

# Oak Resiliency and Restoration Actions

NRCS is the lead federal agency within the USDA that helps private landowners **voluntarily** conserve soil, water, and other natural resources



Productive Soil



Healthy Plants



Clean Water



## Who Are We?

We were formally known as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) which was created in 1935 to reverse the devastation caused as a result of the Dust Bowl



# What do we do?

- We work primarily on private lands
- We provide technical assistance to help landowners develop and implement conservation plans for their property.
- We provide financial assistance to both protect and restore natural resources.
- All our programs are voluntary and non-regulatory

## Forest Conservation Assistance

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
  - » Young Forest Project
  - » Healthy Forest Project



## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

A voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers & private woodland owners,

To help plan and implement conservation practices that ...

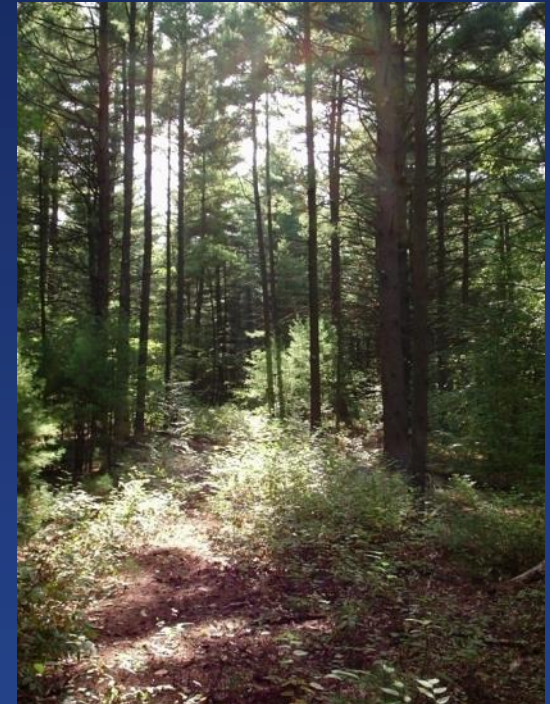
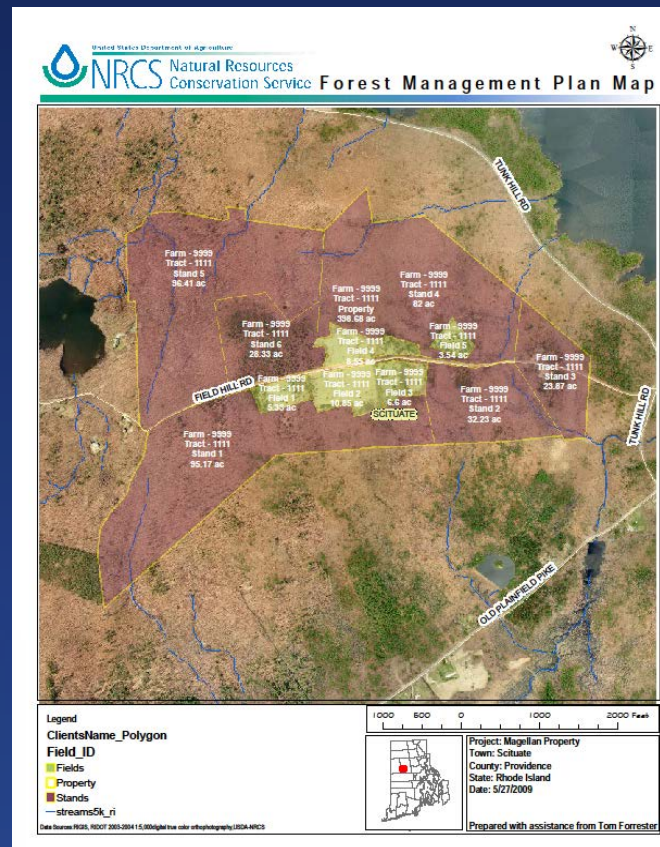
Address natural resource concerns on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

# Common Forestry Practices

- Forest Management Plan Preparation
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Forest Trails & Landings
- Early Successional Habitat Development
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Tree & Shrub Site Preparation
- Tree & Shrub Planting
- Pruning
- Invasive Species Management
- Woody Residue Treatment
- Fire Break/Dy Hydrant



