CT COUNCIL ON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION



Lilian Ruiz
Executive Director



LANDOWNER SUPPORT FOR FOREST RESILIENCE



FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE U.S.D.A, FOREST SERVICE THROUGH THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM, AND

UNDER THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT: PREPARING TO SERVE THE UNDERSERVED

AS ADMINISTERED BY THE CT DEEP DIVISION OF FORESTRY

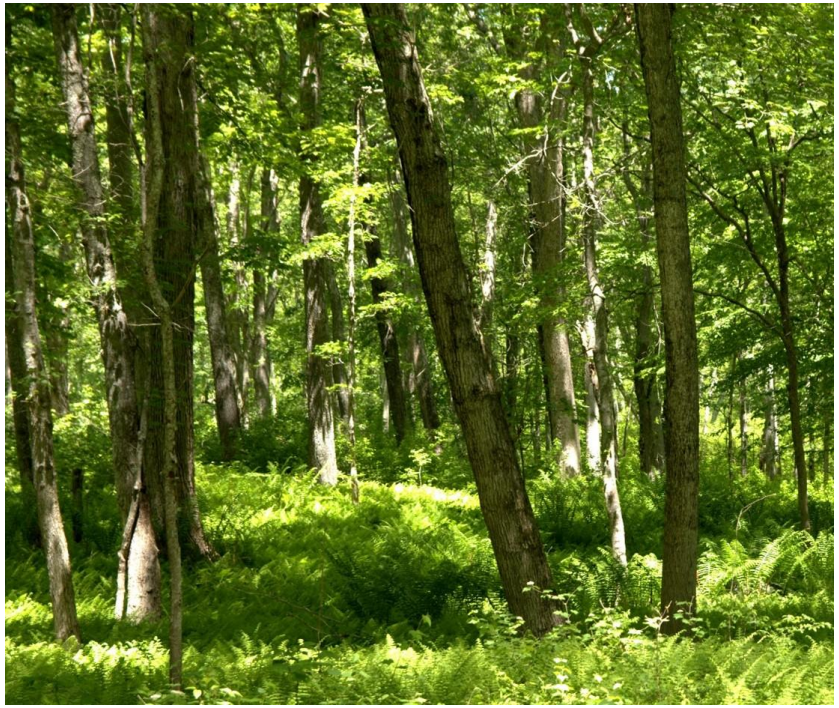
A TWO-PART PROGRAM:
1. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CONSERVATION PLANNING
2. COST SHARING FOR IMPLEMENTATION



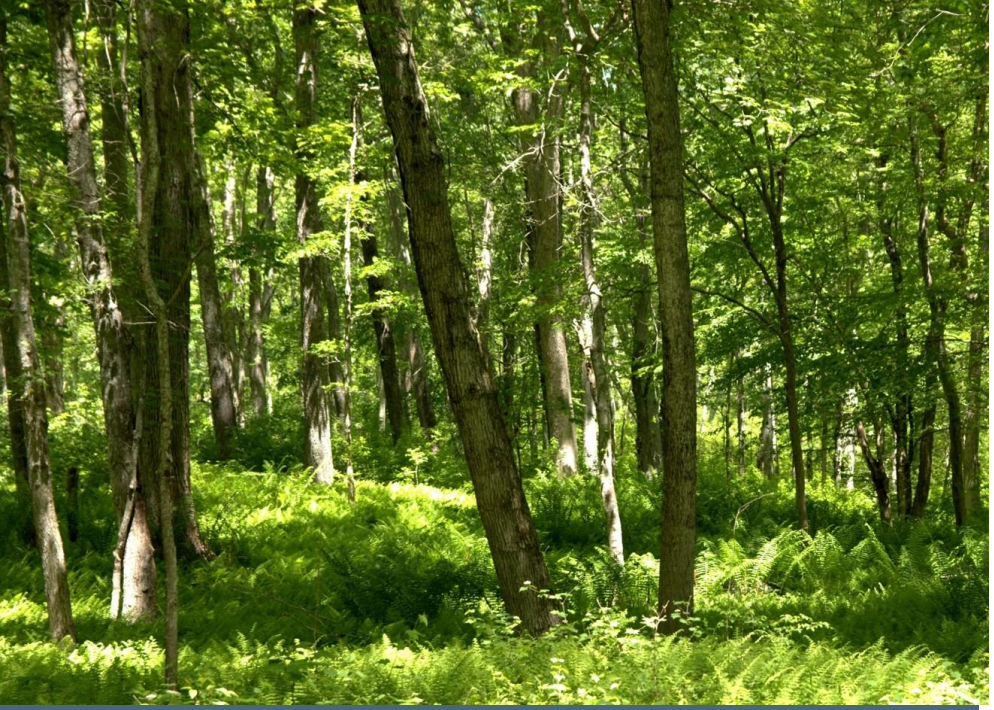
- $3.6 million grant managed by the Council
- Supports non-industrial private & municipal forest landowners
  - **Builds Capacity for Conservation Planning**
  - **Provides cost-share funding for adaptation & sustainable forestry**
- Goals:
  - Boost forest resilience
  - Engage underserved landowners
  - Improve forest health & program accessibility across Connecticut

