

Request for Proposals:

HOUSATONIC RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES RESTORATION PROJECT
CONNECTICUT SUBCOUNCIL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Part A: RESPONDER AND PROJECT SUMMARY FORM

Please read "RFP: Overview of Selection Process" before completing this form.

Part A must be completed using Submittal Form A.

Responses may be entered electronically using the Microsoft Word version of Part A of this form available on the Housatonic River Basin Natural Resource Restoration Project in Connecticut website (www.housatonicrestoration.org), saved and printed. Alternatively, the responder may print the form and complete it with black ink.

An Adobe Acrobat version of the entire form (Part A and Part B) is also available on the Housatonic River Basin Natural Resource Restoration Project in Connecticut website

Project Name Provide a brief working name.

Recreational Easements and Riparian Buffer zones for Housatonic Basin streams

Responder – if there is more than one party involved in the project, please provide the information for the primary or lead party.

Beth Brothers

Name

EP Program Specialist 2

Title

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Address

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Type of Entity

Check the box that best describes the primary respondent.

Private individual

Non-profit organization

Municipal government

State government

County government

Federal government

Tribal government

Corporation or Business

Academic Institution

Other (explain)

Project Implementation

Does the responder plan to be the Project Sponsor and respond to the Request for Supplemental Information (RSI) pending approval of this Proposal?

Yes No

If yes, please list any other project participants. Trout Unlimited, HFFA??

If the responder does **NOT** plan to be the Project Sponsor and does **NOT** intend to respond to the Request for Supplemental Information (RSI), is the responder interested in being a project participant and assisting a different Project Sponsor on this project?

Yes No

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Request for Proposals:

Restoration Priority Funding Category See Sec. 3 of "RFP: Overview of Selection Process" for category descriptions.

Primary Restoration Category. Check the restoration category that is the primary goal of the project.

Check one box.

- Aquatic Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
- Riparian & Floodplain Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
- Restoration/Enhancement of Recreational Uses of Natural Resources

Secondary Categories. Check all relevant boxes.

- Aquatic Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
- Riparian & Floodplain Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
- Restoration/Enhancement of Recreational Uses of Natural Resources

List Specific Injured Natural Resources and/or Impaired Natural Resource Services to Benefit from Project

- 1-Recreational Fishing Natural Resources Services of the Housatonic would be replaced or enhanced.
- 2-Other passive near bank recreational activities (hiking etc) would benefit from general bank access easements.
- 3-Conservation easements will facilitate stream and riparian restoration activities, and will enhance riparian and aquatic resources through the creation of greenways.

Project Location (if known) See directions and "RFP: Overview of Selection Process" for additional materials to provide (maps, aerial photographs)

Municipality/ies:

Bethlehem, Bridgeater, Brookfield, Canaan, Derby, Cornwall, Goshen, Kent, Litchfield, Monroe, New Fairfield, Newtown, North, Canaan, Oxford, Roxbury, Salsbury, Sherman Woodbury

Longitude for approximate center of project area:

Latitude for approximate center of project area:

Project Budget Estimate (if known)

Total Project Cost Estimate: \$

Housatonic River NRD Fund Estimate: \$

HOUSATONIC RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES RESTORATION PROJECT CONNECTICUT SUBCOUNCIL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

PART B: Project Narrative, Project Location, and Criteria Statement

Proposal- **Recreational Easements and Riparian Buffer zones for Housatonic Basin streams**

Item 1.- Project Narrative:

Primary Goals and Objectives: To enhance/replace or restore recreational opportunities for anglers and other outdoor recreationalist through acquisition of permanent access agreements and/or conservation easements. Enhance and facilitate opportunities for stream and riparian restoration work within the Housatonic Basin. Conserve riparian and floodplain wildlife by creation of continuous riparian corridors (Greenways) where possible.

Project Benefits: Anglers, who lost significant recreational opportunities due to PCB contamination, will gain the largest benefit. Public access to fishable waters throughout Connecticut has been disappearing in recent decades. The establishment of permanent fishing easements throughout the Housatonic River basin will provide long-term benefit to that segment of the public most affected by the loss of angling opportunities due to PCB contamination. In addition, conservation easements that create riparian buffer zones will help protect both aquatic and terrestrial habitat and may provide additional near-water recreational opportunities for other passive recreational groups such as hikers.

