



# FRESHWATER WETLAND RESTORATION

*Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management*



## RESTORATION ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

As you plan your restoration project and identify your project goals, you should also assess the physical restoration options, information and data needs, and any major potential obstacles. This worksheet can assist you with this process and help you identify some of the potential questions that may be asked as you seek approvals or permits for your project. These questions can get you started, but the design of certain restoration projects can be highly technical and will require the assistance of professionals.

**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) :

### Project Goals:

Developing clear, achievable, and measurable goals is an important part of the restoration process, providing focus and increasing efficiency. Restoration goals should be practical and achievable given the natural potential of the area, the availability of resources, and the extent of community support for the project.

The goals of this restoration project are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Activities Needed** (e.g. fill removal, vegetation removal, waste removal, chemical removal, soil additions, planting, seeding, monitoring):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Restoration Constraints** (e.g. contaminants, utilities, construction access, fill disposal, permitting, cost, upland land use, size of restoration area):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Factors to Consider:

- Source:** Has the source of the wetland degradation been identified? Can the degrading activities be addressed to ensure proper wetland restoration?
- Stakeholders:** Are all the necessary stakeholders either aware, involved, or in support of the project (ex. Watershed groups, Conservation Commissions, etc.)?
- Access:** How will the area be accessed, i.e. through existing trails, existing boat ramp, by boat? Will there be any potential impacts to wetlands in the area during access or project work?
- Owner authorization:** Are other properties involved for work or access?
- Financial Assistance:** Have you researched and applied for local, state, and/or federal sources of funding?
- Professionals:** Have the following professionals been contacted, if applicable?
  - Biologist/Ecologist/Wetland Scientist(s)
  - Engineer
  - Landscape architect
  - Construction firm
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Rare or threatened species:** Are there any threatened plant or animal species in the vicinity that could be impacted by the restoration project? Have the locations of rare plants identified by the RI Natural Heritage Database (contact RINHS, [www.rinhs.org](http://www.rinhs.org)) been identified and flagged in the field?
- Replanting:** If plans include replanting the area with trees, shrubs, and/or groundcover, are the plants native and appropriate to the restored soil conditions? If planting is proposed in upland areas along rivers, swamps, ponds, or other wetlands, has the DEM Water Quality and Wetland Restoration Team been notified?
- Herbicides:** If applying an herbicide, will locations of rare species be identified and flagged, and has the applicator made aware of their locations prior to applying herbicide? Will care be taken to avoid any waterbodies that could result in invertebrate or fish kills?
- Equipment:** What type of equipment will be used during the project? Hand-held equipment or larger equipment? Is it appropriate for the scope of work being proposed? Will equipment impact sensitive wetland areas?
- Sufficient expertise:** Who will be overseeing the project? Who will be operating the equipment? Are they knowledgeable and experienced at working within regulated wetlands? Have the contractors been informed about the locations of the rare plants and animals to take steps necessary to ensure their protection?
- Erosion control:** Are appropriate measures being utilized if needed?

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