

## **CSC Project Synopsis -- 2010**

**Project Title:** Implementing the RI CSC Baseline Documentation & Inventory Protocol (BDIP)

**Goal:** The purpose of this project is to prototype the newly created RI CSC baseline documentation and inventory protocol (BDIP) developed by Dr. Scott Ruhren (ASRI) for the CSC. We will implement the protocol on a small number of properties to evaluate the efficacy of the protocol in describing conservation properties and its utility in developing property management plans.

**Brief Description:** In 2009 The CSC funded development of a simple protocol that Land Trusts and other agencies could follow to establish baseline inventories of conserved lands. The protocol was designed to be as simple as possible, yet provide all the fundamental information required for establishment of management goals and provide a baseline for annual monitoring to determine if stewardship activities are working as expected. We will engage a private consultant to perform field surveys, document compilation, BDIP report development, and interpretation for five properties in different landscapes in the state (south shore, northern forests, east bay, bay islands, borderlands). An RFP will be issued to potential consultants who will be asked to put in a proposal to provide leadership on field inventories. We will select one consultant based on their experience in baseline inventories, the expertise they bring to the project, and their cost. The consultant will work in close partnership with the conservation owners who will be actively engaged in the project. Conservation owners will contribute 25% of the total assessment cost of a property, accompany the consultant in the field, and help provide baseline information. The consultant and conservation owner will report to the CSC on problems they discovered in implementing and using the baseline inventory and recommendations they have for modifying the protocol. The completed baseline inventories will be posted on the Land and Water Partnership web site as Case Studies. Properties will be identified by issuing an RFP among RI Land Trusts, Conservation Commissions, and Watershed Organizations who own or steward conservation land. Selection will be based on the commitment shown by the organization in collaborating on the project, their interest in helping develop and refine the BDIP protocol, and their commitment to developing BDIP reports for all the properties in their portfolios.

**Deliverables:** The deliverables for this project are:

1. Five implementations of the CSC BDIP in different regions of the state in partnership with five different conservation organizations.
2. Assessment of efficacy of implementing and using the BDIP for each site.
3. Development of Case Study reports for each of the five sites and hosting these Case Studies on the Land and Water Partnership web site.
4. An oral report of the project at the 2011 Land and Water Summit.

**Timetable and Benchmarks:**

January to April: Identify partner organizations and sites for BDIPs. Identify consultant to assist in the project to oversee field work, data compilation, interpretation, report writing, and protocol assessment.  
April to September: Preparation of BDIP reports  
October: Assessment of protocol and development of recommendations for improvement  
November: Put five BDIPs on Land and Water Partnership web site as Case Studies

**Budget:**

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
\$ 4,000	Consultant fee to conduct five BDIPs. 25% of the total cost of a survey for a property must be provided by the conservation land owner.
\$ 900	Coordinate review of prototype BDIPs and prepare recommendation for modifications
\$ 1,000	Preparation of Case Study documents for web site
\$ 1,300	Project administration and overseeing RFP process
<b>Total \$ 7,200</b>	

Payments will be made to the fiscal agent for the project, The Rhode Island Natural History Survey. Contact Information is:

Attn: Dr. David Gregg  
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Project oversight will be done by Peter August.