New England Forestry Initiative

Riparian Buffers

NH's water quality in several large watersheds such as the Connecticut, Contoocook, Salmon Falls, and Saco is declining at an alarming rate. In a recent evaluation of the nations rivers, NH had three of the top five fastest declining rivers in the United States. NRCS is developing riparian buffers, adding in-stream wood to retain sediments in first and second-order streams, and encouraging grass based agriculture on floodplains.

New England Cottontail

The New England Cottontail (NEC), until recently, was a candidate for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act. NRCS and other partners are cooperating to create patches of shrubland habitat, 12 acres or larger, in focus areas across the NEC range. Precluding the need to list this species will save taxpayers money, and allow private landowners to continue to manage shrublands and old fields without costly regulations.

Photo: UNHCE

Forest Health and Regeneration

Improving timber quality and forest heath is a priority across much of the forested Northeast. Large tracts of land in NH have been "high graded" meaning crop trees are harvested without consideration for regeneration. NRCS has placed a priority on timber stand improvement which removes poor quality trees and release crop trees such as Sugar Maple, Birch, White Pine and Oak.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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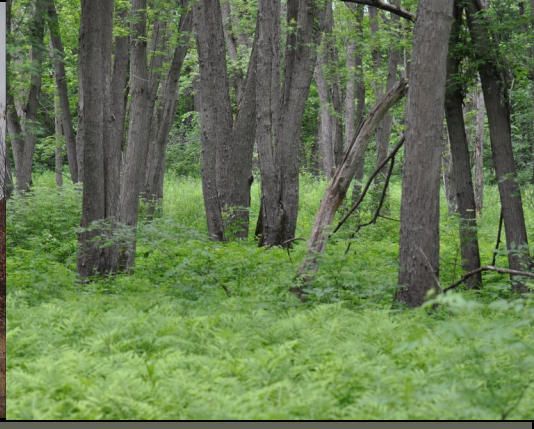


New England Forestry Initiative

Forest Trail Stabilization

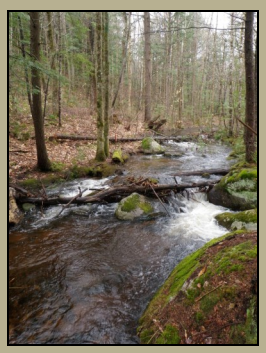
NRCS focuses on stabilizing forest trails with best management practices, especially near surface waters. Providing seasonal access to private landowners helps them manage timber resources and share forest management knowledge with new generations.

Invasive Species Control

Several areas in rural New Hampshire remain relatively free of invasive plants. Within the large interior forest of Western and Northern NH, NRCS remains committed to controlling invasive plants which displace rare plants, reduce forest productivity and hamper forest re-generation, especially on richer soils.

Healthy Streams

Adding wood to streams helps improve water quality by reducing stream velocities and retaining sediment on floodplains. In-stream wood also provides a key function for native brook trout habitat by creating pools and escape cover.



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New England Forestry Initiative

Fish Passage

NH has a wonderful coldwater stream resource. Improving fish passage and connectivity is a priority by improving permanent crossings and supporting temporary bridges.

Young Forests

59 species of greatest conservation need in New England rely on shrublands and young forest at some point in their lifecycle. Much of the New England landscape is mid-aged forest. Creating openings five acres or greater will often provide habitat for a diversity of declining species. These areas will also encourage more valuable tree species to regenerate.

