

**Long Island Sound Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program –
Healthy Forest Reserve Program
Pre-Screening Application Form**

A. LISW – RCPP – Healthy Forest Reserve Program Pre-Screening Applicant Contact Information

1. LANDOWNER CONTACT INFORMATION

Landowner Name:
Landowner Mailing Address:

2. PARCEL INFORMATION

Parcel location (Street, Town, State)
Assessors Map-Block-Lot Number:
Assessors’ Lot acreage:
Project Title:

3. CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Point of Contact Name:
Point of Contact Position:
Organization Name:
Organization Mailing Address:
Point of Contact Email Address:

B. LISW – RCPP – Healthy Forest Reserve Program Complete Application Contents List

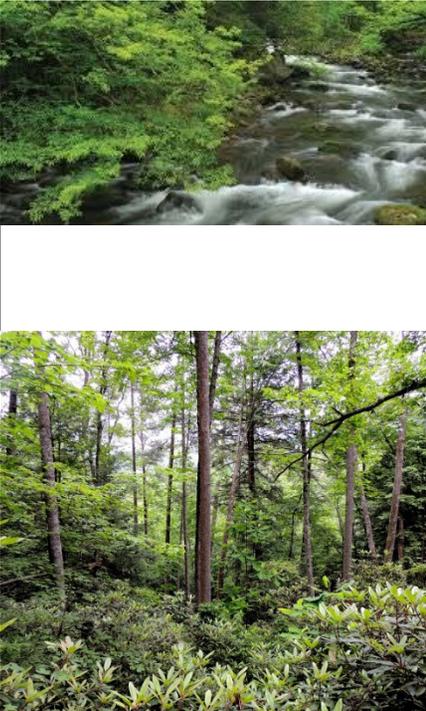
Please check the box for each application elements included in your application packet:

1. LISW-RCPP HFRP Pre-Screening Application Form (pages 1-7)	
2. NRCS Form NRCS-CPA 1200, Conservation Program Application	
3. Assessor’s Map showing parcel and Map, Block, Lot Numbers and Acres	
4. Locus Map, GIS Map, or Screen Shot of Online map tool showing parcel’s location in relation to Eligibility and Ranking Criteria	
5. Letter(s) of Landowner Intent	
6. Any long-term forest management plan associated with the parcel/project	

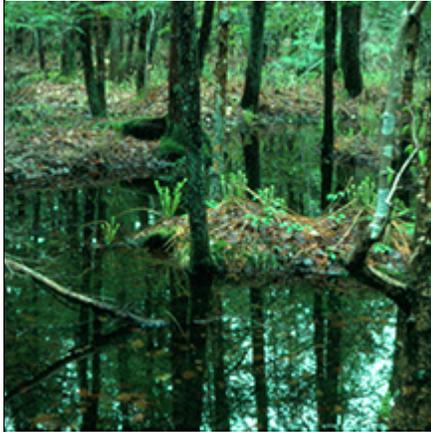
C. Wildlife Habitat Management Treatments: Landowner Interest/Acceptance

The Long Island Sound Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program will prioritize Healthy Forest Reserve Program funding for parcels that contain habitat for federal-listed and state-listed species. There is a relatively small number of migratory bird species whose habitat needs mirror those of many other state-listed species included species of greatest conservation need and for more than one state. These bird species are called surrogate species. Below are the six surrogate species, their habitat needs, and a general description of the management activity that would sustain the habitat for the surrogate species in perpetuity. In the case of the prairie warbler, more open and cleared land would be restocked with trees naturally and once grown in would be managed as a more mature forested habitat not maintained in an open state.

Please write “**Yes**” or “**No**” in the column box below “**Willing to Manage Your Land for this Species? Yes/No**” in answer to each category of management that you would be willing to maintain over the course of your ownership of the land.

Surrogate Species	Habitat Type	Management Treatments	Habitat Visual Description	Willing to Manage Your Land for this Species? Yes/No
Louisiana Waterthrush and Wood Thrush	<i>Mature Upland and Riparian Hardwood Forest</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain forest blocks greater than 250 acres with a dense understory of saplings and shrubs. • A suggested buffer of 100 m (328 feet) on either side of the stream should be protected around the species’ core riparian habitat for Louisiana waterthrush. • Create gaps in the forest canopy so that young saplings and shrubs can grow to provide cover. Single-tree and small group selection silviculture is often compatible with providing high-quality wood thrush nesting habitat. Patches of young, even-aged forest can provide post-breeding foraging and cover habitat • Manage forests to create or maintain a dense understory of shrubs and saplings, including opportunities for nest sites (fallen streamside logs and stumps) within its breeding range. • Maintain understory by limiting over-browsing by white-tailed deer through herd culling or other methods. • Stream quality is important as foraging habitat for Louisiana Waterthrushes. Good water quality and relatively high amounts of riffle and accompanying exposed rock and stream edge provide not only food but foraging habitat for Louisiana Waterthrushes. • Minimize edges and create corridors between smaller forest patches to increase habitat quality. 		

