

Programs that can help with land management

Financial and technical assistance may be available to help you achieve your goals to improve wildlife habitat

Financial incentives programs for landowners

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 A voluntary program that provides technical assistance and financial assistance for landowners interested in developing and improving wildlife habitat. Participants enter into a conservation plan and receive cost sharing support and technical assistance with implementing practices that benefit wildlife. Get more information through your local NRCS office, which you can find at www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov or www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - NRCS
 Similar to the WHIP program, but oriented towards opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, air, animal and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. State NRCS programs set priority resource concerns, eligible practices, etc. Contact your local NRCS for more information (web links to find these are above.)

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) - NRCS
 Technical and financial assistance for wetland restoration on private lands. Contact your local NRCS office for more information.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) - NRCS
 Funds restoration and preservation of pasture and grassland. Contact your local NRCS office for more information.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) - USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)
 A voluntary program for agricultural landowners to receive rental payments and cost sharing support for the establishment of resource-conserving covers on eligible farmland. Contact your local FSA office for more information. State and county FSA offices can be found via www.fsa.usda.gov.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) - USDA FSA
 By engaging in this voluntary incentive program, agricultural landowners agree to establish and maintain vegetated buffers along streambanks to prevent water pollution and improve wildlife habitat. Participants are compensated through upfront incentive payments as well as annual rental payments for the buffer area. Contact your local FSA office for more information (web link above.)

Conservation Loans - USDA FSA
 Provides up-front funding for farmers to implement conservation measures on their land such as establishing forest cover, installing water conservation measures, manure management, etc. Contact your local FSA office.

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Programs that can help (continued from flap)

Programs for landowners (continued)

Landowner Incentives Program - US Fish & Wildlife Service, administered through VT Fish and Wildlife and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
 This federal program is administered through state agencies to protect and restore wildlife habitats on private lands to benefit at-risk species and natural communities. In Vt., the program is focused on technical support and private landowner financial incentives such as covering the cost of forest management plans or conservation easements for at-risk species in the Champlain Valley. In NY, the program is focused on targeted Species of Greatest Conservation Need, including grassland birds, bog turtles, and Indiana bats.
 Vermont: Contact Jane Lazorchak, (802)479-4405, jane.lazorchak@state.vt.us, www.vtfishandwildlife.com/lip_intro.cfm
 New York: www.dec.ny.gov/animals/32722.html, (518)402-8924

Use Value Appraisal (Current Use) - Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation administers this program designed to enable Vermont landowners who practice long-term forest management to have their enrolled land appraised for property taxes based on its value for forestry rather than fair market value. See www.vtfor.org/resource/for_forres_useapp.cfm or contact Rutland County Forester Eric Hansen: (802) 786-3853, eric.hansen@state.vt.us

480-a program - New York Department of Environmental Conservation
 Enables New York forest landowners to receive a reduction in property assessment by adopting and following a forest management plan. Contact your regional DEC forester or see: www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5236.html.

Forestry Certification Programs - American Tree Farm System, Forest Stewardship Council, and Sustainable Forestry Initiative
 These programs offer third-party certification that a forestry operation meets certain sustainability criteria. See individual program websites for more information: www.treefarmssystem.org; www.sfipprogram.org; www.fsc.org

Pilot forest carbon offset and trading programs - Carbon Tree and AgRefresh
 Selling carbon credits is an emerging opportunity for forest landowners. These pilot programs are establishing mechanisms to aggregate and sell carbon credits. For more information see www.carbontreelc.com and www.agrefresh.org/forest_carbon.

Multiple Grant Programs - Lake Champlain Basin Program/Lake Champlain Valley National Historic Partnership
 The Lake Champlain Basin Program implements a number of grant programs that help to implement the watershed plan *Opportunities for Action*. Check the website for specific grant opportunities at the moment. www.lcbp.org/grants.htm

Local Waterfront Revitalization Program - New York Department of State
 Grant funding for public access to waterways and state lands, sustainable economic development, watershed management, development of planning documents, etc. Certain NY municipalities are eligible to apply. www.nyswaterfronts.com/aboutus_lwrp.asp

Municipal Planning Grants - VT Department of Housing and Community Affairs
 An annual funding program that supports municipal planning projects for Vermont communities with a confirmed local planning process. www.dhca.state.vt.us; (802)828-3211

Small grants program - New England Grassroots Environmental Fund
 For small organizations working on community-based environmental projects in VT and other New England states. See grassrootsfund.org.

**Maintaining a Healthy Landscape in
 ~This Place in Between~
 A Resource Guide for Landowners and Communities**



South of Lake Champlain, the forests, farms, lakes and rivers form a network of habitats where wildlife can roam freely between the Green Mountains and the Adirondacks.

We rely on this land for recreation, logging, hunting, and fishing – and people travel here to enjoy the beauty of this landscape.

The organizations and programs in this pamphlet are valuable resources for anyone who wishes to ensure that your land or your community continue to be part of a healthy landscape for people and wildlife for generations to come.

