

**New Hampshire NRCS - Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)  
Compatible Use Authorization Addendum**

Dear WRP Participant,

Thank you for your interest in the restoration, enhancement, and protection of our valuable natural resources. It has been determined by the NH Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that the following activities have the potential to benefit the long-term objectives of the WRP easement and may therefore be authorized as Compatible Uses:

- **Timber stand management and related forest stewardship activities.** *An NRCS approved forest management plan developed by a NH licensed forester is required to conduct forest management activities\*. Attachment A contains specific guidelines and must be on file at NRCS prior to commencement of timber harvest. \*Cordwood harvesting for personal use is allowed without a forest management plan provided it complies with the purposes of the WRP easement deed.*
- **Delayed mowing of grassland or shrublands after 7/15.** *The landowner must demonstrate to NRCS that mowing is performed in a manner sensitive to ground-nesting birds or other grassland-dependant wildlife species and complies with the purposes of the WRP easement deed.*
- **Prescribed grazing.** *\*An NRCS approved grazing plan is required prior to commencement and must demonstrate compliance with the purposes of the WRP easement deed.*
- **Elimination or control of invasive species.** *The management, reduction, or elimination of invasive species shall be allowed provided the landowner demonstrates to NRCS that such maintenance complies with the purposes of the WRP easement deed and does not degrade wetland resources.*
- **Motorized vehicle use** - *The use of motorized vehicles for the purposes of trail maintenance and or land management is authorized only when such vehicle use is restricted to an existing access network, and is conducted during dry or frozen conditions when the risk of resource degradation is minimized. The existing access network shall be located on an aerial photograph or topographic map and provided to NRCS for approval prior to issuance of the Compatible Use Authorization.*

Only those activities that further both the long-term protection and enhancement of the wetland and other natural values of the project area will be authorized. It is imperative that all compatible uses benefit native wildlife habitat and that those benefits are documented. This Compatible Use Authorization shall be reviewed annually for compliance and is valid for a period not to exceed 10 years beyond the signature date on the attached Compatible Use Authorization (form AD-1160). Upon its expiration, these activities will be prohibited. The landowner may request reauthorization before the expiration date by completing a new WRP Compatible Use Authorization form.

The landowner may, at any time, request a revision to the Compatible Use Authorization to allow additional activities not foreseen in the current authorization. Any changes to the terms of this original Compatible Use Authorization will require on-site concurrence by NRCS. The NRCS reserves the right to terminate this authorization if, at any time, it determines the landowner failed to comply with the purposes of the WRP easement deed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized NRCS Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **Guidelines for Timber Stand Management on WRP Easements**

1. Timber harvesting beyond personal cordwood shall be conducted in accordance with a forest management plan developed and supervised by a licensed NH forester.
2. Landowner must notify NH NRCS of their intent to harvest timber at least 30 days prior to commencement in order to verify compliance with Compatible Use Authorization. Forester must sign this document, confirming his/her understanding of said guidelines.
3. Such forestry shall be carried out in accordance with all applicable local, state, federal and other laws and regulations, and, to the extent reasonably practicable, in accordance with then-current, generally accepted best management practices for the sites, soils, and terrain of the property. For references, see "Best Management Practices for Erosion Control on Timber Harvesting Operations in New Hampshire" (2004), "Best Management Practices for Forestry: Protecting New Hampshire's Water Quality" (2005), "Good Forestry in the Granite State: Recommended Voluntary Forest Management Practices for New Hampshire" (2010), or similar successor publications.
4. Specifically, foresters conducting timber stand management on WRP lands should consult the "Recommended Practices" listed in the most recent version of "Good Forestry in the Granite State" (2010). A particular focus should be placed on the sections listed below, thereby assuring compliance with the purposes of the WRP easement deed:

#### **Water Resources**

- 4.1.....Water Quality
- 4.2.....Wetlands
- 4.3.....Forest Management in Riparian Areas
- 4.4.....Stream Crossings and Habitat

#### **Forest Health**

- 5.2.....Invasive Plants

#### **Wildlife Habitat**

- 6.8.....Beaver-Created Openings
- 6.12...Heron Colonies
- 6.13...Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need

#### **Sensitive Areas**

- 7.1.....Natural Communities and Protected Plants
- 7.2.....Seeps
- 7.3.....Vernal Pools and the Surrounding Forest

(Continued)

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**ATTACHMENT A (continued)**

I certify that I am a New Hampshire licensed professional forester and that I have prepared a forest management plan for \_\_\_\_\_ acres of the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easement property owned by \_\_\_\_\_ (landowner) in \_\_\_\_\_ (town).

The management plan is consistent with and addresses the "Purposes and Intent" of the easement as listed on page 1 of the WRP Warranty Easement Deed as well as the landowner's objectives. Forest management practices on the property are anticipated to begin in \_\_\_\_\_ (month), \_\_\_\_\_ (year).

\_\_\_\_\_ Forester Signature                      \_\_\_\_\_ License #

\_\_\_\_\_ Forester Name (Print)                      \_\_\_\_\_ Date

Forester's Seal: