

A Policy Agenda for Conserving New England's Forests

Priorities for 2013

We Must Keep New England Forested

Conservation Investment is an Investment in Our Economy

As our nation emerges from recession, jobs and economic development are rightly at the forefront of the national policy agenda. In New England, continued investment in the conservation and stewardship of the forested landscape can help meet these economic challenges. New England is the nation's most densely forested region and has developed an economy that is strongly dependent on the health and integrity of its forests. If we are to restore and sustain our economy, we must sustain and restore our forests. Current research shows that, without action, exponential forest loss is likely in the next 20 years.[1]

For decades, protecting New England's forests for their economic, ecological, public health, and recreational benefits has been a bi-partisan priority for the region's congressional delegation and a rallying point for state, local, and private interests. The amenity and commodity values of all of New England's forests attract and hold businesses, workers, and visitors, and provide the foundation for a robust, sustainable regional economy.

This Policy Agenda provides a broad-based appeal to the New England congressional delegation for continued bipartisan support and federal investment and partnership to help the region realize the benefits unique to New England's forest-based economy.

Forests are a Foundation of New England's Strong Economy



- Privately-owned forests in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont contribute over $3 billion annually to local and regional economies, sustaining over 80,000 jobs in the forestry, wood products, paper products and wood furniture industries.[2]
- Natural beauty and recreation assets draw tens of millions of visitors annually to New England, and tourism is northern New England's largest industry. In Maine alone, tourism puts $10-13 billion into the state economy each year and employs 140,000 workers—almost 22 percent of the state's work force.[3]
- The vast natural and recreational resources on private and public lands provide ready access to trails, rivers, and myriad outdoor activities that afford important social, cultural and public health benefits.
- New England's healthy fish and wildlife populations are also a backbone of the region's economy. New England's fish and wildlife support a $5.311 billion-dollar wildlife-related economy. This includes a $2.570 billion-dollar hunting and angling economy and a $2.741 billion-dollar wildlife watching economy.[4]

Protecting the region's important wildlife habitats and creating more public access for all wildlife-related activities will maintain this vital economic engine.

- A growing movement to replace New England's unique dependence on heating oil with wood from sustainably managed forests can create 140,000 jobs, reinvest $4.5 billion in the regional economy, and displace 1.14 billion gallons of imported fossil fuel each year.[5]
- Maple syrup production in New England has been on an upward trend for the past 10 years. In 2010, total production was valued at $50 million for over 1.3 million gallons.[6]

New England's Drinking Water and Air Quality Depend on Forests



- The region's forests are the headwaters for all of the Northeast's major rivers, including the Connecticut River watershed, New England's largest river system. These forests protect drinking water quality for millions of people including public surface water supplies for 10 million people and public groundwater supplies for 4 million people.[7]
- New England's 33 million acres of forest clean the air and store vast quantities of carbon. Each year, the region's forests absorb and store carbon equivalent to 23-43 percent of New England's carbon emissions from electricity and heating.[8] New England's relatively young, carbon-rich forests, can help anchor national efforts to slow climate change and help our natural systems adapt to shifts already underway.
- Forests sequester carbon for the long-term, providing opportunities for new jobs relating to the inventory, qualification, verification, marketing, and sale of carbon credits through the emerging voluntary and compliance markets.[9]

The bottom line

Continued investment in forest conservation and stewardship is a necessity even in a time of very limited public resources. In this era of budget reductions, forest conservation should not be asked to take disproportionate budget cuts. Disproportionate cuts in conservation programs risk setting back decades of progress and momentum towards protection of one of New England's fundamental economic assets—its forests. New England's state and federal policy makers, industries, land owners, and citizens must work together to ensure that this globally-important forest resource will remain intact, healthy, productive, profitably and sustainably managed, and accessible to all segments of society now and in the future.

THE CHALLENGES

Forest ownership in New England is undergoing a major transition.

For the past 100 years, New England has been regrowing forests cleared for farms during the 1800s, and this trend has been hailed across the globe as a major conservation success story. Today, the region is 80 percent forested and Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont are three of the four most heavily forested states in the country.



However, regional forest cover peaked within the past couple of decades and since that time annual forest loss has occurred in New England as a whole.[10] Private forest owners—who own 80 percent of the region's forests—are at the heart of the New England forest story. Public and private forest owners now face challenges that will shape the future of the region's forests, including: persistent sprawl pressures (the Northeast is the most densely populated region in the country with a large and growing rural/urban interface); climate change; energy supplies and prices; and restructuring of the global economy. These forces will affect how landowners—big and small—manage their forests and the public benefits derived from them.

