



MassWildlife

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Wayne F. MacCallum, *Director*

September 15, 2010

Callie McMunigal
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
Appalachian Partnership Coordination Office
400 E Main Street,
White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986

Dear Ms. McMunigal:

Please accept this letter of support for the proposed removal of the Thunder Brook Dam in Cheshire, Massachusetts.

The Hoosic River system is located within the resource area managed by this office. Like many Massachusetts waters, the Hoosic and its tributaries support native brook trout populations. However, the remnants of industry have left stream and river reaches fragmented in many places. Opportunities to remove barriers like the Thunder Brook Dam come along too rarely. Removal of this dam would provide clear benefit to the reproductive success and climate change adaptability of brook trout and other important coldwater species. The Hoosic System is an important recreational destination in the Berkshires. Removal of this dam on Thunder Brook will help strengthen recreational opportunities by improving the health of the aquatic habitat.

For all these reasons, the proposed removal of the Thunder Brook Dam is consistent with the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife goals to protect, restore, and manage the fisheries and wildlife resources of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

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