TSP R^2 TRAINING:

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

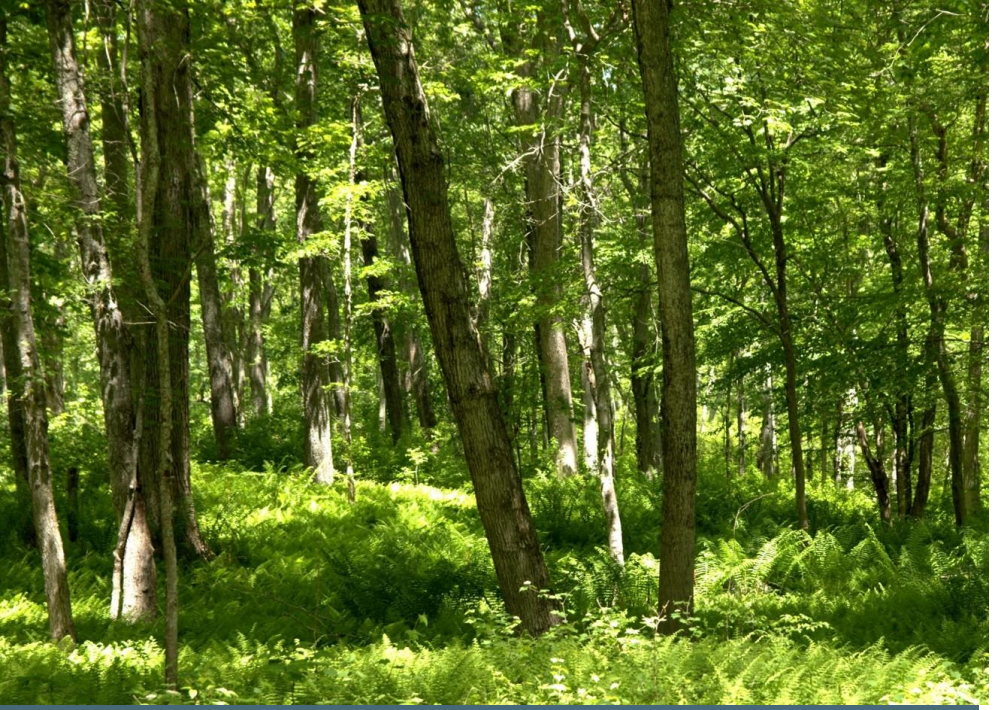


- **$300,000 funded by a USDA Forest Service IRA – Forest Stewardship grant via a non-competitive state allocation.**
- **focused on workforce development to serve underserved landowners.**
- **Train CT-licensed forest practitioners to become and remain NRCS Technical Service Providers (TSPs).**
- **Equip practitioners to effectively engage landowners about resilient forestry.**
- **Partners: CSWC (delivery), CT DEEP (oversight), CT NRCS (standards and certification)**



