

The BEAT News!

"because an informed and engaged public is the environment's best defense"

September 1, 2021

Hi Friend ,

Do you know about the dumping in Pittsfield?

Important Notice: There is news about the appeal of the Rest of River Draft Revised 2020 Permit for remediation of the Housatonic River and floodplain and the proposed lined landfill (dump) in Lee.

On **Thursday, September 2nd** there will be an Oral Argument before the Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) regarding the GE-Pittsfield Housatonic Site. The hearing is scheduled from **1:30-3:30pm** and can be viewed by the public via **Zoom**.

Here is a link to the EAB site with updated information on the hearing:

https://yosemite.epa.gov/oa/EAB_Web_Docket.nsf/bedc36de03d0b1da8525705a005f989c/f0601c4771864e618525872d00540f37!OpenDocument

Specific details on how to access the virtual hearing are still to come. Instructions should be posted on the EAB's website.

I hope you can join us at the hearing.

Sarit - Education and Outreach Coordinator

Mosquito Control Task Force

Participation in the legislative policy process now, will give all the opportunity to significantly influence the direction of mosquito control in this state

The 2020 Act to Mitigate Arbovirus in the Commonwealth created the [Mosquito Control Task Force](#), charged with commissioning a study to complete a [comprehensive evaluation of the Commonwealth's mosquito control process](#), and using that report as a basis, bringing recommendations to the Legislature by the end of this year. **Task Force recommendations will guide mosquito control legislative policy beginning 2023.**

This report is over 300 pages - of note, on pp. 286-287, the annual estimated WNV number of deaths in MA with no mosquito control of any kind is two, vs. zero using maximum mosquito control. The estimated EEE number of deaths with no mosquito control is four, vs. one person using maximum mosquito control.

The task force has invited public participation. They announced that the public **comments submitted before 9/2/21** will be incorporated into an integrated report which will summarize the Eastern Research Group (ERG) notes and the public comments. Be an integral part and make your position on mosquito control in the state heard while the policy is being formed.

The Task Force has a [public comments page HERE](#)
Questions? Contact us at team@thebeatnews.org

In The News



credit: thomas skala (left), tom luongo (right)

Soaring towards success: 2021 peregrine falcon conservation in Massachusetts

MassWildlife | Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

This year, 2021 marks the 35th year that wild peregrine falcons have successfully nested here in Massachusetts since their reintroduction. Known for their dive speeds of over 240 miles per hour, these charismatic raptors fell victim to the effects of DDT and related pesticides in the late 1940s. Accumulation of DDT caused falcons and other birds to lay thin-shelled eggs that broke under the weight of incubation. By 1955, there was only one nesting pair remaining in Massachusetts and by 1966, falcons had completely disappeared from the eastern U.S. Restoration efforts began in 1972, coinciding with the ban of DDT. After a few unsuccessful releases of young falcons in the late 1970s, young falcons released in downtown Boston resulted in the first modern Massachusetts nest in 1987. MassWildlife biologists now estimate there are nearly 50 territorial pairs in the state. At least 920 wild-hatched chicks have fledged (flown) from nests in the state since restoration efforts began. [Read More](#)

State money earmarked for Appalachian Trail in Tyringham, Beartown State Forest in Monterey

The Berkshire Eagle

The [Appalachian Trail Conservancy](#), a national organization that manages the entire Appalachian Trail, has received \$440,865 in state money to protect a segment of the trail in and around Beartown State Forest. The money from the Baker-Polito administration's Landscape Partnership and Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program is scheduled for the Tyringham Shaker Farm and Donald properties. The project is intended to protect wildlife habitat, add scenic views to the Appalachian Trail and expand Beartown State Forest in Monterey, through which the Massachusetts section of the trail passes. [Read More](#)

Tully Trail agreement celebrated

MassWildlife | Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

Representatives from the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), MassWildlife, legislators, North Quabbin Trails Association, and other Tully Trail conservation partners gathered on August 26 at the Tully Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA) to mark the signing of a Trail License Agreement between MassWildlife and the North Quabbin Trails Association (NQTA). Under the terms of the approved agreement, NQTA may conduct trail maintenance activities on six miles of trail segments of the 22-mile Tully Trail. These segments pass through MassWildlife's Tully Mountain WMA and Tully Mountain Wildlife Conservation Easement in Orange and Fish Brook WMA in Royalston. [Read More](#)



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Community Calendar**



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**The fight against fossil fuels is here!
SUBSCRIBE HERE for the No Fracked Gas in Mass newsletter**

More articles on climate and energy in the [Weekly News Check-In](#)

Environmental Monitor

August 25, 2021

The Environmental Monitor provides information on projects under review by the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office, recent MEPA decisions of the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, and public notices from environmental agencies.

Berkshire Index:

- **Savoy** - [FHMS Broadband Antenna Array on Borden Mountain](#) - **ENF** - comments due 9/14/21

Pioneer Valley Index

- **Charlemont** - [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Ecological Restoration Project](#) - **Rice Brook habitat enhancement** - click on link, then click on attachments at the top fo the page - posted 8/25/21
- **Westfield** - [West Parish Filters Clearwell and Backwash Pumping Station Project](#) - **ENF** - comments due 8/12/21
- **Ludlow** - [Stony Brook Solar Project](#) - **ENF Certificate** - Does not require an Environmental Impact Report - issued 8/9/21

Statewide Index

- [Notice of Federal Consistency Review - EPA proposes to reissue Draft NPDES Permit 2022 Construction General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities](#) - (click on this link, then click on attachments) - posted 8/25/21
- **DFW** - [Notice of Release of the 15th Edition of the Natural Heritage Atlas](#) (click on this link, then click on attachments) - posted 8/11/21

**We couldn't do our work without you.
Thank you for helping protect the environment!
~Support our programs & our future today~**

Public Notices

Public Notices listed here are from a variety of sources, from town conservation commissions and select boards to state and federal agencies. These listings are for Berkshire, Hampshire, Hampden, and Franklin counties. Listings are only posted if they are environmental in nature. You can find all public notices for Massachusetts [here](#).

[BEAT Public Notices PAGE](#)



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