



Housatonic River
Natural Resource Restoration
Massachusetts SubCouncil
*Round 1 Draft Restoration Plan and
Supplemental Environmental Assessment*



Public Information Meeting
July 9, 2007
Lenox Town Hall
Lenox, Massachusetts



Massachusetts SubCouncil, Housatonic River Natural Resource Trustees
100 Cambridge, 9th Floor Boston, Massachusetts 02114



What is the Draft RP/SEA?

- Plan that presents Trustees' proposed restoration projects for compensatory restoration of the Massachusetts portion of the Housatonic River.
- Formal NEPA documentation.
- 10 projects proposed for funding.
- \$4 million proposed disbursement.
- Subject to public comment.



Preferred Alternatives

- Blended Restoration Approach
 - Evaluation Criteria
 - Diversity and Magnitude of Potential Benefits
 - Available Funding
 - Public Comments



Aquatic Biological Resources and Habitat

Restoration Project No. 7 – *West Branch of the Housatonic River Revitalization Project*, City of Pittsfield

- Remove Mill Street Dam.
- Improve natural stream conditions.
- Reconnect river upstream of dam on West Branch to the Confluence with the East Branch of the Housatonic River.

Requested NRD Funding \$1,957,000

Proposed NRD Funding \$750,000



Aquatic Biological Resources and Habitat

Restoration Project No. 18 – *Rare Species Recovery on the Housatonic River*, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

- Identify and protect rare species.
- Identify and prioritize sites for restoration.
- Provide conservation planning materials.

Requested NRD Funding \$556,950

Proposed NRD Funding \$556,950



Wildlife Resources and Habitat

Restoration Project No. 2 – *Rising Pond Land Acquisition*,
Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Inc.

- Acquire and protect 161 acres of land adjacent to the Housatonic River.

Requested NRD Funding \$261,750

Proposed NRD Funding \$261,750



Wildlife Resources and Habitat

Restoration Project No. 15 – *Clapp Park to Wild Acres Greenway Project*, City of Pittsfield

- Acquire 2 parcels of land on Southwest Branch of Housatonic River for protection from development and contribute to the eventual formation of a public-use greenway.

Requested NRD Funding \$250,000

Proposed NRD Funding \$250,000



Wildlife Resources and Habitat

Restoration Project No. 19 – *Housatonic River Floodplain Forest Restoration Project*, Project Native

- Restore 6 acres of native habitat at Kampoosa Bog.
- Acquire conservation restrictions and perform habitat restoration on 75 acres of floodplain forest in Sheffield.
- Restore approximately 20 acres of farmland abutting Housatonic River to native floodplain forest habitat.

Requested NRD Funding \$522,456

Proposed NRD Funding \$522,456



Recreational Use

Restoration Project No. 1 – *Great Barrington Housatonic River Walk*, Great Barrington Land Conservancy

- Reclaim 2.63 acres of riparian area.
- Provide environmental education.
- Conduct compost tea soil amendment studies.

Requested NRD Funding \$133,308

Proposed NRD Funding \$133,308



Recreational Use

Restoration Project No. 8 – *Proposal to Provide Enhanced Public Access to the Housatonic River in Massachusetts*,
ESS Group, Inc.

- Evaluate 37 potential river access sites on the Housatonic River and construct 5 new access sites.

Requested NRD Funding \$460,000

Proposed NRD Funding \$415,000



Recreational Use

Restoration Project No. 16 – *Old Mill Trail*, Housatonic Valley Association

- Construct low-impact pedestrian trail adjacent to river between Dalton and Hinsdale.

Requested NRD Funding \$244,047

Proposed NRD Funding \$244,047



Environmental Education and Outreach

Restoration Project No. 3 – *Housatonic Environmental Literacy Program (HELP) for the River*, Massachusetts Audubon Society

- Provide a comprehensive river education experience to all students in the Housatonic watershed.
- Offer a free summer canoe program.

Requested NRD Funding \$874,842

Proposed NRD Funding \$631,410



Environmental Education and Outreach

Restoration Project No. 13 – *Berkshire Conservation Agent Program*, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

- Provide technical assistance, training, and education to municipal Conservation Commissions.

Requested NRD Funding \$248,555

Proposed NRD Funding \$235,079



Non-Selected Project Applications – Aquatic Biological Resources and Habitat

- Project Application No. 7 – *West Branch of the Housatonic River Revitalization Project – Greenway Restoration Plan Component*, City of Pittsfield (\$95,000)
- Project Application No. 9 – *Aquatic Habitat Restoration of the Housatonic River*, ENSR Corporation (\$1,308,980)
- Project Application No. 11 – *Housatonic Watershed Fisheries Assessment*, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (\$220,000)



Non-Selected Project Applications– Wildlife Resources and Habitat

- Project Application No. 10 – *Bartholomew's Cobble Restoration*, ENSR Corporation (\$18,700)



Non-Selected Project Applications– Recreational Use

- Project Application No. 5 – *Lee River Walk*, The Lee Land Trust (\$62,000)
- Project Application No. 6 – *Proposal for a Beaded Necklace Housatonic River Greenway*, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (\$665,000)
- Project Application No. 20 – *Rehabilitation of Forest Roads and Trails in the Housatonic River Watershed*, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (\$2,000,000)



Non-Selected Project Applications– Environmental Education and Outreach

- Project Application No. 4 – *Housatonic River Museum*, City of Pittsfield, (\$298,100)
- Project Application No. 12 – *The River Institute*, Housatonic River Initiative (\$217,880)
- Project Application No. 14 – *Less Toxic Landscapes: A Healthier Housatonic River*, Center for Ecological Technology (\$216,540)



Round 1 Timeline to Present

- 12/21/05 – Round 1 Request for Responses
- 02/07/06 – Applicant Conference
- 03/21/06 – Response Deadline
- 04/27/06 – Threshold Criteria Results
- 09/21/06 – Evaluations of Project Proposals
- 04/13/07 – Announcement of Trustee Preferred Alternatives
- 06/22/07 – Draft RP/SEA Released
- 07/09/07 – Presentation of Draft RP/SEA

Proposed (subject to change)

- 07/22/07 – Public Comment Deadline
- 08/22/07 – Final RP/SEA & FONSI Released
- 10/15/07 – Round 1 Disbursement Begins

Round 2 Proposed Timeline (subject to change)

- Fall 07 - RFR Release
- Feb 08 - RFR Deadline (shorten from 3 to 2 months?)
 - Retain Public Comment on Applications
- Spring 08 - Threshold Criteria & Evaluation Criteria (3 months)
 - Threshold Criteria
 - Post Trustee Evaluation Results
 - Retain Public Comment (2 weeks)
 - Eliminate Public Meeting
 - Evaluation Criteria
 - Reduce Review Team to: 1 Federal, 1 State, 1 Woodlot
 - Retain Public Meeting re Evaluation Results
- Summer 08 - Draft RP/SEA
 - Retain Public Comment
 - Retain Public Meeting
- Fall 08 - Final RP/SEA and FONSI Released
- Dec 08 – Disbursement Begins



Public Comment Period

Public Comment on Draft RP/SEA accepted until July 22, 2007.

Housatonic Draft RP/SEA
c/o Woodlot Alternatives, Inc.
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(Subject line: Housatonic Draft RP/SEA)

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