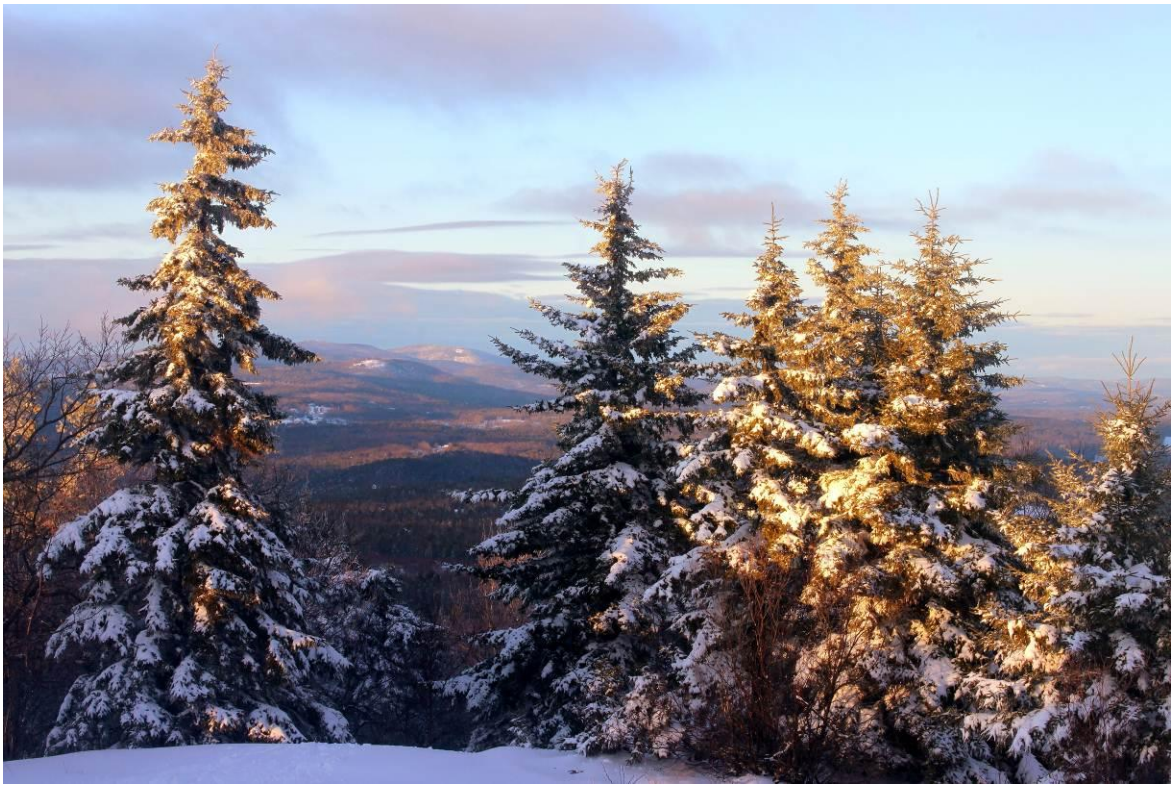
Forest cover is declining in all six New England states.

Today, there are significant indications that development is accelerating the rate of deforestation in New England:

- Two thirds of the Northern Forest region of northern New England and New York changed hands in the last two decades as the economics of the forest products industry altered dramatically.[11]
- A study of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont forest loss from 1992 to 2001 estimated an approximate net loss of 495,000 acres of forest.[12]
- A national analysis by the U.S. Forest Service found that three of Maine's southern watersheds are in the top 15 nationwide for largest projected increase in housing density.[13]
- A Mass Audubon analysis found that Massachusetts lost 30,000 acres of forestland between 1999 and 2005 alone.[14]
- U.S. Forest Service researchers estimate that by 2050, 60-70 percent of Rhode Island and Connecticut could well be urbanized.[15]
- A 2006 survey of New England's aging forest owners revealed that 41,000 owners of 1.72 million acres planned to sell some or all of their land in the next five years, and a group of 28,000 owners managing another 560,000 acres planned to subdivide their land over the same period.[16]

The future is up to us

After almost a century of remarkable improvement, New England's forests are experiencing increased parcelization and development. Our collective action is needed to reverse this trend that jeopardizes New England's forests and the related economic and environmental values so vitally important to the region and the country.



