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203 West Park Street  
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July 26, 2006

NRD Restoration Proposals—Public Comment  
Woodlot Alternatives Inc.  
30 Park Dr.  
Topsham, ME 04086

To Whom It May Concern:

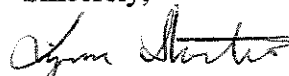
I am a teacher for the visually impaired in the Berkshires and recently ran a summer camp for blind students in Berkshire County. Part of our program consisted of a canoe trip on the Housatonic River, guided by the Mass Audubon Society. Our experience began a day before the actual trip with our guide, Gayle, coming to the program to show the group tactile maps, pelts and skulls of animals one would find along the river. She also spent time reviewing the PFDs and getting into and out of the canoe safely. The kids had a wonderful time with these activities and two specifically enjoyed the animal information.

The following day was our canoe trip. We were divided into groups of two where each student with visual impairments was with an adult or high school volunteer for a 3-hour canoe trip. The kids all learned to paddle properly and were taught the sounds of the river as well as the different vegetation along the way. One student is very interested in plants and animals and was able to learn even more information from Gayle as he asked many questions.

This experience was so important for these kids. Although the youngest was 7 she can now say she paddled a canoe and spent time on the river near her home. Another can say he learned more information about the ecology of the river. Yet another can say he just enjoyed the ride. Most importantly, they can all say they did it and did it well. Two of the guides commented on how well these students did in comparison to older groups of kids. What a boost for their self esteem.

I would strongly encourage support for any programs the Audubon Society provides. They are an asset to all school children in the Berkshires and the more they can offer, the more our students will know about the surrounding environment, how to protect it and enjoy it at the same time.

Sincerely,



Lynn Shortis  
Teacher for the Visually Impaired

I liked the canoeing trip

I liked the birds and the

baby turkey

Hope Daniels

age 7

Mass Audubon

Isabel Frayson  
age 6

I liked to go on a  
camp trip

on the



I liked doing the paddling.

I liked listening to the birds.

I liked the water.

I liked the turkeys.

Anthony Pansecki  
age 16

I enjoyed going canoeing a lot.

It is important to learn about

the river and the creatures in it because people

will know how to take care of them and

not pollute the river because the pollution would

kill them.

Keenan Provencher

age 10

Dear NRD Restoration Proposals—Public Comment,

As a strong supporter of the rivers, it is very important to keep them in good condition and under control. Not only do I like to go canoeing and rowing and do other various boating activities, which require a strong healthy river, but one of my favorite fish I like to eat, the salmon, go upstream to reproduce their babies every spring. If the rivers aren't clean, not only will the salmon live an unhealthy life, but consumers of the fish will be very dissatisfied by their meal, as it could make a lot of people very sick and cause them to die just from eating a little bit of salmon caviar or even a slice of smoked salmon pizza. I hope that allowing the salmon to have a clean and healthy home will promote all of us to take care of the rivers all over the world. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Sincerely,

Celeste Wheelock