



LANDSCAPE SCALE CONSERVATION NEWS

Model Landscape Scale Projects—NRCS & Forest Service Partnership

The [Forest Service](#) and [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) have entered into a multi-year partnership to improve the health and resiliency of forest ecosystems where public and private lands meet across the nation.

The Chiefs' Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership will invest \$30 million in 13 projects in 12 states across the country in 2014 to help reduce wildfire threats to communities and landowners, protect water quality - and supply, and improve wildlife habitat for at-risk species. Additional support is expected to be available in future years.

The 13 priority projects selected will build on existing projects and partnerships. By leveraging technical and financial resources and coordinating activities on adjacent public and private lands, conservation work by NRCS and FS will be more focused in these project areas.

5 projects are located in the Eastern Region:

1. *Minnesota - Upper Mississippi Headwaters Restoration*

Minnesota takes great pride and responsibility in protecting the source of the mighty Mississippi River, a watershed that covers half of the United States. The headwaters area is used for timber production, agriculture, recreation and as a primary drinking water source. In July 2012, a large wind event severely damaged a large area of the forest, wildlife habitat, infrastructure and recreational activities. Recovery work is ongoing, which includes reforestation, hazardous fuels reduction, non-native invasive species control, and long term protection and management of this vital ecosystem. FY 2014 funding: FS (NFS Land) - \$250,000; FS (Grant to State Forester) - \$225,000; NRCS - \$185,000. [View project summary \(PDF, 801 KB\)](#)

Related National Forest: [Chippewa](#)



Removal of broken tree trunks, site preparation, & tree planting helps the recovery of this site

2. *New Hampshire - Drinking Water Improvement*

New Hampshire has the fastest growing population in New England and ranks second in the country for the percentage of people served by private wells. Many of these wells are experiencing water quality issues related to land use, forestry activities, agriculture and pollution, which have worsened due to the increased frequency and intensity of extreme events such as hurricanes Irene and Sandy. NRCS and FS will work to provide landowners access to conservation efforts and to reduce sedimentation in headwater streams on public lands. The project will have a direct impact on drinking water quality for eight New Hampshire communities. FY 2014 funding: FS (NFS Land) - \$250,000; FS (Grant to State Forester) - \$150,000; NRCS - \$710,000. [View project summary \(PDF, 326 KB\)](#)

Related National Forest: [White Mountain](#)



Riparian buffer planting in New Hampshire



3. New York – Susquehanna Watershed Riparian Buffer Enhancements

The Upper Susquehanna and the Chemung rivers are the Chesapeake Bay's northern headwaters. Most of the watershed's excess nutrients and sediments come from agriculture, stream bank erosion, and construction. NY proposes to implement buffers along watercourses and address nutrient and sediment runoff concerns on land adjacent to and within 500 feet of a watercourse within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Practices to benefit fish and wildlife will be incorporated where possible. Core practices include streambank protection, tree and shrub establishment, early successional habitat development and management, forest stand improvement, stream habitat improvement, and filter strips. FY 2014 funding: FS (Grant to State Forester) - \$400,000; NRCS - \$3,760,000. [View project summary \(PDF, 224 KB\)](#)



Riparian buffers installed along a stream in the Susquehanna Watershed

4. West Virginia - West Virginia Restoration Venture

This area is one of the nation's biodiversity hotspots. This restoration venture will accelerate recovery from historic degradation from industrial logging and associated wildfires. Partners will coordinate restoration activities to improve habitat connectivity, restore the ecosystem, improve soil health, adapt to climate change, sequester carbon, improve water quality, improve threatened and endangered and at-risk species habitat, and restore wetland & aquatic habitat. The outcomes anticipated through this public/private partnership will be a continuing and improved domestic water supply, as well as improved outdoor recreation experiences. FY 2014 funding: FS (NFS Land) - \$850,000; FS (Grant to State Forester) - \$250,000; NRCS - \$2,190,000. [View project summary \(PDF, 206 KB\)](#)



Partnership will restore wetland and aquatic habitat in 3 selected watersheds

Related National Forest: [Monongahela](#)

5. Wisconsin – Lake Superior Landscape Restoration Partnership

This project came out of discussions that took place between USDA agency leaders, tribal leaders and private landowners at One USDA Meetings in Wisconsin in 2013. It will develop new levels of collaboration between USDA agencies, other government agencies, private landowners and tribes. The project will improve and restore critical spawning habitat for brook trout by reducing sedimentation, removing in-stream barriers, and provide nesting habitat for golden-winged warblers, kirtland warblers and sharp-tailed grouse through forest conservation practices. In addition, conservation efforts such as reducing sedimentation through streambank protection and stabilization, and improvement of existing forest roads by reducing the amount of phosphorous lost in surface runoff will directly improve water quality in tributaries of Lake Superior (including trout streams with critical spawning habitat). Finally, forest management efforts will result in reduced wildfire risk on Tribal and other lands in the project area. FY 2014 funding: FS (NFS Land) - \$305,000; FS (Grant to State Forester) - \$380,000; NRCS - \$320,000. [View project summary \(PDF, 273 KB\)](#)



Results of stream restoration in the Lake Superior Watershed

Related National Forest: [Chequamegon-Nicolet](#)

LSC News

Check out wonderful Public Service Announcements developed in support of the Montreal Process and sustainable forestry featuring *Mad Men*'s Christina Hendricks:

<http://youtu.be/YhVpLjSPH-Y> 60 second

<http://youtu.be/h1WfX9vZA8g> 30 second

http://youtu.be/_pZ9hN65New 10 second



Save the Date—Tuesday, May 20, 2014! For an exciting webinar titled “The Human Side of Restoration: learning to understand each other: values & perceptions of ecosystem restoration.” The idea behind the webinar is that stakeholders in ecosystem restoration hold varying values and diverse perceptions about natural resource management.

Details:

When: Tuesday, May 20, 2014—from 1130 - 1:00 (Central Time)

Who: Resource professionals, managers, cooperators, and partners interested in social and economics issues of environmental restoration.

How: Register at <http://www.fs.fed.us/rmrs/events/registrations/human-restoration/>.

Questions or Special Accommodations? Contact Megan Matonis, RMRS Science Application & Integration, (970) 498-1342, megan.matonis@colostate.edu

Pubs Corner

Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry: [*Across the Green Line: How Forest Service Employees Can Support Local Land Use Planning Efforts*](#)

Northern Research Station: [*Northern Research Station Research Highlights*](#)

American Forests: [*Abbey Road Old Growth Project*](#)

Nature Conservancy Magazine: [*Flying High*](#)

Reference

Landscape Scale Conservation is a framework to conceive, plan, finance, and manage projects with significant conservation value—ecological, economical, and social. The broad concept of Landscape Scale Conservation includes three main components: Contributes to landscape scale goals or outcomes; connects separate but related actions and integrates internal program; and involves strong partnerships, a shared vision, and cross-boundary engagement with local communities and other landowners.

Want more Information?

Visit the R9 RO Landscape Scale Conservation website [{Link}](#)

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