

For release
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For further information, contact
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Wildlife habitat restoration plan completed

Public invited to comment

The public may comment on a plan to restore wildlife habitat injured by contaminants from the PSC Resources Superfund Site, located in south-central Massachusetts in the town of Palmer according to Andrew Major of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northeast Region. Biologists from the Service and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts developed the plan.

The plan is available for review at the Palmer Public Library, 1455 North Main Street or online at: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/newenglandfieldoffice/>

Written comments on the plan may be submitted until May 5 to:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301

MORE

Restoration/2

Hazardous waste disposed at the site included volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), lead and zinc, reducing its value for wildlife. A variety of migratory birds use the area, including waterfowl (mallard and wood duck), wading birds (great blue heron, green-backed heron) and passerines (Northern flicker, tufted titmouse, common yellowthroat).

In a settlement with the responsible parties, the Service and the Commonwealth recovered funds to compensate for impacts to wildlife. As of February, \$237,500 is available for restoration activities. Alternatives for habitat restoration and protection are described in the plan. Based on an evaluation of the various restoration alternatives, the preferred alternative is acquisition of a conservation easement on a property in Palmer and restoration of riparian habitat in nearby Monson. This alternative provides an opportunity to protect 117 acres abutting the Ware River in Palmer and to restore approximately one-mile of Chicopee Brook in Monson.

For further information or a paper copy of the document, please contact Andrew Major at the above address or call (603) 223-2541.

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