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## Project aimed at keeping Eightmile River and its tributaries sparkling

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**Norwich Bulletin**

Posted Nov 28, 2010 @ 11:55 PM

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Salem, Conn. — A local conservation group will use nearly \$40,000 in federal aid on a mapping program that will identify inadequate stormwater retention devices along the Eightmile River watershed.

Anthony Irving, chairman of the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee, said the project, set to begin early next year, is vital to preserving the 150 rivers and streams in the 62-square-mile watershed.

Work will take place along 220 miles of roadway in East Haddam, Lyme and Salem, where most development in the watershed is located, Irving said.

The project is being paid for with a \$37,046 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency earmark distributed by the Long Island Sound Futures Fund.

In addition to identifying the condition of stormwater retention equipment, surveyors will chart how close they are to water sources and suggest design options to address any substandard outlets.

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John Guskowski, president of the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Council in Brooklyn, said the venture has the support of his agency.

"The RC&D Council is thrilled to be working with the communities of the Eightmile River on this important mapping and planning effort," he said in a statement. "Finding creative partnerships to better understand and manage our valuable resources has been key to our organization's mission."

Irving said much of the runoff that ends up in watercourses is the result of sediments from roads.

"If you're near to a stream or a river, in a lot of cases this runoff is being directly fed into the river," he said. "It's one of the big issues facing our water quality."

Once the mapping is done, Irving said his group will go after a second round of federal funding to cover the costs of fixing inadequate structures.

"The towns have indicated to us they love it, because we're trying to provide a service for them which they would ordinarily want to undertake," he said. "We are bringing money, expertise and other resources to this problem, which they in turn don't have to."

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