



MASSWILDLIFE

DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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November 24, 2020

West Tisbury Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 278
West Tisbury, MA 02575

Re: Manuel F. Correllus State Forest (MCSF)
Unpermitted Trail Construction
Edgartown and West Tisbury, Massachusetts
NHESP Tracking No. 20-39346

Mr. Griswold and Members of the Commission:

Thank you for submitting your letter of October 28, 2020. We appreciate your interest in a resolution to the unpermitted construction of trails in MCSF and in its conservation more broadly. As you know, resolving violations – whether associated with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act or Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) – can be challenging and time consuming. The situation at MCSF is further complicated by the fact that the unpermitted work was performed by a third party on land owned by the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR). As a result, close coordination between MassWildlife and DCR is necessary to ensure that any resolution to this matter meets the requirements of both agencies.

MassWildlife and DCR are actively working with Sheriff's Meadow Foundation to resolve the unpermitted trail construction, which is likely to include developing and implementing a restoration plan as well as conservation measures to benefit state-listed species. MassWildlife and DCR will independently and collectively be responsible for ensuring appropriate implementation of required restoration and conservation measures, and that associated benchmarks are achieved through subsequent monitoring, reporting and adaptive management. In summary, both MassWildlife and DCR are and will be actively involved in each step of the process. Although we cannot provide a timeline for concluding our review at this time, we understand the need to finalize a resolution as quickly as possible and we urge patience while we continue to work toward this.

In the meantime, we would direct you to contact DCR for any questions you may have about long-term management of and communication about MCSF. Of course, any future management of MCSF will require prior review and approval by MassWildlife pursuant to the MESA.

Thank you again for contacting me, and I invite you to inquire with us again for updates.

Sincerely,

Everose Schlüter, Ph.D.
Assistant Director

cc: Eric Seaborn, Director of Natural Resources, DCR
Adam Moore, Executive Director, Sheriffs Meadow Foundation

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