

CSC Proposal 2020  
12/9/19

Project Title: Forest Stewardship Plan  
RI DEM Arcadia Management Area (AMA) Pilot Project

Goal: Develop a Forest Stewardship Plan for 20% or approximately 3,000 acres of the AMA to assess natural and cultural resources, identify sensitive habitats, gauge impacts of public recreation and illegal activities and serve as a decision making tool for RIDEM land managers.

Description: The c. 15,000 acre AMA provides protection for important natural resources and biodiversity in Rhode Island. The area, which also offers premier outdoor recreational activities, has experienced a dramatic increase in pressures from an expanding array of recreational pursuits, growing numbers of participants, and rampant growth in illegal activities; this all coincidental to 2 decades of deep reductions in funding for land management operations.

This AMA Pilot Project to address Forest Stewardship Planning is an important step toward quantifying and describing the current condition of cultural and natural resource elements and identifying areas in need of improved protections or restoration actions. This pilot is intended to set the stage for habitat management, forest harvesting, hazard mitigation and prescribed fire activities.

An RFP will be developed to engage a qualified and experienced forest consultant to work with and leverage significant participation/contribution from RIDEM Divisions of Forest Environment, Fish and Wildlife, and Planning and Development. It is anticipated that RIDEM will leverage fiscal administrative support and some, yet undetermined, amount of volunteer participation through CSC Partnership training initiatives and the YCL.

Deliverables: Draft Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) meeting USFS and State of RI acceptance standards.

1. Consultant will meet with RIDEM Staff to identify management unit
2. Consultant and RIDEM will agree upon seasonal reporting frequency to track progress
3. RIDEM will identify internal team and resources to guide, monitor and contribute to FSP
4. Consultant will conduct 2 facilitated meetings with RIDEM (and CSC Partners?) as follows: 1. interim meeting to update progress, discuss initial findings and discuss challenges. RIDEM will provide feedback and guidance pertaining to resolution of issues that may arise. 2. A half day meeting to share and review the draft FSP with RIDEM team and interested CSC partners.
5. Comment period of two to three weeks followed by several weeks to incorporate changes (timeline will be determined at that time).
6. Review, acceptance and sign off of final plan.
7. CSC After action review - what worked well? How can we improve on FSP Pilot process and final product from RIDEM and CSC perspectives. Did we maximize partnership opportunities? Did we miss anything?

Proposed Timeline: January 2020 through April 2021 (this to be finalized during consultant

selection)

January-mid February 2020 - Develop RFP for posting mid-February

March 31, 2020 - Consultant selection

April 30, 2020 - Site selection and field work begins

August - Interim meeting to evaluate progress and discuss challenges

October 30, 2020 - Field work complete

December 1, 2020 - Draft FSP circulated for review and facilitated meeting

scheduled

January - mid-March - achieve consensus and finalize content of FSP.

April 1 presentation to DEM leadership.

Proposed Budget Request: \$12,000

\$1,200	CSC Partner Admin
\$1,000	Meetings and Facilitation
\$9,800	Forest Stewardship plan

Payment to: TBD