

2012 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) For Forest Land in New Hampshire



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

OVERVIEW

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that provides payments to landowners with excellent stewardship by motivating them to develop additional conservation enhancements on their property. CSP identifies and rewards those forest landowners who are meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management on their operations.

HOW CSP WORKS

Step 1: To determine if CSP is the right program for you, complete a [self-screening checklist](#). Copies are available on the NRCS-NH web-site under the CSP page, or at your local NRCS or UNH Cooperative Extension Forester's office.

Step 2: Update your farm records with the USDA Service Center (see "Eligibility", below).

Step 3: Submit a completed list of questions about the existing stewardship and management of your land to the local NRCS field office. Then select additional enhancements to increase your level of stewardship. The Conservation Measurement Tool estimates the existing level of stewardship, suggests beneficial practices, ranks applications and estimates potential program payments.

Step 4: New Hampshire is allocated a maximum number of forest land acres that can be enrolled each year. Ranking scores are used to select applications for contract development with the highest scores funded first until the acreage targets are met.

Step 5: NRCS will then review applicant records, conduct a field visit to verify accuracy of information, and develop a contract.

ELIGIBILITY

CSP is available to private forest land owners who own more than ten acres of forest land. Permanent openings greater than three acres in size are excluded from the calculation. Individual producers, legal entities, and corporations may be eligible for the program. Applicants must:

- Be the operator of record in the USDA farm records management system for the eligible land being offered for enrollment;
- Have documented control of the land for the term of the proposed contract — 5 years;
- Include the eligible land in their entire operation as represented for other USDA programs;
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions of 7 CFR Part 12, and adjusted gross income provisions of 7 CFR Part 1400.



EXAMPLES OF PAYMENTS

1. NRCS pays you \$4,000 per year for 5 years: You own 700 acres that have multiple tree species with snags and understory, controlled erosion, roads suitable for fire vehicles, and buffer strips, with 10-25% of the property thinned within the last 10 years. There is limited compaction and forest disturbance and culverts do not block

aquatic organisms. **New CSP Activity:** 5 acres of restoration and management of declining habitats.

2. NRCS pays you \$846 per year for 5 years: You own 141 acres that have multiple tree species, uneven aged with snags and understory, less than 10% has been thinned in last 10 years, limited compaction and forest disturbance, controlled erosion, monitor access, buffers. **New CSP Activity:** 1.5 acres of Forest Stand Improvement, 5 acres of Hardwood Crop Tree Release.

3. NRCS pays you \$1,000 per year for 5 years: You own 244 acres with multiple tree species with little understory, intermittent streams, water bars, 33 feet buffer to water, culverts do not block aquatic organisms, and you control invasives. **New CSP Activity:** 12 acres of Forest Wildlife Structures for an annual payment of \$300, but you are also a **Beginning Farmer** so you will receive the minimum annual payment of \$1,000 per year.

Helping People Help The Land

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

Beginning, Limited Resource, and Historically Underserved Farmers receive a minimum annual payment of \$1,000 under CSP.

BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS

CSP provides participants with an annual payment for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing activities.

Through five-year contracts, payments will be made as soon as practicable after October of each year for contract activities installed and maintained in the previous year. For all contracts, CSP payments to a person or legal entity may not exceed \$40,000 in any year and \$200,000 during any 5-year period. Each CSP contract will be limited to \$200,000 over the term of the initial contract period.

TYPICAL PRACTICES IN NH:

- Brush Management
- Critical Area Planting
- Tree and Shrub Establishment

- Wetland Wildlife Habitat
- Upland Wildlife Habitat
- Early Successional Habitat Development/Management
- Tree and Shrub Pruning
- Forest Stand Improvement.

TYPICAL ENHANCEMENTS IN NH:

- ANM12 Shallow Water Habitat
ANM33 Riparian Forest Buffer, terrestrial and aquatic
- PLT05 Sustainable Management of Non-timber Forest Plants
PLT15 Establish Pollinator Habitat
PLT17 Create Forest Openings to Improve Hardwood Stands
- WQL01 Biological Suppression and Non-chemical Management of Invasives
WQL13 Integrated Pest Management

USDA-NRCS/Conservation District Offices

Belknap County Conservation District

2 Airport Rd., Mailbox #1, Gilford, NH 03249
603-527-5880

Concord Field Service Center

Merrimack County Conservation District

10 Ferry St., Suite 211, Concord, NH 03301
603-223-6021

Conway Field Service Center

Carroll County Conservation District

73 Main St., Conway, NH 03818
603-447-2771

Epping Field Service Center

Knightly Plaza
629 Calef Highway, Suite 203
Epping, NH 03042
603-679-1587

Lancaster Field Service Center

Coos County Conservation District

4 Mayberry Lane, Lancaster, NH 03584
603-788-4651

New Hampshire State Office

2 Madbury Rd.
Durham, NH 03824
603-868-7581

Milford Field Service Center

Hillsborough County Conservation District

Chappell Professional Ctr., #468, Rte. 13 South,
Milford, NH 03055
603-673-2409

Orford Field Service Center

Grafton County Conservation District

19 Archer Town Rd.
Orford, NH 03777
603-353-4651

Rockingham County Conservation District

110 North Road, Brentwood, NH 03833
603-679-2790

Sullivan County Conservation District

24 Main Street, Newport, NH 03773
603-863-4297

Strafford County Conservation District

259 County Farm Rd, Unit #3, Dover, NH 03820
603-749-3037

Walpole Field Service Center

Cheshire County Conservation District

11 Industrial Park Dr.
Walpole, NH 03608
603-756-2988