

Rachel Wood Member Spotlight



Rachel Wood (she/her) is currently serving as the Best Management Practice (BMP) Verification Coordinator for the Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) at the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). After graduating from the Rubenstein School at the University of Vermont Rachel traveled to Maine and Oregon. In Maine she assisted in wetland surveys of salt marshes and rare plant searches. In Oregon she completed riparian vegetation surveys and looked at cattle impacted streams for the Bureau of Land Management before serving with ECO. This work on the ground surveying wetlands and riparian buffers has pushed her to pursue service in water quality. CWIP provides grants to organizations implementing water quality improvement projects around the state. These projects include riparian buffers, stormwater infrastructure, and shoreland restoration. Rachel helps verify that clean water projects implemented with state funds are built and properly maintained to ensure projects achieve the highest water quality benefit possible. Through data collection, organization, and looking forward to site visits in the spring, Rachel stays involved with many of their projects. Rachel is also an active member in communication efforts including collaborating on the implementation and continuation of the new DEC social media pages. A Vermont native, Rachel is passionate about her service to her home state and ensuring the residents of Vermont have access to safe and clean drinking water.