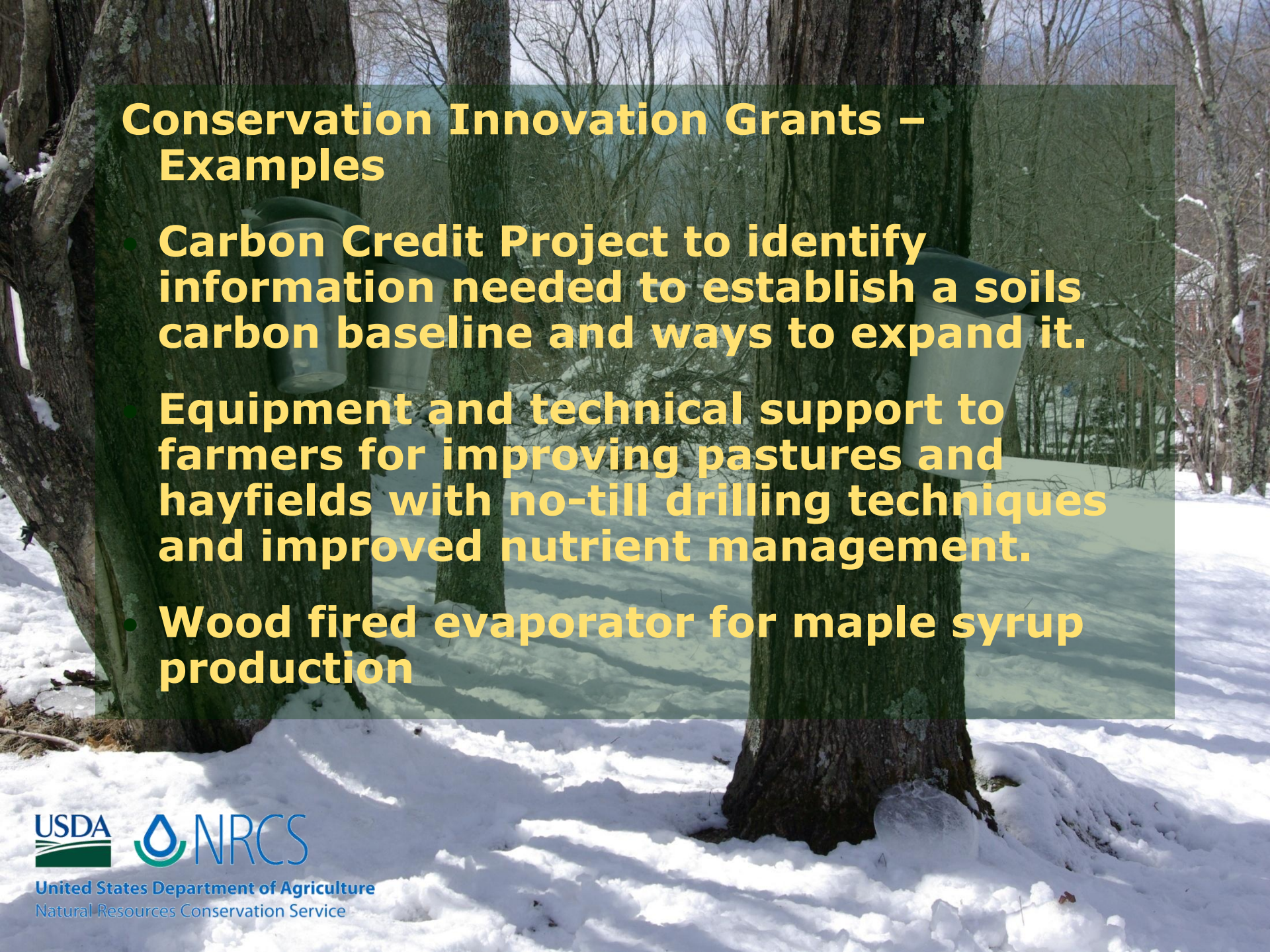
Conservation Innovation Grants

- **Competitive grants program using EQIP funds, primarily managed at the state level.**
- **Stimulate development and adoption of innovative conservation practices and technologies.**



Conservation Innovation Grants – Examples

- Carbon Credit Project to identify information needed to establish a soils carbon baseline and ways to expand it.
- Equipment and technical support to farmers for improving pastures and hayfields with no-till drilling techniques and improved nutrient management.
- Wood fired evaporator for maple syrup production

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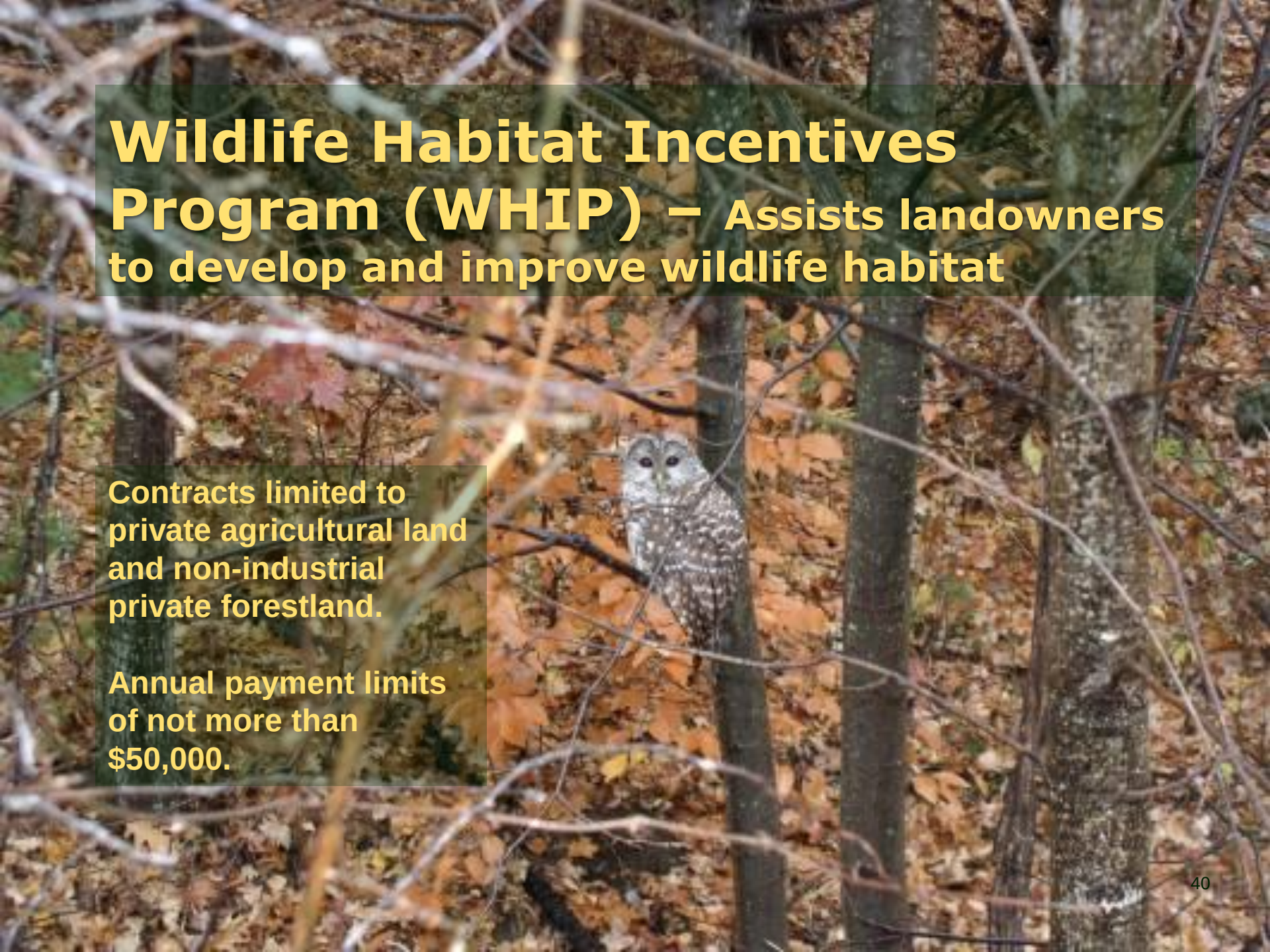
CIG: Sunflower oil generator

CIG: Wood fired evaporator for Maple Sugaring Process



Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) – Assists landowners to develop and improve wildlife habitat

Contracts limited to private agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

