

MA DCR Forest Conservation Due Diligence Grant Program

**A new program of the
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
*Working Forest Initiative***

- *Builds on New England Governor's RCP Project and UMass/Land Trust Estate Planning Initiative
- *Focus on landowners who have already shown interest in estate planning and Forest Stewards Plans in NEGC RCP's
- *Application mirrors MA Conservation Land Tax Credit Program so one application serves both programs

MA DCR Forest Conservation Due Diligence Grant Program

A new program of the
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Working Forest Initiative

To qualify:

- Land must contain at least 10 acres of woodland.
- Donate 50% of the appraised value of land or Conservation Restriction, or a minimum donation of \$100,000.
- Landowner must attend an eligible workshop.
 - Working Forest Initiative or NEFA Pilot Project
 - (estate planning, forest stewardship)

MA DCR Forest Conservation Due Diligence Grant Program



To qualify:

- Land must be in one of 81 eligible municipalities
- Grant reimburses up to \$8,700 in transaction costs
 - Appraisal
 - Title Exam
 - Recording Fees
 - Legal Fees
 - Environmental Site Assessment

Success in First Year

- Provided \$2,700 in funding for an IRS appraisal to help protect 21.2 acres of land in Hardwick MA, through a CR held by East Quabbin Land Trust. The value of the donated CR equaled \$151,500.
- ☑ Granted \$500 to cover the cost of an IRS appraisal to help a bargain sale of 67.3 acres of land to MA Department of Fish and Game. The value of the donated land equaled \$140,000.
- ☑ Assisted a bargain sale of 27.6 acres of land to MA Department of Fish and Game with a \$500 grant to cover the cost of an IRS appraisal. The value of the donated land equaled \$100,000.
- ☑ Provided \$7,100 to protect 70 acres in Dudley MA for a donation to the Dudley Land Conservation Trust and Mass Audubon. This grant covered survey, title, recording fees, attorney fees and appraisal costs. The value of the donated CR and land equaled \$170,000.
- Total Land Conserved = 186.1 acres
- Total donated land value = \$561,200.00

Conserved Land in Dudley



Applications for Fiscal 2016

- **Town, Grant Amt and Acres**
- Monson
 \$4,750.00 53 CR
- Wendell
 \$7,750.00 74 CR
- Hubbardston
 \$5,750.00 49 CR
- Wales
 \$7,700.00 44 CR
- **TOTAL PENDING REQUEST =**
 \$25,950.00 220 CR
acres



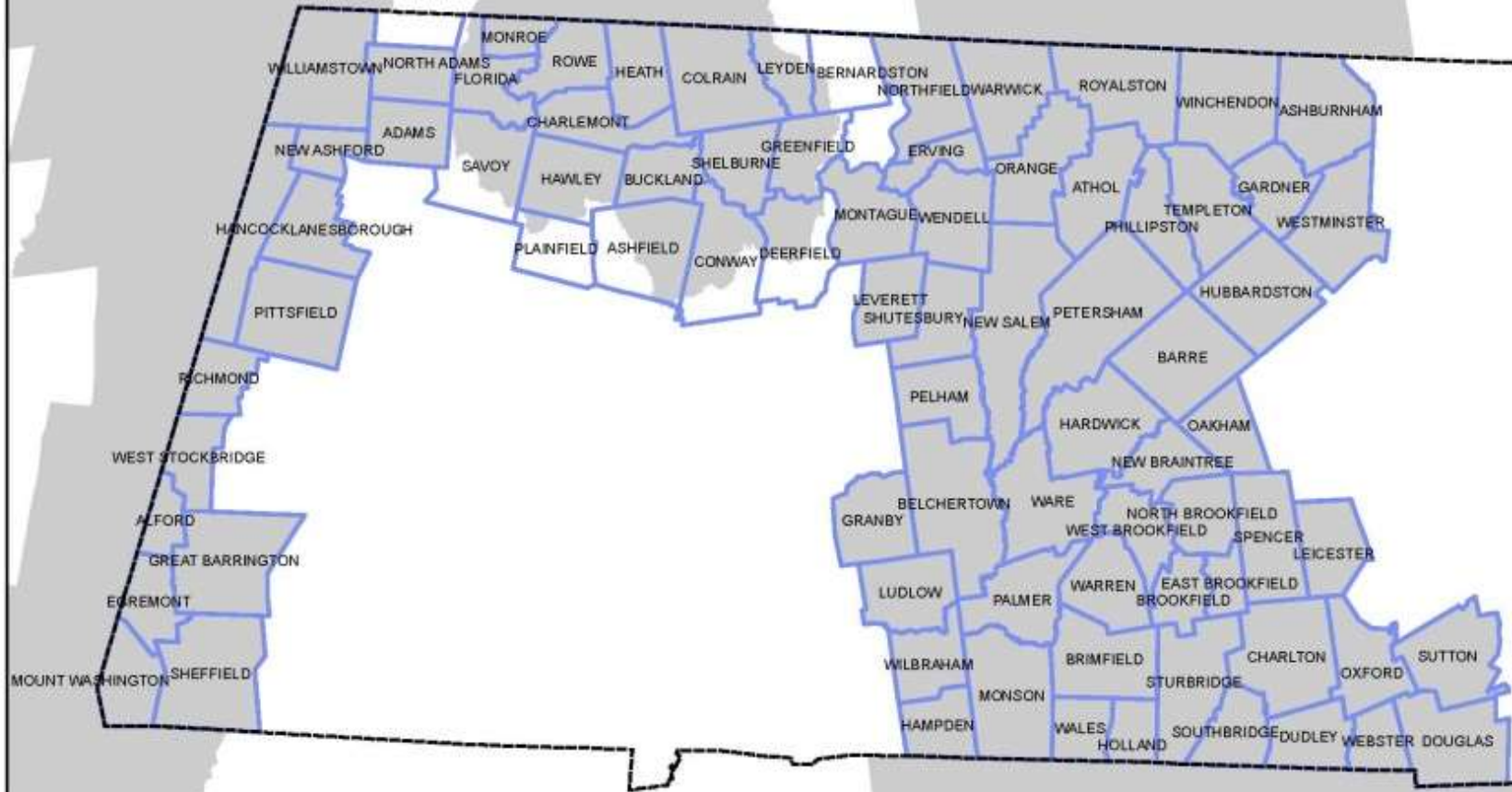
Success of the MA State Tax Credit Program

Due Diligence and Tax Credit Gift along the South Souhegan River



- **The MA Conservation Land Tax Credit Program is a refundable state tax credit for up to \$75,000 and ½ of the appraised value. Since beginning in 2011, 301 applications have been approved and 46 denied with 175 project completed to date with a total value of \$36.3 million in donated value and \$7.6 million in state tax credits paid – a 4.8 leverage ratio for state funds**



**Forest Conservation Due Diligence Grant Program
Eligible Areas**



Legend

-  Due Diligence Program Eligible Towns
-  New England Governors' Conference Pilot Areas

MA DCR Forest Conservation Due Diligence Grant Program

For more information:

Jay Rasku

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

978-248-2118

rasku@mountgrace.org

www.mountgrace.org