

Appendix E. Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program – Biodiversity Information Regarding the Proposed ACEC Nomination Area

June 24, 2008

Eleanor Tillinghast
Green Berkshires, Inc.
P. O. Box 342
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Dear Ms. Tillinghast:

Thank you for contacting the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Natural Heritage has current, documented habitat of the following **31 species** protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) in the Housatonic River corridor you are considering proposing as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC):

Common Name	Scientific Name	MESA Status
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	E
Narrow-leaved Spring Beauty	<i>Claytonia virginica</i>	E
Hairy Wild Rye	<i>Elymus villosus</i>	E
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	E
White Adder's-mouth	<i>Malaxis monophyllos</i> var. <i>brachypoda</i>	E
Straight-leaved Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton strictifolius</i>	E
Zebra Clubtail	<i>Stylurus scudderii</i>	E (proposed for down-listing to SC)
Fen Cuckoo Flower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i> var. <i>palustris</i>	T
Foxtail Sedge	<i>Carex alopecoidea</i>	T
Gray's Sedge	<i>Carex grayi</i>	T
Intermediate Spike-sedge	<i>Eleocharis intermedia</i>	T
Dion Skipper	<i>Euphyes dion</i>	T
Riffle Snaketail	<i>Ophiogomphus carolus</i>	T
Eastern Veined White	<i>Pieris oleracea</i>	T

Common Name	Scientific Name	MESA Status
Bristly Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus pensylvanicus</i>	T (proposed for down-listing to SC)
Wapato	<i>Sagittaria cuneata</i>	T
Long-styled Sanicle	<i>Sanicula odorata</i>	T
Arrow Clubtail	<i>Stylurus spiniceps</i>	T
Crooked-stem Aster	<i>Symphotrichum prenanthoides</i>	T
Culver's-root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	T
Black Maple	<i>Acer nigrum</i>	SC
Triangle Floater	<i>Alasmidonta undulata</i>	SC
Jefferson Salamander	<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	SC
Hemlock Parsley	<i>Conioselinum chinense</i>	SC
Tule Bluet	<i>Enallagma carunculatum</i>	SC
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	SC
Wood Turtle	<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	SC
Four-toed Salamander	<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	SC (proposed for delisting)
American Clam Shrimp	<i>Limnadia lenticularis</i>	SC
Mossy-cup Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	SC
Water Shrew	<i>Sorex palustris</i>	SC

MESA Status: E – Endangered; T – Threatened; SC – Special Concern

There are two **Certified Vernal Pools** and 44 **Potential Vernal Pools** documented within the possible ACEC boundaries. An **Acidic Graminoid Fen** and a **Level Bog**, both uncommon natural community types across Massachusetts, have been documented from the area, as well.

Much of the Housatonic River corridor is **BioMap Core Habitat**; three separate such Core Habitats were delineated by NHESP in the possible ACEC boundary. BioMap Core Habitats are those areas of the state which, if protected, will conserve rare species and exemplary natural communities for the future. These particular Core Habitats were delineated for six exemplary natural communities, 22 rare plants, two rare butterflies, one rare damselfly, three rare birds, one rare turtle, and four rare salamanders.

Morewood Lake and part of the Housatonic River in Pittsfield have been delineated by NHESP as **Living Waters Core Habitats**. As with BioMap Core Habitats, Living Waters Core Habitats are the aquatic areas of the state – lakes, rivers, streams, etc. – which, if protected, will conserve rare species and exemplary natural communities for the future. These particular Core Habitats were delineated for an uncommon aquatic plant and a rare freshwater mussel.

The mainstem of the Housatonic, Sackett Brook, Ashley Brook, Yokun Brook, and Washington Mountain Brook are all designated by the Fisheries section of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife as **Coldwater Fisheries Resources**, because they support breeding populations of native Brook Trout.

In summary, this area contains an impressive diversity of species and natural communities of conservation concern.

Please do not hesitate to call Lynn Harper, NHESP Habitat Protection Specialist, at 508-389-6351 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,
Henry Woolsey, NHESP Program Manager
Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

cc: Leslie Luchonok, Lynn Harper

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