



MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

December 15, 2010

Volume 10, Number 18

Items of interest to the Massachusetts land protection community.

For more news and information, go to <<http://www.MassLand.org>>

Please send items of interest to <Info@MassLand.org>

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"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value."

-- Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), 26th US President 1901-09 --

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Action Alert!

1) EOEEA BUDGET HEARINGS - BOSTON 12/16 - SPRINGFIELD 12/20

Environmental agencies are once again facing huge budget cuts. It is VERY IMPORTANT that the conservation community attend these hearings and clearly state our opposition to any more cuts and our support for specific programs!

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) will hold two hearings to allow interested parties to provide their comments as part of our Fiscal Year 2012 recommendation process. The hearings will be held in Boston and Springfield.

DATE: Thursday, December 16, 2010

TIME: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Exec. Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Conference Room C-D

100 Cambridge St, Boston, MA 02114

(For those attending the Boston hearing, please be sure to bring a picture I.D. in order to pass through the building security.)

DATE: Monday, December 20, 2010

TIME: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Edward P. Boland Elementary School

426 Armory Street (off Rte. 291), Springfield, MA

Written comment is encouraged prior to the hearing. Interested parties may also submit written comments at the hearing or through the close of business December 23, 2010. Please address them to:

Ian A. Bowles, Secretary

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114

ATTENTION: FY' 12 Budget

News

2) IAN BOWLES TO STEP DOWN AS EEA SECRETARY; RICK SULLIVAN APPOINTED

-- *From Boston.com and AP*

Gov. Deval Patrick announced that he was naming Dept. of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Rick Sullivan to be his new secretary of energy and environmental affairs amid a staff shuffle that sees the current secretary, Ian Bowles, stepping down to seek opportunities in the private sector.

Bowles, who was appointed to the job by Patrick four years ago, said he feels he has helped launch the state on the path to a green energy future and wants to step aside. He will leave at the end of the month.

Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA) Ian Bowles is stepping down from his Cabinet post, ending a four-year tenure during which he led the administration's efforts on alternative energy, environmental protection and land conservation.

While much of his focus has been on renewable energy, Bowles also oversaw the state's efforts to help cities and towns preserve open space.

With state aid, local communities have been scooping up open space at the rate of 54 acres per day. The state now has more than 1.2 million acres of land permanently barred from development.

Read more of this article [here](#)

The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition wishes to express its profound gratitude to Secretary Bowles for his stalwart commitment to land conservation during his time in office. Under the leadership of the Secretary and Gov. Patrick, over 72,000 acres of land have been protected in the past four years, an historic achievement. We wish Sec. Bowles well in his future endeavors. We also applaud Gov. Patrick's appointment of Rick Sullivan as his next Secretary. Commissioner Sullivan has been a long-time friend of land conservation and we look forward to continuing the highly productive partnership between state conservation agencies and the non-profit land trust community.

3) STATE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP GRANTS HELP PROTECT 374 ACRES

As part of Governor Patrick's unprecedented commitment to land conservation, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Ian Bowles today announced \$485,450 in fiscal year 2011 Conservation Partnership Grants that will enable seven nonprofit organizations to preserve 374 acres of open space from Cape Cod to the hill towns of Western Massachusetts.

"Under the leadership of Governor Patrick, Massachusetts has preserved more than 72,000 acres as parks, farmland and wildlife habitat - contributing to a total of more than 1.2 million acres of protected land throughout the Commonwealth," said Secretary Bowles. "In partnership with land trusts, local officials and community groups, we are preserving for future generations valuable open space and natural resources across Massachusetts."

The \$485,450 in funding announced today protects 374 acres of land, including 255 acres of working forest and an island. Conservation Partnership grants are designed to help nonprofit organizations purchase land or interests in land (such as conservation restrictions) for conservation or recreation. Grant recipients must convey a perpetual conservation restriction to either the community where a project exists or to a state agency, and protected property must provide a public benefit. Grants finance no more than half of total project costs.

