

Myles Standish State Forest
Preliminary List of Management Issues

A. Natural Resources

- Long range forest ecosystem management goals (Forest Reserve designation).
- Fire management planning.
- Protection of rare species habitat.
- Recovery plan for the Northern Red-bellied Cooter.
- Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife- wildlife management area activities (wildlife plantings and hunter trails).
- Invasive species management.
- Compliance with the Wetlands Protection Act, and the state & federal Endangered Species Acts.
- Management of pond shore natural communities near recreational areas which are subject to compaction and erosion.
- Cranberry bogs – water rights and other environmental standards.
- Storm water management.

B. Cultural Resources

- Fearing Pond CCC log bath house stabilization, future use and restoration.
- Protection of archaeological sites from disturbance.

C. Recreational Resources

- Demographic assessments related to Plymouth/Carver region full build-out and associated implications for providing long-term sustainable recreation opportunities at MSSF.
- Need for increased public water recreational opportunities at the ponds (swimming and boating).
- Paved bike path lacks appropriate signs and markings at road intersections on both the path and road.
- Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) enforcement.

- Hiking trail to connect camping areas and ponds.
- Parking / access considerations for equestrian users with trailers.
- Dedicated accessible parking spaces in the Headquarters parking lot; east entrance; and Upper College Pond Road parking lot.
- Lack of sanitary facilities for beach users at Fearing Pond who come to the shoreline from the camping area.
- Charge Pond - cottage foundation removal and associated site restoration, and campground enhancement.

D. Interpretive Services and Environmental Education

- Interpretive plan that supports the pine barren and pond shore habitat management programs.
- Native American interpretive program in collaboration with the Robbins Museum of Archaeology and Mashpee tribal council.

E. Operations and Management

- Condition and management of utility infrastructure.
- Fearing Pond Road bridge – clarify alternatives related to rehab / traffic circulation.
- Regional considerations such as encroaching development; illegal dumping; and potential for regional trail connections.
- Trail maintenance and downed tree removal.
- Coordination with cottage owners related to pondshore community protection, water quality management and public access.
- Comprehensive vehicle circulation / parking plan, including strategies to lessen commercial vehicle cut-through traffic, road damage associated with trucks servicing MCI Plymouth, Camp Squanto and Camp Cachelot, cottage & campground access control, review of alternatives for roadside parking, overall condition and management of roads.
- MCI Plymouth – coordinated approach for a major state forest inholding related to long-term resource protection and maintenance of state forest road infrastructure.