

**CSC Project REPORT**

Submitted 11/23/2020

**Project Title:** Forest Stewardship Plan Pilot Project

**Goal:** Develop a Forest Stewardship Plan for 20% or approximately 3,000 acres of the Arcadia Manamagent Area 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.

This is a pilot project to address forest stewardship planning, an important step toward quantifying and describing the current condition of 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

**Progress:** Just as we were getting this project underway, RIDEM were forced by COVID to take time off and also to take on extra duties. Therefore, it was not until August that we issued a RFQ for this project. We had only one respondent but he is well qualified and we are comfortable that he will work out well and we now have a contract. The project will begin in the coming weeks, about 8 or 9 months late. We expect to use this winter for planning, stakeholder engagement, and some of the forestry fieldwork with some of the forestry as well as the botany taking place beginning in the spring. The report is expected in fall 2021. Except in timing, the project remains as described in the proposal.

Income:

CSC 2019 Grant:	\$ 12,000
Indirect paid to RINHS	\$ 1,200
<b>BALANCE at RINHS</b>	<b>\$ 10,800</b>