THE ACTION PLAN

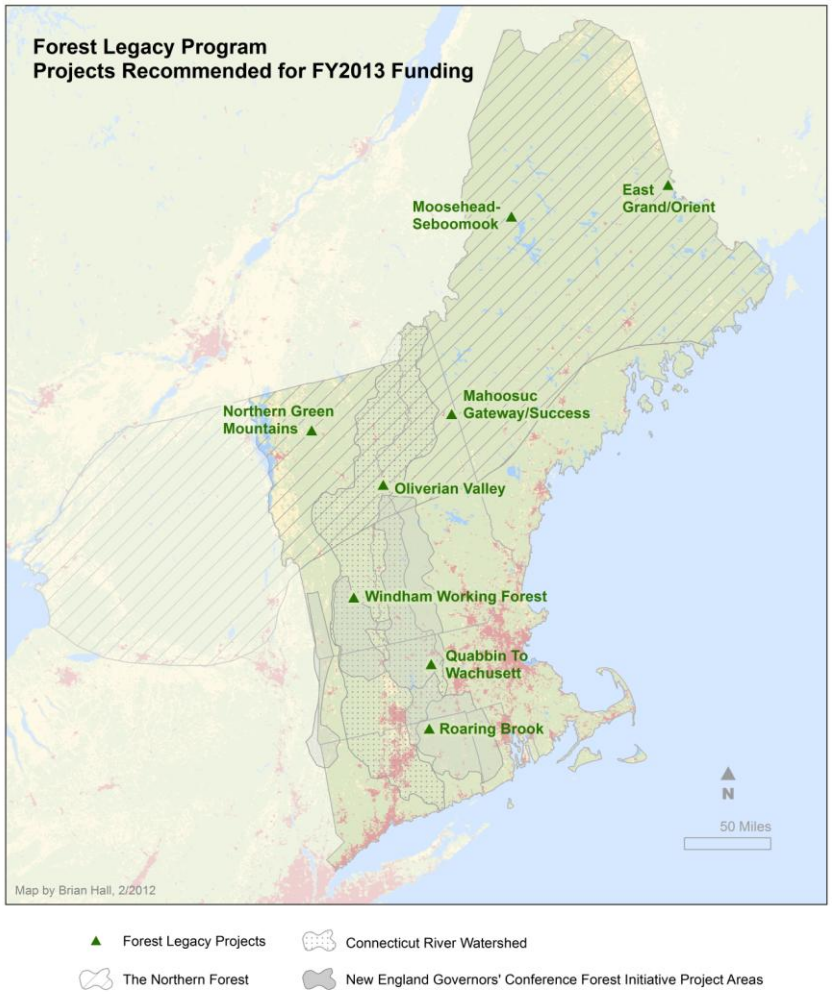
A coalition of organizations committed to protecting New England's unique forest resources is actively advocating for critical policy actions to ensure that government, private forest owners, the forest products industry, and non-profits have the needed tools and incentives to maintain this nationally significant forest resource.

The following federal policy opportunities and actions are the most critical to address over the next two years.

1. FUND WORKING FORESTS

New England has an incredible endowment of private working forestland that is the backbone of the region's forest products economy. The **Forest Legacy Program** was created by New England's congressional delegation to help protect this asset, primarily through conservation easements. Since its establishment in 1990, Forest Legacy has protected 996,000 acres from development in New England.

- ***Action Item:*** **Forest Legacy** should be funded at the President's FY13 budget request of $60 million. New England has several important Forest Legacy projects for FY13, some of which are in the President's budget. All of the projects listed below deserve support and should be funded through FY13 appropriations. These projects must be funded to help sustain the region's working forest economy and traditional public access.



<u>FY13 Forest Legacy Project List – New England Opportunities:</u>

- Connecticut—Roaring Brook
- Massachusetts—Quabbin to Wachusett
- Maine—East Grand/Orient, Moosehead-Seboomook
- New Hampshire— Mahoosuc Gateway/Success, Oliverian Valley
- Vermont— Northern Green Mountains, Windham Working Forest

2. CONSERVE LARGE NEW ENGLAND LANDSCAPES

New England has pioneered the movement to conserve and restore large interstate landscapes such as the **Northern Forest** and the **Connecticut River watershed**. Both of these landscapes were named as priorities in the President's FY12 Budget and the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) report.

