

# What do the Conservation abbreviations stand for?

1. ACEC – Area of Critical Environmental Concern.
2. ACOE – Army Corps of Engineers (federal).
3. BVW – Bordering Vegetated Wetland.
4. COC – Certificated of Compliance.
5. DCR – Department of Conservation and Recreation (state agency).
6. DEP – Department of Environmental Protection (state agency).
7. EPA – Environmental Protection Agency (federal agency).
8. GIS – Geographic Information Systems.
9. M.G.L. – Massachusetts General Law.
10. MACC – Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions.
11. MEPA – Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act.
12. MESA – Massachusetts Endangered Species Act.
13. NHESP – Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (state).
14. NOI – Notice of Intent: permit application to conduct work within Conservation Commission’s jurisdiction, i.e., within 100 feet of any wetland and within 200 feet of perennial stream.
15. NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service: a branch of the USDA.
16. OOC – Order of Conditions; Permit (or, less frequently, denial) to do work within Conservation Commission’s jurisdiction.
17. RDA – Request for Determination of Applicability: application form that asks the commission one or more of the following questions: if a proposed activity is under the Commission’s jurisdiction and whether the activity or area concerned requires pre-construction review and a permit under either the WPA or the local bylaw or under both.
18. USGS – United States Geological Survey (i.e., USGS topographic maps).
19. WPA – Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Section 40).
20. ZBA – Zoning Board of Appeals (local).