Surrogate Species	Habitat Type	Management Treatments	Habitat Visual Description	Willing to Manage Your Land for this Species? Yes/No
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Mature Mixed Forest</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain or develop patches of dominant and co-dominant (canopy position) conifers within hardwood-dominated areas. • Softwood inclusions of hemlock or spruce are key elements within northern hardwood systems. • Maintain ecologically mature and over mature coniferous forest. • Light selective harvesting using uneven-aged silvicultural treatments may be compatible with maintaining desirable nesting habitat conditions. • Avoid fragmenting large contiguous forest tracts. • Attempt to manage for forest shapes that create the least amount of edge. Circular plots are the best at maximizing forest interior, whereas square or rectangular plots are better than long, narrow strips. Circular forest plots offer less access to the interior for predators and nest parasites while maximizing habitat for area-sensitive species. Research shows that area-sensitive species tend to use forested areas that are at least 330 feet (100 meters) from an edge. • Minimize isolation of forest patches by promoting reforestation of gaps between disconnected forest tracts. Forest birds generally have higher reproductive success in forest that is either connected to or near other forest patches. This also facilitates dispersal and territory establishment. 		

Surrogate Species	Habitat Type	Management Treatments	Habitat Visual Description	Willing to Manage Your Land for this Species? Yes/No
Northern Waterthrush and Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Forested Wetland</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain forest and shrub/sapling cover in wetland areas. • Use single-tree selection to maintain 65-70% crown closure within 75 feet of wetland edge • Small-group selection (up to ¼ acre openings) beyond 75 feet of wetland edge may be appropriate • Minimize disruption to the hydrology of wetland habitat • Preserve large tracts of deciduous forest (over 25 acres) in mid-to late-successional states, particularly low, wet woods, streams, lakes or marshes • Avoid cutting riparian forests. • Avoid constructing roads in riparian corridors. • Encourage the reforestation of blocks of lowland areas with hardwoods. • Minimize disturbance by hikers, hunters, horseback riders, and off-road vehicles during the breeding season from mid-March to the end of June. 		
Prairie Warbler	<i>Young Forest and Shrubland</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain adequate patch size: Shrub habitats between 5-25 acres will provide habitat to a number of the at-risk species; in general, larger is better. However, smaller, isolated patches less than 5 acres can also provide habitat to some of the at-risk species. • Control woody vegetation for as long as willing. The mechanism and frequency of management you employ will depend on the current structure and species make-up of the area you are interested in managing; tree species require more management compared to shrubs. On average, shrub habitats need to be managed every 5-10 years, sometimes less frequently. • If you have existing shrub habitat without trees (i.e., areas with shrubs interspersed with openings of grasses and forbs), management may be required only every 2-4 years (sometimes less frequently) to prevent the openings from reverting to forest. 		

Sources: Louisiana Waterthrush: Adapted from "Louisiana Waterthrush, Minnesota Conservation Summary," Audubon Minnesota (Spring 2014); Wood Thrush: Adapted from "A Landowners Guide to Improving Habitat for Forest Thrushes," Cornell Lab of Ornithology (2003); Blackburnian Warbler: Adapted from "Focus Species Forestry," Rob Bryan (2004) and "A Land Manager's Guide to Improving Habitat for Scarlet Tanagers and other Forest-interior Birds," Cornell Lab of Ornithology (1999); Northern Waterthrush: Adapted from "Focus Species Forestry," Rob Bryan (2004); Red-shouldered Hawk: Adapted from Crocoll 1994, James 1984 and NYSDEC 2008; Prairie Warbler: <http://ny.audubon.org/conservation/managing-habitat-shrubland-birds-0>.

D. LISW – RCPP – Healthy Forest Reserve Program Pre-Screening Application Eligibility Criteria

Please indicate in the right column in the table whether the project fulfills the LISW-RCPP-HFRP Eligibility Criteria (as described in the RFP) by checking off each criterion fulfilled by your project. *If the answer to any of the following criteria is "no," the application is ineligible for program enrollment (Only one rare and endangered species type (6. A-E) is required for eligibility).*