In 2009, acting on the recommendation of its blue-ribbon Commission on Land Conservation, the New England Governors' Conference unanimously endorsed five integrated initiatives to Keep Farmlands in Farming, Keep Forests as Forests, Connect People to the Outdoors, Protect Wildlife Habitat, and Safeguard Coastal and Estuarine Lands in the face of climate change.[17]

Two of the five initiatives are highlighted in the map on page 8: the Keep Forests as Forests initiative's six Priority Landscapes; and the Connect People to the Outdoors' seven multi-state, water- and land-based Priority Pathways along which live fully four-fifths of all New Englanders. The pathways include the watersheds of the Androscoggin River in NH and ME; the Merrimack River in NH and MA; the Blackstone River in MA and RI; the Connecticut River in NH, VT, MA and CT; the Champlain Valley in NY and VT; the Northern Forest Canoe Trail in NY, VT, NH, and ME; and the New England portion of the East Coast Greenway. The final three pathways have the potential to extend into Quebec and New Brunswick, Canada; and segments of all seven qualify as "Blueways" in the AGO Report.[18] A recent report to the National Park Service details the projects along each pathway "that will best advance public awareness, access, and use at this time" [19] and that are consistent with local, state, and federal policy objectives.

AGO's 6-part vision states:

- Children can walk a short distance to an outdoor place to play, no matter where they live.
- Americans share responsibility to protect our natural and cultural heritage for posterity.
- Incentives and partnerships conserve rural land, including working forests.
- Public lands and waters are responsibly managed.
- Public and private lands and waters provide ecological benefits for people and wildlife.
- Communities collaborate to protect waterways for recreational and economic purposes.

- ***Action Item***: As the Administration implements **America's Great Outdoors**, it should include the following landscapes as recipients of any competitive federal funds matching state, local, and private funding for FY13:

  - The Northern Forest
  - The Connecticut River Watershed
  - The New England Governors' Six Priority Landscapes and Seven Priority Pathways



3. CONNECT FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES

New England has a proud tradition of community forests—forests established across the region that are owned and managed by communities, often with local citizens as leaders. To continue this tradition, New England's congressional delegation created the **Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program** in the 2008 Farm Bill to provide matching funds for local governments, tribes, and nonprofit organizations to purchase, manage and protect forests for local ownership. Noted community forests across New England include the Hinesburg Town Forest (VT), Randolph Community Forest (NH), and the Farm Cove Community Forest (Grand Lake Stream, ME).

- ***Action Item:*** The **Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program** should be funded at the President's FY13 budget request of $4 million. In addition, New England has many pending

community forest projects that should be funded through already appropriated funding to be awarded in FY12.

Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) is a cooperative program of the US Forest Service that focuses on the stewardship of urban natural resources. With 80 percent of the nation's population in urban areas, there are strong economic, social, and environmental reasons for the planting, conservation, and restoration of forested areas and street trees in populated areas to guide development and revitalize urban and suburban communities and village centers.



- ***Action Item***: **Fund Urban and Community Forestry** at the President's FY13 budget request of $28.04 million.

The **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)** is funded out of a portion of the gas tax attributed to recreation-related travel through the current transportation bill. RTP is a primary source of funding for providing access to public lands and waters, which in turn supports local tourism, recreation businesses, and healthy lifestyles. This program must be preserved as part of the federal highway reauthorization bill to ensure that recreational trails continue to contribute to New England's recreation economy.

- ***Action Item:*** Ensure that dedicated funding for the **Recreational Trails Program** is included in the federal highway reauthorization bill.

The **Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)**, part of the National Park Service, supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects. One such community project, the Androscoggin Greenway, is a multi-use land and river trail system with several linkages into five towns. The Quabbin to Cardigan Trail is an 80-mile hiking trail to extend from the Quabbin area in Massachusetts to Cardigan Mountain in New Hampshire and was highlighted in NH Governor Lynch's AGO priorities. It was supported by RTCA last year and was just renewed for this year. Both RTP and RTCA help get people outside and keep them active, and both programs keep communities in touch with the environment around them.

- ***Action Item:*** The **Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program** should be fully funded at the President's FY13 budget request of $10 million. New England has many pending projects that should be supported with current and future RTCA funding.

4. PROTECT SPECIAL PLACES

The **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** was established to supply consistent funding for protecting special places across America. LWCF is funded from a fraction of the proceeds from federal offshore oil and gas leasing royalties, and does not rely on taxpayer dollars. Congress intended LWCF to be a conservation offset to the depletion of these public offshore resources. Unfortunately, year after year, much of the lease revenue is diverted to other purposes, leaving LWCF perpetually underfunded. The Land and Water Conservation Fund should receive full and dedicated funding of $900 million as Congress originally intended.

The federal side of the **Land and Water Conservation Fund** has been particularly helpful in New England by adding land to beloved federal units such as the Green and White Mountain National Forests, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and the Cape Cod National Seashore. With 80 percent of New England's forests in private hands, these and other public lands play a key role in the mosaic of forest landownership and management in the region.

- ***Action Item:*** Congress should fully fund the President's FY13 budget request of $450 million for the **Land and Water Conservation Fund** and provide funding for New England's many deserving LWCF projects. In addition, Congress should work toward fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund at $900 million through passage of legislation such as S.1265.

<u>FY13 Land and Water Conservation Fund Federal Project List – New England Opportunities:</u>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge
- Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge
- Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge
- Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge
- Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

National Park Service
- Acadia National Park
- Appalachian National Scenic Trail/Chateauguay



The **Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP)** was established in 2002 to protect coastal and estuarine lands considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical or aesthetic values. Lands or conservation easements acquired with CELCP funds

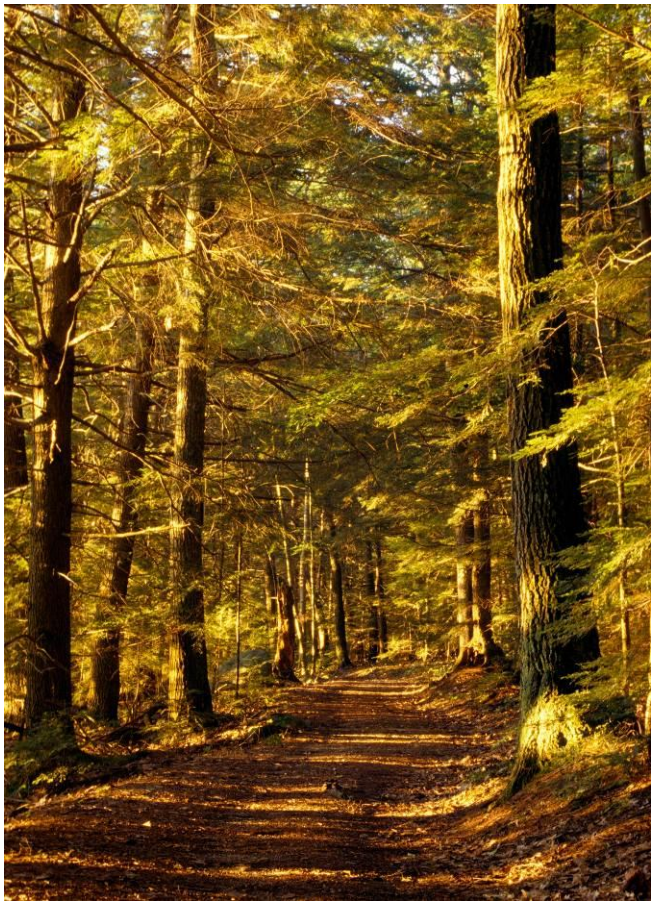
are protected in perpetuity so that they may be enjoyed by future generations.

- ***Action Item:*** Fully fund the **Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program** at the FY12 budget level of $5 million.

5. PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR FOREST LANDOWNERS AND FOREST BUSINESSES

New England's private forest owners have a tradition of good forest stewardship. Now these landowners are facing a range of challenges, including rising ownership costs, uneven timber markets, development pressures, and invasive species. The 2008 Farm Bill increased federal conservation programs available to family forest owners—they encourage management that helps realize important objectives like timber stand improvement, watershed protection, and habitat restoration. The following programs, offered under the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, are crucial to preserving this partnership between private landowners in New England and the federal government.

The **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)** provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost share assistance to private landowners for land stewardship to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. In the Berkshire-Taconic landscape, a large forested landscape at the Connecticut, New York, Vermont, and Massachusetts borders, WHIP funded a five-year, $1 million project for innovative large-scale invasive plant species control. In FY10, WHIP funded 405 projects, for 53,328 acres, worth $6,769,463, in New England. One way in which WHIP and other programs gain projects is through the NE/NY Forestry Initiative, which also supports the New England Governors' Conference five initiatives mentioned in section 2 of this document. This is a targeted commitment by the NRCS to address regional forestry issues in addition to any regular NRCS funding provided to the states.



The **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)** provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore, protect and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agriculture. Landowners along the Eel River in Massachusetts received $350,000 for habitat restoration, including reestablishment of rare wetland plant communities.

The **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** provides payments to private landowners for good land management based on performance points and acreage. In FY10, New England had 171 contracts for 100,000 acres and a total of $770,000.[20]

The **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** has become an increasingly important tool to help forest landowners plan and install conservation practices that will improve forest health and productivity. In addition to planning assistance, including part of the cost of developing a forest management plan, the program will provide up to 75 percent of the cost of conservation practices such as forest stand improvement, riparian

forest buffers, and invasive plants control. In FY11, 50 landowners in Connecticut worked with NRCS to develop forest management plans that will help them manage over 5,000 acres of productive forest for timber, wildlife habitat, and water and air quality.

