

DCR Forest Resource Management Planning

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Management Forestry Program, within the Bureau of Forestry, is responsible for the stewardship and management of over 285,000 acres in the Massachusetts state forest and parks system. The Bureau administers these lands in eight management forestry districts using the principles of ecosystem management in the context of a working forest. In contrast with traditional, production-oriented resource management, ecosystem management is "...a concept for dealing with larger spatial scales; longer time frames; and in which management decisions must be socially acceptable, economically feasible and ecologically sustainable." Rather than setting commodity-based targets, DCR defines desired conditions and develops strategies that lead to achieving them.

The Districts are:

- Northern Berkshire District
- Central Berkshire District
- Southern Berkshire District
- Western Connecticut Valley District
- Eastern Connecticut Valley District
- Mid-State District
- Northeast District
- Southeast District

In November 2008, DCR's Stewardship Council approved forest resource management plans for the three Berkshire Districts and the Western Connecticut Valley District. Plans for the other districts are under development.

Included in this binder is a 2006 press release describing the forest management planning process and as a sample, the Executive Summary for the Western Connecticut Valley District Plan. The full plans are available at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/manage/planning.htm>.