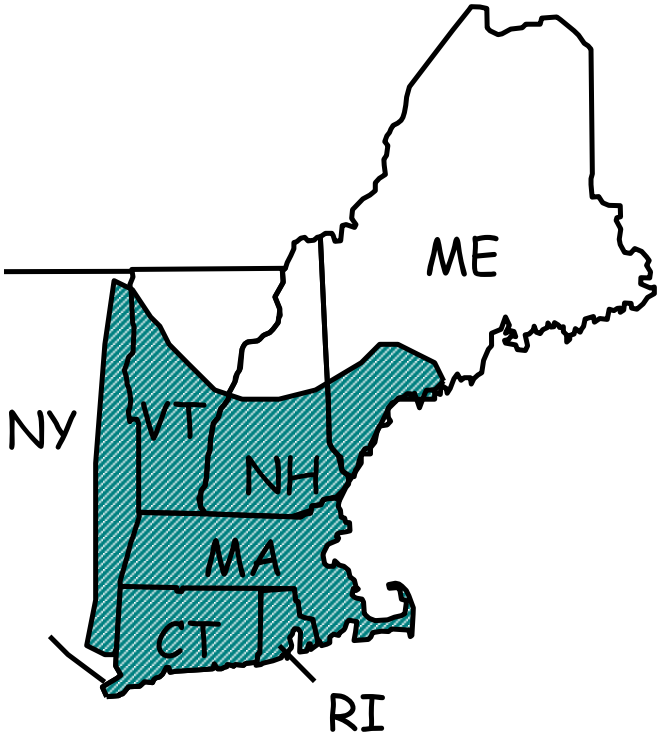
Annual payment limits of not more than $50,000.

WHIP Practice Examples

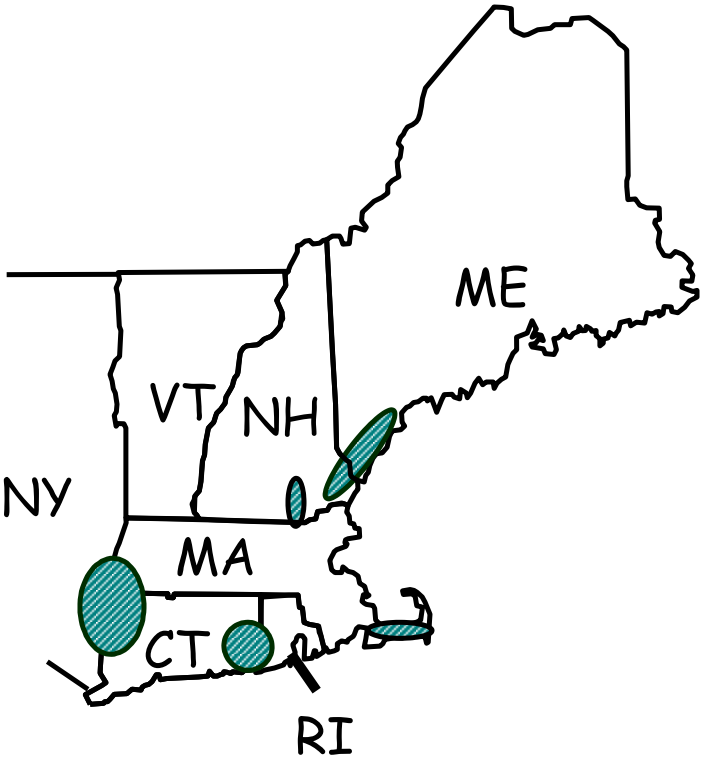
- Clearing openings
- Grass/legume seeding
- Invasive species control
- Tree and shrub planting
- T&E species restoration
- Delayed mowing
- Gravel pit restoration
- Riparian forest buffer
- Mast tree release
- Fish passage

New England Cottontail:

A Species in Decline



CIRCA 1960



CURRENT

WHIP: Homestead Woolen Mill Dam Removal Before

WHIP: Homestead Woolen Mill Dam Removal After

Coffer Dam

Weir Construction

Fish Resting

Riparian Buffer

Dwarf Mussels

WHIP: Homestead Woolen Mill Dam Removal

WHIP: Brook Trout Enhancement Before

WHIP: Brook Trout Enhancement After

WHIP: Slide Brook Stream Crossing Before

WHIP: Slide Brook Stream Crossing After

WHIP: Culvert Before

WHIP: Culvert After

WHIP: Culvert Before

WHIP: Culvert After

WHIP: Early Successional Habitat Restoration - During

WHIP: Early Successional Habitat Restoration - After

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Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)
• Provides payments to agricultural producers to voluntarily address risk associated with water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation practices into their farming operations.

