

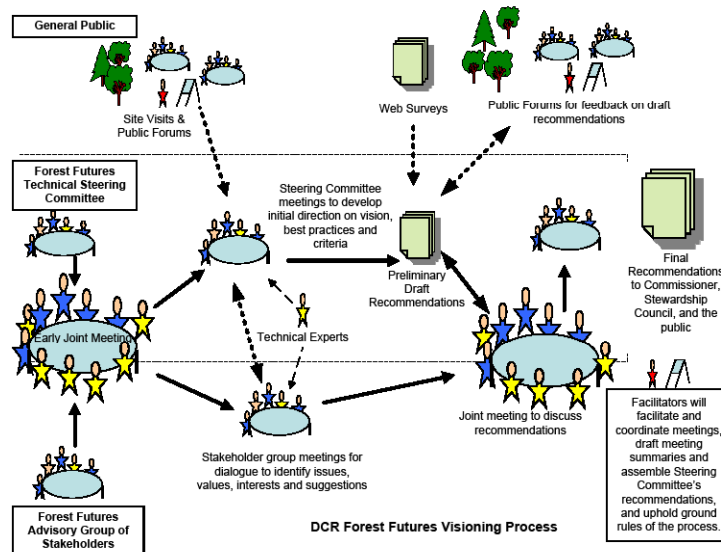
Forest Futures Visioning Process

Public Forum on the Draft Recommendations
of the Technical Steering Committee
February 2010

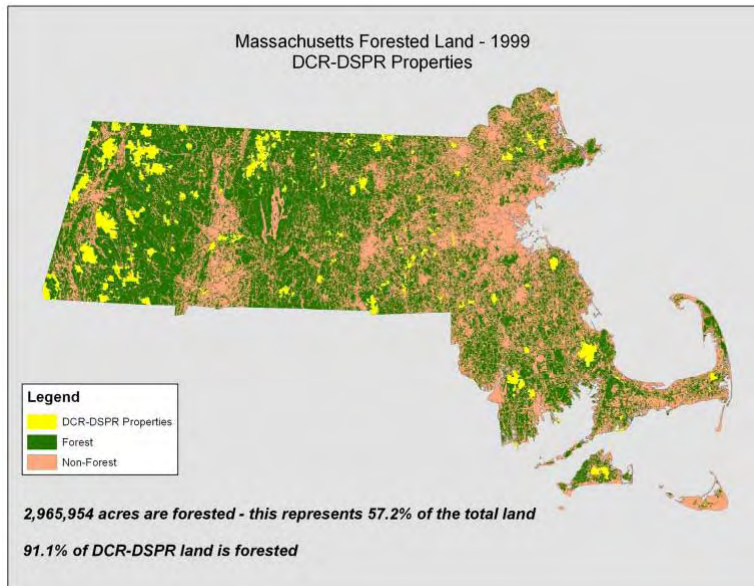
Welcome – The Format & Agenda

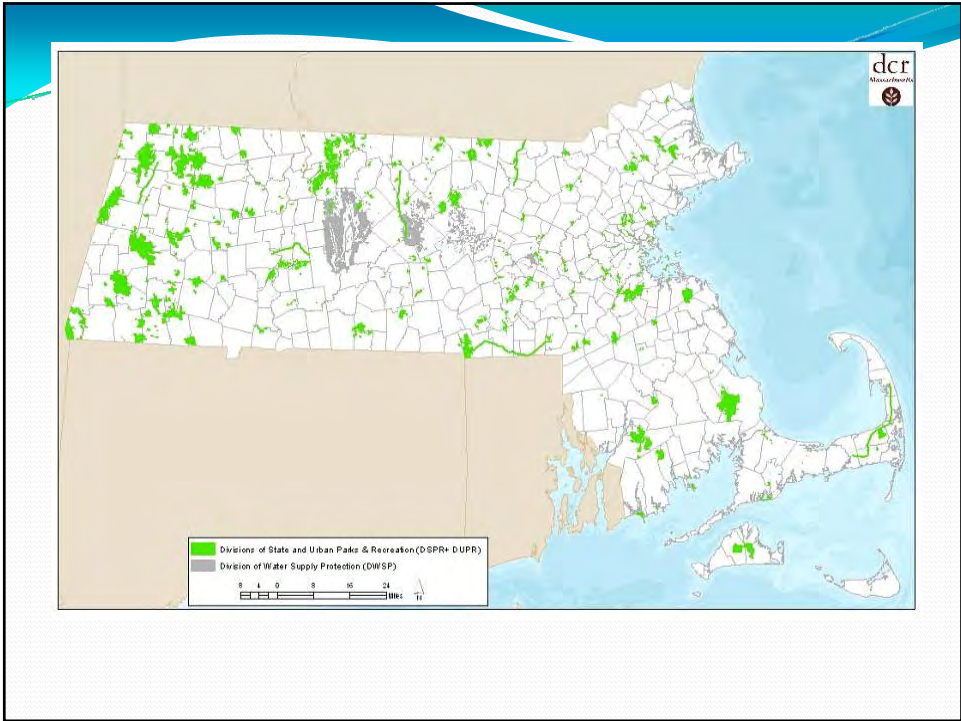
1. Overview of the Forest Futures Visioning Process
2. Overview of the Draft Recommendations
3. Clarification Questions From the Audience
4. Table Discussions
5. Recap

The Visioning Process



The Context





2110 Vision

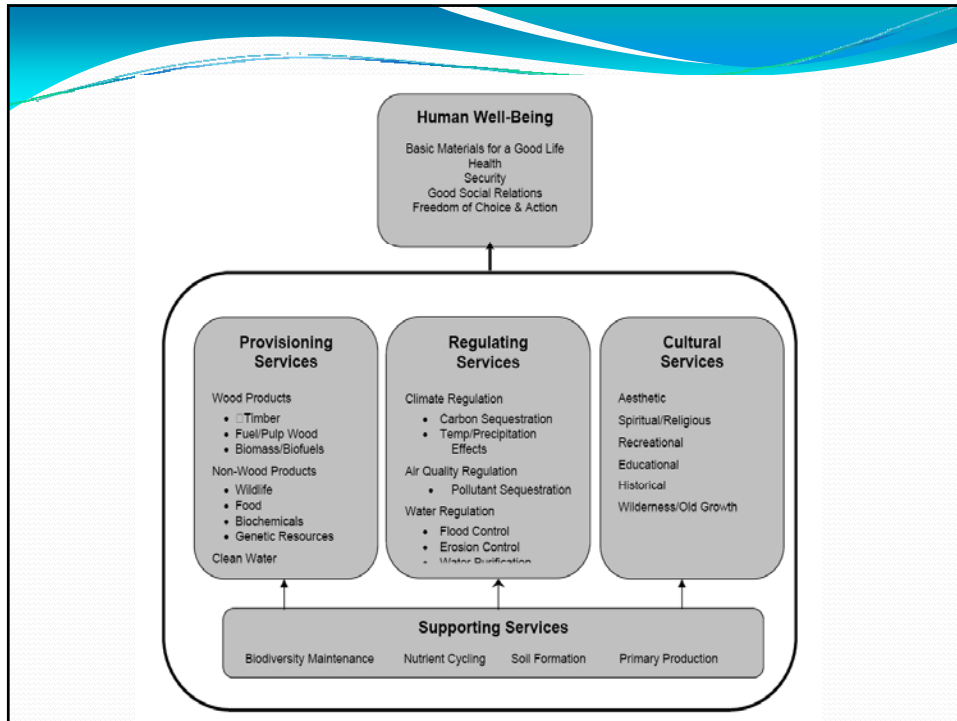


10 Recommendations

1. Adopt and Ecosystem Service Model
2. Elevate the role of forest *stewardship*
3. Promote good stewardship on private lands
4. Adopt a new landscape planning model
5. Approaches for Forest Reserves
6. Approaches for Parklands
7. Approaches for Woodlands
8. Address organizational issues
9. Improve the public process
10. Secure and focus additional resources

Recommendation 1 Ecosystem Services





Recommendation 2

Elevated Role for Massachusetts Forests in Commonwealth Environmental Decision-making Processes

- Increased attention on *forest stewardship* by establishing a Commissioner of Forest Stewardship.
- Integration of planning activities using ecosystems services approach.

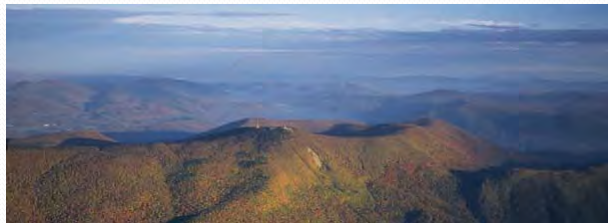
Recommendation 3

Policies for Privately Owned Forests

- Private forests benefit the public and need protection
 - Prevent conversion and fragmentation.
 - Improve stewardship on private lands through: chapter 132 regs, GIS analysis/mapping, cost share programs including inventories for carbon stocks, public/private partnerships.
 - Consider legislation for tax credit for plans, taxes and training; increase use of local wood.
 - Licensed forester sign all harvesting plans

Recommendation 4

Three Zones: Forest reserves, parklands, woodlands



Forest Reserves

- 90,000 to 120,000 acres (currently 40,000) + future acquisitions

Parklands



- 70,000 – 90,000 acres

Woodlands



- 100,000 – 150,000 acres total; 4,500 – 30,000 acres for early successional habitat



- smaller patch reserves as overlay
- No commercial Harvesting in Reserves and Parklands

Recommendation 4 – different perspectives from some AGS and TSC

- Ratio of reserves + parklands to woodlands
 - Many AGS and some TSC members would like greater portion of lands to be allocated to reserves and parklands.
 - Some AGS and TSC members believe that active woodlands management can ensure a full range of ecosystem services without tying our hands, so the lower range of reserves is most appropriate.

Recommendation 5

Management Approaches for Forest Reserves

- Natural processes dominate.
- Support biodiversity.
- Legally protected.
- No harvesting, salvage or preemptive logging due to disturbance.
- Some limits on recreation.
- Wilderness areas with additional restrictions.



Recommendation 6

Management Approaches for Parklands

- Focus on recreation including aesthetic and cultural values.
 - Only cutting to support recreational assets and uses.
 - Park staff and planners as primary decision makers.
 - Educational role in reconnecting society to nature.



Recommendation 7

Management Approaches for Woodlands

- Develop guidelines that demonstrate excellent forest management
 - Based on forest type and 3 levels of management
 - Mostly uneven aged
 - Small openings
 - Even age and overstory removals up to 5 acres only for early successional habitat
 - Harvest up to 25% of growth
 - Demonstration model forests
 - Certification - yes
 - Biomass potentially risky; no whole tree harvesting.



Recommendation 7 – different perspectives

- Certification
- Biomass
- Early successional habitat.



Recommendation 8

DCR Organizational Structure, Decision Making and Planning

- Clarify the mission
- Adaptive management
- Establish a fully integrated planning and management structure focused on long-term stewardship and adaptive management and ecosystem services.



Recommendation 9

Improving Public Process



Robust public process.

- Zoning
- Resource Management Plans for High Priority Properties
- Timber harvest summaries
- Planned silvicultural prescriptions

Transparency.

Improved internal capability.

Recommendation 10

Resources needed to implement Recommendations

- Integrated funding plan
- Develop strategies to implement the recommendations.
 - Reprogram resources and develop new revenue streams
 - Priorities for implementation:
 - Implement zoning
 - Management plans & guidelines for each zone
 - Acquire lands to build out reserves

Key New Elements

- Shift in focus from “forestry” (with perception of timber harvesting) to “forest stewardship”.
- Clearer zones based on ecosystem services.
- More and larger reserves.
- More lands excluded from commercial harvests.
- Harvesting on woodlands mostly uneven aged silviculture with smaller openings.
- Better public processes.



Discussion Ground Rules

- Listen with respect.
- Make sure everyone gets a chance to talk.
- One person at a time. Don't cut people off.
- Ask for clarification, don't assume you know what someone means.
- Speak for yourself, and not as a representative of a group.
- If someone says something that bothers you, say so, and say why.
- It is OK to disagree but remember, this is a discussion not a debate.
- If you do not agree with something – offer a suggestion as to how it could be improved in a way you could support.
- Help the facilitator keep things on track.
- Cell phones and pagers off/silenced.