



## Forest Health Works Project Overview

In a partnership funded by a \$673,000 ARRA grant through the U.S. Forest Service, the Rhode Island DEM and the Rhode Island Natural History Survey (RINHS) are working to protect & restore forest health by surveying for & eradicating invasive plants that threaten the economic & environmental health of priority forests in RI.

DEM & RINHS have partnered through the Forest Health Works Project (FHWP). FHWP is advised by a committee consisting of leadership from U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Audubon Society of RI, The Nature Conservancy of RI, The University of Rhode Island, & The RI Landscaping & Nursery Association.

### FHWP Goals

- Inventory, manage, & restore up to 50,000 acres of priority forestland for invasive plants
- Create jobs & build state capacity to control invasives by training & employing green industry workers (landscapers, arborists, etc.) in invasive plant control projects
- Over \$200,000 towards green industry invasive control contract jobs through bid process
- Increase public awareness about the threats, control of, and alternatives to invasive plants
- Develop “Rhody Native”: an innovative consumer & restoration market for locally-sourced, locally-grown, locally-marketed native plant material
- Over \$50,000 for plant material/RI nursery industry to catalyze the start of Rhody Native
- Pilot a Rhode Island Youth Conservation Corps
- Create lasting project legacy (e.g. reconvene the RI Invasive Species Council, develop the Rhody Native initiative, leverage for partner funds towards continued work beyond ARRA)

### FHWP Status Highlights (as of 7/27/10)

- Jobs Created To Date: 3 FT preserved. 5 FT, 1 PT, 2 college interns, and 8 high school youth crew jobs created. 5 green industry contractors employed through control projects
- Over 30,000 Acres and 426 linear miles inventoried
- 14 trainings/workshops held to date, 4+ pending

