

Relicensing Study 3.6.4

ASSESSMENT OF DAY USE AND OVERNIGHT FACILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH NON- MOTORIZED BOATS

Initial Study Report Summary

Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (No. 2485)
and Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (No. 1889)

Prepared for:



Prepared by:



SEPTEMBER 2014

1.1 Study Summary and Consultation Record to Date

The National Park Service (NPS), Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), Vermont River Conservancy (VRC), Friends of the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail (FCRP), New England Flow (NE FLOW), American Whitewater (AWWA), and Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC) requested a study of project facilities to support multiple-day self-powered boating trips on that section of the Connecticut River extending through the Project boundaries of the Turners Falls and Northfield Mountain Projects. FirstLight developed a study plan to assess: existing overnight and access facilities; the need for additional and future facilities; an alternate walkable canoe portages; spacing of facilities; and the consistency between river use and the season of facility operations. The study plan was approved with modifications by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on September 13, 2013.

FirstLight attended a FCRP meeting on July 17, 2013 in Hadley MA. Trust for Public Land (TPL), AMC, VRC, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (MADCR) and CRWC were also in attendance. At the meeting, TPL exhibited a map of the MA-CT river section showing existing and potential access and recreation sites developed from a 2012 inventory conducted by the FCRP. In a post-meeting discussion, FirstLight asked TPL for their data layers from the 2012 inventory for use when conducting the field component of this study. TPL indicated a willingness to provide the information.

FirstLight made follow up contact with TPL for the data on several occasions by e-mail (8-22-13 and 3-3-14- see [Appendix A](#) for correspondence log) and by telephone. FirstLight contacted the FCRP by e-mail on June 20, 2014 regarding access to the data, and received the GIS shapefiles from the 2012 inventory on July 10, 2014.

1.2 Study Progress Summary

Task 1: Literature Review

FirstLight has conducted an internet search regarding information on the Connecticut River Trail and has reviewed the AMC "River Guide/Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island" 4th Edition (2006), and the "Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail MA-CT Expansion Feasibility Study" prepared by the VRC (February 8, 2013) for information regarding facilities, access and use of the Connecticut River through the Projects' areas.

Task 2: Field Work

Field work was scheduled to commence on July 29, 2014; however, high water conditions due to severe thunderstorms and upstream hydro operations prevented field work from being conducted by boat. Pertinent stakeholders (NPS, AMC, CRWC, VRC, FCRP, MADCR) were notified on August 20, 2014 and August 21, 2014 of when field work would be conducted and were invited to participate. Follow up emails to those interested in participating in the field work were sent on August 22 – 27 confirming arrangements. Field work was completed on August 28-29, 2014. Representatives from AMC, CWRC, and the Northfield Open Space Committee participated in the field work on one or both days. Prior to conducting the field investigation, available municipal property records were reviewed to determine general (FirstLight, private, public) land ownership adjacent to the study area. Field work included boating the shorelines of the study area and ground verifying the location of existing and potential use and access sites, including those identified in the "MA-CT Expansion Feasibility Study", to assess the adequacy of existing sites and the feasibility of developing potential sites. Areas where potential canoe portage trails may be beneficial to paddlers were also investigated.

The intent of the field work was to assess existing and potential access and facilities associated with non-motorized boating.

Task 3: Report Preparation

A report will be completed in the 1st quarter of 2015.

1.3 Variances from Study Plan and Schedule

There are no variances from the FERC-approved study plan.

1.4 Remaining Activities

Remaining activities for this study include additional consultation with stakeholders to identify additional literature for review and possible locations for future carry-in facilities, field data review and analysis, and report writing.

Appendix A

Consultation Record

Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.

From: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2014 2:21 PM
To: 'clem.clay@tpl.org'
Subject: RE: CT River Paddlers Trail

Hi Clem,

I'm just following up to our earlier discussions regarding access to TPL's data used to develop the CT River Paddlers Trail map. Though we probably will not be in the field until mid-summer on this study component, we have started preparing for the field season and are developing schedules and getting some of the up front leg work done as hopefully spring and summer will soon be upon us.

Your information would be useful and helpful not only for our field work component, but would also provide a common basis for future discussions regarding the water trail. Would you please let me know if TPL is still willing to provide it's data layers to us. If so, it would be great if we had your information by the end of March.

I certainly appreciate your assistance and cooperation. Please let me know if you have any questions or issues.

Hope all is well.

