



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Wayne F. MacCallum, *Director*

Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture/
National Fish Habitat Action Plan
c/o Callie McMunigal
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Appalachian Partnership Coordination Office
400 E. Main St.
White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986

September 29, 2009

Dear EBTJV Grant Selection Committee:

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife supports the replacement of a perched culvert and the removal of three dams on Hamant Brook, a wild brook trout stream located in Sturbridge, MA. The Division recognizes habitat fragmentation and development through time as primary factors associated with degradation of fisheries and wildlife resources in Massachusetts. These same habitats are expected to experience further effects from climate change, and coldwater streams are no exception. In addition, this particular project, located within a conservation restriction holding owned by The Division, presents us with a unique opportunity to permanently protect land, restore aquatic habitat, and provide a recreational fishing opportunity for wild brook trout—an undertaking that is in alignment with our mandate to conserve, restore, protect, and manage fish and wildlife resources for use and sustainability. More specifically, The Division considers protection of coldwater streams a high priority as demonstrated by the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan and the Massachusetts Eastern Brook Trout Conservation Strategies. As such, our staff has invested significant time and effort in moving forward with this project, and a successful outcome will be a direct result of EBTJV awarding funding toward the completion of this project.

Very Truly Yours,

Wayne F. MacCallum, Director

Cc: Mark S. Tisa, Assistant Director of Fisheries

www.masswildlife.org

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