The awards will fund projects in Arlington, Buckland, Conway, Dennis, Dudley, Mattapoisett, Newbury and West Boylston. Proposed projects are evaluated and selected based on their ability to conserve biodiversity, protect water quality, promote recreation, and preserve working farms and forests. This year's projects include properties that enlarge or connect to other conservation land, increase opportunity for hiking, other passive recreation and outdoor education, or contain prime agricultural soils or important wildlife habitat. All acquisitions are open to the public for passive recreation.

4) US OWNERS OF CANADIAN LAND CAN FINALLY CONSERVE IT

The American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts, a U.S. 501(c)(3) charity dedicated to advancing conservation north of the border, can now accept donated conservation easements and important natural resource land in Canada thanks to a change in Canadian tax regulations. This breakthrough means that U.S. citizens who choose to protect properties they own in Canada that have important natural resource values will be eligible for U.S. income tax deductions and will no longer be subject to onerous Canadian capital gains tax on their gifts. More:

<http://nsnt.ca/af/>

5) STATE ANNOUNCES SIX GRANTS TO FUND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECTS

In keeping with Governor Patrick's commitment to habitat conservation, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Ian Bowles announced \$96,700 in funding for ecological restoration projects in the towns of Chatham, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Hingham, Middleton and Situate. These grants - funded through the Environmental Bond signed by Governor Patrick in 2008 - supplement and leverage significant federal, municipal, corporate and foundation funding. Types of projects range from dam removal to culvert replacement. *Read more of this press release [here](#).*

6) TRUSTEES WIN LAWSUIT BROUGHT BY NEIGHBOR

--from Land Trust Alliance

The Massachusetts Land Court dismissed a law suit against The Trustees of Reservations brought by a neighbor to enforce a conservation restriction. The Court entered a final judgment ruling that the neighbor had no standing to enforce the conservation restriction.

Read more of this article [here](#).

7) RESIDENCE BUILT ON 61-A LAND RULED EXEMPT FROM PENALTY

-- By James Crowley, Esq., Mass. Dept. of Revenue Bureau of Municipal Finance Law

In a decision that surprised some local officials and differed with written opinions from this Department, the Appeals Court ruled that taxpayers were not liable for penalty taxes when they built a personal residence on land classified as farmland under M.G.L. Ch. 61A. The case is *Adams v. Assessors of Westport*, 76 Mass. App. 180 (2010).

Milton and Marilyn Adams purchased 13.41 acres of land in the Town of Westport in June 2005. Seeking to have the land classified as agricultural land which would result in reduced taxes, they filed a timely Ch. 61A application with the Westport assessors in October 2005 for fiscal year 2007. The taxpayers did not complete the entire application. The taxpayers wrote "13.41" on the line of the application indicating "total acres" but did not enter anything on the line "acres to be classified." Yet, on page two of the application the taxpayers wrote that all 13.41 acres of land were presently being used to cultivate alfalfa. The assessors approved the application and in a notice sent to the taxpayers dated December 14, 2005 the assessors wrote that their application for Ch. 61A status had been approved for all 13.41 acres for fiscal year 2007. The entire parcel was classified and taxed as agricultural land for FY2007.

In December 2006, the taxpayers applied for a building permit to construct a personal residence on a 1.4 acre portion of the 13.41 acre parcel. The Westport building inspector issued the permit in January 2007. Once the assessors learned of the proposed dwelling, they assessed a conveyance tax in May 2007 for \$61,709. The penalty tax was computed under M.G.L. Ch. 61A Sec. 12 by applying a 9% tax rate (where the farmland was sold or converted within the second year of ownership) to a \$685,590 land value, i.e., \$61,703 plus a \$6 certificate fee under M.G.L. Ch. 61A Sec. 19 for a total of \$61,709. It was not clear from the record whether the conveyance tax was assessed only on that portion of the land on which the use has changed.