Bud

A.E. Newell III
Environmental Specialist



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From: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2013 9:54 AM
To: 'Clem Clay'
Subject: RE: CT River Paddlers Trail

Hi Clem,

There is no big rush on getting the data, so whenever it is convenient for you will work for me. Our GIS person says shapefiles would be great, and as you noted, Noah's points/attributes and the parcel data are probably the most important layers. I have passed your note on MassGIS to our people so we can go in and see what is available there.

You will certainly see the results of our work as it will be included as part of the FERC license application for the projects. The actual data will belong to FirstLight and I will check with them on making the data available to you – I don't expect it will be a problem. At this point, we do not plan on being in the field for this study until sometime next

summer, but I will keep you posted. As with developing the study plans, the study results and license application will also be subject to review and comment by interested parties.

I recall from the July meeting that there was some discussion on developing campsites on state lands. Obviously with a bunch of interested parties involved in this, it's important to coordinate efforts. Norm Sims, representing AMC and AW, has been very active in the licensing meetings and discussions and has placed a lot of emphasis on the development of the water trail in Mass. I've worked with Norm on other projects and studies and we have always have a good working relationship, and I expect this will carry over into this project as well.

Thanks again for your assistance.

Bud

From: Clem Clay [<mailto:Clem.Clay@tpl.org>]
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2013 5:02 PM
To: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Subject: Re: CT River Paddlers Trail

Hi Bud,

Thanks for getting in touch. It was good to meet you in July and I'd be happy to work with you on this. I would also love to see the results of your work, if possible. Probably the two main items of interest are Noah's GPS points with attributes, and the parcel data for the towns. Would you want those as shapefiles? I am not bad with GIS for my own use but do not pretend to be an expert at packaging data for others to use, so please bear with me. Also, next week is a bit crazy, but I should have time on Wednesday to work on it. I think your best bet on conserved lands is to use what MassGIS offers, since they update it regularly and serve it up in various service formats, potentially making it easier to keep your work current. However, I can walk you through the way I interpret some of the attributes of that data; for example, permanently conserved farmland along the river is not a great place to try to set up a campsite or access point because the easement may well prevent making public access permanent.

You should also know that there are continuing discussions about using existing state lands to establish some campsites, and there will be a need to address both funding for site development and stewardship, and the optimal way to manage these sites as part of an overall system. It would seem advisable to coordinate that discussion with the work you and others are doing in hopes that we each contribute to one another's successes rather than generating redundant outcomes.

Let me know any more detail about what format you want data in, and I will try to get to it ASAP. And please let me know whether you will be at liberty to share any of your research and results.

Many thanks,
Clem

Arthur (Bud) E." <anewell@trcsolutions.com> 8/22/2013 9:12 AM >>>
Hi Clem,

We met at the Paddlers Trail meeting in Hadley last month. I am one of the consultants working for FirstLight on the recreation studies for the Turner Falls and Northfield Mountain Projects. After the meeting, you and I had talked about possibility of TRC getting a copy of the data TPL collected and developed for the Ct River Paddlers Trail map you had at the meeting. Our staff conducted an inventory of formal Project recreation facilities, as well as obvious informal recreation access and sites from Vernon Falls Dam to the Poplar St put-in near the rail trail bridge in Montague last year. As part of the re-licensing studies for the Turner Falls Project, we will be conducting a study aimed specifically at assessing day use and overnight facilities associated with non-motorized boating on the section of the river from Vernon Falls Dam to Sunderland Bridge. As currently proposed (pending FERC approval) this study would determine if: an alternate walkable canoe portage trail (Turner Falls) is feasible; the need for and possible locations for future carry-in boat facilities (particularly at Turners Falls Dam, Station #1, Cabot Station, and the

Deerfield River Confluence) and overnight facilities; current facilities are adequately spaced for non-motorized boating day use trips; and, what, if any, improvements are necessary at existing facilities to meet current and near future use particularly at put-in and take-out facilities.

We have reviewed the Vermont River Conservancy report on the trail expansion into Mass and Ct and found it very informative and useful. The data collected during Noah's field efforts as well as your background data (parcel, conserved/state/federal lands, etc.) would be very useful to us to compare with the data we have assembled and to make sure we look at sites (particularly potential sites) identified by Noah when we conduct additional field work next year for this specific study.

I would certainly appreciate getting your data if this is something you are still willing to share. Depending on file size, you can try e-mailing it to me (we sometimes have trouble receiving anything over 10 MB in size) or mail it to me on disk at the address below.

Thanks, let me know if you have any questions.

Bud Newell

A.E. Newell III
Environmental Specialist



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Clem Clay
Connecticut River Program Director
The Trust for Public Land
26 South Prospect St., #4
Amherst, MA 01002
413-253-6686
413-253-6682 fax
www.tpl.org/ctriver

Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.

