

## 2013 NH EASEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

### WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

NH-NRCS is pleased to announce that we have received approval to enroll an additional 895 acres in permanent easements through the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). The WRP sign up process is continuous and applications may be submitted at anytime. However, due to the late authorization date and compressed enrollment timeline, we will be enacting a June 7<sup>th</sup> cutoff deadline for all applicants that wish to be considered for this final 2013 enrollment opportunity.

In an effort to maximize the environmental benefits of WRP in NH, State Conservationist Richard Ellsmore will be targeting two specific priorities for the 2013 WRP agreements:

- Properties that provide a direct riparian connection to protected wetlands less than 1 mile apart, especially those that link to an existing WRP easement
- Properties with a documented occurrence of listed species or rare natural communities as determined by the NH Natural Heritage Bureau or qualified professional

Projects meeting at least **one** of the above-listed criteria will receive priority for enrollment. If additional acres remain after priority projects are approved, NH-NRCS will continue to enroll projects outside the targeted priorities until the 895 acre enrollment goal is met. All applications must demonstrate the potential for wetland and/or riparian restoration.

Parcels with an estimated Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC) in excess of \$750,000, and any lands with commercial or industrial zoning require a USPAP appraisal to determine easement value. Applications with lands meeting these criteria cannot be processed within the allotted timeline and will not be considered during this application round. **Interested landowners must submit the following to the NRCS easement staff no later than June 7<sup>th</sup>:**

- Conservation Program Application (CPA-1200)
- Average Adjusted Gross Income Form (CCC-933)
- Highly Erodible Land Conservation & Wetland Conservation Form (AD-1026)
- Direct Deposit Form (SF-1099)
- Aerial map depicting proposed easement boundaries (use Google map or similar). Due to the compressed timeline, we request the proposed easement boundaries be firm when an application is submitted.

Additional applicant eligibility documentation may be required for land held in certain ownership types (such as revocable and irrevocable trusts and limited liability corporations). All required forms are available on the NH NRCS web page at: [www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov) under the programs tab. Links to the forms can be found within the [WRP Process Business Flow Chart and Required Documents](#). The WRP deed, ranking sheet, Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARC), and restoration practice list are also available on the web page.

For specific questions regarding the applicant eligibility documents listed above, please contact Ian Rodgers at (603)-868-9931 x104. For land eligibility questions (boundary maps, field visits, ranking process, GARCs, etc.), please contact a member of the NH WRP easement staff (listed on the NH web page).

Eligible applicants should expect field visits and rankings to be completed by the NRCS staff no later than August 1<sup>st</sup>. Agreements to Purchase must be signed no later than August 15<sup>th</sup> in order to meet the September 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment deadline.