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NEWS RELEASE

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The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Announces Dollars for Conservation of Shrubland Wildlife

Durham, NH (April 26, 2012) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior- Fish and Wildlife Service have announced funding for a new Working Lands for Wildlife partnership, which provides funds to private landowners to enhance shrubland habitat for several declining wildlife species including the **New England Cottontail**.

Working Lands for Wildlife is a targeted conservation effort in the **Merrimack Valley (Derry, Londonderry, Litchfield, Pelham, Hudson, Merrimack, Windham) and the Seacoast area (Lee, Barrington, Dover, Durham, Madbury, and Rollinsford)**.

The most applicable sites have fertile soils which were once in agricultural production and have reverted into mid-aged forests with poor quality timber. The typical prescription is to remove trees in order to benefit understory shrubs at a scale of 10-50 acres. In addition to the New England Cottontail, these areas are also important for several game species such as ruffed grouse, deer, and woodcock as well as several species of migratory song birds.

Applications are accepted anytime, but the application ranking cut-off for current funds is April 30, 2012.

For Hillsboro County please call: NRCS District Conservationist Chad Cochrane at 603-673-2409 ext. 101. For Strafford and Rockingham Counties, please call NRCS-District Conservationist Dan Wright at 603-679-1587 ext. 110.



Figure 1 Above focus areas for the 2012 Working Lands for Wildlife Program