Improving Forest Health, Wildlife Habitat and Water Quality in RI

Do you own land near a stream, pond, lake or other freshwater wetland? Are you interested in forest health, wildlife habitat or water quality?

If so, we’d like to talk with you about the URI Regional Conservation Partnership Program. We can provide technical and financial assistance to implement a wide range of activities on your property, depending on your interests.

- **Managing your woods** to improve forest health and wildlife habitat in a way that protects water quality. You could do a range of forestry activities, such as thinning your woods to make your trees more resistant to pests and disease; eliminating invasive species; or improving a stream crossing on a forest access road to prevent erosion. Our support is available whether you do the work yourself or hire a contractor. The first step is generally preparing a forest management plan (unless you already have one). Our program can support approximately 75% of the costs of preparing a new plan or implementing the recommendations of an existing plan. Preparing a forest management plan can also help you reduce your property taxes.

- **Increasing stream continuity** to allow fish and other aquatic wildlife to move further upstream. This could involve replacing a damaged culvert on your driveway or farm/forest road, which could also reduce the risk of flooding.

- **Creating or improving vernal pools** to provide habitat for turtles, frogs, salamanders and other species. Even if you don’t have a wetland on your property, it may be possible to create a small breeding pool that would support rare amphibians.

- **Establishing vegetation buffers** near streams, rivers, ponds, lakes or other wetlands to improve water quality. Tree, shrub or herbaceous buffers can prevent sediment, fertilizers, pesticides and other potential contaminants from entering our waters.

We can also support many other related activities. To learn more about this program, a URI collaboration with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, please contact:

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