The **Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)** provides matching funds for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements on privately-owned farmland, leveraging nearly two dollars in non-federal funding for every federal dollar invested. Forestland that contributes to the economic viability of a farm or serves as a buffer to protect a farm from development can be included in an FRPP project. In FY11, the six New England states collectively received more than $23 million in FRPP funding.

The **Regional Equity** provision in the 2008 Farm Bill ensures that every state receives a minimum investment of $15 million in key farm conservation program funding annually, provided there is demand for those programs. For New England, this minimum investment has proven critical to the region's ability to meet demand for consistently oversubscribed programs such as EQIP and FRPP.



- ***Action Item***: Adequately fund **WHIP**, **WRP, CSP, EQIP**, **FRPP** and **Regional Equity** in the next Farm Bill and FY13 appropriations.

In addition to traditional Farm Bill cost share and incentive programs, three innovative new federal programs could really help New England: the **Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)**, the **Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI), and Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)**. The HFRP assists landowners in restoring, enhancing and protecting forest resources on private lands through easements, 30-year contracts, and 10-year cost-share agreements to promote biodiversity and enhance carbon sequestration. CCPI allows the Natural Resources Conservation Service to enter into partnership agreements with landowners that want to enhance conservation outcomes on farm and non-industrial private forest lands**.** CIG supports the development and adoption of innovative approaches while increasing the value of federal investments in environmental restoration and protection.

- ***Action Item***: Adequately fund the **HFRP**, the **CCPI**, and the **CIG** in the next Farm Bill and FY13 Appropriations.
- ***Action Item***: Designate at least two **CCPI** approved project areas in New England to help catalyze landscape-scale collaboration on forest stewardship: the Northern Forest and the Connecticut River Watershed.

New England's forest-based businesses are the engines of healthy communities that depend on the economics of active working forests, other agricultural landscapes, and/or the economics of natural resource-based tourism. The following programs provide significant incentives and support to businesses and communities they benefit.

The **Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC)** was authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill and focuses investment on the community and economic development needs of the most severely distressed portions of the Northern Forest region. Commission investments are supporting several natural resource-based development projects in the region, including the Northern Forest Canoe Trail and Maine Huts and Trails.

- ***Action Item:*** Fund the **Northern Border Regional Commission** at the President's FY13 budget request of $1.425 million.

Healthy, natural resource-based industries such as wood products manufacturing, tourism, recreation and agriculture are essential to maintaining New England's forests and contribute significantly to the region's employment base and economic productivity. **USDA Rural Development programs** specifically target the needs of rural entrepreneurs and businesses, providing catalytic support and investment to start new businesses and grow existing ones. These programs include:

The **Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG)** program provides grants that finance and facilitate development of small and emerging rural businesses, business incubators, and employment-related adult education programs. RBEG investments are currently supporting programs like the Maine Woods Tourism Training Initiative.

- ***Action Item:*** Fund the **RBEG** at the President's FY13 budget request of $29.8 million.

The **Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG)** program promotes regional economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs through provision of training and technical assistance for business development, entrepreneurs, and economic development officials. Current RBOG grants in New England are supporting technical assistance for biomass energy development, innovation services for wood products manufacturers, and market development for forest carbon offsets.

- ***Action Item:*** Fund the **RBOG** at the FY12 level of $2.25 million.

The purpose of the **Business and Industry Loan Program** is to improve, develop, or finance business, industry, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. The program strengthens the existing private credit structure through the guarantee of loans that will provide lasting community benefits. It is especially important for encouraging renewable energy development, such as the development of a Vermont wood pellet processing facility.

- ***Action Item:*** Fund the **Business and Industry Loan Program** at the President's FY13 budget request of $821 million.



6. DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY-SCALE THERMAL BIOMASS ENERGY

Biomass from sustainably managed forests in New England, applied at the appropriate scale with efficient technologies, has the potential to

deliver significant benefits and competitive advantages to rural communities. Vermont, in particular, has been a national leader in developing community-scale biomass. For example, fully 20 percent of Vermont schoolchildren go to a school heated with biomass—replacing millions of gallons of fuel oil, saving money for local budgets, and creating economic returns for private forest owners.

- ***Action Item:*** Provide matching grants for model community-scale biomass projects by funding the **Community Wood Energy Program** at the President's FY13 budget request of $4.25 million. This funding can be used for ready projects in New England.

