FRESHWATER WETLAND RESTORATION

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

PRELIMINARY RESTORATION SITE EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Knowing how, and to what extent, your wetland is degraded is critical for determining how best to restore it to its original condition. Conducting a preliminary site evaluation can help you understand the sources of degradation and identify the existing features. This worksheet can assist you with this process and may be helpful for informing your communications with the DEM Water Quality and Wetland Restoration Team and with any professionals that you employ.

Site name: _____

Town, Plat/Lot: _____ **Landowner:** _____

Type of wetland (e.g. forested swamp, shrub swamp, marsh, bog, wet meadow, pond, stream)
or upland adjacent to wetland (e.g. mixed forest, cleared buffer):

_____

Types of Impacts Present: (describe any specific impacts on the lines below)

- ❑ Dumping *(discarded debris in wetlands)*
- ❑ Erosion and/or Removal of Adjacent Upland Vegetation *(natural vegetation removed from adjacent upland; human land uses continue down to wetland edge; possible erosion of streambanks or pondshores)*
- ❑ Invasive Species *(i.e. Purple loosestrife, Phragmites)*
- ❑ Removal of Wetland Vegetation *(vegetation cut from wetlands - i.e. tree stumps or plant remains evident)*
- ❑ Removal of Soil or Peat Deposits *(cut banks or signs of historic excavation in wetlands with peaty soils)*
- ❑ Impoundment *(wetlands on upstream side of road noticeably wetter than downstream side; possible obstructed culverts)*
- ❑ Excessive Sedimentation *(sand, gravel, or silt deposits overlying organic-rich (black or dark brown) wetland soils; possible invasive plants; turbid or muddy in streams or ponds)*
- ❑ Filling *(partial or complete filling - evident by previous land use, including old abandoned structures that may be candidates for removal)*
- ❑ Stream Channelization *(stream channels straightened, deepened, or widened; banks or bottoms consisting of artificial materials - i.e. rip-rap or concrete)*
- ❑ Partial Drainage *(ditches within, or exiting, wetlands)*
- ❑ Complete Drainage *(ditch-banks for soils that were wet in the past; black layers of soil overlying bright gray mineral layers remain)*

Specific impacts at the site include: _____

_____

Describe Existing Land Use/Vegetation (e.g. not vegetated, forested, field)**:**

- Wetland (*description of vegetation present*): _____
_____
_____

- Nearby Upland *(vegetation, land use, include existing buffer width, if applicable)*: _____
_____
_____

Existing Slopes (e.g. flat, gentle rolling slopes, steep slope, irregular pockets of knolls and depressions)**:**

- Wetland: _____
_____

- Upland *(directly bordering wetland vs. rest of nearby upland)*: _____
_____

Wetland Water Regime (i.e. when is the area wet? how often? for how long?)**:**

_____

Site Diagram (sketch):

Sketching a rough map is a helpful way to inventory the features and ecology of your site. On your map, note property lines, approximate locations of nearby water bodies, topography, ditches, springs, potential sources of water, standing water, roads/culverts, trees and shrubs, and any clues to wildlife use. Also include reference points on your map, such as existing roadways and structures.

This document was developed by NEIWPCC and RIDEM's Office of Water Resources, Groundwater and Wetlands Protection Program as part of the *Freshwater Wetland Restoration Kit for Landowners*. Funding was provided through Section 104(b)3 of the Clean Water Act via an EPA Wetlands Pilot Demonstration Grant.