Forest Management Plans for My Maine Woods
An Overview for Landowners

My Maine Woods is excited to offer you an opportunity for funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that was set aside to help pay for the cost of forest management plans that will benefit a wide range of fish and wildlife species in Franklin and Oxford counties. Participating landowners who agree to have the following elements addressed in their management plans will be provided funding on a first come first served basis:

- A variety of forest habitats, including different native tree and shrub species, ages and sizes
- Habitat for older-forest bird species and species that require large patches of continuous forest
- High value habitats such as wetlands, vernal pools, old growth or late successional stands, and deer wintering areas, if they are present on the property
- Rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species if they are present on the property
- Habitat for other species of conservation concern, such as Maine Audubon’s “Priority Forest Birds”
- Areas adjacent to streams, ponds, lakes, and wetlands
- Maintenance or restoration of pathways for fish and other aquatic critters where roads or trails cross streams
- Important wildlife trees - such as dead standing trees, trees with nesting cavities, and nut-producing trees - as well as rotting logs that help support habitat diversity on the forest floor

Whenever possible, your forester will include these elements in the plan as well:

- Using current Best Management Practices to protect soils and water quality
- Identifying and controlling invasive plants that threaten our native forests
- Ensuring that new forest roads and trails are located so they will minimize impacts to sensitive wildlife habitats, and existing roads and trails are retired if no longer needed
- Modifying management to promote a more resilient forest in the face of changing climate conditions

To take advantage of this special funding, landowners must have a contract with NRCS, which My Maine Woods can help you acquire. The forest management plan must be prepared by an NRCS Certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) forester. We can provide you with a list of the NRCS Certified TSP Foresters who have participated in our trainings on developing Forest Management Plans for My Maine Woods. Your forester will be responsible for meeting minimum NRCS management plan specifications and for including the additional My Maine Woods wildlife-specific components listed above.

Please note: For more detailed definitions and information about each of these habitat elements and recommendations on how to manage for them, please talk with a forester or see My Maine Woods – Western Maine Landowner Fact Sheet titled Managing Your Woodland with Birds and Wildlife in Mind. Your forester will incorporate each relevant element into your plan.

By signing this document, I agree to have all of the above criteria incorporated into my NRCS Conservation Activity Plan (CAP):

_________________________________________________
Applicant Signature

_______________________________________
Date

For more information, please contact Annica McGuirk at info@mymainewoods.org or 207.781.2330 x219.