

Plan of Work 2009/2010

This Plan of Work serves as the operational and management tool that directs a schedule of work toward projects that address the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the 2004 to 2009 Area Plan, which will be updated during 2009. This Plan of Work is intended to be a dynamic document that helps North Country RC&D, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and other project partners and sponsors focus their resources on implementing projects contained in this plan.

This Plan of Work serves as the formal agreement that supports the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's annual funding for RC&D staffing and office support. A Plan of Work is adopted annually even though this Plan of Work is designed to cover a two-year period.

Guiding Goals of the North Country RC&D Area, Inc.

The North Country RC&D Area, Inc. has worked in the north country since 1967. Over this period there has been a wide variety of program activity, but the goals have remained consistent. Exact words may have changed, but the intent has been the same. (For the purpose of helping the user and reader of this document, we define a goal as "a desired future condition".)

Goal #1 - The north country is a working landscape of successful farms and actively managed and productive forest land.

Goal #2 - Raw agricultural and forest products are processed to the maximum value-added potential at north country facilities.

Goal #3 - In the north country, soil, water and related natural resources are conserved using sustainable practices.

Goal #4 - North country communities are capable of providing necessary municipal services and preserving their character as defined by their Master Plan.

Strategies and Objectives

The following objectives and strategies will be pursued in this plan period to reach the previously stated goals according to the North Country RC&D Area, Inc.'s authority, mission and vision.

C.1 Entrepreneurial and Business Development

C.1.1 - Expand marketing opportunities for existing agricultural and forest products.

C.1.2 - Find new uses and markets for low-grade, underutilized wood species and products.

C.1.3 - Research and assist the expansion and development of value adding processes.

C.1.4 - Create programs, networks and partnerships that help foster business expansion and creation.

Strategies and Objectives (continued):

C.2 Education & Technical Assistance

- C.2.1 - Help small, entry-level and limited resource farmers understand and gain access to conservation programs and business development opportunities.
- C.2.2 - Promote the values of "local" agricultural and forest products.
- C.2.3 - Help agriculturists and forest land owners/managers use appropriate "Best Management Practices".
- C.2.4 - Help communities and organizations understand "watershed" planning concepts.
- C.2.5 - Provide organizational development assistance to existing and new groups and organizations.
- C.2.6- Help communities assess fire related hazards, prepare to improve local Capacity to prevent and suppress fire.

C.3 Advocacy and Support

- C.3.1 - Encourage communities, organizations, agencies and government to develop policies and programs that facilitate the growth, processing and marketing of agricultural and forest products.
- C.3.5 - Be an advocate for the required use of recognized Best Management Practices for agricultural and forest land.
- C.3.6 - Be an advocate for better local and regional land use planning.

The following Project Worksheets detail the projects and activities for the North Country Resource Conservation and Development Area Council for the period of 2009/2010.

These Projects are designed to address the Goals, Objectives and Strategies identified in the North Country RC&D 2004 to 2009 Area Plan.

Approximately \$400,000 dollars in cash and \$92,620 in donated in-kind support will be needed to implement the Projects and Activities identified in this 2009/2010 Plan of Work. This does not include the approximately \$60,000,000 million dollars that would be needed to fully implement the wood biomass heating projects described later in this plan.

North Country RC&D – 2009/2010 Plan of Work Project Worksheet

Project name: NH Farm Viability Program (NHFVP)

Relevance to Area Plan: Goals 1& 2
Strategies C.1.4, C.2.2, C.2.3, C.3.5

Relevance to National Performance Elements: Job/business creation, Land Conservation

NCRC&D's role: The NHFVP is a component of a larger project called Nurturing New Farmers organized by the Cooperative Development Institute (CDI) and submitted to the 2009 Beginner Farmers and Rancher Development Program administered by USDA CSREES. If funded NCRC&D would be the lead on this component.

Board Liaison(s): Bob Harrington, Lisa Rixen

Geographic Impact: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: New farm/agricultural development business plans will be completed

Proposed Project team: USDA-Rural Development, SNHRC&D, UNH Cooperative Extension, NH Farm Bureau, NH Dept. of Ag, SBDC, Ex. Service Corps, private business consultants. (Advisory team Lynda Brushett, Bob Harrington, Lisa Rixen, Juli Brussell, Mike Scaibarrasi, John Porter, Rob Johnson, Gail McWilliam-Jellie, & Rick DeMark)

Resource Needs: Funds requested to operate the program are \$140,000 over 3 years. With \$44,000 of in-kind match provided.

