

ENF

**Environmental
Notification Form**

<i>For Office Use Only</i> <i>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i>	
EOEA No.:	<u>12747</u>
MEPA Analyst:	<u>Arthur Pugsley</u>
Phone:	617-626- <u>1029</u>

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Weed It Now		
Street: Jug End Road		
Municipality: South Egremont	Watershed: Housatonic River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude: 42.150347	Longitude: 73.448737
Estimated commencement date: 8/1/02	Estimated completion date: 10/30/07	
Approximate cost: \$100,000	Status of project design: 100 %complete	
Proponent: The Nature Conservancy		
Street: 404 LeGeyt Road		
Municipality: Sheffield	State: MA	Zip Code: 01257
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Jessica Murray		
Firm/Agency: The Nature Conservancy	Street: 404 LeGeyt Road	
Municipality: Sheffield	State: MA	Zip Code: 01257
Phone: 413-229-0232 x228	Fax: 413-229-0239	E-mail: jmurray@tnc.org

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. 01433) No
- Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
- a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) Yes No
 - a Special Review Procedure? (see 301 CMR 11.09) Yes No
 - a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No
 - a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): NA

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify NEPA - NPS) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Order of Conditions, NEPA Categorical Exclusion

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- Land
- Water
- Energy
- ACEC

- Rare Species
- Wastewater
- Air
- Regulations

- Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands
- Transportation
- Solid & Hazardous Waste
- Historical & Archaeological Resources

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i>
Total site acreage	1118			
New acres of land altered		0		
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				<hr/> Special Use Permit <hr/> With DEM and DFW <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Gross square footage	N/A			
Number of housing units	N/A			
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A			
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day				
Parking spaces	N/A			
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A			
GPD water withdrawal	N/A			
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	N/A			
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A			

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

- Yes (Specify _____) No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

- Yes (Specify _____) No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

- Yes (Specify Priority Habitat/ Estimated Habitat _____) No

HISTORICAL / ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed

in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?
 Yes (Specify Guilder House) No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify _____) No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify Karner Brook) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative.

Within the Berkshire Taconic Plateau, one of the largest unfragmented forest blocks in lower New England blankets the Town of Mount Washington and the steep slopes of the Jug End Reservation, Race Brook falls, and Sages Ravine. This forested area has been designated through congressional appropriations and forest legacy funding as a high priority for natural resources conservation for Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York. Portions of this area also include two state-designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), the 14,000-acre Schenob Brook ACEC and the 7,000-acre Karner Brook ACEC. Within the 36,000 acres of core forest, extensive public and private investment in land preservation has already occurred, resulting in the conservation of approximately 16,000 acres or 45% of the land. Key conservation owners include the National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM), the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Town of Mt. Washington, and the Trust for Appalachian Trail Lands.

The 1,118-acre Jug End Reservation is located on the northern edge of this forest in the town of South Egremont, within the Karner Brook ACEC. The Jug End Reservation was acquired by DEM and DFW to protect its abundant natural resources. It abuts additional land owned by DEM and land owned by The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service, comprising a total of 2500 acres of protected land.

As in much of the rest of the nation, invasive non-native species comprise a critical threat to the conservation of the Jug End Reservation's natural resources. Invasive species such as garlic mustard, shrub honeysuckle, Oriental bittersweet, and Japanese barberry repress the regeneration of forest trees, change soil nutrient dynamics and reduce the richness of species in both wetland and forest habitats. Jug End Reservation has less than half of the total acreage infested with invasive species. This allows The Nature Conservancy in coordination with DEM and DFW the opportunity to control invasive species at this site and thus eliminating the seed source of invasive species and the pathways for invasion into the other protected areas. Although the WIN invasive species control project will cover all 1,118 acres, the immediate project will focus on 450 acres of severe infestations and newly established areas. Most of the treatment will occur in forested upland areas although a small percentage will occur within the 100-foot buffer to Fenton Brook. The work will take place in approximately 23 acres in the buffer area and is a limited project pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act Regulations (see attachment B). There will be no direct alteration to any wetlands resource areas, or any impacts to wetlands buffer areas. A Notice of Intent will be filed with the Egremont Conservation Commission.

Further details of the project are provided in the expanded Project Description, Attachment A.