From: Noah Pollock <noah.pollock@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2014 11:53 AM
To: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Subject: Re: Ct. River Paddlers Trail data
Attachments: CRPT_Campsite_Assessment.xls

Hi Bud,

I was just thinking about that request! Thanks for the follow-up.

See attached [shapefiles](#) with potential campsites, existing access points, portage trails, etc. There are some notes in the attribute table.

I've compressed the [MA open space](#) layer as well. I do not have the individual parcel data Clem had although I believe it is available online. I've also attached a spreadsheet with some data as well. And here are all of [Clem's maps](#) - as pdfs...

Happy to chat about any specifics. I'll be in the area late July as well and could potentially meet up. In particular, I'd be happy to help with the Turner's Falls portage issues, or re-visit some of the most appealing potential campsites identified in the assessment.

Noah

On Thu, Jul 10, 2014 at 9:32 AM, Newell, Arthur (Bud) E. <anewell@trcsolutions.com> wrote:

Hi Noah,

Just flowing up to our earlier e-mails regarding the shapefiles from your report on the CT River Trail in Massachusetts. I just noticed in my earlier e-mail that I indicated we would be doing the field work next year (I think this was a paste and cut from my initial e-mail to Clem). We are actually looking at getting in the field in late July/early August, so I am hoping I can possibly get the data within the next couple of weeks, depending on your schedule.

Hope you are enjoying your time in the field with your various projects. It certainly has been good weather for working near and on the water.

I appreciate your help.

Bud

From: Noah Pollock [mailto:noah.pollock@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2014 10:29 PM
To: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Subject: Re: Ct. River Paddlers Trail data

Hi Bud,

Thanks for reaching out!

First, unfortunately Clem's position was eliminated at TPL, so that may explain why he hasn't been in touch.

Yes, I'm happy to get you any data you need for your research. For starters, here is a link with [pdf maps](#) developed throughout MA. I don't have access to the digital versions of the parcel data, unfortunately, but I do think this data is available on the [MA GIS data clearinghouse](#).

I can get you shapefiles with some of the data points (access points, potential campsites, etc) as well if you'd like. I'll be in the field all week - so it wouldn't be until next Monday, however.

Thanks,

Noah

On Fri, Jun 20, 2014 at 10:37 AM, Newell, Arthur (Bud) E. <anewell@trcsolutions.com> wrote:

Hi Noah,

Following up to a voicemail I left you a few minutes ago.

We met at the Paddlers Trail meeting in Hadley last July. I am one of the consultants working for FirstLight on the recreation studies for the Turner Falls and Northfield Mountain Projects. At the meeting, I had talked to Clem Clay (TPL) about possibility of TRC getting a copy of the data you and TPL collected and developed for the Ct River Paddlers Trail map you had at the meeting. Clem indicated this would not be a problem, but I have not received it yet after several e-mails and telephone calls. As part of the re-licensing studies for the Turner Falls Project, we will be conducting a study aimed specifically at assessing day use and overnight facilities associated with non-motorized boating on the section of the river from Vernon Falls Dam to Sunderland Bridge. As proposed this study would determine if: an alternate walkable canoe portage trail (Turner Falls) is feasible; the need for and possible locations for future carry-in boat facilities (particularly at Turners Falls Dam, Station #1, Cabot Station, and the Deerfield River Confluence) and overnight facilities; current facilities are adequately spaced for non-motorized boating day use trips; and, what, if any, improvements are necessary at existing facilities to meet current and near future use particularly at put-in and take-out facilities.

We have reviewed the Vermont River Conservancy report on the trail expansion into Mass and Ct and found it very informative and useful. The data collected during your field efforts as well as your background data (parcel, conserved/state/federal lands, etc.) would be very useful to us to compare with the data we have assembled and to make sure we look at sites (particularly potential sites) identified by Noah when we conduct additional field work next year for this specific study.

I am wondering if you may be able to provide the data instead. I will continue to pester Clem as well as we are looking at doing our field work later this summer.

Thanks, and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Bud Newell

A.E. Newell III
Environmental Specialist



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Noah Pollock

[\(802\) 540-0319](tel:(802)540-0319)

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Noah Pollock

[\(802\) 540-0319](tel:(802)540-0319)

Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.

From: Norman Sims <normansims1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 3:18 PM
To: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Subject: Re: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Bud,

Thanks for the note. I will be out of town on Aug. 28-29, so I cannot participate.