7. PROTECT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE AND MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

Given the expected decline in forest cover noted above, vertebrate species dependent upon northern softwood and mixed-wood community types are expected to experience population declines or undergo local extinctions. Species such as the Bicknell's thrush and American marten already are on regional lists of conservation concern. Critical habitat for Atlantic Salmon and brook trout will likely become scarce as climate changes.[21] Therefore, we must protect the headwaters, maintain riparian corridors, and protect wetlands and base flow for these cold water fisheries.

To benefit waterfowl and other wildlife associated with wetlands, the **North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA)** offers matching funds to partnerships for wetlands conservation projects, including habitat protection and restoration. For FY11, the Piscataquis Preserve received $1 million, which helped conserve nearly 1,200 acres on Maine's Piscataquis River.

- ***Action Item:*** Fund **NAWCA** at the President's FY13 budget request of $3.94 million.

The **State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program** funds activities that help keep species from becoming endangered, such as research, habitat restoration, and monitoring for State Wildlife Action Plans. The endangered Karner blue butterfly has been restored throughout New Hampshire thanks to a reintroduction program funded by these grants since 2000.



- ***Action Item:*** Fund the **State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program** at the President's FY13 budget request of $61 million.

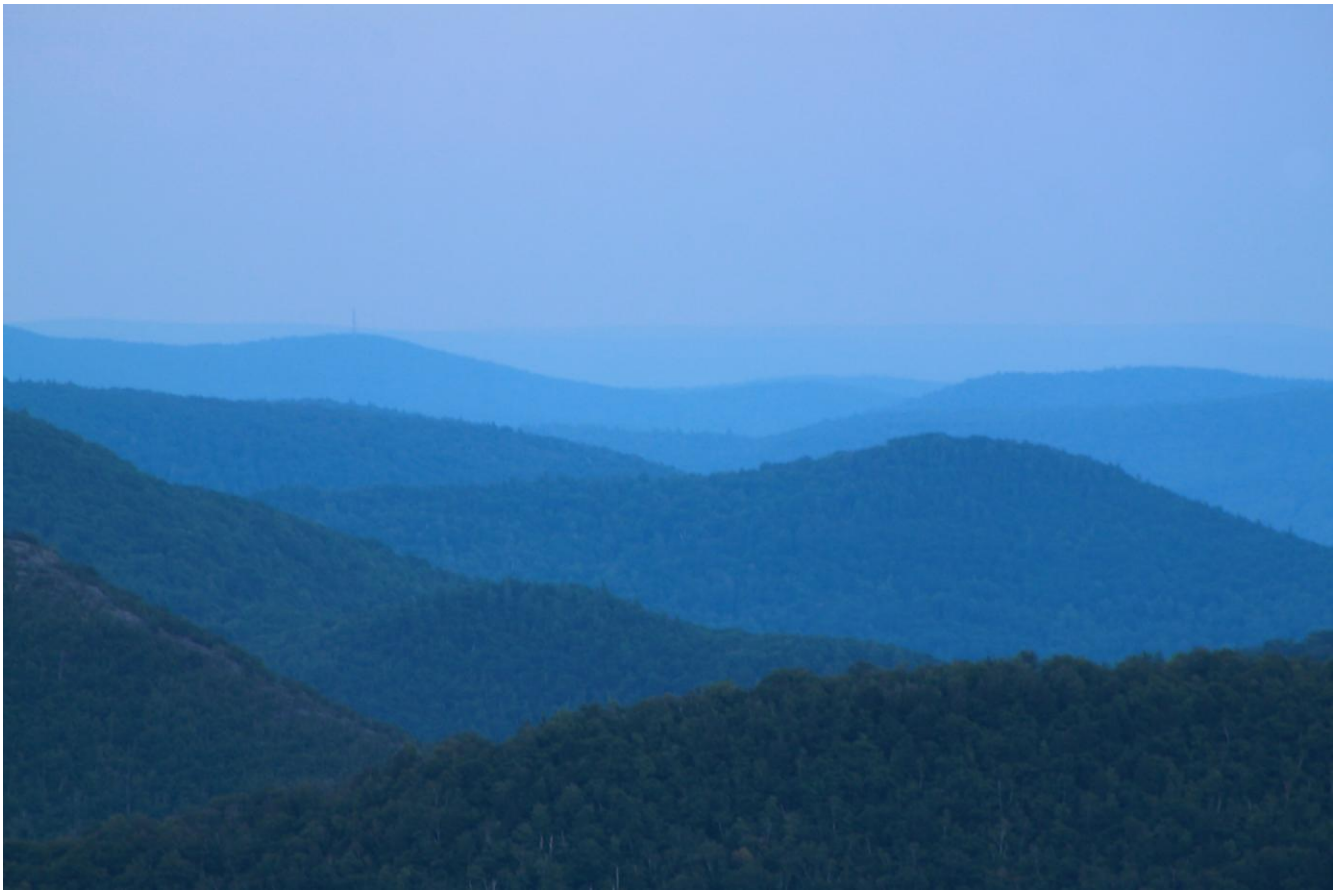
Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) are public-private partnerships that recognize these challenges transcend political and jurisdictional boundaries and require a more networked approach to conservation—holistic, collaborative, adaptive and grounded in science to ensure the sustainability of America's land, water, wildlife and cultural resources. The **North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative** protects important points of connectivity across New England.

