



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

# Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Andrew Madden, *District Manager*

October 12, 2006

NRD Public Comment  
c/o Woodlot Alternatives  
30 Park Drive  
Topsham, ME 04086

**RE: Proposal #011 Housatonic Watershed Fisheries Assessment**

Dear Trustees:

The public comment period offers the opportunity to provide some clarification relative to our proposal for Housatonic NRD funds. These comments should not be considered a modification or addendum to the application, but rather a further explanation of certain proposal components.

One of the weaknesses identified by the independent review team was lack of community involvement and diverse partnerships. While the application failed to adequately address this issue, it is an important tenet of the proposal. All three major components of the proposed project (coldwater resource mapping, tracking movements of brown trout, and production of recreational fishing guides) have great potential for synergy with other projects and user groups. The coldwater resource mapping is consistent with efforts of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) and the National Fish Habitat Initiative. Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW), and specifically the primary investigators on this proposal, are active members of the EBTJV. We fully intend to share and incorporate data from this project with conservation efforts throughout brook trout range. Maps, threat assessments, and specific recommendations distributed at the local level should have direct impacts on fisheries conservation in the watershed. MDFW has strong working relationships and regular communications with numerous sportsmen's groups and conservation organizations. We intend to involve these groups in the proposed project at a number of stages.

In summary, we intend to make outreach, communication and community involvement a key component of the proposed project. MDFW has a proven track record of working with a diverse variety of conservation groups. If funded, this project will offer a tremendous opportunity to expand on that record and provide important information and recommendations for conservation and management of the fisheries resources in the Housatonic Watershed.

Sincerely,

Andrew Madden  
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

[www.masswildlife.org](http://www.masswildlife.org)