Norm Sims

On Wed, Aug 20, 2014 at 8:39 AM, Newell, Arthur (Bud) E. <anewell@trcsolutions.com> wrote:

To Interested Stakeholders,

TRC has scheduled the field study component for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats, for August 28th and 29th, 2014. Pursuant to FERC's Study Plan Determination Letter of September 13, 2013, you are invited to participate in the field study on one or both days. The field evaluation will be done by boat and due to the extent of shoreline to be assessed, we are asking you to commit to spending the full day in the field with us instead of having to coordinate pick-up and drop-off times and locations for individuals over the course of the day. The field days may be long (in excess of 8 hours).

We will depart from the Riverview Picnic Area off Route 63, just north of the Northfield Mountain Visitors Center at 7:00 a.m. on August 28th and plan to boat and assess the entire impoundment on that day. The river segment from Turners Falls Dam to Sunderland Bridge will be evaluated on August 29th by boat (to the extent possible) and vehicle/foot. We will depart from the Sunderland Bridge boat launch area on river left. I will notify you of the start time from Sunderland Bridge late in the day on the 28th.

If you are going to participate on either or both days, please e-mail or call me by August 25th with the dates that you plan to attend. We can only take one person from each organization due to boat capacity. You will be responsible for providing any personal gear, including PFD's, boots/water shoes, etc. as well as food and drinks. A brief safety tailboard will be held prior to departure on each day to review on-water safety, swimming abilities, special needs, PFDs for each person, and communications in the event of an emergency. Dates may be subject to rescheduling based on impoundment and river conditions and flows.

I will keep those that RSVP advised on the field work and schedule as we get closer to the dates.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thanks.

Bud

A.E. Newell III
Environmental Specialist



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Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.

From: Jahnige, Paul (DCR) <paul.jahnige@state.ma.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2014 2:41 PM
To: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Subject: RE: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thanks Bud,

Please count on me for the 29th, I'll await details. Paul

Paul Jahnige
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Director, Greenways and Trails Program
136 Damon Road, Northampton, MA 01060
413-586-8706 ext. 20
paul.jahnige@state.ma.us

From: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E. [mailto:anewell@trcsolutions.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2014 2:39 PM
To: Jahnige, Paul (DCR)
Cc: Howard, John (John.Howard@gdfsuezna.com); Bill Gabriel (william.gabriel@gdfsuezna.com); Mark Wamser (mwamser@gomezandsullivan.com); Verville, Sarah; Bley, Wendy; Seiders, Heather; Mike Hoover (mhoover@gomezandsullivan.com)
Subject: FW: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

Hi Paul,

Thanks for contacting me regarding the field work scheduled for next week. While the September 13, 2013 FERC Study Plan Determination Letter for Study 3.6.4 specifically identifies certain stakeholders to include in consultation, you are clearly a pertinent stakeholder and should be included in consultation. If your schedule changes for the 28th, please let me know. In the meantime, there is room in the boat if you decide to join us on the 29th. I will stay in touch with you as we work out the field trip details for the 29th.

Bud

From: Jahnige, Paul (DCR) [mailto:paul.jahnige@state.ma.us]
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2014 2:02 PM
To: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Cc: 'John.Howard@gdfsuezna.com'; 'Kristen Sykes'
Subject: FW: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

Dear Bud,

I have been in the First Light relicensing process, and recreational meetings, and also the CT River Paddlers Trail effort, unfortunately, I do not believe I got your announcement below about next week's assessment days. Please make sure that I am on your list for such efforts.

I am unfortunately, now not available of AUG 28, but would like to try to attend Aug 29.

Thank you.

Paul Jahnige
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Director, Greenways and Trails Program
136 Damon Road, Northampton, MA 01060
413-586-8706 ext. 20
paul.jahnige@state.ma.us

From: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E. [<mailto:anewell@trcsolutions.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 8:39 AM

To: Norman Sims (normansims1@gmail.com); 'adonlon@ctriver.org'; 'noah.pollock@gmail.com'; 'kevin_mendik@nps.gov' (kevin_mendik@nps.gov); ssyz@vermontriverconservancy.org

Cc: Howard, John (John.Howard@gdfsuezna.com); Bill Gabriel (william.gabriel@gdfsuezna.com); Mark Wamser (mwamser@gomezandsullivan.com); Verville, Sarah; Mike Hoover (mhoover@gomezandsullivan.com); Seiders, Heather; 'Lana Khitrik' (lkhitrik@gomezandsullivan.com)

Subject: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

To Interested Stakeholders,

TRC has scheduled the field study component for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats, for August 28th and 29th, 2014. Pursuant to FERC's Study Plan Determination Letter of September 13, 2013, you are invited to participate in the field study on one or both days. The field evaluation will be done by boat and due to the extent of shoreline to be assessed, we are asking you to commit to spending the full day in the field with us instead of having to coordinate pick-up and drop-off times and locations for individuals over the course of the day. The field days may be long (in excess of 8 hours).

