

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) at University of Rhode Island

<http://www.edc.uri.edu/rrea>

The URI RREA Program trains land use managers in the use of geospatial technologies for natural resource management. It provides guidance in the integration of these technologies into the decision-making framework for public policy affecting the stewardship of forest resources and their watersheds. The RI RREA initiative leverages \$7 of additional funding from state, municipal, corporate and nonprofit sources for every dollar of USDA funding.

Between October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006, RREA funds were used to support several successful programs, including:

∞ *Today's Forests; Tomorrow's Legacy: A Guide for Small Acreage Woodland Owners* continues to serve as a training tool by the Southern New England Forest Consortium for forest management in the state. In 2005, 50 guides were provided to forest owners in Rhode Island. The training provides forest owners with the resources to assist them in improving the management of their woodlots.

∞ Instructor-lead training of 172 municipal officials, educators, resource management professionals, and citizen volunteers in the use of geospatial data and technologies.

∞ 600,000 total downloads (765 gigabytes!) of geospatial data from the Rhode Island Geographic Information System and GPS data distribution systems (<http://www.edc.uri.edu/rigis>). These data are the scientific basis for work by citizens, decision-makers, and resource managers in Rhode Island for community planning, emergency response, forest and agricultural management, land conservation, academic research, and environmental stewardship.

“Well done short course – clearly presented and I can begin using the software in my resource management activities.” – GIS training course student.

“Reliable access to the RIGIS database provided by the University of Rhode Island continues to be an essential component of many of our ongoing efforts in environmental stewardship.” – Paul Jordan, RI Department of Environmental Management.

An important audience for Rhode Island RREA programming is the 26,000 Rhode Islanders who own woodland parcels of 10 acres or less.

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