

Evaluation Summary Memorandum

Application ID: 014

Project Name: Less Toxic Landscapes – A Healthier Housatonic River

Consensus-Based Score: 223

Method used to Reach Consensus: Average of individual scores.

Review Team Members: United States Fish and Wildlife Service (2) (USFWS), Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) Department (1), and Woodlot Alternatives, Inc. (1)

Criteria Discussed:

- **Criterion A3 (Sustainable Benefits):** One reviewer lowered score because it was opined that this project would require continued human involvement to assure continued benefits.
- **Criterion A4 (Magnitude of Ecological Benefits):** One reviewer scored this criterion as a 0 because although the reviewer is for the reduction of chemical input to the environment, the reviewer did not believe that implementation of the project would likely have a measurable impact on the watershed.
- **Criterion A7 (Enhancement of Remediation/Response Actions):** Two reviewers believed that this criterion strictly dealt with remediation of the river and thus scored the item as “not addressed”; the other two reviewers believed that this criterion encompassed “synergistic” benefits derived by various components within the project.
- **Criterion B1 (Technical/Technological Feasibility):** There was some concern among reviewers whether this was the best methodology for reaching chemical applicators and how broad the impact would be. Acceptance and implementation by the public is critical, but not guaranteed.
- **Criterion B4 (Measurable Results):** All reviewers were generally concerned that changes in chemical input to the River would not be directly measured and that monitoring the sale of chemicals might not provide the best measure of results.
- **Criterion C1 (Relationship of Expected Costs to Expected Benefits):** All reviewers were concerned that net benefits were not laid out clearly.
- **Criterion C5 (Coordination and Integration):** It was remarked that the applicant did not directly address this criterion, one reviewer lowered score for this reason, one reviewer raised score after observing that this topic was covered in other sections of the proposal narrative.
- **Criterion D3 (Community Involvement):** One reviewer did not feel that the community at large would be involved with the project; rather there may be small pockets of acceptance within the community.
- **Criterion D5 (Complementary with Community Goals):** One reviewer raised score after discussion of Housatonic River Restoration Plan and its concern about “preventing further damage” to the river from pesticides.

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A. RELEVANCE AND APPLICABILITY OF PROJECT					
1. Natural Recovery Period	9	15	9	9	10.5
2. Location of Project	15	15	15	15	15
3. Sustainable Benefits	9	9	9	9	9
4. Magnitude of Ecological Benefits	0	9	9	9	6.75
5. Human Health and Safety	10	10	10	10	10
6. Benefits to Multiple Restoration Categories	6	10	10	6	8
7. Enhancement of Remediation/Response Actions	3	3	0	0	1.5
Subtotal (max=85)	52	71	62	58	60.75

B. TECHNICAL MERIT					
1. Technical/Technological Feasibility	9	15	9	15	12
2. Technical Capacity of Applicant and Project Team	15	15	15	15	15
3. Potential for Adverse Environmental Impacts	10	10	10	10	10
4. Measurable Results	0	6	6	6	4.5
5. Contingency Actions	6	10	6	6	7
6. Administrative Capacity of Applicant and Project Team	5	5	5	5	5
Subtotal (max=65)	45	61	51	57	53.5