Believing a tax as harsh as this should not have been imposed, the taxpayers filed an abatement application which the assessors denied. The owners then paid the tax with interest and filed an appeal with the Appellate Tax Board (ATB). Under M.G.L. Ch. 61A Sec. 19 timely payment is not a prerequisite for appeal of the conveyance tax to the ATB.

The ATB could have ruled that the taxpayers in their initial application to the assessors never intended to have all their land classified under M.G.L. Ch. 61A and thereby would have avoided the conveyance tax issue.

Instead, the ATB held that construction of a residence for the owners themselves did not constitute a change in use under M.G.L. Ch. 61A Sec. 12. The ATB relied on its own earlier decision of *Ross v. Assessors of Ipswich*, (ATB docket #F239496, November 21, 2000). In *Ross*, the ATB held that roll-back taxes could not be assessed where farmland was conveyed to the owner's son for the construction of a house for the son and daughter-in-law. For these reasons, the Westport conveyance tax was void and the ATB abated all the penalty taxes.

Read more of this article [here](#).

8) LAND & WATER LICENSE PLATE EFFORT DISCONTINUED

Dear Friends:

To let you know, the MET Board of Trustees voted to discontinue the Land & Water plate effort. The Trustees wanted to thank all of the people and organizations like MLTC, TTOR, Mass Audubon, ELM and others that worked hard to advance the effort. Ultimately, we maxed out at 406 names - far short of the threshold needed. We will now begin the process of returning checks to everyone who reserved a plate.

It is too bad that this did not catch on. Given the interest in land conservation in this state, I had expected that it would have garnered more support. The plate is still authorized under Chapter 90, Section 2F so if anyone one wants to try again someday, the option is open. Please let me know if you have further questions on this.

Best wishes, and I look forward to working with you on many future projects to protect the lands and waters of the Commonwealth.

William W. Hinkley
Massachusetts Environmental Trust
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114
617.626.1177
william.hinkley@state.ma.us

Wildlife News

9) PUBLIC'S HELP NEEDED FOR COTTONTAIL SURVEY

- from *MassWildlife News*

Beginning this winter, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) will be conducting a statewide survey of cottontail rabbits to assess the distribution and population of New England cottontails (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*), the only cottontail rabbit species native to the northeastern United States and rarely seen. Two kinds of cottontail rabbits are found in Massachusetts, the common non-native Eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) and the New England cottontail. Division biologists are asking for the help of hunters, highway department workers, animal control officers, and other interested citizens across the state to provide DFW with cottontail carcasses or intact cottontail skulls for the survey.

Read more of this article [here](#). For more information on cottontails and past research efforts go to: www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/living/living_with_cottontails.htm.

10) JOIN THE 111th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

- from *MassWildlife News*

Make the Christmas Bird Count part of your holiday outdoor tradition! From mid-December through January 1, 2011, bird lovers in Massachusetts will be participating in the nation's longest-running wildlife survey, the

111th Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Families, students, birders, and scientists armed with binoculars, bird guides, and checklists go out on an annual seasonal mission - often before dawn. For decades, the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature has enticed dedicated people to leave the comfort of a warm house during the holiday season. The data collected by bird observers over the past century allow researchers, conservation biologists, and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. When combined with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, the CBC provides a picture of how the continent's bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years.

In Massachusetts, there are 33 geographic "count circles" where the bird counts occur. Each count circle is coordinated by an experienced Count Compiler who works with teams of birders responsible for that circle's bird count. Beginning birders can join a group that includes at least one or two experienced birdwatchers in charge of covering a portion of the circle. In addition, if your home is within the boundaries of a count circle, you can report the birds visiting your feeder. In either case, if you have never been on a CBC before, locate and contact your local Count Compiler to find out how you can participate. To connect with the Compiler and find out about the local bird club in your area, visit the MassBird website at <http://massbird.org/birdobserver/CBC/index.htm> and birding clubs in your area. A list of Frequently Asked Questions with more details and national CBC results are found on National Audubon's web page at www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/FAQ.html.

