

## **GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH FORUM**

*College of Agriculture, Health, And Natural Resources*

Emlyn Crocker, University of Connecticut  
1376 Storrs Road, Storrs, CT 06268  
860-486-3660  
emlyn.crocker@uconn.edu

### **PRESENTER & CO-AUTHORS:**

Emlyn Crocker, University of Connecticut  
Anita T. Morzillo, University of Connecticut

**TITLE:** Stakeholder Knowledge Transfer for Roadside Forest Stressors

**TYPE OF SUBMISSION:** Poster Display

### **ABSTRACT:**

Multiple stressors (e.g., severe wind, forest pests) to roadside forests present challenges to vegetation and forest management objectives. As a result, stakeholders often cooperate with each other throughout the forest management processes to navigate such challenges. However, little is known about how the need to address multiple stressors affects stakeholder interactions and therefore management outcomes. Our objective is to understand how stakeholder interactions and decision-making about the roadside forest are affected by multiple forest stressors, with a focus on communication, cooperation, and knowledge exchange. Semi-structured interviews will be used to collect data from forest management stakeholders, including land managers, arborists, land trust employees, and landowners, to evaluate how stressors affect their approaches to roadside forest management and influence relationships among the forest management community. Interview topics will include: 1) roadside forest management objectives, 2) stressors to roadside vegetation, 3) decision-making processes and management challenges, and 4) changes in stakeholder interactions including mechanisms of communication, cooperation, and knowledge exchange. We are interested in examining sharing of knowledge as derived from both local and scientific sources. Participants also will be asked to describe stressors based on two criteria: overall level of concern and perceived urgency. We anticipate that relationships exist between roadside forest stressors and integration of approaches (e.g., increased knowledge sharing) to meet management objectives. Results will provide natural resource managers with a better understanding of how efforts to manage for multiple stressors influence stakeholder interactions, and therefore affect roadside management outcomes and long-term resilience of roadside forests.