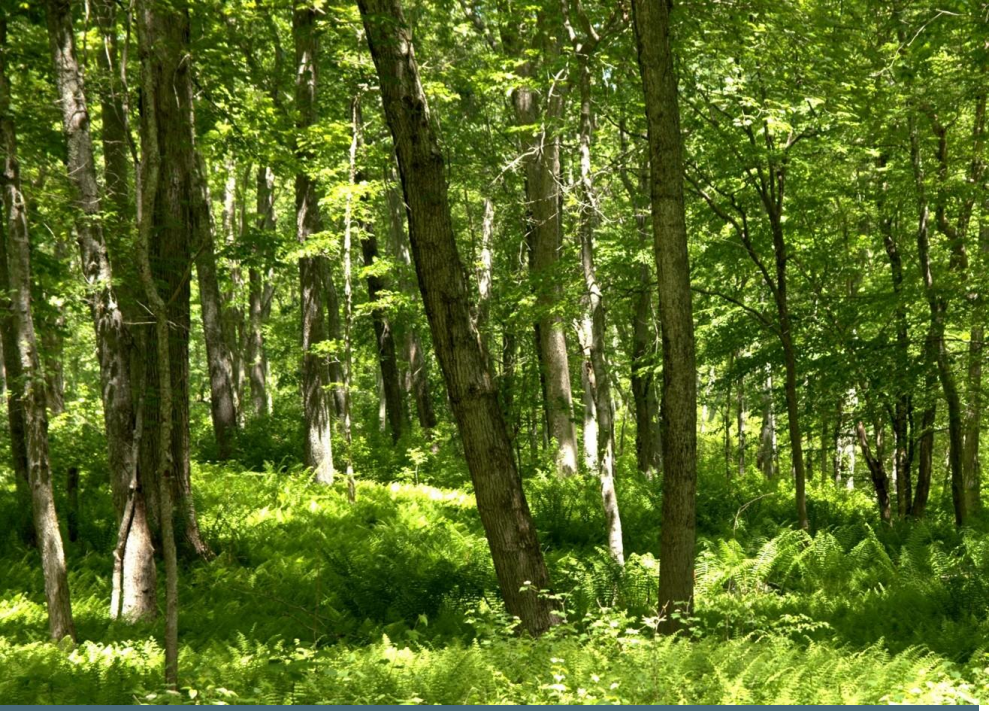
TSP TRAINING PART 1 AND 2

TSP TRAINING, PART 1 PROGAM INTRODUCTION	TSP TRAINING, PART 2 NRCS REGISTRY SIGNUP
Introduction to TSP R^2 Program and NRCS cost share programs and practices	Provides one-on-one assistance in creating online accounts required for NRCS TSP program
6-hour In-Person Training in November	2-Hour In Person Training in November
Required for current TSPs and TSP recruits	Required for TSP recruits
$115 per training hour	$115 per training hour



TSP ORIENTATION & CONSERVATION PLANNING TRAINING

TSP ORIENTATION & CONSERVATION PLANNING TRAINING	FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN SUBMISSIONS
A training session specific to conservation planning	Develop and submit a representative forest management plan for review and approval by NRCS.
8-Hour In Person Training in January	Ideally within 6 months of completing TSP trainings
Required for TSP recruits	Required for TSP recruits. The final step to becoming a TSP.
$115 per training hour	$2500 upon NRCS approval of a plan and acceptance as a TSP.