Exit Strategy: When project is complete

Startup/Completion timeframe: 10/2009 Estimated completion is 9/2012

Status: 5/18/2009: Pending decision on funding

North Country RC&D - 2009/2010 Plan of Work
Project Worksheet

Project name: 2009 NH Small & Beginning Farmer Conference

Relevance to Area Plan: Goals 1, 2, 3, 4
Strategies C.2.1, C.2.2, C.2.3, C.3.5

Relevance to National Performance Elements: Development of resource-based industries, job enhancement/creation, education, food security, farmland protection, Land Conservation, Land Management

NCRC&D's role: Support to S&BFNH

Board Liaison: Lisa Rixen, Bob Harrington

Geographic Impact: Northern New England (NH, ME, VT, MA)

Desired Outcomes: Build on existing momentum of past successful conferences

Project team: To Be determined by S&BF of NH

Resource Needs: To Be determined by S&BF of NH

Exit Strategy: Complete when conference is over

Startup/Completion timeframe: Now through Conference completion

Status: 05/18/2009 – At this time it is understood that the S&BF of NH will take responsibility for organizing the conference. NCRC&D will supply support as requested and available

North Country RC&D - 2009/2010 Plan of Work
Project Worksheet

Project name: Livestock Processing

Relevance to Area Plan: Goals 1& 2

Strategies: C.1.3

Relevance to National Performance Elements: Job/business creation, resource based industry, food security, Community Development

NCRC&D's role: Convener, then supporter

Board Liaison: Dan McLaughlin, Lisa Rixen

Geographic Impact: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: Work with partners to find livestock processing solutions for NH livestock producers.

Likely partners: SNHRC&D, Farm Bureau, NH Dept. of Ag, NH Coalition for Sustaining Ag, NH Farm Viability Task Force, Center for a Food Secure NH, USDA

Resource Needs: Time TBD

Exit Strategy: TBD

Startup/Completion timeframe: TBD

Status: 05/18/2009: TBD

North Country RC&D - 2009/2010 Plan of Work **Project Worksheet**

Project name: Distributed Energy/District Heating Initiative

Relevance to Area Plan: Goals 2, 3, 4
Strategies C.1.1, C.1.2, C.1.4, C.3.1

Relevance to National Performance Elements: Job/Business Creation, resource based industries, satisfaction of essential needs, food security, economic development, energy conservation/development, Community Development

NCRC&D's role: Support

Board Liaisons: Russ Dowd, Jeff Hayes

Geographic Impact: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: Find implementation solutions for institutional and district heating scale projects initiated in 2008/2009 Plan of Work.

Partners: NH Wood Biomass Heating Task Force

Resource Needs: Estimated costs to construct all projects currently waiting implementation is roughly \$60 million. An inventory of project needs was submitted to the national RC&D Office in April, 2009. In addition, a \$43,850 proposal was submitted to NH RGGI called Roadmap to Position NH Communities to Explore and Implement District Heating and Combined Heat and Power Options using Wood Biomass. If funded this proposal would require \$6,600 of In-Kind match.

Exit Strategy: TDB

Startup/Completion timeframe: Several feasibility studies have been completed and are awaiting implementation.

Status: 05/18/2009 - Underway, High priority

North Country RC&D - 2009/2010 Plan of Work
Project Worksheet

Project name: Farm Energy Audits

Relevance to Area Plan: Goals 1,2,3,& 4
Strategies C.1.1, C1.2, C2.1, C2.3

Relevance to National Performance Elements: Land Management, energy conservation, Community Development

NCRC&D's role: Support

Board Liaison: TBD

Geographic Impact: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: Working with the SNHRC&D and the NH Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture initiate an on-farm energy audit program that will lead to the installation of energy efficiency and production.

