

New England  
Forest Conservation Policy  
Discussion

Meeting #2

December 8, 2010

# Context

- *W&W*
  - Double the pace of conservation
  - Retain 70% of NE landscape as forest
  - No more than doubling of development
- “Conservation”
  - transactions (e.g., acquisitions, CRs)
  - landowner incentives/rewards (e.g., tax benefits, rewards for improved management & markets)
  - land use planning & policy (e.g., mitigation, zoning)

# Purpose of 3 Forming Meetings

Determine need, focus and structure for a coordinated effort to advance policies that will conserve/secure the forest land base and expand economic rewards for well-managed forests in order to sustain New England's forested landscape and the many benefits it provides.

\*Distilled from Meeting #1 & Vision document

# Focus

## **FEDERAL**

- LWCF\*
- Tax policy\*
- AGO
- Farm Bill Reauthorization
- Forest Legacy
- Transportation Bill Reauthorization
- Climate & Energy Bill
- USDA State & Private Forestry

## **STATE**

- State funding & bond programs
- Current use programs
- Climate mitigation plans
- Water quality mitigation
- In lieu wetlands mitigation

# New England Objectives:

How can agencies budgets/ become more “place-based”?

- LWCF
  - Allow land trusts to access funds
- Legacy
  - Revise application process to expand qualifying projects
- Farm Bill
  - Streamline payments for ecosystem services to support monetization on smaller landholders
  - Economic rewards for improved management
- Climate Policy (state and federal)
  - Inclusion of forest management and avoided conversion
- USFS Redesign/Technical Assistance
  - Expand focus to better meet needs of NE landowners; conservation and landowner-to-landowner outreach programs

# Next Steps

- Homework: define focused policy targets - Jan. 12
- Draft “straw” policy platform - end of Jan.
- Hold 3<sup>rd</sup> policy meeting end of Feb.
  - Invite broader group
  - Platform, strategy, structure
  - Consider New England Policy Summit
- March – share policy platform at meetings (MLTC )