Call for Presentations

11) NORTHEAST FISH AND WILDLIFE CONFERENCE CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Deadline: January 15, 2011

You are invited to share your projects and presentations with the audience at the 67th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference taking place on Sunday, April 17 - Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at the Radisson Hotel, Manchester, New Hampshire.

Fish and Wildlife agencies are taking action to prepare for organizational change and natural resource conservation crises. Join your peers in the Granite State this April to learn the latest approaches aimed at managing, adapting, and responding to rapid change. Experts from around the country will share their experiences and provide thought-provoking strategies for leading the way.

Presentations will be made in the following subject areas:

- * Freshwater Fisheries
- * Information, Education, and Outreach
- * Law Enforcement
- * Marine Fisheries
- * Wildlife

You may submit one of the following formats:

- * 20 minute presentation to be combined with other like topics
- * Panel presentation for 1.5 hours that you develop and coordinate
- * 1.5 hour workshop or symposium on a specific topic
- * Poster display

Click [here](http://www.neafwa.org/) to submit a presentation. For more information visit <http://www.neafwa.org/>

Training

12) LEARN ORGANIC LANDSCAPING METHODS AT INTENSIVE NOFA COURSE

The 10th annual NOFA Course in Organic Land Care will be held **January 12, 13, 14, 18 and 19, 2011**, at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, 6 Plum Island Tpke., Newburyport, MA. This 5-day intensive course trains and accredits professionals to practice organic land care, covering all aspects from organic soil health and amendments to pests and invasives management. It is recommended for landscapers, designers, municipal and parks employees, horticulturists, master gardeners and entrepreneurs. Visit www.organiclandcare.net to register. For more information contact coordinator Kathy Litchfield at (413) 773-3830 or kathy@nofamass.org.

13) WETLANDS ASSESSMENT & FIELD TECHNIQUES COURSE

The UMass Department of Environmental Conservation in cooperation with UMass Extension is offering “Wetlands Assessment and Field Techniques,” a 2-credit course during spring semester at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The University is offering conservation commissioners and administrators, environmental consultants, agency personnel and other natural resource professionals two options for participating in this course: 1) for two graduate credits through the Department of Environmental Conservation or 2) as a non-credit option through UMass Extension. Course instructors are Scott Jackson and Curt Griffin. Class meets at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and begins January 20, 2011.

This course offers in-depth information about Massachusetts wetland regulations, wetland classification, boundary delineation, wetland condition assessment, functional assessment, vernal pool certification, wildlife habitat evaluation, and techniques for evaluating and mitigating development impacts on wildlife habitat. Class will meet 14 times over a 13 week period during the spring semester. Nine indoor sessions will meet from 7 to 9 pm on Thursday evenings. Five field sessions scheduled later in the semester will meet once a week on Wednesday afternoons (1:25 to 5:30 p.m.). In order to cut down on the need to travel to Amherst an option to participate via live webinar will be available for the nine lecture sessions.

The cost for this course is \$500 for the non-credit option. For graduate credit the cost is \$1,562.50 for MA residents and \$2,762.50 for non-residents. Space is limited. For registration or more information, contact: Scott Jackson at (413) 545-4743 or sjackson@umext.umass.edu

Workshops

14) LEGAL SEMINAR ON FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT REPORTING

- from Conservation Common

Free legal seminar

When: Thur, Jan 20, 9:30-11:30 am (breakfast & networking begins @ 9am)

Where: Doyle Center, 464 Abbott Ave, Leominster (Click [Here](#) for Directions)

RSVP: Contact Machiko San Hewitt, msanohe Witt@lawyersclearinghouse.org

Description: Led by a lawyer/CPA, this interactive seminar will focus on fundraising-related reporting requirements and regulations for nonprofits.

