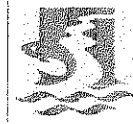


National Fish Habitat Board

c/o Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
444 N. Capitol Street, NW, Suite 725
Washington, DC 20001
202-624-7890

October 13, 2006

Submitted by fax 207 729-2715

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

RE: Proposal #011 Housatonic Watershed Fisheries Assessment

Dear Trustees:

As Chair of the National Fish Habitat Board (NFHB), I would like to express my support for Proposal #011 (Housatonic Fisheries Assessment) to be funded under the Housatonic Natural Resource Damage Funds. The NFHB is responsible for implementation of the National Fish Habitat Initiative *National Fish Habitat Action Plan, NFHAP*, (www.fishhabitat.org). The NFHAP was formally approved by the fifty state fish and wildlife agencies, and Secretaries of Commerce and Interior in April 2006.

The proposed watershed project #011 would provide a clear benefit to multiple user groups and promote conservation of vulnerable cold-water resources. It is my understanding all three components of the project (cold-water fisheries resource mapping, tracking movement of brown trout, and recreational fishing guides) would produce tangible products, consistent with fisheries conservation efforts in Massachusetts, and throughout the Northeast. Results are likely to have positive long term impacts on the fisheries resources of Housatonic Watershed.

The proposal also has a strong potential for synergy and integration with the efforts of conservation groups at the local, regional, and national level.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher Stee for John L. Cooper".

John L. Cooper
Chair

cc: NFHB Board