	Yes or No
1. Is the applicant a private landowner?	
2. Does the landowner have clear title to the land? (Note: if the land is under the state’s current use program, then this associated encumbrance needs to be subordinated to the NRCS easement. Contact the NRCS State Conservationist for more information. (Funding may be available from the LISW-RCPP to reimburse the costs of a title search if that is needed)	
3. Is the parcel of land within the Long Island Sound Watershed? <i>(Use the LISW-RCPP-HFRP online map tool to compare the parcel’s location to the boundaries of the LI Sound Watershed)</i>	
4. Does the applicant understand that only 25% to 75% of the appraised value of the conservation easement will likely be paid by NRCS? Other funding sources (non-federal) will cover the rest such that, at a minimum, the landowner will receive no less than 75% of the appraised value of the easement. The landowner may donate up to 25% of the appraised value of the easement.	
5. Does the conservation organization (assisting the landowner) have known or likely sources for the funding outside of that covered by NRCS?	
6. Does the parcel contain or abut habitat capable of supporting one or more of the following: federal listed endangered or threatened species, state-listed endangered or threatened species, a candidate endangered or threatened species, species of special concern as identified by NRCS Chief, or state species of greatest conservation need? <i>(Use the online map tool to compare the parcel’s approximate location to areas identified as containing habitat capable of supporting “Surrogate Species,” which are rare migratory birds whose habitat needs parallel other state-listed species. If the parcel in question abuts or contains areas shown as habitats capable of supporting at least one of these species, the parcel is eligible for funding.)</i>	

Comments:

E. LISW – RCPP – Healthy Forest Reserve Program Pre-Screening Application Ranking Criteria – Part 1 – Priority Natural Resources

Please answer each of the questions below to the best of your ability. You may refer to the [online mapping tool](#), which should help in estimating the number of acres. Please write your estimate of the number of acres for items E.1-11 in the right column in the table below.

How many acres (approx.) of the parcel are:	Number of Acres:
1. Located within the LI Sound Watershed?	
2. In forest cover?	
3. Capable of supporting a known federally-listed species	
<p>4. Within a surface drinking water source protection area or watershed?</p> <p>Due to security issues, most states do not allow “drinking water source protection areas” at the parcel level to be made available to the public. To determine whether the parcel you are interested in conserving is located in a designated “drinking water source protection area,” please contact Kira Jacobs directly:</p> <p>Kira Jacobs Source Water Protection Program U.S. EPA 617-918-1817 jacobs.kira@epa.gov</p>	
5. In an area defined as within 100 feet of the bank of a stream, river, or other water body the protection of which would contribute to the overall water quality of the surface and groundwater.	
6. Within an area defined as having above average resiliency to climate change?	
7. Under a long-term forest management plan by a professional forester?	
8. Under a landowner statement of intent signifying their willingness to have land managed as habitat in perpetuity?	
9. In a priority core habitat or forest in the State Wildlife Action Plans and State Forest Action Plans, respectively?	
10. In the CT River Watershed Landscape Conservation Design (connecttheconnecticut.org) Tier 1 Cores, Tier 2 Cores, or Tier 1 Core Connectors, or included within the Nature’s Network Cores or Connectors?	
11. Prioritized by Regional Conservation Partnerships or other large landscape conservation or stewardship initiatives. <i>(Use the online map tool to compare the parcel’s approximate location to these habitat or core forest designations)?</i>	

Comments:

F. LISW – RCPP – Healthy Forest Reserve Program Pre-Screening Application Ranking Criteria – Part 2 – Threat of Development

Please refer to the LISW-RCPP-HFRP [online mapping tool](#) and provide specific information about the county where your parcel is located.

Threat of Development (All of these figures are based on County data)	
1. What is the Change in Population, 2014 (U.S. Census v4 estimate) - 2010 (U.S. Census) (Percent)?	
2. What is the Population Density (Persons per Square Mile, 2010 (U.S. Census)) (0.5 to >3 times the state population density)?	
3. What is the annual Conversion of Forestland to Development in 2014 (New England Landscape Futures Project; USGS NLCD; Jeon et al. 2014; US FIA 2014) (Percent)?	

Comments:

G. LISW – RCPP – Healthy Forest Reserve Program Pre-Screening Application Ranking Criteria – Part 3 – Large Landscape Connectivity: Lands with Priority Natural Resources

Please refer to the [online mapping tool](#) and other maps to answer the following questions:

Surrounding Conservation Land Uses	
1. What is the approximate distance between the parcel and other permanently protected land (in feet or miles) as measured by a straight line?	
2. What is the size of that nearby parcel(s) of permanently protected land (in acres)?	
3. What is the approximate distance between the parcel and other land under long-term management, including by a professional forester (in feet or miles)?	
4. What is the size of that nearby parcel(s) of managed land (in acres)?	
5. Does the parcel abut other forestland containing priority natural resources, and, if so, which and how many acres?	
6. Does the parcel abut or connect other forestland that is protected from development that also contains priority natural resources, and, if so, which and how many acres?	