



Taconic Chapter established 1974

October 11, 2006

Natural Resources Damage Funds
30 Park Drive
Topsham, ME 04086

Dear Mr. Chadwell:

The Taconic Chapter of Trout Unlimited is please to support Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's application for the Natural Resource Damage Fund Grant. We respectfully request the approval; we trust you will find the application appropriate and complete.

The grant application will include the mapping of coldwater resources in watershed to the Housatonic River. We view this critical to the development of a comprehensive, long range protection and management plan for wild brook trout and its habitat in the Housatonic River watershed.

Mapping of coldwater resources in the Housatonic watershed will highlight resources, like small Brook Trout steams, that are particularly vulnerable development and adverse environmental impacts. These small streams are most likely to hold wild brook trout and most likely to be overlooked in terms of protection. These small streams provide critical nursery habitat, and provide clean and cold water flows to larger rivers and streams. These maps can be distributed to conservation commissions, planning groups, municipalities, conservation and advocacy groups and land protection entities.

Impacts to water quality and flow coupled from the rapid pace of development are necessary to understand so to ensure and promote the protection and preservation coldwater fisheries and their habitats. Mapping the coldwater resources of Housatonic watershed will serve to promote a greater community stewardship for the water resources.

The Taconic Chapter of Trout Unlimited respectfully requests your support and approval of the grant application.

Sincerely,

Paul W Knauth
President
Taconic Chapter of Trout Unlimited