# Forest Conservation Activity Plans





# Forest Stand Improvement





# Forest Trails





# Early Successional Habitat Development





# Riparian Forest Buffer

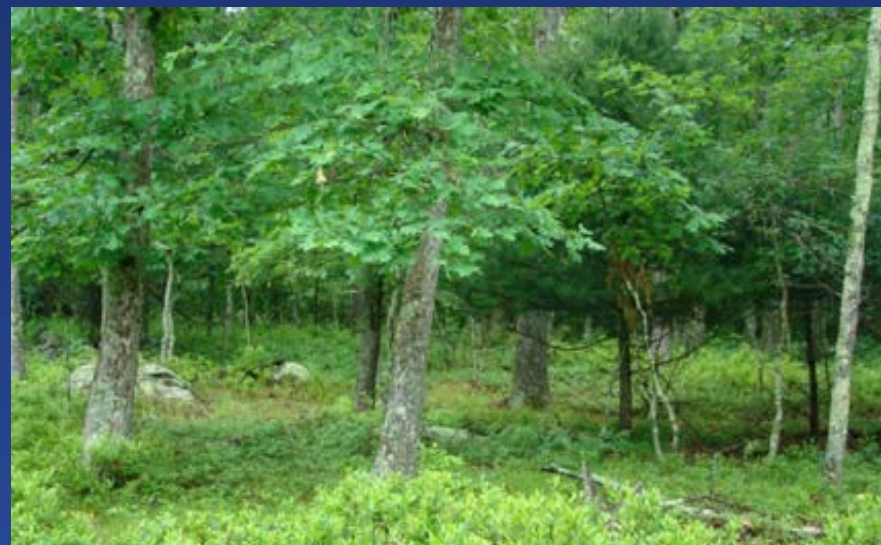




# Stream Crossing









# Forestry Practices for Mortality

- Forest Management Plan Preparation
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Forest Trails & Landings
- Woody Residue Treatment
- Tree & Shrub Site Preparation
- Tree & Shrub Planting
- Pruning
- Invasive Species Management
- Fire Break/Dry Hydrant

# Forestry Practices for Invasive Plants

- Forest Management Plan Preparation
- Brush Management
- Herbaceous Weed Treatment
- Forest Trails & Landings
- Woody Residue Treatment
- Tree & Shrub Site Preparation
- Tree & Shrub Planting

# Forestry Practices for Wildlife Exclusion

- Forest Management Plan Preparation
- Access Control
- Fencing
- Forest Trails & Landings
- Woody Residue Treatment
- Tree & Shrub Site Preparation
- Tree & Shrub Planting
- Pruning



## Rhode Island Deer Exclusion Fence Installation and Removal Guidance for (382) Fence

### Scope

Browsing by white-tailed deer has continually been a major factor in the success of forest regeneration of quality hardwood stands. Deer exclosures have been widely used and are effective in increasing biodiversity and reducing regeneration failures caused by browsing. Although fences are not effective at excluding all deer, they can greatly increase regeneration success if used under the right conditions. To be effective, fences need to be properly planned, laid out, erected at the appropriate time, checked out frequently and maintained.

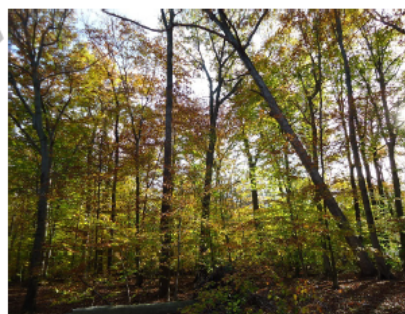
A deer exclusion fence should be considered if deer browsing is a problem, or expected to be a problem when the following results are expected: failure of the stand to successfully reproduce itself, elimination of species from the stand, and/or a reduction in species diversity. Deer exclusion fencing can be installed in conjunction with an approved Forest Management Plan or Forest Stewardship Plan and as a supporting practice to forestry treatments.

Woven wire deer exclosures should be erected as quickly as possible following the forestry treatment. The fence should be erected before the next growing season

following harvesting; this will protect and new sprouts from browsing pressures.

Construction of fence is intended to be a temporary measure solely to exclude deer and allow for forest regeneration. The fence is to be removed once a qualified forester or biologist determines regeneration is successful and above deer browse level.

### Hazard Trees



Hazard trees are dead or dying trees, split trees, heavily leaning trees, and/or root sprung trees that can potentially fall. Once the location of the fence has been determined, all hazard trees within tree length of the fence must be felled. The trees must be marked by a qualified forester or

# Permanent Fence





# Permanent Fence





# Permanent Fence





# Permanent Fence



# Temporary Fence ?

# Process for New Participants

- **Submit an Application,**
- **Determine Objectives and Eligibility,**
- **Develop Plan and Contract Application,**
- **Applications Evaluated & Ranked**
- **Applications selected for Funding,**
- **Practice details & prescriptions provided by NRCS... then work can begin.**

## Process for Current NRCS Forestry Clients

- Forest Conditions Have Changed Since NRCS Contract Awarded
- Contact NRCS Planner & Forester
- Forester should revise forest management recommendations based upon new conditions (mortality, etc.) and submit to NRCS (and RIDEM?)
- NRCS will review and certify new recommendations
- Upon NRCS approval, continue with implementation of contract with revised recommendations
- Coordinate with NRCS to certify practice completion & payment





# Thank You

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