We will depart from the Riverview Picnic Area off Route 63, just north of the Northfield Mountain Visitors Center at 7:00 a.m. on August 28th and plan to boat and assess the entire impoundment on that day. The river segment from Turners Falls Dam to Sunderland Bridge will be evaluated on August 29th by boat (to the extent possible) and vehicle/foot. We will depart from the Sunderland Bridge boat launch area on river left. I will notify you of the start time from Sunderland Bridge late in the day on the 28th.

If you are going to participate on either or both days, please e-mail or call me by August 25th with the dates that you plan to attend. We can only take one person from each organization due to boat capacity. You will be responsible for providing any personal gear, including PFD's, boots/water shoes, etc. as well as food and drinks. A brief safety tailboard will be held prior to departure on each day to review on-water safety, swimming abilities, special needs, PFDs for each person, and communications in the event of an emergency. Dates may be subject to rescheduling based on impoundment and river conditions and flows.

I will keep those that RSVP advised on the field work and schedule as we get closer to the dates.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thanks.

Bud

A.E. Newell III
Environmental Specialist



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Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.

From: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2014 2:25 PM
To: 'Joanne & Bill McGee'
Subject: RE: Ct River assessment

Hi Joanne,

Please feel free to join us on the 28th. Sorry for the delay in getting back to you, but I wanted to see if anyone declined so that we had space for you.

I am attaching the text from e-mail that went to the stakeholders with the details for Thursday. I look forward to meeting you.

“To Interested Stakeholders,

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I will keep those that RSVP advised on the field work and schedule as we get closer to the dates.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thanks.

Bud”

Bud

A.E. Newell III
Environmental Specialist



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From: Joanne & Bill McGee [mailto:jbmccgee2@verizon.net]

Sent: Friday, August 22, 2014 9:15 AM

To: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.

Subject: Ct River assessment

Bud,

Andrea Donlon sent on your note about the assessment of the Ct River for day use and overnight facilities. I am a member of the Northfield Open Space Committee. An action step in our newest Open Space Plan, approved by the state, calls for additional places to access the Ct. River for kayaks and canoes. Paddlers up in this northern section of the Ct. River have been long concerned about the lack of access spots. Our one access spot, Pauchaug Brook, is in deplorable condition and often times unusable.

Is there room for me to join the group on the river Aug 28th? I will be able to bring a kayaker's perspective to assessment.

Joanne McGee
9 Main St.
Northfield MA 01360

413-498-5022
jbmccgee2@verizon.net

Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.

From: Andrea Donlon <adonlon@ctriver.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2014 2:27 PM
To: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Subject: RE: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

OK, great.

The person who can represent CRWC is Mac Everett and his email is rivermac1@verizon.net and phone number is 413-584-0068.

I will make sure he has the information I have on the trip details and will have him email you to confirm that he can come.

I'll check email Thursday evening and will be there at the appointed time on Friday.

Thanks, Andrea

Andrea Donlon, River Steward
CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL, INC.
15 Bank Row
Greenfield MA 01301
Phone: (413)772-2020 x. 205
Fax: (413)772-2090
adonlon@ctriver.org
Become a member today! Join at www.ctriver.org.
CRWC is on Facebook—become a fan

From: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E. [mailto:anewell@trcsolutions.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2014 2:19 PM
To: Andrea Donlon
Subject: RE: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

Hi Andrea,

I notified Joanne yesterday that she is welcome to attend and we can certainly accommodate CRWC person as well on Thursday.

I will get e-mails out to those that have responded tomorrow morning just confirming our plans as we know them to be now. I probably will not know a firm time for Friday until sometime Thursday, but will notify everyone as soon as I can.

Bud

A.E. Newell III
Environmental Specialist



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From: Andrea Donlon [<mailto:adonlon@ctriver.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2014 2:05 PM
To: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Subject: RE: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

Bud,

Just checking in about Thursday. I hope Joanne McGee from Northfield can go. If there is also space, I now have someone who can represent CRWC who is available, but I don't want to bump Joanne if there is only one slot (she has more local knowledge, which would be an asset on the trip). Let me know and I'll proceed from there.

Andrea

Andrea Donlon, River Steward
CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL, INC.
15 Bank Row
Greenfield MA 01301
Phone: (413)772-2020 x. 205
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adonlon@ctriver.org
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CRWC is on Facebook—become a fan

From: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E. [<mailto:anewell@trcsolutions.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2014 11:39 AM
To: Andrea Donlon
Subject: RE: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

Hi Andrea,

Thanks for the update. I am not sure how much in and out of the boat we will be doing and what the terrain will be like. This will be my first time on the impoundment so I have only seen what can be driven and reasonably walked into from the road system.