Trainers: Cindy Rowe, Esq., Rowe Resources and Barry N. Chait, Esq., Parent McLaughlin & Nangle
Sponsored by: Lawyers Clearinghouse

Co-Sponsors: The Trustees of Reservations-Putnam Conservation Institute, Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts, Mel King Institute, Mount Wachusett Community College, Rackemann Sawyer & Brewster.

15) NAVIGATING THE WATERS OF INSURANCE FOR NONPROFITS

- from Conservation Common

Free legal seminar

When: Thur, Mar 3, 9:30-11:30 am (breakfast & networking begins @ 9am)

Where: Doyle Center, 464 Abbott Ave, Leominster (Click [Here](#) for Directions)

RSVP: Contact Machiko San Hewitt, msanohe Witt@lawyersclearinghouse.org

Description: This seminar explains the types of risks and liabilities that exist for different kinds of nonprofits and their varying missions and program activities. Learn how to contain risks, select insurance policies accordingly, and gain some practical tips for the process.

Trainer: Augusto Russell, CIC, May, Bonee & Walsh

Sponsored by: Lawyers Clearinghouse

Co-Sponsors: The Trustees of Reservations-Putnam Conservation Institute, Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts, Mel King Institute, Mount Wachusett Community College, Rackemann Sawyer & Brewster.

16) CONSERVATION IN A NEW NATION WORKSHOP, MARCH 16-17

Wednesday-Thursday, March 16-17, 2010

Essex Conference Center, Essex, MA

What are the shifts in American demographics that are changing how people use and benefit from land? How does conservation remain relevant, innovative and responsive to these changes? What are the key opportunities for conservation today and what are the leadership skills and strategies necessary to take the movement forward?

This 2-day workshop, led by Peter Forbes and Mohamad Chakaki of the Center for Whole Communities, delves intensively into these topics.

Special offer: half-price tuition for any additional members of the same organization.

For more information and to register, go [here](#).

Conference

17) SAVE THE DATE! SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST CONVOCATION

Co-sponsored by The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc., Coalition for Buzzards Bay, and the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

Saturday, February 5, 2011

8:30 am to Noon

Canal Club Facility, Quality Inn Hotel, Bourne

Trowbridge Rd off Bourne Bridge Rotary

Free Admission

Please save the date to join your fellow conservation professionals, volunteers, and board members for a morning of topical workshops.

Come hear about:

*protecting critical water resources through land conservation efforts

* the challenges and opportunities in designing a trail

* how to fundraise for operational needs from development professionals

* undevelopment success stories take back the land!

Detailed information will be available in early January.

Resources

18) NEW FROM TECHSOUP

[Get Creative with Adobe Photoshop Elements 9 and Premiere Elements 9](#)

The Elements products are geared towards users looking for basic editing ability without the professional-level tools included in Adobe's CS5 Photoshop and Premiere software and include the features that most organizations need for image and video manipulation. Not sure if these products have what you need? Check out the TechSoup blog, as we compare and contrast [Photoshop Elements 9 vs. CS5](#) and [Premiere Elements 9 vs. CS5](#).

[BetterWorld Telecom VoIP Phone System](#)

Replace your traditional phone system with BetterWorld's cloud-based Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services (Admin fee: \$10, plus costs for donated phones and for discounted service rates). Our pre-negotiated package includes donated phones and favorable service plans designed to meet your telecom needs. BetterWorld offers organizations a unified system of communication services including telephone, voicemail, email, and fax that can be accessed from any location with a phone, mobile phone, or Internet-connected device.

[Organize Your Finances with Sage Peachtree 2011](#)

Track donations and grants with Peachtree Premium Accounting for Nonprofits 2011 (Admin fee: \$65). Designed specifically for nonprofits with less than 50 employees, Peachtree extends beyond basic accounting, helping you manage your mailings and donor contacts. Organizations can create budget summaries and more than 145 customizable reports, send member and pledge fee reminders, develop fundraising letters, and run searches for accounting and transaction errors.

