Using Living Snow Fence to Improve Snow and Ice Control and Vegetation along Highways – SPR Research Project C-06-09

PROJECT GOAL: Develop training and guidance to help Department designers and maintenance residencies effectively design/install living snow fence at a given site. See www.dot.ny.gov web site for information on living snow fence installations around the State.

WORK PRODUCTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
The following work is complete:
- Four “Train the Trainer” sessions in living snow fence design/installation: The first occurred in Region 3 in May 2009; the second and third in Region 5 in October 2009 and in May, 2010, fourth in Region 9 in May 2011.

The following work is underway:
- Literature review and analysis of existing practices in New York/nationwide for living snow fence. (Tabler Manual, information on “Snow Man”)
- Develop concise guidance for a living snow fence process, including information on snow movement, design principles, potential plant species and installation and maintenance of living snow fence.
- Installations of one more living snow fence as a training and evaluation opportunity.
- Develop before/after performance measures for a living snow fence site.
- Develop benefit-cost analysis method
- Develop a living snow fence website
- Analyze factors required for living snow fences to be effective in the Northeast

DURATION: 3 years (or 36 months)

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RESEARCH GROUP: State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY