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Before and after a dam removal (above)



Wetland Reserve Easements
In New Hampshire



Restoration of a gravel pit to natural state (top)
Wetland restoration for wildlife habitat improvement (bottom)

New Hampshire
Natural Resources Conservation Service

nh.nrcs.usda.gov



Wetland Reserve Easements

Funding for Conservation Easements & Wetland Restoration



Marsh before and after restoration

What are Wetland Reserve Easements?

Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) offer landowners the opportunity to voluntarily restore and protect wetlands on their property and focus on restoring hydrology and plants as well as protecting wildlife and migratory birds. NRCS provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. Floodplain forests and coastal marshes are among wetlands restored through WRE.

Protecting wetlands provides wildlife habitat, as well as enhancement of soil, water, plants, and related natural resource concerns. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection.

Restoration Projects include:

- Invasive species management
- Installation of water control structures
- Removal of stream impediments
- Early successional habitat development and management

How does WRE work in NH?

Landowners may file an application for a conservation easement or a cost-share restoration agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to restore and protect wetlands. Participants voluntarily limit future use of the land, but retain private ownership.

What are the benefits of WRE?

WRE participants benefit by:

- Receiving financial and technical assistance in return for restoring, protecting and enhancing wetland functions and values;
- Having technical and financial assistance to develop wildlife recreational opportunities on their land.
- Having wetlands that provide fish and wildlife habitat, improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals, reduce flooding, recharge groundwater, protect biological diversity, and provide opportunities for educational, scientific, and recreational activities.

What are permanent easements?

Permanent easements are conservation easements in perpetuity. NRCS pays 100 percent of the easement value for the purchase of the easement. Additionally, NRCS pays between 75 to 100 percent of the restoration costs. NRCS also pays all costs associated with recording the easement in the local land records office, including recording fees, charges for abstracts, survey and appraisal fees, and title insurance.

Land eligible for Wetland Reserve Easements includes farmed or converted wetland that can be successfully

and cost-effectively restored. NRCS will prioritize applications based on the easement's potential for protecting and enhancing habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.

NRCS enters into purchase agreements with eligible private landowners to develop and implement a Wetland Reserve Restoration Easement Plan to restore, protect, and enhance the wetland.

Is my land eligible?

To be eligible for WRE, land must be restorable and be suitable for wildlife benefits. This includes:

- Wetlands farmed under natural conditions;
- Farmed wetlands;
- Prior converted cropland;
- Farmed wetland pasture;
- Farm land that has become a wetland as a result of flooding;
- Range land, pasture, or production forest land where the hydrology has been significantly degraded and can be restored;
- Riparian areas which link protected wetlands;
- Lands adjacent to protected wetlands that contribute significantly to wetland functions and values; and
- Previously restored wetlands that need long-term protection.

