



**For immediate release  
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## **DCR SPONSORING PUBLIC FORUMS TO DISCUSS DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON FOREST STEWARDSHIP**

Keeping to Governor Patrick's commitment to civic engagement, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is sponsoring five public forums in February to discuss draft recommendations on the future stewardship and management of forest lands within the Massachusetts state parks system.

DCR began the Forest Futures Visioning Process last spring to determine how best to manage the myriad public benefits and values of forest land within the agency's parks system, including recreation, tourism, aesthetics, renewable forest products, habitat diversity, and landscape ecology, and how to strike the appropriate balance among them.

The process has several components, including the formation of an advisory group of stakeholders and the Technical Steering Committee. The Technical Steering Committee, which includes academics, practitioners, and scientists, is developing the draft recommendations with input from the public and the stakeholders.

"We are committed to having an open, wide-ranging, public conversation about forests in Massachusetts," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "We had three public forums and forest tours over the summer, and we look forward to the Technical Steering Committee's recommendations and hearing public comment."

DCR contracted with the Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution & Public Collaboration (MODR) at the University of Massachusetts in Boston to develop a design for the public process, act as facilitators throughout its implementation, and ensure that the discussion and processes are unbiased.

**The upcoming public forums will be at the following dates, times, and locations:**

**Thursday, February 4, 2010  
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Westborough Public Library  
55 West Main Street, Westborough**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Deval L. Patrick  
Governor

Timothy P. Murray  
Lt. Governor

Ian A. Bowles, Secretary, Executive  
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner  
Department of Conservation & Recreation

**(Snow date: Tuesday, February 16)**

**Saturday, February 6, 2010**

**10 a.m.– Noon**

**North Adams Public Library**

**74 Church Street, North Adams**

**(Snow date: Saturday, February 13)**

**Saturday, February 6, 2010**

**2 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Berkshire Community College – Melville Hall Room 201**

**1350 West Street, Pittsfield**

**(Snow date: Saturday, February 13)**

**Tuesday, February 9, 2010**

**5 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

**Jones Library**

**43 Amity Street, Amherst**

**Thursday, February 11, 2010**

**5 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

**Taunton Public Library**

**12 Pleasant Street, Taunton**

**(Snow date: Thursday, February 18)**

The Technical Steering Committee is composed of 11 individuals who have a high level of expertise in the issues, trends, and best practices of forest conservation and ecology, landscape ecology, natural resource economics and law, recreation, silviculture, aesthetics, watersheds, and wildlife habitat.

The draft recommendations will be posted soon on the DCR website, [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). The public is encouraged to review the recommendations and comment on them by email to [MODRDCRFFVP@umb.edu](mailto:MODRDCRFFVP@umb.edu). The Technical Steering Committee is expected to make its final recommendations to DCR in late winter 2010.

For more information on this public process, visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr).

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*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*