I will follow up with Joanne as she did contact me and I wanted to see what we were going to get as a response from those on the e-mail invitation before agreeing to take others to make sure we had room for people.

I'll see you Friday at Sunderland Bridge as will follow up with a time after I speak with the our boat owner/driver.

Bud

From: Andrea Donlon [<mailto:adonlon@ctriver.org>]
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2014 9:08 AM
To: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Subject: RE: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

Bud,

I would like to attend the field day on Friday. I have a conflict on Thursday and fellow staff members at CRWC can't make it. One of our board members may be able to make it but she is curious how much walking and scrambling there will be.

Because I have had a hard time finding someone from CRWC to attend, I did inquire with affiliate groups like Greater Northfield Watershed Association that participated in commenting on studies and/or the FERC scoping session. Joanne McGee is interested, and I hope she will be allowed to attend given that AMC and MADCR cannot attend on Thursday.

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From: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E. [<mailto:anewell@trcsolutions.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2014 3:33 PM
To: Andrea Donlon
Subject: RE: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

Thanks, Andrea.

From: Andrea Donlon [<mailto:adonlon@ctriver.org>]
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2014 2:50 PM
To: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Subject: RE: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

Thanks. I will try to let you know tomorrow what days CRWC will be there. Thursday is not ideal, but I'll see what we can do.

Andrea

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From: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E. [<mailto:anewell@trcsolutions.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 3:31 PM

To: Andrea Donlon

Subject: RE: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

Hi Andrea,

I expect that will be Friday as I expect it will take most of Thursday to get around the impoundment.

Bud

From: Andrea Donlon [<mailto:adonlon@ctriver.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 3:29 PM

To: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.

Subject: RE: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

Bud,

Do you know which day might involve discussion of portage routes around TF dam?

Andrea

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From: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E. [<mailto:anewell@trcsolutions.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 8:39 AM

To: Norman Sims (normansims1@gmail.com); 'adonlon@ctriver.org'; 'noah.pollock@gmail.com';

'kevin_mendik@nps.gov' (kevin_mendik@nps.gov); ssyz@vermontriverconservancy.org

Cc: Howard, John (John.Howard@gdfsuezna.com); Bill Gabriel (william.gabriel@gdfsuezna.com); Mark Wamser

(mwamser@gomezandsullivan.com); Verville, Sarah; Mike Hoover (mhoover@gomezandsullivan.com); Seiders, Heather;

'Lana Khitrik' (lkhitrik@gomezandsullivan.com)

Subject: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

To Interested Stakeholders,

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We will depart from the Riverview Picnic Area off Route 63, just north of the Northfield Mountain Visitors Center at 7:00 a.m. on August 28th and plan to boat and assess the entire impoundment on that day. The river segment from Turners Falls Dam to Sunderland Bridge will be evaluated on August 29th by boat (to the extent possible) and vehicle/foot. We will depart from the Sunderland Bridge boat launch area on river left. I will notify you of the start time from Sunderland Bridge late in the day on the 28th.

If you are going to participate on either or both days, please e-mail or call me by August 25th with the dates that you plan to attend. We can only take one person from each organization due to boat capacity. You will be responsible for providing any personal gear, including PFD's, boots/water shoes, etc. as well as food and drinks. A brief safety tailboard will be held prior to departure on each day to review on-water safety, swimming abilities, special needs, PFDs for each person, and communications in the event of an emergency. Dates may be subject to rescheduling based on impoundment and river conditions and flows.

I will keep those that RSVP advised on the field work and schedule as we get closer to the dates.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thanks.

Bud

A.E. Newell III
Environmental Specialist



14 Gabriel Drive, Augusta, Me. 04330
T: 207.620.3831 | F: 207.621.8226 | C: 207.248.7155

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Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.

From: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 7:36 AM
To: 'Mac Everett'
Subject: RE: Thursday river trip

Hi Mac,

Andrea did contact me and will have the details correct. I will be sending a follow up e-mail to the participants later this morning just reminding everyone and will include you on that message as well.

I look forward to meeting you.

Bud

A.E. Newell III
Environmental Specialist



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From: Mac Everett [mailto:rivermac1@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2014 9:15 PM
To: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Subject: Thursday river trip

Hi Bud,

I understand Andrea Donlon of CRWC has contacted you regarding my participation on the Thursday river trip to assess day use and overnight facilities on the stretch from Vernon to Turner's Falls. I have a lot of canoe camping experience that should be relevant and I look forward to participating. I understand I need to show up at 7 at the Riverview Picnic Area with food, drink, pfd, and appropriate clothing.

