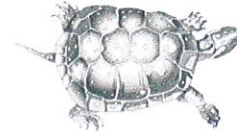


GROTON TURTLE CONSERVATION



grotonturtles.org

grotonturtles@gmail.com

June 19, 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:

The mission of **Groton Turtle Conservation** is to reduce the high injury and mortality rate of Groton's turtles on roads, to augment nesting habitat, and to educate the public about the many extraordinary attributes of turtles. While our initial focus has been in Groton, we have many involved participants from the surrounding towns as well. See www.grotonturtles.org.

The "Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan" does an exemplary job of outlining the outstandingly remarkable resource values in our area associated with Biological Diversity. The state-listed Blanding's turtle is among the species called out for attention, and our region is additionally noteworthy for having an exceptionally diverse assemblage of turtle species.

Groton Turtle Conservation sees many objectives and recommended actions in the "Stewardship Plan" that we would be very pleased to partner on with the Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee. An obvious example is in the Biological Diversity Section on page 59 regarding the Goal to "Protect state-listed Blanding's turtles", the Objective "Protect existing turtle populations and help expand populations for the future", and all eight of the recommended, voluntary actions listed under that.

We encourage Congress to designate the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers as Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers, and look forward to working with Study Committee as it transitions to a Stewardship Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darcy Donald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

Darcy Donald