OVERVIEW OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE HABITAT PRACTICES AND PAYMENT RATES*

New England Forestry Foundation – Natural Resources Conservation Service
Maine Mountains Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Forest Stand Improvement
Payment ~ $210-450/acre
NRCS Practice Code 666:
- Crop tree release
- Pre-commercial thinning
  (hardwood, softwood, and mixed wood stands)
- Competition control
- Patch cutting
- Silviculture for timber/songbird habitat
  (single-tree selection and small group prescriptions)
- Girdling

Forest Trails and Landings
Payment ~ $2/foot
NRCS Practice Code 655:
- Basic – Shaping, grading and waterbars
- Moderate – Culverts, shaping, grading and waterbars
- Severe – Rebuild or reroute for severe erosion
- Road close-out
- Landing stabilization and close-out

Early Successional Habitat Management
Payment ~ $90-415/acre
NRCS Practice Code 647:
- Light and heavy brush hogging
- Patch cutting with equipment (light, moderate or heavy)
- Patch cutting with hand tools (chainsaw)

Brush Management-Invasive Woody Plant Control
Payment ~ $35 - 400/acre
NRCS Practice Code 314:
- Manual control (light, medium, heavy)
- Chemical control (light, medium, heavy)

Herbaceous Invasive Plant Control
Payment ~ $35 – 960/acre
NRCS Practice Code 315:
- Manual control (light, medium, heavy)
- Chemical control (light, medium, heavy)

Access Control
Payment ~ $290/Structure
NRCS Practice Code 472:
- Access gate
- Fence

Access Road
Payment ~ $6–14/foot
NRCS Practice Code 560:
- Haul roads, truck roads
- Gravel, dips, culverts, grading

Stream Crossing
Payment ~$1,200–33,000/crossing
NRCS Practice Code 578:
- Timber deck skidder bridge
- Culvert
- Low water stone ford
- Pre-cast concrete bridge
- Abutments for use with temporary bridge

Stream Habitat Improvement
Payment ~ $4,500–16,000/acre
NRCS Practice Code 395:
- Chop and drop trees in/along stream
- Boulder placement for step-pool or riffle-pool
- Planting trees and shrubs

Aquatic Organism Passage
Payment ~ $1,400–32,000/structure (culvert/bridge)
NRCS Practice Code 396:
- Remove undersized or perched culvert
- Upsize/replace larger culvert or bridge

Structures for Wildlife
Payment ~ $15–385/structure
NRCS Practice Code 649:
- Nest boxes
- Brush piles
- Bat houses
- Osprey/Eagle nesting platform

* Payment rates are approximate and based on NRCS 2019 practice scenario typical costs, subject to change

Conserving Forests
For Future Generations

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