I will be out Wednesday until noon or so, but should be home most of the afternoon if you need to contact me.

My home phone is 413-584-0068

Thanks,

Mac Everett

Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.

From: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 8:35 AM
To: 'adonlon@ctriver.org'; 'paul.jahnige@state.ma.us'; 'Kristen Sykes'; 'Joanne & Bill McGee'; 'Mac Everett'
Cc: Howard, John (John.Howard@gdfsuezna.com); Bill Gabriel (william.gabriel@gdfsuezna.com); Mark Wamser (mwamser@gomezandsullivan.com); Verville, Sarah; Bley, Wendy; Mike Hoover (mhoover@gomezandsullivan.com); Seiders, Heather; 'Lana Khitrik' (lkhitrik@gomezandsullivan.com)
Subject: August 28/29 field work - Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

To Interested Stakeholders:

I am following up to my e-mail of the 20th regarding the field work associated with the Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats study plan. Again, here are the details for the field work being conducted on August 28 and 29:

TRC has scheduled the field study component for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats, for August 28th and 29th, 2014. Pursuant to FERC's Study Plan Determination Letter of September 13, 2013, you are invited to participate in the field study on one or both days. The field evaluation will be done by boat and due to the extent of shoreline to be assessed, we are asking you to commit to spending the full day in the field with us instead of having to coordinate pick-up and drop-off times and locations for individuals over the course of the day. The field days may be long (in excess of 8 hours).

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You will be responsible for providing any personal gear, including PFD's, boots/water shoes, etc. as well as food and drinks. A brief safety tailboard will be held prior to departure on each day to review on-water safety, swimming abilities, special needs, PFDs for each person, and communications in the event of an emergency. Dates may be subject to rescheduling based on impoundment and river conditions and flows.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thanks.

Bud

A.E. Newell III
Environmental Specialist



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Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.

From: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2014 1:57 PM
To: Kristen Sykes; adonlon@ctriver.org; paul.jahnige@state.ma.us
Subject: Re: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

8:00 a.m tomorrow from Sunderland bridge boat access site.

Bud

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 26, 2014, at 10:52 AM, "Kristen Sykes" <KSykes@outdoors.org> wrote:

Hi Bud-

Okay, great!

Thanks!

Kristen

Kristen Sykes
Director of Conservation Strategies – Appalachian Mountain Club
Director of Operations – Bay Circuit Alliance
617-391-6565 (p)
609-558-2188 (c)
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)
<http://baycircuit.org/wordpress/>

Your Connection to the Outdoors

From: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E. [<mailto:anewell@trcsolutions.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2014 2:28 PM
To: Kristen Sykes; Jahnige, Paul (DCR)
Cc: 'John.Howard@gdfsuezna.com'; Andrea Donlon (adonlon@ctriver.org); Norman Sims (normansims1@gmail.com)
Subject: RE: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

Hi Kristen,

Norm Sims (AMC) has let me know he will not be available to attend the field trips, so feel free to join us on the 29th. I will provide you and the others with a time to meet at Sunderland Bridge Launch area once I confirm with our boat driver.

Bud

A.E. Newell III
Environmental Specialist

<image001.jpg>

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From: Kristen Sykes [<mailto:KSykes@outdoors.org>]
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2014 2:31 PM
To: Jahnige, Paul (DCR); Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Cc: 'John.Howard@gdfsuezna.com'; Andrea Donlon (adonlon@ctriver.org); Norman Sims (normansims1@gmail.com)
Subject: RE: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

Dear Bud-

I too am deeply involved with the CT River Paddlers' Trail effort and would like to attend but can only make August 29th. Also please add me to your email list for future announcements of this nature.

Best,

Kristen

Kristen Sykes
Director of Conservation Strategies – Appalachian Mountain Club
Director of Operations – Bay Circuit Alliance
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[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)
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Your Connection to the Outdoors

From: Jahnige, Paul (DCR) [<mailto:paul.jahnige@state.ma.us>]
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2014 2:02 PM
To: 'anewell@trcsolutions.com'
Cc: 'John.Howard@gdfsuezna.com'; Kristen Sykes
Subject: FW: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

Dear Bud,

I have been in the First Light relicensing process, and recreational meetings, and also the CT River Paddlers Trail effort, unfortunately, I do not believe I got your announcement below about next week's assessment days. Please make sure that I am on your list for such efforts.

I am unfortunately, now not available of AUG 28, but would like to try to attend Aug 29.