- ***Action Item:*** Fund the **North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative** as part of the President's FY13 budget request for the LCC system.

The **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund** (Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act) provides funding to states and territories for species and habitat conservation on non-federal land. Two of the four grant programs relate to land acquisition: **Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition**, which funds land acquisitions that benefit certain species and their ecosystems and complement private mitigation responsibilities in HCPs; and **Recovery Land Acquisition Grants**, which are matched by states and non-federal entities to acquire these habitats from willing sellers in support of approved species recovery plans (but not HCPs). In FY10, $173,250 was awarded to develop the State of Maine Water and Forest Programmatic HCP to benefit Atlantic salmon. Effective use of these funds led to the successful recovery of New England's Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle populations and removal of these species from the Endangered Species list during the 1990s.

The **National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP)** lays out goals and objectives for conserving, restoring and enhancing aquatic habitats on a national scale, while providing support and resource leverage to these conservation efforts. For example, the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, a state, federal, NGO, and academic partnership, works to restore brook trout populations where they have been threatened; encourages partnerships and stakeholders to address threats; increases public awareness; and supports programs that perpetuate and restore brook trout throughout their historic range.

- ***Action Item:*** Fund the **HCP**, the **Recovery Land Acquisition Grants,** and the **NFHAP** at the President's FY13 requested amount.



Policy Priorities for Conservation: New England's Forests Partners

The organizations listed below endorse and urge action on the policy priorities described in this Agenda.

American Farmland Trust
Appalachian Mountain Club
Aspetuck Land Trust
Audubon Connecticut
Audubon Society of Rhode Island
Audubon Vermont
Bear Paw Regional Greenways
Berkshire Environmental Action Team
Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Inc.
Brookfield Open Space Legacy, Inc.
Charles River Watershed Association
Coalition for Buzzards Bay
Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts
Connecticut Audubon Society
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
Connecticut Land Conservation Council
Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency
Connecticut River Watershed Council
Conservation Law Foundation
East Quabbin Land Trust
Essex County Greenbelt Association
Eastern Connecticut Forest Landowners Association
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership
Forest Guild
Franklin Land Trust
Friends of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge
Greater Lovell Land Trust
Highstead
Housatonic Valley Association
Ipswich River Watershed Association
Land Conservancy of Ridgefield, Inc.
Last Green Valley, Inc.
Littleton Conservation Trust
Loon Echo Land Trust
Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust
Maine Audubon
Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Mass Audubon
Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions
Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition
Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters
Massachusetts River Alliance
Massachusetts Watershed Coalition
Massachusetts Woodlands Institute
Middlesex Land Trust
Monadnock Conservancy
Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust
Nashua River Watershed Association
Natural Resources Council of Maine
New England Farmers Union
New England Forestry Foundation
New England Wild Flower Society
New Hampshire Audubon
Newtown Forest Association, Inc.
Northeast Wilderness Trust
Northern Forest Center
Northern Forest Canoe Trail
Norwalk River Watershed Association, Inc.
Open Space Institute
Redding Land Trust
Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, Inc.
Rhode Island Forest Conservator's Organization, Inc.
Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association
Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
Sudbury Valley Trustees
The Conservation Fund
The Kestrel Trust
The Lyme Timber Company
The National Wildlife Federation
The Nature Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land
The Trustees of Reservations
Town of Redding Conservation Commission
Town of Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Upper Saco Valley Land Trust
Urban Ecology Institute
Vermont Land Trust
Vermont Natural Resources Council
Vermont Woodlands Association
Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust, Inc.
Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
Wildlands and Woodlands Partnership
Wildlands Trust
Wolf Den Land Trust

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[6] U.S. Department of Agriculture: National Agricultural Statistics Service. 2011. Maple Syrup 2011. http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/New_England_includes/Publications/0605mpl.pdf.

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