Restoring Floodplain Forests in the Connecticut River Watershed

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Why do we care?

- Rare; highly threatened natural community;
- Wildlife habitat;
- Productive for Aquatic System;
- Ecosystem Services
What are we doing?

Connecticut River Program & partners:
• Flow
• Connectivity
• Floodplain forests
• (Invasives; water quality; wildlife)
Priority site map excerpt

- Connecticut River mainstem at confluence of Upper Ammonoosuc.
- Includes:
  - both banks
  - several meanders
  - flooding
  - migrating channel
Annual high spring flow
Floodplain Forest Restoration

Potter Farm, Northumberland, NH
Study Design

1. Planting saplings
2. Planting seedlings
3. Augment seedbed
4. MONITOR
Results

1. 2011 - 2012
2. 425 Seedlings
3. 396 Saplings (75 American Elm)
4. >300,000 seeds
Results

1. 98.8% sapling survival
2. All saplings re-measured (girth & height)
3. Seedling data pending
Future Work

1. Land conservation
2. Planting
3. Focus on Am. Elm
4. Monitoring
THANKS!