North Country Softwood Management

Managing a variety of age classes in the forest is important to improve forest health and wildlife habitat. NRCS targets this practice in spruce-fir or sugar maple stands which are shade tolerant and require narrow openings to regenerate.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

National Water Quality Initiative

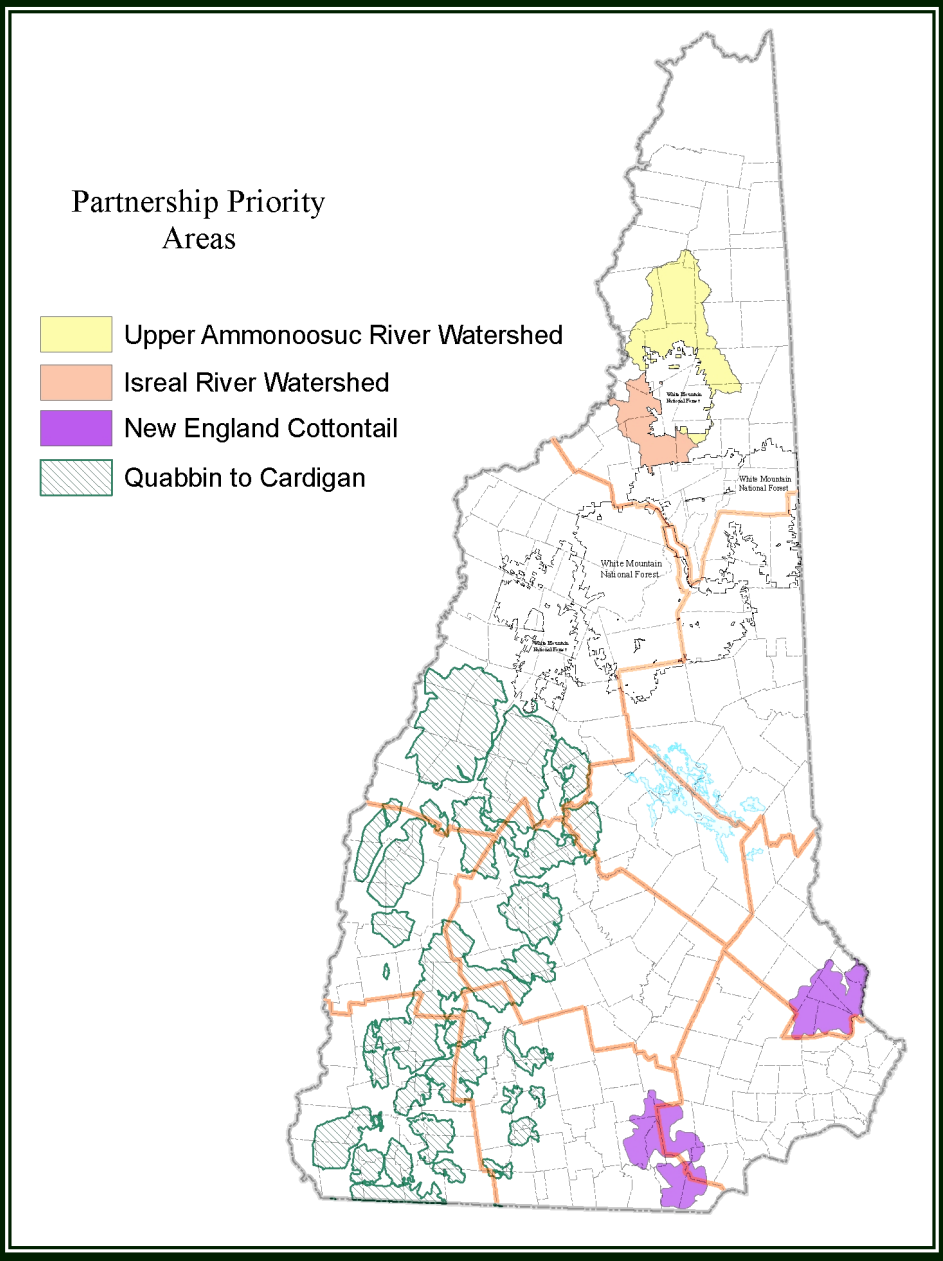
NH Drinking Water Improvement Partnership

New England Cottontail Initiative

Working Lands for Wildlife

Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership

Upper Ammonoosuc and Israel River Watersheds Initiative



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