



## Housatonic Valley Association

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December 28, 2015

Molly B Sperduto  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
70 Commercial St, Suite 300  
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### **Natural Resource Damages Fund Interim Performance Report**

**Reporting Organization:** Housatonic Valley Association (HVA)  
**Project Name:** Conservation of the Frost Farm and the Housatonic River  
**Project Location:** Cornwall Bridge, Connecticut  
**Cooperative Agreement #:** 53410-B-J036, F11AC00339  
**Period of Agreement:** June, 2011 – December, 2015  
**Dates covered by this Report:** March, 2015 – December, 2015

**Project Goal:** To preserve undeveloped riverfront land that geographically complements other protected land, preserves land habitat, protects shoreline and river habitat, and allows the public to enjoy recreational access, in an environmentally responsible manner.

**Project Objectives:** Acquire conservation restrictions, easements, and other protections for two critical riverfront parcels.

#### **1) A list of actual accomplishments and costs related to the goals and objectives established for the second phase of the project, the findings of the investigator, or both.**

**A.** With technical and fundraising assistance from the Housatonic Valley Association, on October 28, 2011 the Sharon Land Trust (SLT) closed on a conservation restriction over 20 acres of the Frost Farm on River Road, Sharon, Connecticut, protecting approximately 2,742 feet along the western shore of the Housatonic riverfront, a small island, and open fields with small forested ponds.

**B.** The acquisition of a 39-acre parcel known as the Belter property that stretches nearly a half mile along the western bank of the Housatonic River in Salisbury by the Salisbury Land Trust (SLT) on April 30, 2014 completed nearly all tasks in the second phase of the project.

The final tasks to be completed by the Salisbury Land Trust are the management plan and development of a public parking area and trail to the Housatonic Riverfront and signs. These tasks, and a celebratory ribbon-cutting will occur during the spring of 2016.

The acquisition was made possible by the generosity of the Belter family, the Connecticut Housatonic River NRD Trustee Council, representing the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the USFWS and NOAA, which provided \$335,000; the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation, which provided \$150,000; and \$50,000 from the Salisbury Association Land Trust.

a. Per the requirements of the Wiederhold Foundation, a major funder, the Salisbury Land Trust (Land Trust) donated a conservation easement to the Town of Salisbury. The Town will assume the responsibility for annual monitoring, the Land Trust will manage the property according to its management plan.

The easement was approved by the Board of Selectmen and Planning and Zoning Commissions.

b. The Land Trust will develop a trail to encourage public access to the Housatonic Riverfront.

The Land Trust has flagged a trail route, which will be established during the spring of 2016.

c. The Land Trust will design and install signs to identify parking, trailheads and information about the Housatonic Riverfront's natural character.

The signs will be installed upon completion of the trail during the spring of 2016.

d. Complete the management plan.

The Land Trust is working on the management plan, which will be completed by the spring of 2016.

**(2) Reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate.**

The Land Trust was unable to complete the trails and signage before the end of 2015. These will be completed in the spring of 2016.

**(3) Other pertinent information including, when appropriate, analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs.**

The remaining NRD funds have been expended.

**(4) Before and after photos of the project are required with appropriate credits (caption for photo, name of photographer/organization to credit for the photo), as appropriate.**

The Salisbury Land Trust and HVA will invite the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the funders, as well as Town officials, partners and neighbors to a trail ribbon cutting, and will forward photos of the completed signs and trails.

**(5) Other: Attachments**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Final SF425 accounting report