Easement Programs - Private Land Protection

- *Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)*
- *Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)*
- *Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)*

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

A voluntary, non-regulatory, incentive-based program that helps private landowners protect and restore wetlands on their private property.

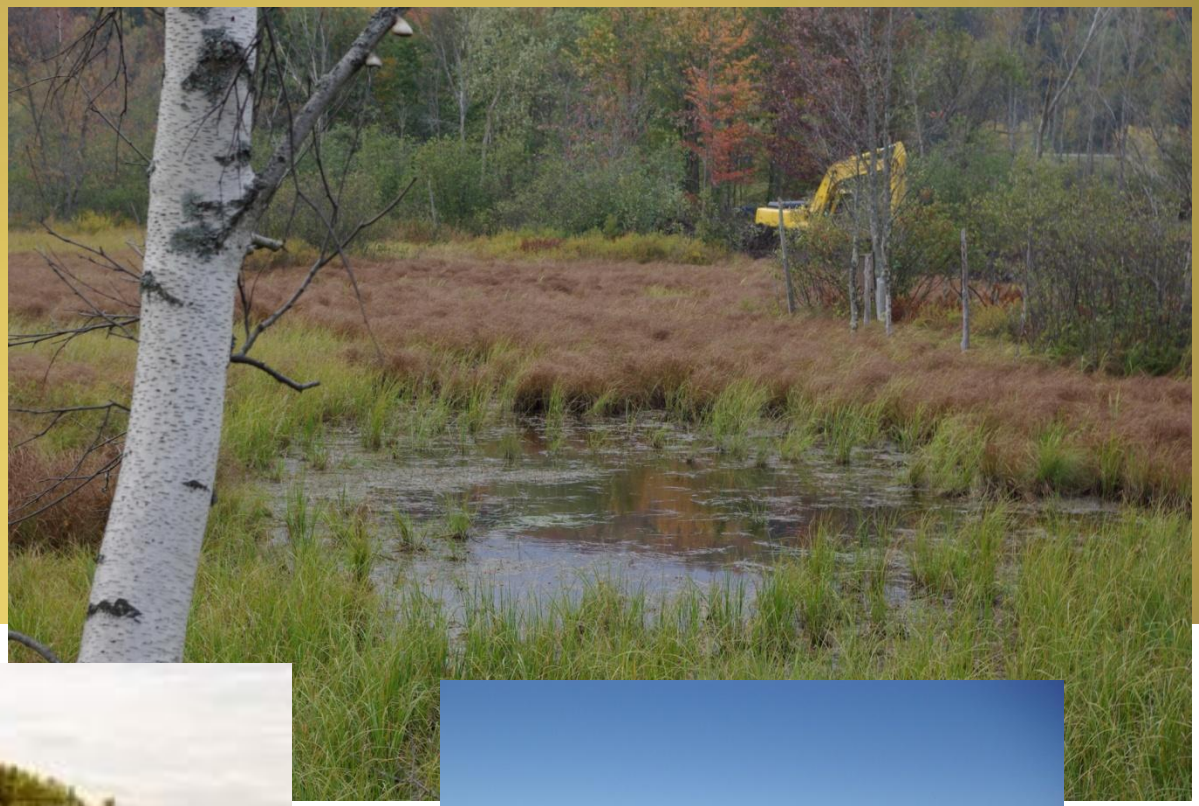
WRP: Salt Marsh Restoration Before

WRP: Salt Marsh Restoration After

WRP: Gravel Pit Restoration Before

WRP: Gravel Pit Restoration After

WRP Easements



Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

- Provides matching funds for easements to purchase development rights
- Protects farmland from development
- Maintains wildlife habitat
- Reduces impervious area in watershed

FRPP Easement

FRPP Easement

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Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
Assists landowners to restore and protect grassland, pastureland, shrub land and provides assistance for restoration.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP)

CStP provides financial assistance to farmers and forest land owners who are improving conservation, via treatment on their working lands to encourage the continuation of farming practices that benefit soil, water, and air resources.

EWP: Conservation Easement and Restoration

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Before

EWP: Conservation Easement and Restoration

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After

Thank You

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