Thank you.

Paul Jahnige
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Director, Greenways and Trails Program
136 Damon Road, Northampton, MA 01060
413-586-8706 ext. 20
paul.jahnige@state.ma.us

From: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E. [<mailto:anewell@trcsolutions.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 8:39 AM
To: Norman Sims (normansims1@gmail.com); 'adonlon@ctriver.org'; 'noah.pollock@gmail.com'; 'kevin_mendik@nps.gov' (kevin_mendik@nps.gov); ssyz@vermontriverconservancy.org
Cc: Howard, John (John.Howard@gdfsuezna.com); Bill Gabriel (william.gabriel@gdfsuezna.com); Mark Wamser (mwamser@gomezandsullivan.com); Verville, Sarah; Mike Hoover (mhoover@gomezandsullivan.com); Seiders, Heather; 'Lana Khitrik' (lkhitrik@gomezandsullivan.com)
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I will keep those that RSVP advised on the field work and schedule as we get closer to the dates.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thanks.

Bud

A.E. Newell III
Environmental Specialist

<image001.jpg>

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Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.

From: Jahnige, Paul (DCR) <paul.jahnige@state.ma.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2014 9:46 PM
To: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.; Kristen Sykes; adonlon@ctriver.org
Subject: RE: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

Hi Bud,

Thanks, Unfortunately, I now have another commitment that has arisen, and won't be able to join, but I'll look forward to the report. Paul _____

From: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E. [anewell@trcsolutions.com]

Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2014 1:56 PM

To: Kristen Sykes; adonlon@ctriver.org; Jahnige, Paul (DCR)

Subject: Re: Field work schedule for Study 3.6.4, Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats

8:00 a.m tomorrow from Sunderland bridge boat access site.

Bud

Sent from my iPhone

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Hi Bud-

Okay, great!

Thanks!

Kristen

Kristen Sykes

Director of Conservation Strategies – Appalachian Mountain Club Director of Operations – Bay Circuit Alliance

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Environmental Specialist

<image001.jpg>

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Best,

Kristen

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Dear Bud,

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I am unfortunately, now not available of AUG 28, but would like to try to attend Aug 29.

Thank you.

Paul Jahnige

Department of Conservation and Recreation Director, Greenways and Trails Program

136 Damon Road, Northampton, MA 01060

413-586-8706 ext. 20

paul.jahnige@state.ma.us<mailto:paul.jahnige@state.ma.us>

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ssyz@vermontriverconservancy.org<mailto:ssyz@vermontriverconservancy.org>

Cc: Howard, John (John.Howard@gdfsuezna.com<mailto:John.Howard@gdfsuezna.com>); Bill Gabriel

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(lkhitrik@gomezandsullivan.com<mailto:lkhitrik@gomezandsullivan.com>)

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Bud

A.E. Newell III
Environmental Specialist

<image001.jpg>

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or Twitter<http://twitter.com/TRC_Companies> | www.trcsolutions.com<<http://www.trcsolutions.com/>>

Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.

From: Joanne & Bill McGee <jbmcgee2@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 1:51 PM
To: Newell, Arthur (Bud) E.
Subject: riverbank assessment

Dear Bud,

First of all, thank you for organizing your work so that we could be a part of the assessment. The work was both fascinating and challenging. After inspecting miles of riverbank, I can certainly understand the difficulties in developing additional access for paddlers.

Despite these difficulties, I hope you will be able to develop some solutions for paddlers including a renovation of Pauchaug Boat Ramp to provide an exclusive launching site for paddlers that will prevent vehicles from creating mudholes and hogging the beach. Although the bank is steep, the Bennett Meadow site seems ideal because parking exists and there is no history of power boats at that location. We also would be interested in a solution at the Riverview Picnic Area that allows the launching of canoes or kayaks from the shore without that long walk. I also like that spot with the chairs at the end of the farm road.

As I mentioned, the Northfield Open Space Committee is interested in shoreline access for walking paths. Now that Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is assuming ownership of the final Schell bridge, we will be working with the agency to develop parks at each end of the bridge and hope to find a way to create a shoreline path from the Boat Ramp to the Schell Bridge and then beyond to Mill Brook where we looked at the erosion control work. That spot is another possible access point for kayaks and canoes. I realize that your mandate does not include shoreline paths. However, we would appreciate any help in working with First Light to include shoreline recreational paths as part of their recreational focus.

Would it be possible to have a copy of your report when it is finished?

Thank you so much for my day on the river. I hope Friday was as interesting and useful as Thursday.

Sincerely,

Joanne McGee
Northfield Open Space Committee
413-498-5022