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Organizations that offer assistance: *A rich network of additional organizations work to achieve a healthy landscape in The Place in Between and can provide assistance to landowners or community members*

Organization name	Contact information	Geographic range	Organizational focus
ORGANIZATIONS THAT CAN PROVIDE EDUCATION OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECTS			
Champlain Area Trails	Chris Maron, chrismaron7@gmail.com, 518-962-2287	Champlain Valley in New York	Builds trails, provides environmental education programs, and conserves forests, farms, wetlands, waterways, and wildlife corridors.
Cornell Cooperative Extension	Warren County: Laurel Gailor, lrg6@cornell.edu, 518-623-3291 Washington County: 518-746-2560	Statewide in NY, with county-specific offices	Provides individuals and communities with information about environmental land use, waste management, invasive species, wildlife management and forestry.
Lake George Association	Emily DeBolt, edebolt@lakegeorgeassociation.org, (518) 668-3558	Lake George Watershed	Lake-friendly living education and outreach with a focus on water quality – particular expertise in native species, rain gardens, riparian buffers, and strategies for nuisance Canada geese
New York Department of Environmental Conservation	Region 5 offices: Ray Brook headquarters, (518) 897-1200 Warrensburg, (518) 623-1200; Northville (518) 863-4545	New York State, with regional and sub-regional offices	In addition to managing public lands and being a regulatory and permitting agency, DEC has staff who can provide information and resources on forestry, wildlife, and other natural resources.
Vermont Natural Resource Conservation Districts	Poultney-Mettawee: pmnrcd@sover.net, (802)287-8339 Rutland: Nanci McGuire, nanci.mcguire@vt.nacdn.net, 802-775-7192	Throughout Vermont, with district-specific offices	Provides landowners and agricultural producers with technical, financial and educational assistance for working with state and federal programs. This can include water quality protection, erosion control, riparian plantings, and education about natural resources.
Vermont Coverts	www.vtcoverts.org, info@vtcoverts.org, 802-388-3880	Throughout Vermont	Vermont Coverts provides trainings and resources to teach Vermont forest landowners about managing their land, particularly for wildlife.
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (County Forester)	Rutland County: Eric Hansen, eric.hansen@state.vt.us, (802) 786-3853	Throughout Vermont, with county-specific offices	Provides education about forest management. Manages Use Value Appraisal program.
Vt. Department of Environmental Conservation	802-786-5900 (Rutland Office)	Throughout Vermont, with district-specific offices	Provides aid in addressing stormwater runoff and other issues related to the meandering of waterways. River Management Program provides assistance for riparian restoration or in providing corridor easements.
ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN LAND CONSERVATION			
Agricultural Stewardship Association	Chris Kraehling, chris@agstewardship.org, 518-692-7285	Washington and Rensselaer Co., NY	Helps landowners to conserve farmland.
Champlain Valley Conservation Partnership	Chris Maron, chrismaron7@gmail.com, 518-962-2287	Champlain Valley, NY	Builds trails, provides environmental education programs, and conserves forests, farms, wetlands, waterways, and wildlife corridors.
Lake George Land Conservancy	Sarah Hoffman, shoffman@lglc.org, (518) 644-9673	Lake George Watershed	Permanently preserves land with natural, scenic and recreational resources.
New England Forestry Foundation	Whitney Beals, info@newenglandforestry.org, (978) 952-6856	New England	Conserves working forest lands with conservation easements.
Northeast Wilderness Trust	Rose Graves, info@newwildernesstrust.org, (802)453-7880	New England and the eastern Adirondacks	Conserves land as forever wild for nature and for people.
The Nature Conservancy	New York: (518) 576-2082, adirondacks@tnc.org, Vermont: (802) 265-8645 (West Haven Office)	Throughout area, with regional offices	Conserves ecologically important natural areas and wildlife habitat.
The Trust for Public Land	(802) 223-1373, vermont@tpl.org	Nationwide, with an office in Vermont	Conserves land for the benefit of the public, particularly community forests and large-acreage properties.
Vermont Land Trust	Donald Campbell, (802) 442-4915, Donald@vlt.org	Throughout Vermont, with regional offices	Protects working farms, forestland, and natural places
Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife	Jane Lazorchak, (802)479-4405, jane.lazorchak@state.vt.us	Throughout Vermont, with regional offices	Monitors and manages the state’s fish and wildlife populations and habitat needs.
RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITIES			
Vt. Department of Fish & Wildlife: Community Wildlife Program	Jens Hilke, http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/cwp_home.cfm ; (802) 476- 0199	Throughout Vermont	Provides assistance and resources for municipal planners in their efforts to protect wildlife habitat and significant natural communities.
Vermont Natural Resource Council	http://www.vnrc.org/ ; (802)223 2328	Throughout Vermont	Helps communities to plan for a sustainable future that includes renewable energy, healthy forests and biodiversity, smart economic growth, and enhanced water quality.
OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO LANDOWNERS AND LOCAL CITIZENS			
North Country Wild Care	(518) 964-6740, www.northcountrywildcare.org	Northeastern New York	Network of wildlife rehabilitators