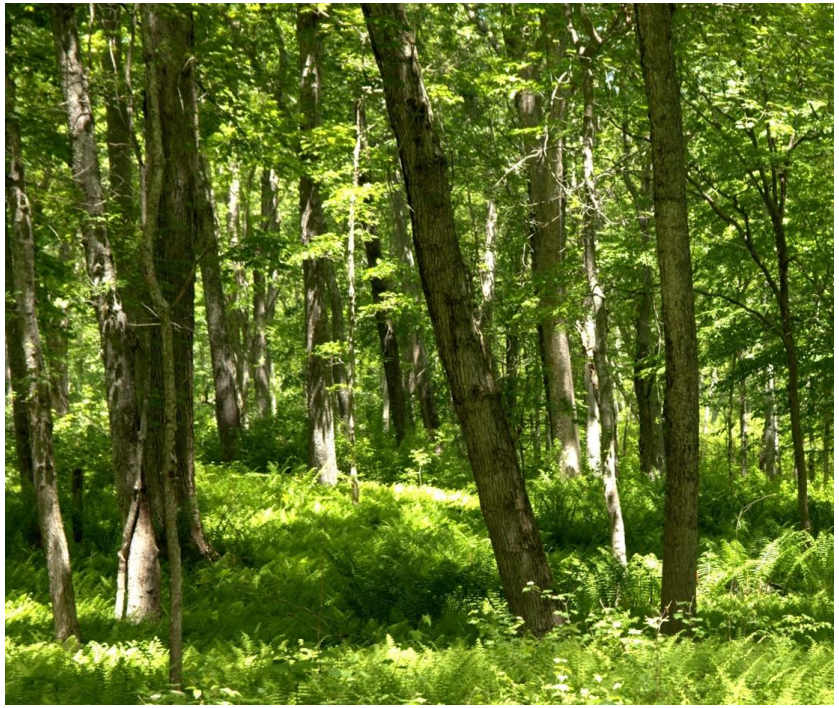


TOOLS FOR ENGAGING LANDOWNERS EFFECTIVELY (TELE) WORKSHOP

2-day, 14 hour in-person, hands-on workshop to design outreach to underserved landowners.
Small cohort (~15); learn → apply methods (audience, message/channel, metrics).
Leave with a ready-to-use outreach plan + 1-hour virtual follow-up.
Held In August ‘26 and ‘27
$115 per training hour

FOREST RESILIENCE COST SHARE:

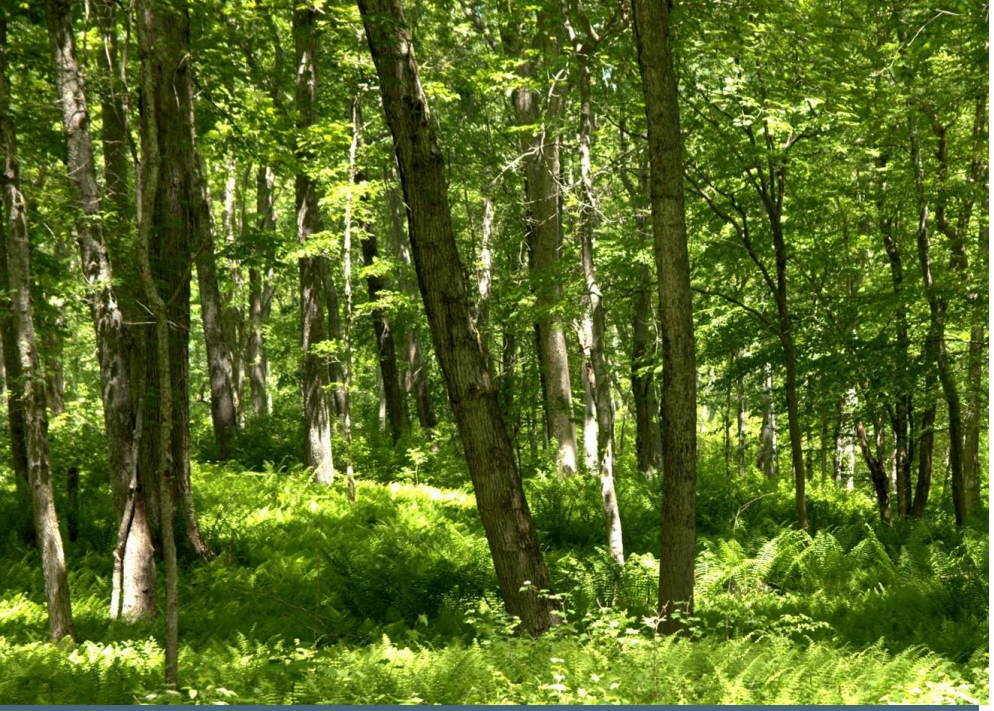
PROGRAM AT A GLANCE



- **$3.3M funded by a USDA Forest Service IRA – Forest Stewardship grant awarded through a competitive opportunity, focused on implementing resilient forestry practices on private and municipal lands.**

