



Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game

Division of Ecological Restoration

Invested in Nature and Community

*Beth Lambert, Director
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June 18, 2018

Jamie Fosburgh, NPS, Manager, Northeast Region Rivers Program
Lucy Wallace, Chair, NRWSR Study Committee
Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee
c/o Nashua River Watershed Association
592 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Dear Mr. Fosburgh and Ms. Wallace:

I write this letter of support in my role as Director of the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER). In this capacity I have the good fortune of being well acquainted with many of our Commonwealth's rivers and watersheds, including the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers. DER staff have participated on the Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee and have reviewed the Stewardship Plan. We find the document and recommendations to be on target with the Wild and Scenic goals of participating communities and organizations.

The "Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Stewardship Plan" includes many recommendations for action that DER supports, including removing obsolete dams (as we were recently able to do at the former Turner dam along the Nissitissit in Pepperell, MA), helping watershed groups take action to improve water quality, and working with municipalities to upgrade undersized culverts to improve habitat connectivity.

DER supports the Wild and Scenic designation being sought for the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers. These rivers and their watersheds offer strong credentials for eligibility and suitability, and the eleven towns have now confirmed their support via recent Town Meeting votes. We look forward to these rivers being added to the roster of Wild and Scenic Rivers in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

Beth Lambert, Director