General tasks: This proposed three-year project will involve: (1) Screening of all streams and adjacent properties within the Housatonic River basin upstream of Derby Dam; (2) Identifying those properties best suited for the purchase of either permanent fishing easements or conservation easements; (3) negotiating and consummating the purchase of such agreements; and (4) the publication and distribution of a pamphlet providing information on the availability of fishing access within the Housatonic River watershed.

A property agent will need to be hired in order to implement this project. The initial task (screening process) will be to review information on all of the rivers and streams in the Housatonic River basin to identify and select the most beneficial areas for targeting easement acquisition efforts. This will require assessing existing access on the Housatonic River and its tributaries for quality, length and continuity of accessible sections. Stream sections within the project area will be screened based on: stream size and fishing quality (based on public comment and socioeconomic value as determined in past Inland Fisheries Division survey data). Additional information will be collected on stakeholder interest (public and Non Government Agencies), the connectivity of each stream segment to existing public access areas and the overall degree of fragmentation of access within each stream system. In addition, it will be necessary to determine how easement acquisitions will fit in with existing state and town planning. As such, it will be important for the property agent to network with towns and NGOs to maximize the value of properties/easements targeted for acquisition. Once the rating process is completed, streams or streams sections can be prioritized and primary target areas selected. The property agent will then compile ownership inventories of high priority stream sections, pursue contacts and undertake negotiations with the landowners to obtain fishing rights/recreation easements or if possible conservation easements for riparian buffer zones.

The total cost of this project will be \$1,650,000 with \$1.4 million needed from the Housatonic River NRD Fund. The proposed funding level will cover the costs of a durational property agent and the necessary survey, appraisal and title search work for a three-year period. It will also provide sufficient funding for the purchase of 20 miles of permanent stream/riparian easements. The DEP has \$100,000 in funds earmarked for purchase of permanent fishing easements that will be used on this project. In addition, approximately \$50,000 per year in administrative overhead will be covered using existing DEP (Land Acquisition and Inland Fisheries) salaries. In implementing this program and by using towns and or other NGOs as partners, there exists the potential to obtain additional funding from such sources as Federal Trail or Greenways funds, National Habitat Initiative or the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture.

During the course of the project all easement areas will be marked and surveyed, as required by the State Attorney General's Office. At the conclusion of the acquisition phase of the Project a booklet will be prepared on Fishing Access in the Housatonic Basin that will contain narratives and maps showing the location of all past easements and the newly acquired fishing easements.

Item 2. Project Location: All portions of the Housatonic River and its tributary rivers upstream of the Derby Dam



Proposed Project Area:
Housatonic River Basin Upstream of Derby Dam

Item 3.- Criteria Statements

1. Does the proposal contain the information identified by the CT SubCouncil as set in the "instructions for the Preparation and submission of Restoration Project Proposals?"

Yes, all required materials have been supplied.

2. Does the Proposed Project restore, rehabilitate, replace, and/or acquire natural resource services equivalent to those that were injured by the release of PCB's or other hazardous substances from the GE facility at Pittsfield, MA?

This project seeks to acquire fishing rights (a natural resource service) or obtain conservation/access easements that will replace lost natural resource service and habitat equivalent to resources injured by the release of PCB or other hazardous substances from the GE facility at Pittsfield, MA.

3. Is the Proposed Project, any portion of the Proposed Project, an action that is presently required under other federal, state, or local law, including, but not limited to, enforcement actions.

No portion of the Proposed Project is required under federal, state, or local law.

4. Is the Proposed Project inconsistent with any federal, state, or local law or policy?

No portion of the Proposed Project is inconsistent with any federal, state, or local law or policy.

5. Will the proposed project, or any portion of the proposed project, be inconsistent with any ongoing or anticipated remedial actions in the Housatonic River watershed?

No portion of the Proposed Project is expected to be inconsistent with any ongoing or anticipated remedial actions in the Housatonic River watershed.