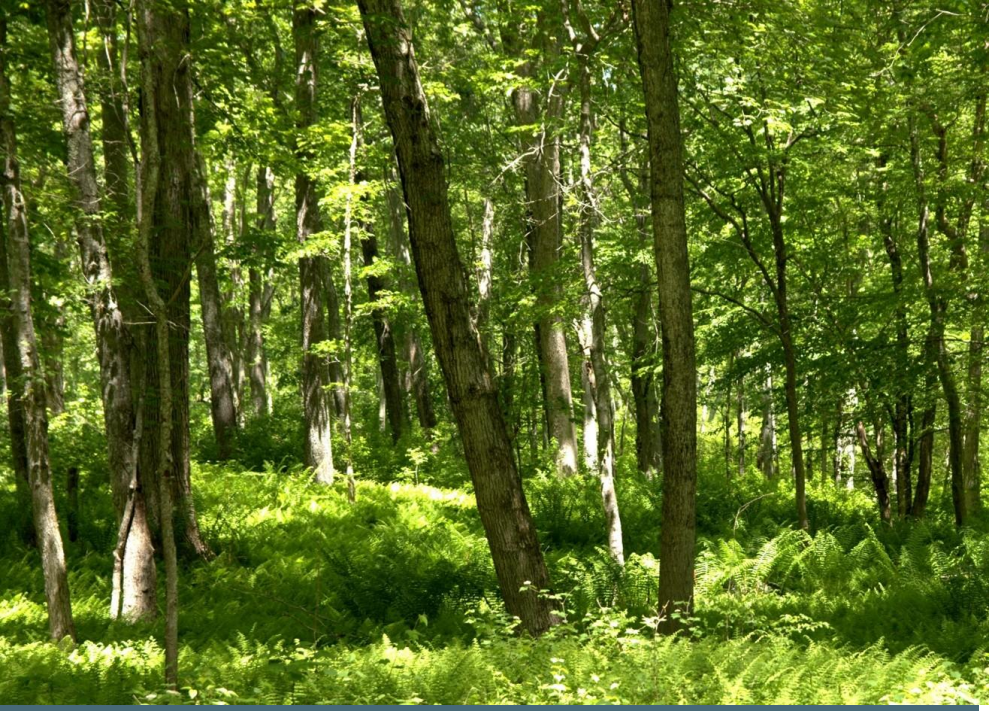
- **Supplements federal dollars to fund 100% of the implementation of resilient forestry practices in Connecticut's rural, non-industrial private woodlands.**

- **Partners: CSWC (delivery), CT DEEP (oversight), CT NRCS (standards and certification)**



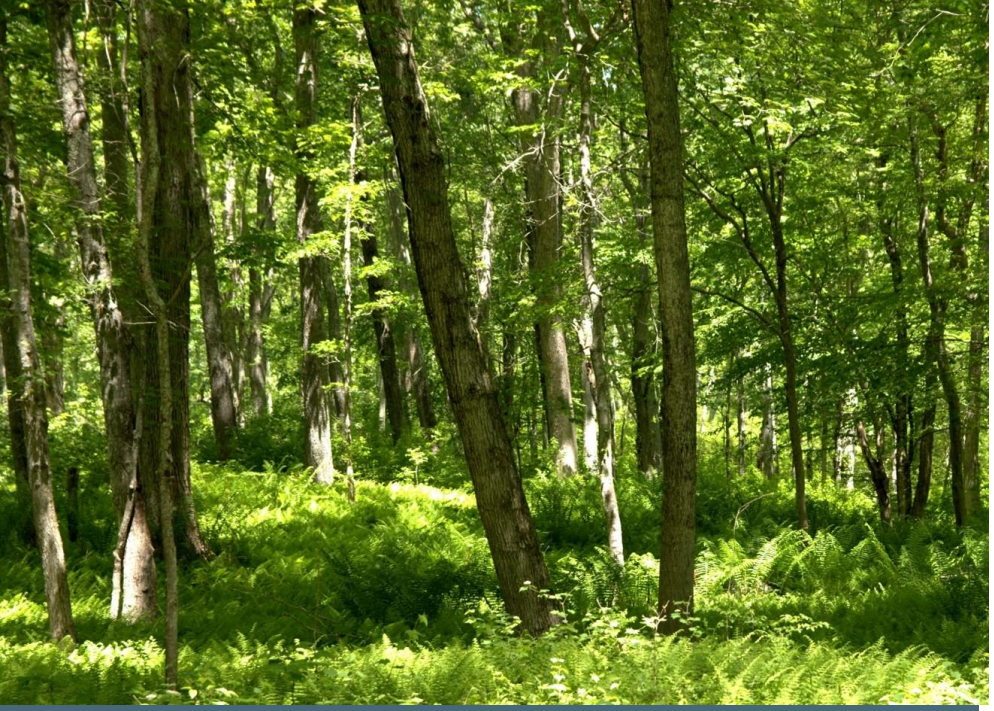
HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