Project team/Partners:SNHRC&D, CSA

Resource Needs: RGGI Grant, and TA

Exit Strategy:TBD

Startup/Completion timeframe: Begin fall 2009

Status: 5/28/09-SNHRC&D has been notified that it's proposal has been approved for funding from the NH PUC. It need sto go through Gov and Council.

North Country RC&D - 2009/2010 Plan of Work
Project Worksheet

Project name: NH Rural Fire Protection Initiative

Relevance to Area Plan: Goal 4

Strategies: C.2.6, C.3.6

Relevance to National Performance Elements: Water Management, Community Development

NCRC&D's role: Lead, with SNHRC&D

Board Liaison: Dan McLaughlin with Jim Moore from SNHRC&D

Geographic Impact: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: Complete town-wide water resource plans(10/year) for rural fire protection as part of the communities' hazard mitigation plan, 20 hydrant/cistern designs and an update of the Rural Fire Resource Quick Guide.

Partners: SNHRC&D, NHBEM, RPCs, participating towns

Resource Needs: Grant funds and staffing (Pat Tarpey, Karl Berardi and Ann Bowes) in place. Existing funds from NHBEM in place, \$80,000 approved for next year waiting on Governor and Council approval. A \$3950.00 grant was also received from the NH Charitable Foundation to update the Rural Fire Resource Quick Guide

Exit Strategy: N/A

Startup/Completion timeframe:N?A

Status: 05/18/2009 - Current, Ongoing, High Priority

North Country RC&D - 2009/2010 Plan of Work
Project Worksheet

Project name: Winnepesaukee Watershed Management Plan

Relevance to Area Plan: Goal 3
Strategies: C.2.4, C.2.5

Relevance to National Performance Elements: Water Management, Community Development

NCRC&D's role: Support to LWWA, LRPC, PSU, UNH

Board Liaison: John Hodsdon

Geographic Impact: Belknap and Carroll Counties

Desired Outcomes: Support continued tributary, shallow and deep lake sampling and watershed assessments for targeted tributaries; conduct public outreach and education in those sub-watersheds; organize multi-town watershed planning. End product being a watershed plan for whole Winni basin

Partners: LWWA, LRPC, Watershed communities, PSU, DES, UNH

Resource Needs: Time, Money (approximately \$52,000) and Staff. \$12,000 is in hand from approved 319 Grant administered by LRPC

Exit Strategy: When project is completed

Startup/Completion timeframe: begin sampling 5/2009

Status: 05/18/2009 - Current, Ongoing, High priority

North Country RC&D - 2009/2010 Plan of Work
Activity Worksheet

Activity name: Re-print of Guide to Developing/Re-developing Shoreland Property in NH

Relevance to Area Plan: Goal 3
Strategy: C.2.4

Relevance to National Performance Elements: Watershed Planning, education, Water Management

NCRC&D's role: Support

Board Liaison: John Hodsdon

Geographic Impact: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: Support LWVA to update, re-print and distribute the "Guide"

Likely partners: LWVA, DES, NHLA, river councils, RPCs, Lake Associations, real estate associations, landscape associations, SNHRC&D

Resource Needs: Funds are in-hand to do re-print (Approx \$5500.00). Time of partners is needed to develop strategy to do it and distribute it.

Exit Strategy: When done

Startup/Completion timeframe: Within 2 year plan

Status: 05/18/2009 - Start-up, High priority. Decision at 01/2009 Board Meeting to enter into an agreement with the LWVA to manage the update process and negotiate a split of the sales cover price

North Country RC&D - 2009/2010 Plan of Work Project Worksheet

Project name: North Country Farm Fresh Cooperative

Relevance to Area Plan: Goal: 1, 2, 3
Strategies C.1.1, C.1.4, C.2.1, C.2.2, C.3.1

Relevance to National Performance Elements: Business/job creation and retention

NCRC&D's role: Provide TA to fledgling group. Connect group with other sources of TA and FA. Serve as fiscal agent until NCFFC is capable of handling its own affairs

Board Liaison: Lisa Rixen

Geographic Impact: Northern Coos County

Desired Outcomes: A functional corporation growing, marketing and selling products to local markets and becoming successful businesses.

Project team/Partners: Cooperative Development Institute, NH Cooperative Ext, USDA-RD, Tillotson Foundation

Resource Needs: FA \$49,000 proposal to USDA RD for a second year of funding (still pending), \$20,100 proposal to Tillotson Foundation for second year of funding (still pending) and TA

Exit Strategy: When organization is capable of handling its own affairs

Startup/Completion timeframe: Complete by June 2010

Status: 05/18/2009- Agreement between NCRC&D and NCFFC in place. One year of operation has been completed and hoping for a better 2nd year. A second Rural Business Enterprise Grant was submitted to USDA RD and 2nd proposal to Tillotson Foundation.

***North Country RC&D - 2009/20010 Plan of Work
Activity Worksheet***

Activity name: Board Development, By-Law review/update

Relevance to Area Plan: NA

Relevance to National Performance Elements: NA

NCRC&D's role: The Financial committee has recommended several policies that would require a change in By-Laws. There may be other changes in the By-Laws that would be beneficial at this time.

Board Liaison: Dan McLaughlin

Geographic Impact: NA

Desired Outcomes: The current set of By-Laws will be reviewed and updated as needed.

Likely partners: NA

Resource Needs: Time to make the review and proposed changes

Exit Strategy: When done

Startup/Completion timeframe: Complete by July, 2009.

Status: 05/18/2009 – Changes identified, to be acted on at special meeting in July, 2009.

North Country RC&D - 2009/2010 Plan of Work
Activity Worksheet

Activity name: Board Development, Board Training

Relevance to Area Plan: NA

Relevance to National Performance Elements: NA

NCRC&D's role: Develop a model training plan for each board member.

Board Liaison: Leadership team

Geographic Impact: NA

Desired Outcomes: Each NCRC&D Board member will fully understand the purpose, intent & policies of the national RC&D program to be able to implement at the RC&D Council level. At least 2 members will attend the national RC&D and New England RC&D Conferences

Likely partners: SNHRC&D, National and New England Associations of RC&D

Resource Needs: Time and funds to attend training sessions

Exit Strategy: NA

Startup/Completion timeframe: Complete by December 31, 2010

Status: 05/18/2009 - Start-up, Med priority

North Country RC&D - 2009/2010 Plan of Work
Activity Worksheet

Activity name: Board Development, Recruitment strategies for each county

Relevance to Area Plan: NA

Relevance to National Performance Elements: NA

NCRC&D's role: Develop a county by county recruitment plan to fill all empty seats on the NCRC&D Board.

Board Liaison: NA - each county will caucus to develop their own recruitment plan. Exception is Coos, which will need to be addressed by whole Board

Geographic Impact: NA

Desired Outcomes: All 15 seats on the NCRC&D Board of Directors will be filled and a list of potential Associate members developed. The Board will be diverse and reflective of the population of the North Country RC&D Area.

Likely partners: NA

Resource Needs: Time

Exit Strategy: NA

Startup/Completion timeframe: 12/31/2009

Status: 05/18/2009 - Ongoing, High priority

North Country RC&D - 2009/20010 Plan of Work
Activity Worksheet

Activity name: Board development, External Communications Plan

Relevance to Area Plan: NA

Relevance to National Performance Elements: NA

NCRC&D's role: Implement the external communications plan that includes paper and electronic media to tell the NCRC&D story to the Area, State and Region.

Board Liaison: TBD

Geographic Impact: NA

Desired Outcomes: NCRC&D will have a clear message of it's role and regular, consistent & informative external communications so that NCRC&D is recognized as a leader in natural resource and rural community development in NH and the region.

Likely partners: NRCS, SNHRC&D

Resource Needs: Time and funds

Exit Strategy: NA

Startup/Completion timeframe: Plan in place. Implementation is on-going

Status: 05/18/2009 - Ongoing, High Priority.

North Country RC&D - 2009/2010 Plan of Work
Activity Worksheet

Activity name: Board Development, Self Sustainability

Relevance to Area Plan: NA

Relevance to National Performance Elements: NA

NCRC&D's role: NCRC&D needs to think ahead to a possible time when administrative support from USDA no longer meets the needs of the NCRC&D Council. A plan is needed to start NCRC&D on a path of self-sustainability

Board Liaison: Leadership team

Geographic Impact: NA

Desired Outcomes: Should USDA not be able to provide a coordinator, office assistant or office, the NCRC&D will be able to continue to function normally.

