



**Environmental
 Notification Form**

<i>For Office Use Only</i> <i>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i>	
EOEA No.:	<u>13048</u>
MEPA Analyst:	<u>Arthur Pogsley</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: Route 41, Sheffield; Jug End Road, South Egremont; Mt Washington Road, Mt. Washington		
Municipality: South Egremont, Sheffield and Mt Washington	Watershed: Housatonic River	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude: 42.150347 Longitude: 73.448737	
Estimated commencement date: 7/1/03	Estimated completion date: 10/30/07	
Approximate cost: \$75,000	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. 12747) No

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) 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 DEP) No

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

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

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> <hr/> Special Use Permit <hr/> With DEM and DFW <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Total site acreage	1193			
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				
Gross square footage	N/A			
Number of housing units	N/A			
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A			
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	NA			
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 _____) 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 and Schenob 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 four properties owned by Massachusetts DEM and DFW contain a substantial portion of this forest in the towns of South Egremont and Mt. Washington, within the Karner Brook ACEC and in the town of Sheffield, within the Schenob Brook ACEC. The Mt. Washington State Forest was acquired by DEM to protect its abundant natural resources. It abuts additional land owned by DEM and the National Park Service, comprising a total of 2500 acres of protected land. The DEM parcel that has the Appalachian Trail crossing Jug End Road also abuts National Park Service land, other state land and private protected land. Dolomite Ledges, owned by DFW, contains part of the forest and other natural resources. Racebrook Falls, a DEM land, contains parts of the forest block and abuts other protected land.

As in much of the rest of the nation, invasive non-native species comprise a critical threat to the conservation of the state land'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. The DEM Appalachian Trail property, the Mt Washington State Forest, Dolomite Ledges and Racebrook Fall State Park have less than a quarter of their total acreage infested with invasive species. This allows The Nature Conservancy, in coordination with DEM and DFW, the opportunity to control invasive species at these sites 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 1,193 acres, the immediate project will focus on 185 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 Karner Brook. The work will take place in 9.87 acres of 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 Mt Washington, Sheffield and Egremont Conservation Commissions.

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