



INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL SLOW THE SPREAD FACT SHEET

CONSERVATION DISTRICT NRCS LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION



Invasive Knotweed

Overview

Locally led conservation consists of a series of phases that involve community stakeholders in natural resource planning, implementation of solutions, and evaluation of results. Locally led conservation begins with the community itself, working through the local conservation district.

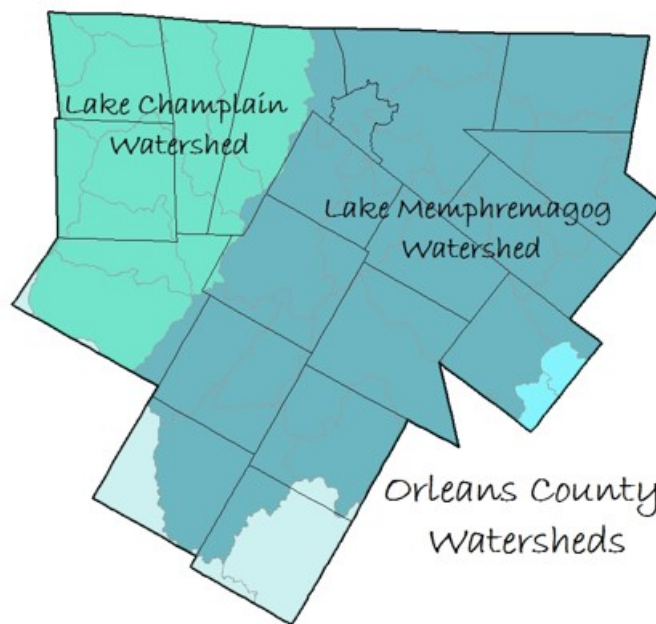
In March of 2022 the Orleans County NRCD conducted surveys and hosted a Local Work Group (LWG) in person meeting on April 7th in Newport Vermont. The survey was completed by 51 folks including farmer, residents, and partners. The meeting was well attended with over 10 local organizations and 25 participants. Many of these participants are active in the recently created Orleans County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) group.

LWG participants concluded that low infestations of invasive plant control needs to be the priority for a local fund pool proposal. These infestations can be addressed to mitigate the plant pest pressure natural resource concerns early with the use of NRCS programs to help to slow the spread of these toxic, nonnative, terrestrial invaders. The Memphremagog Basin plan is our local action plan that reinforces the LWG's invasive species local fund pool priority conclusion.

FY23 Application Due Date

Applications are accepted throughout the year. To have your application considered for this funding year have your application in by

November 18th 2022.



Program is available in all of Orleans County VT

Conservation Practice Funding

Funding will be available for the 2023 federal fiscal year to eligible landowners through the EQIP local fund pool. NRCS will provide a total of \$50k in financial assistance for approved conservation practices for the purpose of addressing resource concerns. Land and producer eligibility must be met to participate in this initiative.

Resource Concerns Addressed

- Plant Pest Pressure
- Plant structure and composition
- Bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels
- Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates
- Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms



Practice Priorities

- Projects within 20ft of a streambank that provide stream shading with natural vegetation to increase shading and lower water temperature.
- Projects in a wetland, riparian and or riverbank area.
- Projects that control existing invasive species populations where practical to support recreation and/or native biological communities.
- Projects that are with in a group of landowners that are applying together.
- Projects that address invasive species in forested lands with an existing FMP or Wildlife Habitat Plan with recommendation for invasive species management with recommendation for invasive species management?
- Projects that address invasive species that are negatively affecting ecological processes.
- Projects that will control invasive species infestation:
 - a. in early establishment in the planning area (plants scattered throughout landscape or confined to small areas.)
 - b. well established in the planning area (understory is 75-100% covered in invasive plants.)
- Projects that increase, improve, or establish riparian buffers and/or pollinator habitat.
- Projects that remove invasive species and include practices to stabilize bank erosion.
- Projects that address invasive species that are negatively inhibiting sustained production and health pastures, croplands and or forestlands.

Approved Practices for NRCS Financial Assistance

Core Conservation Practices included in the local ranking pool. These practices must address at least one of the five resource concerns selected and ranked above.

314 Brush Management

315 Herbaceous Weed Treatment

327 Conservation Cover

612 Tree and Shrub Planting

645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

647 Early Successional Habitat Development-Management

666 Forest Stand Improvement



How to Apply

1. Contact the Newport USDA office at 59 Waterfront Plaza Newport VT to fill out Conservation Technical Assistance Request
2. Learn about signing up to work with NRCS at farmers.gov/working-with-us/USDA-service-centers



Program Contacts:

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