



Wildfire Planning & Protection

Rhode Island



December 2025

NRCS offers financial assistance through federal Farm Bill programs. Rhode Island NRCS works with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to enhance forest land and wildlife habitat. All programs are voluntary and offer science-based solutions to benefit landowners and the environment.

Fire can be beneficial to the environment but, when it occurs uncontrolled in and around forested communities, it can pose a threat to life and property. Rhode Island farmers & forest landowners can apply for NRCS conservation assistance to manage forest land to minimize the risk from fire.

To be eligible for NRCS forestry conservation programs, you need to have a Forest Management Plan. NRCS will cover part of the cost for plan preparation. Once the plan is written and approved, NRCS can help you install conservation practices to minimize your risk from wildfire, including:

- Brush Management (CPS 314)
- Fuel Break Establishment (CPS 383)
- Woody Residue Treatment (CPS 384)
- Dry-hydrant Installation (CPS 432)
- Forest Trails & Landings (CPS 655)
- Tree/Shrub Pruning (CPA 660)
- Forest Stand Improvement (CPS 666)



Visit your local USDA NRCS or Conservation District office. We can help you make the right choices to protect and improve your land and natural resources.

Eastern Rhode Island
Serving Bristol & Newport counties
Acting NRCS District
Conservationist: Kathryn Zuromski
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Serving Providence county
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Southern Rhode Island
Serving Kent & Washington counties
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Practice		Description	Benefits
Brush Management		Management or removal of woody plants.	» Improves plant growing conditions. » Reduces wildfire risk. » Maintain or enhance fish & wildlife habitat.
Dry Hydrants		A non-pressurized permanent pipe assembly installed to allow water withdrawal by suction from a pond or other water source.	» Provides water for fire suppression. » Reduces wildfire risk.
Forest Stand Improvement		Manage tree and shrub species composition, structure or density; thin tree overstory to reduce tree canopy and crown fire potential.	» Reduces wildfire hazard. » Maintain or improve forest carbon. » Maintain or improve forest health & productivity. » Maintain or improve forest structure and composition.
Forest Trails & Landings		A stabilized temporary or infrequently used access route, path, or cleared area.	» Reduces wildfire risk. » Provides stabilized access for fire management & equipment.
Fuel Breaks		A strip or area of land where vegetation, debris, and litter have been cleared to control or diminish the spread of fire.	» Reduces spread of wildfire. » Improves wildlife habitat and food sources for many species. » Improves plant productivity and health.
Tree/ Shrub Pruning		The removal of all or parts of selected branches from trees and shrubs to remove ladder fuels for wildfire.	» Reduces wildfire risk. » Reduces safety hazards. » Improve plant productivity, health & vigor.
Woody Residue Treatment		Treat or remove woody residue and minimize fine fuels in the fuel break.	» Reduces hazardous wildfire fuel. » Improve access for wildfire management.

For more information visit: www.RI.nrcs.usda.gov