



Natural Resources Conservation Service
220 Davidson Avenue, 4th Floor
Somerset, NJ 08873

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Barbara L. Phillips, Public Affairs Specialist
(732) 537-6044 or barbara.phillips@nj.usda.gov

Musconetcong River Restoration Public Meeting Set

Final Draft Environmental Assessment for the Restoration of the Lower Musconetcong River at the Finesville Dam to be presented.

November 19, 2009 - The ***Final Draft Environmental Assessment for the Restoration of the Lower Musconetcong River at the Finesville Dam***, prepared by USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, will be presented at a public meeting on Tuesday, December 1st at the Bloomsbury Fire Company RiverView Banquet Facility, 91 Brunswick Ave., Bloomsbury, NJ, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. The assessment was developed in cooperation with several Federal and State agencies and non-profit groups working together as the *Musconetcong River Restoration Partnership*.

The Environmental Assessment considers the impacts of river restoration alternatives relative to air quality, noise, water resources, sediment, vegetation, aquatic resources, wetland resources, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, environmental justice, hazardous waste and materials. Comments received following a public meeting held last year and the subsequent comment period were used to identify local concerns regarding river restoration in the Finesville vicinity.

Comments received at the December 1st meeting and written comments submitted by December 29, 2009, will be incorporated into the final version of the Environmental Assessment. A copy of the Final Draft Environmental Assessment, the agenda for the December 1st public meeting, and information about the Musconetcong at Finesville are available online at <http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watersheds/Musconetcong2008.html>.

Participants in the *Musconetcong River Restoration Partnership* include the Musconetcong Watershed Association, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service, the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), American Rivers (AR), North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development (RCD) Council, New Jersey Trout Unlimited (TU), the NJDEP Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW), National Park Service (NPS), Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), private landowners and others.

Contact Barbara Phillips, Public Affairs Specialist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service at (732) 537-6044 or barbara.phillips@nj.usda.gov for more information.

###

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

