

***-ANNOUNCING VERMONT'S FIRST 50-50 SKIDDER BRIDGE COST-SHARE PROGRAM FOR LOGGERS-***

Dear Logger working in Vermont,

We are excited to send you this announcement for a brand new Cost-Share Program to build or buy up to 2 Portable Skidder Bridges as temporary stream crossings to protect Vermont waterways as well as improve your efficiency.

What would be your commitments?

1. Contribute and document a 50% match (which can be provided through labor, equipment, materials and/or cash).
2. Follow Acceptable Management Practices while using the bridge.
3. Report acres accessed, volume pulled across the bridge and number of streams crossed at the end of year 1 of bridge use.
4. Maintain and use the bridge for 3 years.

The program will pay up to 50% of the cost of a bridge via a check to you for buying or building a bridge to approved specifications. (Maximum grant award is up to \$1400 for a standard duty bridge with a maximum load capacity of 32,000 pounds for a skidder under full load and 50,000 pounds for a forwarder with load. Maximum grant award is up to \$1500 for a heavy duty bridge with a maximum load capacity of 40,000 pounds for a skidder under full load, 70,000 pounds for a forwarder with load and 55,000 pounds for a timber harvester. See attached specifications for details.)

**Directions to apply: Fill out the attached one page form – send to above address via mail, fax or email.**

We have \$84,100 to award for this program over a 3 year period that was generously provided through the U.S Forest Service to the Northern Vermont Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council. We thank them and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for publishing and outreach support.

Decisions on who will receive awards will be made based on:

1. Logger works in Vermont at least part-time and bridge will be used in Vermont
2. Design chosen is compatible with equipment used (standard and heavy duty designs available)
3. Commitment to 50% match (labor, equipment, materials, and/or cash)
4. Commitment to follow AMPs – Acceptable Management Practices
5. Commitment to complete and submit a close-out AMP checksheet & bridge use record and reimbursement match form with receipts attached
6. Commitment to maintain the bridge for its longevity (torque bolts, remove mud & sticker when not in use, etc.)
7. Knowledge and experience of Portable Skidder Bridges
8. Number of bridges currently owned

This is an exciting next step for the Vermont Portable Skidder Bridge Initiative. The free loan and education program is in its third year providing technical assistance and one free loan opportunity in the Lake Champlain Basin area. Most Natural Resources Conservation Districts in Vermont are operating bridge rental programs for \$100 per month and the partnership continues to host workshops and demonstrations throughout the state. If you haven't picked up an information packet at the Logger's Expo or anywhere else along the way, just let us know and we'll send one to you – free of charge. We hope you will consider participating in the Vermont Skidder Bridge Cost-Share Program!

Contact Kevin Beattie, Vermont Skidder Bridge Program Coordinator with any questions at: (802) 548-8246 or email: [kevnshar@comcast.net](mailto:kevnshar@comcast.net)