

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FREE EROSION CONTROL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

(Portland)— If you live in the Presumpscot River watershed, you are eligible for free technical assistance on how to best manage erosion issues on your land. As part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Targeted Watershed Grant that was awarded to the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership and Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition (PRWC), free technical assistance on erosion and drainage problems and water quality questions is available to homeowners within this watershed.

The PRWC is made up of more than a dozen government and private organizations concerned with improving fisheries, mitigating impacts from watershed development and preserving open space along the Presumpscot River that runs from Sebago Lake to Casco Bay. As part of the initiative, a Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) will be employed that consists of a crew leader and five local high school students committed to improving the environment within their community. They will be involved in diverse projects that include planting vegetated buffer strips, building run-off diversions, trail construction and maintenance, and river clean-ups, to name a few.

The coalition, in partnership with the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, will conduct free site visits, design repairs to problem sites and help prepare all necessary state and local permits. If the job is suitable for the YCC, they will provide the labor needed to implement suitable erosion control practices. The landowner will only be responsible to pay for the materials required to complete the project.

If you live within this watershed and are interested in setting up a free consultation visit or for more information, please contact Lisa Vickers, Technical Director, Presumpscot River Youth Conservation Corps at 207-615-1527, lisa.vickers@maine.edu

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