

[EXTERNAL] Re: Pink House

(b) (5) <(b) (5)>

Wed 11/1/2023 7:50 PM

To: Hillman, Matthew D <matthew\_hillman@fws.gov>

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Hello Matt, Taking down the house is the correct decision in my mind. (b) (5)

On Wed, Nov 1, 2023 at 3:13 PM Hillman, Matthew D <[matthew\\_hillman@fws.gov](mailto:matthew_hillman@fws.gov)> wrote:

Hi Friends,

As you may have seen, today we released our draft plan detailing the rationale of why we are proposing to demolish the Pink House. This is obviously another very difficult decision and one that I personally did not want to have to make, not just because of what the house represents to many in the community, but also because a land exchange would have added valuable acreage to the refuge. Despite our best efforts and intentions, though, and after nearly 8 years, there has been no viable willing landowner to accomplish the exchange.

Now, the house continues to deteriorate and become even more of a hazard to our staff who need to maintain it. Just this year we've had to rent a lift to repair a large hole in the roof, fix a broken door kicked in by vandals, replace windows, and patrol/monitor regularly. The interior is no better, with visible mold growth, asbestos, and a perpetually flooded basement. If I thought it prudent I would have waited longer after the HMP to come out with the proposal, but it's abundantly clear that this issue needs to be resolved sooner than later. We are so fortunate that we have full support of our congressional delegation on this, as we have been communicating closely with them through the entire process, and they know the lengths we went to come to a better resolution.

Open to your questions and comments, as always. You can read the proposal on our website, below.

All my best,

Matt

<https://www.fws.gov/story/2023-11/public-comment-period-pink-house-environmental-assessment>



## Public Comment Period for Pink House Environmental Assessment | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge has opened a 30-day public comment period on a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that includes a proposal to demolish the house at [60 Plum Island Turnpike](#) in Newbury, MA, commonly known as the Pink House, and to restore the

[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

**Matt Hillman**

Refuge Manager

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