



Dear Landowner:

Do you love your woods? Are you interested in birds? Do you want to learn more about how to make your woods healthy for the birds in your area? We can help!

The Last Green Valley (TLGV), the MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership (MassConn) and the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District (NRICD) are pleased to offer a new funding opportunity for woodland landowners to obtain forest management plans with bird habitat assessments through the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for properties located in the Southern New England Heritage Forest.*

Professional foresters will walk your property and coordinate with the Audubon society of Rhode Island to produce a high-quality forest management plan with a bird habitat assessment of your woods. The plan will give you recommendations for management measures that align with your goals for the property. The plans will meet federal and state requirements and may be used to apply for property tax reductions through the Farm, Forest and Open Space Program.

Grant funds are available to pay for most of the forester's costs and to completely fund the bird habitat assessments through Audubon. As a landowner, you will be responsible for choosing a forester from an approved list and for paying a percentage of the total cost of the forest management plan.

This program is ideally suited for landowners who have never had a Forest Management Plan, and Northern RI Conservation District staff are available to provide you with assistance and a site visit on your land to assess your property and to help you apply.

To get started, contact Kate Sayles at KSayles.NRICD@gmail.com or 401.934.0840 x 103 who can help you file the correct paperwork. The application deadline is January 18, 2019, but we recommend you begin the process by early December to ensure your application is complete before the deadline.

Interested in learning more information about the Southern New England Heritage Forest and the project? Check out the link on our website at NRICD.com/agriculture-forestry.htm

We look forward to hearing from you!

***Southern New England Heritage Forest towns include: Burrillville, Scituate, Foster, Glocester, Coventry, Exeter, West Greenwich, Hopkinton and Richmond**

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and the lead project partners are equal opportunity providers, employers, and lenders.