



## Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) at the University of New Hampshire

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UNH Cooperative Extension uses RREA funds to provide assistance to forest owners, forest industry, natural resource professionals and communities to help them make informed decisions regarding natural resources. New Hampshire is 84% forested, with 70% of the state being privately held forest land. Forests are a major component of New Hampshire's economy, and quality of life while also providing habitat for the state's wildlife and protecting water quality. For every RREA dollar it receives, the University of New Hampshire leverages about \$100 in non-federal county, state and private dollars to address:

- **Loss of Open Space:** “Does Open Space Pay” has demonstrated the economic link between open space losses and escalating property taxes. As a result of Extension working with partners, multi-community conservation groups have been formed for land conservation purposes. This is a dramatic culture change in the way New Hampshire communities have traditionally worked – resulting in communities allocating over \$100 million in the last four years for land conservation.
- **Community Forestry:** Extension's work with municipalities and rural communities engages citizens in economic, social and environmental decision making. Projects have positively impacted environmental protection, reduced risk from hazards, addressed invasive species, assisted in management of town owned forests and even reduced the number of police calls.
- **Economic Action Through Forestry:** A number of sawmills have diverse workforces including recent immigrants from Cambodia. Workers do not always understand English, yet their employer is responsible for their health and safety. UNH Cooperative Extension has helped the mills develop safety materials and a video in the workers' language.

*Extension recognizes the changing nature of our landscape and the pressure on open space and has responded with absolutely essential assistance to landowners, communities and land trusts.*

- Paul Doscher, Vice President, Society for the Protection of NH Forests

*Educational assistance by UNH Cooperative Extension is essential to the long term viability of New Hampshire's forests and forest products industry.*

- Jasen Stock, Executive Director, NH Timberland Owners Association

*Extension is critical to help maintain landowners' contact with the land.*

- Philip Bryce, New Hampshire State Forester



RREA funds educational programs to protect New Hampshire's economic and environmental assets, including forests, water, wildlife habitat and tourism.