



New Hampshire State Office

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NEWS RELEASE

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USDA initiative offers assistance with forest land planning

Applications for the New England-New York Forestry Initiative will be accepted through January 28, 2011 for current funding

Durham, NH (December 23, 2010) – USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Dave White announced that \$800,000 in federal funding is available to assist New Hampshire forest land owners with forest land planning and management under the New England-New York Forestry Initiative.

New Hampshire is one of seven states participating in this special initiative; a total of \$5.9 million will be available to forest land owners throughout New England and New York.

"The main goal of this effort is to promote exemplary stewardship among private landowners by assisting them to improve forest health and productivity, wildlife habitat and water quality," White said. "Besides providing economic benefits, forests are home to diverse communities of fish and wildlife. Through sound planning and management, our goal is to help private landowners keep forests as forests."

Forest land owners who would like assistance are encouraged to call or visit their local USDA Service Center by January 28, 2011 to submit an application. **In order for your application to be considered for funding, landowners/operators must submit a complete application and have cleared all landowner eligibility requirements to be considered. If your landowner eligibility has not yet been cleared by USDA, you are strongly advised to get your landowner eligibility documentation submitted to your USDA Service Center as soon as possible (ASAP), because it may take several months to clear eligibility in order for your application to be considered.**

To keep private forests as forests, the forestry initiative opportunity will assist private landowners in conservation planning and management of their forests to ensure sustainability. Core conservation practices emphasized in the initiative are: forest stand improvement, restoration and management of rare and declining habitats, and tree/shrub establishment. At least one of the core practices is required. Several supporting conservation practices are also available including, but not limited to: early successional habitat development/management, upland wildlife habitat management, controlling erosion on forest trails and landings, access control, tree and shrub site preparation and control of invasive plants.

Last year, the New England Governors' Conference, the North East State Foresters Association, USDA's Forest Service and NRCS joined forces to develop a plan, known as the New England-New York Keeping Forests as Forests report, to protect and ensure the sustainability of the region's forest land-base. Forests not only provide clean water and wildlife habitat, but are also the backbone of the region's rural economies, offering a sustainable source of renewable energy, forest products, outdoor-related recreational opportunities and tourism.

NRCS is celebrating its 75th year of helping people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment. NRCS works with local conservation districts and other partners to serve farmers and landowners throughout the state.

NRCS-NH has [offices](#) in Concord, Conway, Epping, Lancaster, Milford, Orford, and Walpole, which work with local conservation districts and other partners to serve farmers and landowners throughout the state. Office telephone numbers are:

Concord:	603-223-6023
Conway:	603-447-2771
Epping:	603-679-1587
Lancaster:	603-788-4651
Milford:	603-673-2409
Orford:	603-353-4651
Walpole:	603-756-2988

Contact your local office for more information. General program information is available on the NRCS New Hampshire website at www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov.

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