



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR TRANSACTION COSTS FOR PERMANENT LAND PROTECTION IN COASTAL WATERSHED**

*PREP and GBRPP release a request for proposals from land conservation organizations for \$53,000 in funding to use for land transaction costs.*

**Durham, NH** – The Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) and the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership (GBRPP) are pleased to issue this request for proposals for the 2014 Coastal Watershed Land Conservation Transaction Grants Program. This matching grants program is aimed at assisting land trusts, conservation organizations and municipal governments within the Piscataqua Region coastal watershed area with the transaction costs associated with permanent land protection such as conservation easements, full fee acquisitions and donations of land.

This is the first time the grant program is being offered jointly by PREP and the GBRPP. The combined grant program offers an opportunity to provide more funding for land conservation projects in the coastal watershed. A total of \$53,000 is available through this year's grant program. Qualified nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) conservation organizations or units of government may apply for this grant through the application form on the PREP website <http://PREPEstuaries.org/> or the GBRPP website <http://www.greatbaypartnership.org/>. Applications must be postmarked by June 13, 2014.

The Great Bay estuary and coastal region is under pressure from population growth and land development. Conserving a network of undeveloped natural lands in our region is critical in order to maintain clean water, support healthy wildlife populations, minimize flood damages, and provide quality recreational opportunities. The purchase or donation of land or conservation easements necessitates transaction expenses such as appraisals, land surveys and recording fees. The Land Conservation Transaction Grants Program will provide vital support for this cost associated with conserving land. For many organizations, raising these funds can often be a barrier to successfully completing a conservation project.

"Funding transaction costs is a critical part of successful land conservation projects. The joint offering of grant funds by PREP and the Great Bay Partnership will leverage additional conservation dollars in the region and assist in conserving important resources in the coastal watershed," explains Dea Brickner-Wood, GBRPP's Great Bay Coordinator.

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**About PREP:**

The Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) has been working to protect and preserve the Great Bay and Hampton-Seabrook Estuaries since 1995. Through water testing, monitoring and research efforts, the PREP staff is able to keep Federal, State and Municipal leaders informed on the ever-changing conditions of our community's water sources in the 52 Seacoast towns served. <http://www.PREPEstuaries.org>

**About the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership:**

The Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership is a collaboration of conservation organizations in the coastal region that promotes landscape-scale land conservation and stewardship. Funding for the Land Protection Transaction Grant program is provided by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. The Nature Conservancy serves as the fiscal and administrative agent for the GBRPP. <http://www.greatbaypartnership.org>

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