Likely partners: TBD

Resource Needs: Time to develop the plan

Exit Strategy: NA

Startup/Completion TBD

Status: 05/18/2009 - Start-up, High Priority

North Country RC&D - 2009/2010 Plan of Work
Activity Worksheet

Activity name: Development of 2009-2014 Area Plan

Relevance to Area Plan: NA

Relevance to National Performance Elements: All national Performance Elements will be addressed

NCRC&D's role: Lead the effort to develop a new 5 year strategic plan.

Board Liaison: NA, Effort of whole Board with assistance from Coordinator

Geographic Impact: Area-wide

Desired Outcomes: A new 5 year strategic plan is in place for adoption at the 2010 Annual Meeting

Likely partners: All

Resource Needs: Primarily time. A portion of the \$12,000 contribution from NRCS will be used to fund RC&D staff time.

Exit Strategy: When new Area Plan is complete and submitted for approval from the State Conservationist

Startup/Completion Now through December 2009

Status: 05/18/2009 – Area Planning surveys are being conducted with the public and all partners.

North Country RC&D - 2009/2010 Plan of Work
Project Worksheet

Project name: Mount Washington Valley Bike path

Relevance to Area Plan: Goals 4
Strategies C. 2.5

Relevance to National Performance Elements: Community Development

NCRC&D's role: Support

Board Liaison: Russ Dowd

Geographic Impact: Mt Washington valley, Carroll County

Desired Outcomes: Help local organizing committee get started and connected with technical and financial resources.

Project team/Partners: Local Planning Committee, CCCD

Resource Needs: Technical

Exit Strategy: When local organizing committee no longer requires assistance

Startup/Completion timeframe: Assistance begun in 9/2008 and expected to continue through 12/2009

Status: 5/18/2009- Helped group secure initial seed funds that are being used to build awareness and support within the MTWV community.

Equal Employment Opportunity Statement

North Country RC&D is a program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Compliance Statement

THE NORTH COUNTRY RC&D AREA , INC. AGREES THAT THE RC&D PROGRAM WILL BE CONDUCTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NON-DISCRIMINATION PROVISIONS AS CONTAINED IN TITLE VI AND VII OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 AS AMENDED, THE CIVIL RIGHTS RESTORATION ACT OF 1987 (PUBLIC LAW 100-259) AND OTHER NON-DISCRIMINATION STATUTES; NAMELY, SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973, TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1973, THE AGE DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 1975, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE (7CFR-15, SUBPARTS A AND B), WHICH PROVIDE THAT NO PERSON IN THE UNITED STATES SHALL, ON THE GROUNDS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE, SEX, RELIGION, MARITAL STATUS, OR HANDICAP/DISABILITY BE EXCLUDED FROM PARTICIPATION IN, OR BE DENIED THE BENEFITS OF, OR BE OTHERWISE SUBJECTED TO DISCRIMINATION UNDER ANY PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY RECEIVING FEDERAL FINANCIAL (OR TECHNICAL) ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OR ANY AGENCY THEREOF."

NORTH COUNTRY RC&D AGREES THAT THE SIGNING OF THIS DOCUMENT CONSTITUTES AGREEMENT TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL LAWS CONCERNING RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING, A DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE, AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NON-PROCUREMENT, DEBARMENT AND STATE REVIEW.

SIGNATURES

NORTH COUNTRY RC&D HEREBY ADOPTS THIS RC&D 2009/2010 PLAN OF WORK AND AGREES TO EFFECTIVELY USE THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO REALIZE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OUTLINED HEREIN.

North Country RC&D, State of New Hampshire

By _____ Date _____
Chairman, North Country RC&D

Attest: _____
Secretary/Treasurer

This action authorized at an official meeting of the North Country Resource Conservation and Development Area Board of Directors on _____, 2009.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service

The State Conservationist hereby acknowledges the attached Area Plan of North Country RC&D as meeting the requirements under Public Law 107-171 to receive assistance from the USDA.

Acknowledged by:

_____ Date _____
State Conservationist