

CSC Project Synopsis -- 2012

Project Title: Invasive Species Preparedness

Goals:

1. raise the profile and priority of invasive species prevention and management among general public, land stewards, and policy makers;
2. improve our collective, "synoptic" understanding of invasive species in Rhode Island and surrounding areas;
3. provide accurate information about the state of invasives in Rhode Island to in-state and external stakeholders;
4. direct those preparing for, or managing invasives to appropriate resources;
5. leverage additional resources for comprehensive, coordinated invasive species preparedness.

Brief Description:

This project will fund part (approx. 10%) of the existing botanist position at the Rhode Island Natural History Survey to function as an invasive species coordinator as well as fund time of other permanent and seasonal staff involved in invasive species coordination, response, and outreach tasks. The specific duties of the coordinator include: keep up on and disseminate information about new issues, discoveries, and management strategies; participate in meetings and other communications of the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel (NEANS); field individual inquiries to RINHS regarding invasive species; provide technical assistance for a variety of partners and projects; and help organize, with partners, rapid response to emerging issues specifically including water chestnut, mile-a-minute vine, and Japanese stiltgrass, among others.

In addition to the direct benefits above, this grant would provide an essential part of the match that is necessary for RINHS to participate in a three-year partnership project with RIDEM to provide technical assistance to municipalities and community-based conservation organizations to implement elements of Rhode Island's Wildlife Action Plan (WAP). A full time wildlife manager, the "WAP Liaison", a part time invasive species expert, and outreach capacity at RINHS and at partners will assist in communicating the elements of the Wildlife Action Plan to those working at the local level and providing technical assistance to them for implementation. Simultaneously, this project gathers and organizes community input for the revision of the WAP, scheduled to be complete in 2015.

Deliverables: The deliverables for this project are:

1. Provide technical assistance to the WAP Liaison and local officials on how invasive species impact implementation and revision of the RI Wildlife Action Plan; assist RINHS, RILTC, and URI to develop outreach programs relevant to the priorities of the Wildlife Action Plan;
2. Continue to develop content for revision of the invasive species web portal at rinhs.org and invasive species resources at landandwaterpartnership.org;
3. Represent Rhode Island at at least two regional meetings such as NEANS panel meetings, CIPWG annual conference, and NEIPM Working Group;

4. Assist RIDEM Office of Water, URI Watershed Watch, municipalities and other local stakeholders to develop training programs and response plans for aquatic invasive species including water chestnut;
5. Assist local stakeholders to develop response plans to mile-a-minute vine, and Japanese stiltgrass;
6. Present invasive species news, best management practices, and resources at the 2012 Land & Water Summit and at least 2 other venues targeting land trusts
7. Produce a written report on invasive species activities in 2012 in Rhode Island.

Timetable and Benchmarks:

WAP Liaison initiated by 1 March 2012

RINHS invasives web portal live by 1 March 2012

Land & Water Summit presentation 10 March 2012

CIPWG meeting spring 2012

Aquatic Invasive Plant training Spring 2012

Water chestnut and Japanese stiltgrass coordination and fieldwork Summer 2012

Invasives report Fall 2012

Budget:

Amount	Purpose
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\$ 10,000	support invasive species activities by RINHS botanist and other staff that create, identify, or bring to bear resources that reduce the impact of invasive species on conservation land in Rhode Island.
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Total \$ 10,000

Payment attn to:

David Gregg, Executive Director
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Project oversight will be done by: David W. Gregg, Executive Director, RINHS.