



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589



December 11, 2013

Dear [Individual or Group proposing a restoration project]

I am Margaret Byrne and I serve as the Fish and Wildlife Service's Assessment and Restoration Manager for the Hudson River Natural Resource Damage Assessment. You are getting this letter because you submitted a restoration project proposal for the Hudson River Natural Resource Damage Assessment. Everyone who submitted a project is getting a letter like this one.

We appreciate your involvement in this process and wanted to let you know that we recently released a list of all of the restoration proposals that were sent in by the public. A copy of this list is included in your letter. The list of projects is organized by county. It has not been ranked or prioritized. We also have a list of ideas that came out of public meetings. Both of these lists are valuable to the Trustees and I would like to thank you for contributing your ideas.

We developed the accompanying fact sheet to provide an update on timing and on our project selection criteria. I hope this fact sheet helps you to learn more about the restoration process. We, the Trustees, are going to use the criteria listed on the fact sheet to assess all of the restoration project proposals. One of the most important criteria is whether the project has a connection to an injured natural resource.

I want to be honest with you about the timing on all of this. The Trustees do not have a schedule for selecting restoration projects because there are so many uncertainties, like how long it will take to finish analyzing the injury, evaluating restoration projects, and matching those projects to the injuries, as well as resolving the damage claim. Our goal is to begin restoration as soon as possible after the damage claim is resolved.

One thing I want to be clear on is that we are still accepting restoration project proposals. You can update the project you already sent in, or send in another project. You do not need a sponsor or a partner organization. We are happy to get your ideas and it will be our job to figure out how to implement the project if it is selected. We know that there are injured resources throughout the Hudson River. That means that restoration projects could occur throughout the river. We are accepting restoration project proposals for both the Upper and Lower Hudson River.

We know that details about your proposed project may have changed in the past few years. If you know of updates to your project, it would be very helpful if you would send in an updated restoration project proposal.

Looking toward the future, we have another step in restoration planning coming up when public input will be important. The Trustees will propose a list of potential restoration projects and those projects will be incorporated into a Draft Restoration Plan. The Trustees will ask for your feedback on this plan and we anticipate sharing this plan with members of the public through public meetings or other presentations. Although we do not know when we will publish the Draft Restoration Plan, we will certainly appreciate your input and feedback at public meetings and invite your written comments on this plan when it becomes available.

I thank you for taking the time to send in a restoration project proposal. It is my intent with this letter to build a relationship with people like you, who have already expressed interest in this restoration process. Please contact me if you have any questions about the Hudson River Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration process.

With sincere thanks,

Margaret Byrne
Assessment and Restoration Manager
Hudson River NRDA

Enclosure

To Learn More:

Visit Trustee websites

NOAA – www.darrp.noaa.gov/northeast/udson/index.html

NYSDEC – www.dec.ny.gov/lands/25609.html

FWS – www.fws.gov/contaminants/restorationplans/HudsonRiver/index.html

Add yourself to the Hudson NRDA listserv:

1. Send a message to: requests@willamette.nos.noaa.gov

2. Write in subject: Subscribe hudsonnrda

If you have questions about natural resource damages, contact:

Tom Brosnan (NOAA), 301-713-3038 x186; Tom.Brosnan@noaa.gov

Sean Madden (NYSDEC), 518-402-8977; ssmadden@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Kathryn Jahn (USFWS), 607-753-9334; Kathryn_Jahn@fws.gov