

**BERKSHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE OF SPORTSMEN**  
**PO BOX 653**  
**PITTSFIELD, MA 01202-0653**



October 10, 2006

NRD Proposal Public Comments  
30 Park Drive  
Topsham, ME 04086

NRD Fund Application #011

Dear Sir's

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Mark Jester I am a resident of Pittsfield Massachusetts. I am also the President of the Berkshire County league of Sportsmen (BCLS). The Berkshire County League represents 23 regional sportsmen's organizations and has over 3500 members. I am writing to you today in regards to the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife NRD Fund Proposal (#11)

We, (BCLS) are requesting your support of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Natural Resource Damage Fund Grant Application. The following is a quick summary of the items proposed for funding that the sportsmen of Berkshire County support.


**Resource mapping of coldwater resources** - This will entail producing maps of coldwater resources in the Housatonic watershed. These maps will highlight resources that are particularly vulnerable, including small trout streams. The information will be distributed to conservation commissions, planning groups, municipalities, conservation and advocacy groups and land protection entities. Providing this information will fill an important gap in existing data and will prove invaluable in assessing priorities and protecting resources. It is the BCLS understanding that the maps will be accompanied by specific recommendations and strategies for coldwater fisheries protection.

**Biology and movement of certain salmonoids** -- The second component will examine the biology and movement of certain salmonoids i.e. the brown trout, in the mainstem of the Housatonic River. This is an important recreational fishery that exists in a river which is marginal trout habitat. The DFW propose to track movements of these fish through radio telemetry to understand how they utilize habitats throughout the river. These results will greatly enhance the understanding of the fishery and have direct impacts on management and resource protection.

**Recreational fishing guides for the watershed** -- The final component will be production of recreational fishing guides for the watershed. Anglers and sportsmen have been negatively affected by resource damage to the river. A comprehensive recreational guide would be a great service to the sportsmen and general public, addressing a specific need which to this point does not exist. It will provide information of rivers, streams, lakes and ponds and the type of fishing opportunities available.

Funding of this proposal would be a benefit to many different components of the general public. We respectfully request your support for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's proposal.

Respectfully Submitted;



Mark P. Jester, President  
Berkshire County League of Sportsmen

C.c. wayne mccallum, george darey, andrew madden