Microsoft Outlook and Communicator 2011 for Mac

[Microsoft Outlook for Mac 2011](#) (Admin fee: \$5) and [Microsoft Communicator for Mac 2011](#) (Admin fee: \$2) are now available at TechSoup. Outlook is Microsoft's email, task, and calendar management tool, which replaced Entourage in the newest Mac version of Office, and Communicator is a new program for Macs that lets users chat (text, phone, and video) and share files across a network. Learn more about these products and other new features for nonprofit Mac users in the [2011 release of Microsoft Office](#).

Featured Download: [7-Zip](#)

7-Zip is a utility to compress and uncompress files, supporting a variety of formats

Jobs

19) DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP, CONCORD NH

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests seeks an experienced, enthusiastic, well-organized, articulate, and motivated individual for the position of Director of Conservation Easement Stewardship. The successful candidate will have at least five years of professional conservation easement stewardship or closely related experience and strong management and people skills. In addition, the candidate will have demonstrated leadership skills and a capacity to advance innovative thinking within the Forest Society and within the State of New Hampshire's land conservation community.

This is a full-time position, based at the Conservation Center in Concord, NH that includes extensive field work. The Director of Easement Stewardship is responsible for the monitoring and enforcement of the Forest Society's 760 conservation easements on 117,000 acres of private and public land. The position supervises two full time easement stewards and an administrative assistant/data manager. The Director will participate in the preparations of the Forest Society for Land Trust Accreditation. The position requires occasional evening and weekend work. A copy of the full job description is available at www.forestsociety.org

Salary will be commensurate with experience and skills. The Forest Society offers an excellent benefits package and an extraordinary office environment in our award-winning, energy-efficient suite of "green" office buildings overlooking the adjacent Merrimack River Conservation Area.

If you're interested in becoming a member of the dedicated Forest Society staff email a resume and cover letter by January 7, 2011 to Paul Doscher at pdoscher@forestsociety.org or send hard copy to 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH, 03301. Please no phone calls. US mail submissions are preferred.

20) PROJECT MANAGER II - TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND - NEW HAVEN, CT

The Trust for Public Land, a national non-profit organization dedicated to saving land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, has an opening in its New Haven, CT office for a Project Manager II. This position will be responsible for all aspects of our real estate acquisition transactions and the conveyance of land to public entities, including the evaluation of potential projects; project strategy and negotiations with landowners; and meeting with elected officials and staff regarding conveyance of properties to public entities throughout the State of Connecticut.

The position requires 4-5 years experience in real estate transactions and/or land conservation; computer literacy; and/or work for or with public agencies engaged in land conservation. A degree in real estate, law, planning, land conservation or a related field preferred. Experience working in a philanthropic organization is a plus. Some travel (30-40%) is required.

Please send resume and cover letter to: jobs2@tpl.org

21) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WEANTINOGE HERITAGE LAND TRUST, CT

The Executive Director will be accountable to the Board of Directors for the leadership of the Trust as it relates to the strategic direction and overall management of the organization. The Executive Director is expected to identify, plan, and implement the short- and long-term strategic goals of the organization, and to be accountable to the Board for achieving those goals. In addition, the Executive Director is responsible for leading all fundraising activities, with a special emphasis on major and planned gifts from individuals, private/family foundations and corporations. The Executive Director leads efforts to raise funds through government grants, special appeals, annual campaigns, membership relations and promotion, and special events. The Executive Director will be responsible for coordinating with the existing leadership to shape the future evolution of the organization, its program and acquisitions. The Executive Director will serve as the public face of the Trust. The ideal candidate will be a conservation professional with demonstrated success in leading a similarly sized organization. Knowledge of and commitment to conservation, preservation and restoration of the land is critical. The successful candidate will be a proven leader with the demonstrated ability to manage a dynamic organization. The candidate selected will have a solid track record of successful fund development, with an emphasis on individual and major giving. Solid financial operations skills are important for this position. The candidate selected should have experience creating or evaluating annual and long-term department and project budgets. For more information, or to submit a resume, contact: Jim Morris, Senior Consultant, Solid Ground Consulting Group, 1001 SE Water Ave. Suite 360, Portland, Oregon 97214, 503 249-0000
jimm@solidgroundconsulting.com

22) COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, HIGHSTEAD, REDDING CT

Highstead, a non-profit organization dedicated to understanding and conserving natural landscapes, seeks a creative self-starter with a strong conservation ethic and education background to lead a new communication effort supporting the mission of Highstead (www.highstead.net) and the broader Wildlands and Woodlands (W&W) Initiative (www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org).

Masters Degree in communication or environmental field. Minimum of five years experience in cause marketing, public relations, media campaigns, and non-profit communication preferred. Excellent writing and editing skills, extensive event organization and promotion experience and demonstrated success in organizational branding and positioning required.

See full job description at www.highstead.net. Submit cover letter and resume to btoomey@highstead.net and reference Communications Director Application as the email subject. Include names and contact information for 3 relevant references as part of your application. Expected salary \$50-\$70,000 depending on qualifications. Application deadline is January 21, 2011 or until position is filled.

23) NRCS CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

from Massachusetts Forest Update by Greg Cox

An online publication of the Massachusetts Forest Landowners Association

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has extended the ranking period for farmer and forestland owner applications to the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The cut-off date is now January 7, 2011. The Conservation Stewardship Program, authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and who agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland and nonindustrial private forestland.

A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help landowners determine if CSP is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, contract obligations and potential payments. It is available from local NRCS offices or online at www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/index.html

To sign up for CSP, landowners should call or visit their local USDA Service Center. USDA Service Center locations are listed on-line at <http://offices.usda.gov> or in the phone book under Federal Government, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

NRCS has seven Massachusetts field offices - in Greenfield, Hadley, Holden, Hyannis, Pittsfield, Westford, and West Wareham - that work with local conservation districts and other partners to serve farmers and landowners throughout the commonwealth.

24) NRCS FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN FUNDING AVAILABLE

from Massachusetts Forest Update by Greg Cox

An online publication of the Massachusetts Forest Landowners Association

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has announced that \$700,000 in federal funding is available to assist Massachusetts forest land owners with forest land planning and management under the New England-New York Forestry Initiative. Massachusetts is one of seven states participating in this special initiative; a total of \$5.9 million will be available to forest land owners throughout New England and New York.

The forestry initiative will assist private landowners in conservation planning and management of their private forests to improve wildlife habitat, forest health and productivity, and water quality. Eligible conservation

practices include forest stand improvement, tree and shrub establishment, upland wildlife habitat management, stream crossings, riparian forest buffer, fish passage, forest trails and landings, access roads, wetland restoration, tree and shrub site preparation, brush management, herbaceous weed control, access control, restoration and management of declining habitats, and tree/shrub pruning.

Last year, the New England Governors' Conference, the North East State Foresters Association, USDA's Forest Service and NRCS joined forces to develop a plan, known as the New England-New York Keeping Forests as Forests report, to protect and ensure the sustainability of the region's forest land-base. Forests not only provide clean water and wildlife habitat, but are also the backbone of the region's rural economies, offering a sustainable source of renewable energy, forest products, outdoor-related recreational opportunities and tourism.

Forest land owners who would like assistance are encouraged to call or visit their local USDA Service Center by January 31, 2011 to submit an application and complete the necessary paperwork to establish their eligibility. USDA Service Centers are listed online at <http://offices.usda.gov>, or in the telephone book under United States Government, Agriculture Department. More information is available on the Massachusetts NRCS website at www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov

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