

# How to Get Started on an ILF Program

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# Topics

- Potential sponsor concerns related to regulatory agencies
- What works
- What helps
- What doesn't work
- IRT process



## Dam removal in MA



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# Potential sponsor concerns related to regulatory agencies

- Problem: Enough/appropriate data to determine demand?
- Solution: Provide info on:
  - ▶ Permits – Corps (and state, if available)
  - ▶ Area/linear feet of impacts
    - Scrub data
  - ▶ Location of impacts

# Potential sponsor concerns related to regulatory agencies

- Problem: Conflicts with state regulations
- Solution(s):
  - ▶ Involve state regulatory agency(ies) early
  - ▶ Use ILF when state requirements are not acceptable
    - Location
    - Type – e.g., cutting/excavating of healthy upland
    - Inadequate

# Potential sponsor concerns related to regulatory agencies

- Problem: Will there be enough funds to fulfill mitigation needs?
- Solution: Careful development of fee structure





## Restoration of hydrology in NH



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# What works

- If possible, do state-wide for consistency
- Involve Corps PM early and often
- Look at other programs
  - ▶ Share templates, samples
  - ▶ If feasible, attend other ILF programs' review committee/IRT meetings





# What works

- Involve diverse stakeholders
  - ▶ During program development
  - ▶ Include two part project review in process
    - 1<sup>st</sup> - Review committee
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> - IRT
- Do outreach before initiation of program

# What works

- Willingness/expectation to make adjustments to process (evaluation criteria, acceptable mitigation projects)
- Competitive grants process





*Phragmites patch elimination in MA*

# What helps

- Sponsor doesn't have to be physically located in the ILF service area, but it helps
- Provide guidance documents/information on issues that arise





Preservation with stream enhancement in NH



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# What doesn't work

- Having sponsor staff changes in critical positions during program development
- Making service areas too small
- Trying to rely on just sponsor's experience
- Having prices too high
- Having prices too low



# What doesn't work

- Having project review criteria that don't adequately/appropriate differentiate projects
- Invasives control as an enhancement/rehabilitation project.
- Restoration with inadequate preservation, including upland buffers



# What doesn't work

- Unclear expectations for long term management
- Inadequate restoration expertise in non-profit community and in municipal entities







Stream connectivity in ME



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# IRT

- Involvement may be highly variable between programs
- Regular meetings or ad hoc; in person or by email?
- Do full project review or have a review committee make recommendations?





Stream, wetland, and upland preservation in NH



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# With special thanks to...

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# ILF Websites

- CT:

<http://ct.audubon.org/conservation/conservation/in-Lieu-fee-program>

- ME:

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/maine/explore/mnrpc.xml>

- NH:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/wmp/index.htm>

- VT:

<http://www.ducks.org/conservation/du-wetland-mitigation/in-lieu-fee-programs?poe=cms>

