

Emergency Watershed Protection Program American Reinvestment and Recovery Act



EWP was set up by Congress to respond to emergencies created by natural disasters. It is designed to relieve imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, windstorms, fires, and other natural occurrences.

**Hauser Conservation Easement and Restoration
(Emergency Watershed Protection Program — EWP;
funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act — ARRA)**



In 2009, NRCS closed on the first EWP floodplain easement in the United States funded by ARRA. Restoration efforts included removing the house, associated buildings and an underground fuel tank. NRCS continues to work with local conservation partners: the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SE Land Trust), and the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LR Committee), to implement the remaining restoration practices designed to restore hydrology and vegetation in the 7.2-acre floodplain. The SE Land Trust will manage the property in perpetuity.

This 7.2-acre parcel is located at the confluence of the Pawtuckaway and Lamprey

Rivers adjacent to the Pawtuckaway Core Conservation Focus Area. Conservation Core Areas were identified by the State of New Hampshire as areas of particular significance for regional water quality, local land and water conservation, state-wide biodiversity stewardship, and conservation science and information management. The Lamprey River enjoys federal “Wild and Scenic” designation, including its path alongside the Hauser parcel, and is the largest fresh water tributary to the Great Bay Estuary – one of the largest estuaries (over 10,000 acres) on the Atlantic coast. The Hauser family parcel was historically a floodplain, but construction of the Folsom Dam invited building in the resulting breach inundation area. While the dam lessened the frequency of flooding, it exacerbated flooding damage to the Hauser parcel. The most recent flooding events occurred in 2005, 2006, and 2007. When the dam could not contain the rivers, scour erosion eliminated access to the land and sediment deposits gave rise to colonization by invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, Autumn Olive, and Multiflora Rose.



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Hauser Floodplain Easement

Conservation Easement and Restoration (Continued) (Emergency Watershed Protection Program — EWP; funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act — ARRA)

In addition to the watershed significance of this parcel, it is important for the following reasons:

1. Conservation of the property contributes to water quality and floodplain, wetlands, and field habitat preservation.
2. After restoration is completed, the site will enhance a 4,900-acre block of unfragmented forest (no other development or roads exist) and is expected to be ranked as a critical habitat for several wildlife "species of concern" as identified in the 2006 NH Wildlife Action Plan.
3. In their 2006 Wildlife Action Plan, NH Fish and Game ranked the surrounding area as having the highest quality habitat in the biological region. NH Fish and Game analyzed habitats by ranking the biological, landscape, and human impact factors most affecting each habitat type. Biological factors include rare plant and animal species and overall biodiversity. Landscape factors include size of habitat and how close it is to other patches of that habitat. Human impact factors include density of roads around the habitat, dams, recreational use, and pollution. Once restoration is completed, it is expected that the parcel will become part of this high-quality habitat area.
4. The NH Wildlife Action Plan identified the area as a high priority for protection because of the numerous species of concern living on the site. These include: the threatened Wood Turtle, Blanding's Turtle, and Spotted Turtle.
5. Conserving this parcel of land enlarges the local protected land footprint. This parcel abuts permanently protected land on the south and west and is part of two larger conservation efforts involving the protection of the Pawtuckaway and Lamprey Rivers.



The restoration project includes removing the house, associated buildings, and an underground fuel oil tank, planting permanent vegetation, removing invasive species, installing erosion control in riparian areas, constructing stone fords to replace a failed road culvert and stabilize overflow, remove three existing stream culverts and stabilize banks, and plant native woody species to improve wildlife habitat.

Brian Hart, Executive Director of the SE Land Trust said, "The protection of the Hauser parcel is a win-win for everyone and is a great example of how conservation benefits not only the environment, but the surrounding community and our nation. By

conserving this parcel, we are meeting local, regional, and national goals of preserving important natural resources and providing flood control. In addition, we are helping flood victims voluntarily relocate to a safe and dry location."

The NRCS contributed a total of \$287,182 to this project which included funding for the purchase of the conservation easement and site restoration. Restoration is continuing.