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GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR LAND CONSERVATION TRANSACTION COSTS in the COASTAL WATERSHED The Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership announces \$45,000 in grant funds available for conservation land transaction costs.

Durham, NH – The Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership (GBRPP) has announced that the grant applications are available for the Spring 2016 Land Protection Transaction Grant Program. A total of \$45,000 is available through this year's grant program.

Applications must be postmarked by **March 31, 2016**. The grant instructions and application form are available on the GBRPP website <u>http://www.greatbaypartnership.org</u>

Qualified nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) conservation organizations or units of government may apply for a grant. The matching grants program assists with the costs for permanent land protection projects (donation and/or acquisition of full fee and conservation easements) within the coastal watershed including coastal New Hampshire and part of southern Maine.

The Great Bay estuary and coastal region is under pressure from population growth and land development. Conserving a network of undeveloped natural lands in the region is critical in order to maintain clean water, protect critical habitats and ecosystems, support healthy wildlife populations, protect agricultural and forestry resources, and provide quality recreational opportunities. The purchase or donation of land or conservation easements often requires funding for transaction expenses (e.g. appraisals, land surveys, recording fees). The Land Protection Transaction Grant Program assists with the costs of conserving the most significant lands in the coastal watershed.

For questions about this grant opportunity contact:

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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 agent for the GBRPP. http://www.greatbaypartnership.org