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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County Announces Availability of Grant Funds for Ashokan Watershed Projects**

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County's Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program is accepting applications for the 2010 Mini Grant and Matching Grant Programs. Information and applications are available on the Ashokan Watershed SMP Website [www.ashokanstreams.org](http://www.ashokanstreams.org). Applications are accepted continuously, but are reviewed at quarterly advisory council meetings. The next Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2010 and any applications to be considered for that meeting would need to be received by March 22. The next round of applications will be reviewed in July 2010.

An information session is planned for March 9 from 5-7pm at the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program Office, 6375 Rt 28, Phoenicia, NY. Applications and information about the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program and the Action Plan are also available on-line at [www.ashokanstreams.org](http://www.ashokanstreams.org) or you can contact Elizabeth Higgins, Ashokan Watershed SMP Coordinator at (845) 688-3047 or by e-mail at [emh56@cornell.edu](mailto:emh56@cornell.edu).

The Mini Grants and Matching Grants are specifically for programs and projects in the Ashokan Watershed that help to implement Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Plan recommendations, or increase the knowledge and skills that municipal employees, elected officials, and watershed residents have in managing land and infrastructure that is either adjacent to, or that otherwise impacts streams in the watershed. Eligible activities include: education programs, speaker fees, funds for training and professional development, research and monitoring projects, aquatic and riparian habitat improvement, stream clean-ups, and other community activities and programs that increase and enhance public stream access. Mini Grants are for up to \$5000. Matching Grants are for up to \$100,000 or 25% of the project cost, whatever is less. The Matching Grants can be used to provide funds to enhance an existing project when the enhancement can be demonstrated to increase the project's benefit to the Ashokan Watershed.

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The funding for these grants has been provided by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection through its Stream Management Program. CCE Ulster County is administering a total of \$2 million in Stream Management Program Implementation Funds, of which \$100,000 has been earmarked for the Mini Grants and \$400,000 for the Matching Grants. The remaining funds will be used for stream restoration projects identified as priorities in the watershed, best management practice demonstrations and for cooperative research and monitoring projects. All funds for this program will be obligated by May 2012.

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*Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County (CCEUC) is a 501(c) 3 subordinate government agency of the State of New York under Article 5, 224(b) of the NYS County Laws organization that utilizes research based knowledge through their partnership with Cornell University. This information is disseminated through their on-going community programming in the areas of Agriculture, Horticulture, 4-H Youth Development, Family and Consumer Science and Environmental programs held throughout Ulster County.*