



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
73 Weir Hill Road  
Sudbury, MA 01776-1420

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 serve as the Acting Refuge Manager for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Before I took this position my predecessor Libby Herland served on the Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee, so I am familiar with the Study Committee's activities and I have reviewed the commendable Stewardship Plan as well.

The Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is featured prominently in the Plan as well it ought to. The Nashua River flows through eight miles of our refuge; it's 1,667 acres could be considered the core of the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Study Area. It is worth noting that the ONWR has features of all three of the Outstandingly Remarkable Resource Values (ORRV) that comprise the eligibility aspect of the designation. We have rare species (biological diversity ORRV), riparian trails and canoe access (recreational ORRV), and several noteworthy historical and cultural ORRVs as well.

Indeed, for many years the Oxbow NWR has partnered on a variety of projects with the nonprofits and agencies involved in the Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study, and I foresee this continuing in the years to come. A collaborative approach is what will allow for maximum implementation of the voluntary recommendations in the Stewardship Plan. We look forward to continuing our involvement in the project while designation is pursued and thereafter.

Sincerely,

Tom Eagle