

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland – Buckfield and Norway, Maine

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) intends to fund the following Proposed Action under the 2023 Catalyst Program. NBRC will prepare an 8-Step Decision-Making Process review in compliance with EO 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), which established a more protective standard to avoid, where practicable, adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to improve access, amenities, and opportunities for trail-based recreation at two Western Foothills Land Trust properties: Virgil Parris Forest in Buckfield Maine, and Roberts Farm Preserve in Norway, Maine. The project will include trail improvements in Virgil Parris Forest and Roberts Farm Preserve. The project will provide equitable access to the outdoors to the residents of Oxford County while also contributing to the economic growth and sustainability of the region.

Wetlands were identified at the Virgil Parris Forest and the Roberts Farm Preserve for the proposed action using the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) database. Accordingly, NBRC has determined that the Proposed Action requires an analysis under the 8-Step Decision-Making Process to evaluate potential impacts to wetlands within the project area.

This notice provides people who may be affected by the proposed action and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment with an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts.

Comments should be submitted by email to nepa@nbrc.gov. NBRC is accepting comments on this notice for 15 days, from May 8, 2026 through the end of the day on May 22, 2026

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