- **CCSWC subawards cost-share payments to landowners for resilient forestry practices**
- **Aligns with NRCS EQIP/CSP conservation planning and implementation**



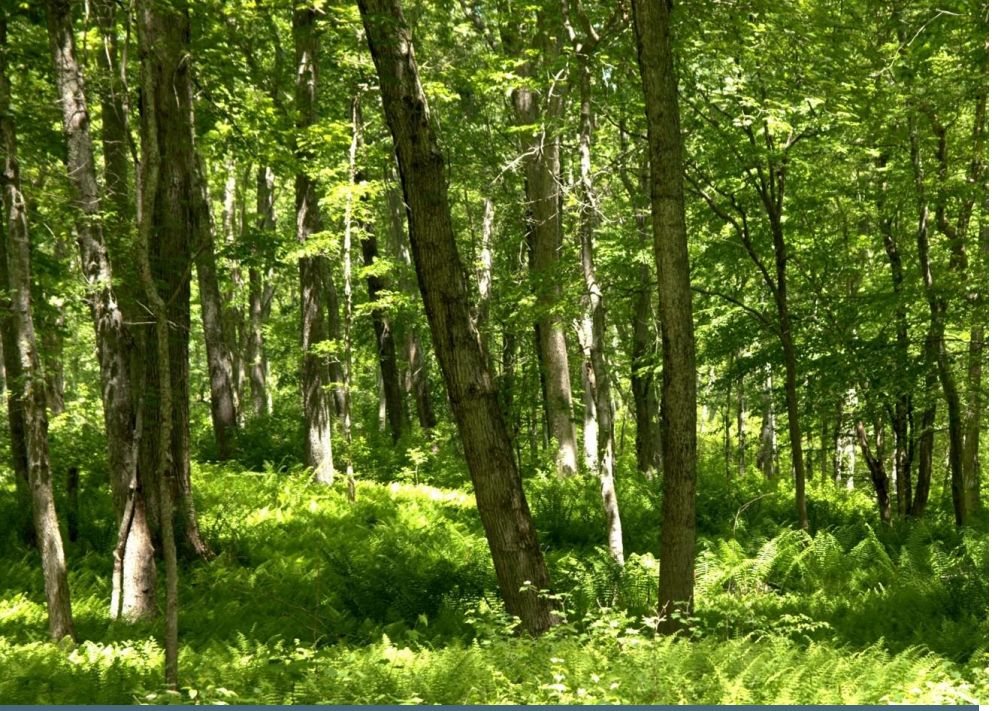
ELIGIBILITY

- **Landowners engaged through CT NRCS**
- **Ensure agreements reflect current payment rates**



COST-SHARE RULES

- **Standard landowners: up to 25% of NRCS fixed per-unit rates (not to exceed 100% total)**
- **Non-standard landowners: up to 10% (not to exceed 100% total)**



CONTACT INFORMATION

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