

### Myles Standish State Forest Planning Unit Resource Management Plan - Final Draft



Meadow Rider, Ron Hunter



White-tailed Deer, Bob Conway

DCR Stewardship Council  
November 8, 2011

### Project Timeline



Sweet Pepper-bush, Julie Outencky

- Oct. 28, 2010 Initial Public Meeting
- November 2010- February 2011 Friends of MSSF Sponsored Five Public Workshops
- May 25, 2011 Public Meeting to Preview Draft RMP
- July 14, 2011 Public Meeting to Release Draft RMP
- Sept. 15, 2011 Received 62 sets of Public Comments

### Friends of MSSF RMP Public Workshops



Frost Pocket, Epsilon Associates

- Workshop Topics:
- Pinelands, Plantations & Wildlife Management
  - Vernal Pools and Pond Management
  - Interpretive Services and Cultural Resources
  - Recreational Resources
  - Infrastructure and Operations

- Presentations by:
- 11 Friends of MSSF
  - 9 DCR Staff
  - 11 Stakeholder Organizations
  - 5 Public Officials

### Management Principle

"Through the creative use of limited state management resources and partnerships, achieve a sustainable balance between the conservation of important natural and cultural resources, and providing quality outdoor recreation opportunities."



Barrett Pond Camp, Epsilon



Northern Red-bellied Cooter, VDIGF

### Goal: Maintain and Enhance Habitats for Rare Species, Native Plants and Wildlife



Pine Barrens, Bob Conway

- Natural Resource Findings:
- 3,365 Acres of Native White Pine and Hardwood Forests
  - 6,641 Acres of Globally Rare Pine Barrens
  - 1,143 Acres of Conifer Plantations
  - 41 State-listed Rare Species
  - 70 Frost Pockets
  - NHESP Reviewed Draft RMP

### Natural Resource Recommendations

- Implement fire management program to maintain Pine Barrens
- Continue the current ban on motorized off-highway vehicles
- Remove non-native tree plantations
- Maintain a variety of grasslands and early successional forests



Controlled Burn, DCR



OHV Damage, Tom DeSile

### Goal: Enhance the Quality of Water Resources



Autumn on Widgeon Pond, Connie Johnson

#### Water Resource Findings:

- 58 Kettle Hole Ponds
- Coastal Plain Pondshores Support 20 Rare Plant and Animal Species
- 10 Certified Vernal Pools
- Plymouth Carver Sole Source Aquifer

### Water Resource Recommendations

- Repair shore line erosion at existing recreational areas
- Post invasive species warning signs at fisherman landings



Fearing Pond Shore Erosion, DCR



Coastal Plain Pond Shore, Epsilon

### Goal: Preserve the Distinct Scenic and Cultural Qualities of the Forest



Wampanoag Village, Plimoth Plantation

#### Cultural Resource Findings:

- 5 prehistoric sites recorded in forest were first occupied 9,500 years ago
- Fearing Pond log bathhouse is the only CCC bathhouse left in the DCR system
- MHC Reviewed Draft RMP

### Cultural Resource Recommendations

- Stabilize the Fearing Pond CCC Log Bathhouse
- Find a park use for the Perry House



Fearing Pond CCC Log Bathhouse, DCR



Perry House, DCR

### Goal: Provide Diverse Opportunities for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation



Bikers, DCR

#### Existing Recreational Resources:

- 429 camp sites around four ponds
- 15 miles of paved bike trails
- 28 miles of equestrian trails
- 79 miles of hiking trails and unpaved forest roads
- 138 private cottages at six ponds

#### UMass 2009 Visitor Survey:

- Visitors liked peace and quiet, clean ponds with great swimming, cleanliness and being in nature
- Visitors disliked unclean campground bathrooms and noisy campers

### Recreation Recommendations

- Repair the road over the East Head Reservoir dam
- Re-open the Fearing Pond day use area
- Increase frequency of comfort station cleaning on peak weekends
- Prepare site plans for ponds with cottages to protect pond shores
- Gradually retire existing cottage permits
- Rent properly sited cottages in good condition that revert to DCR



East Head Reservoir Dam Road, DCR



College Pond Day Use Area Beach © Kindra Cinelli

### Goal: Expand Interpretive Programs



Fishing Clinic, Captain Jack Renfrew

- Interpretive Findings:**
- 2 seasonal interpreters available mid-June through August
  - 15 interpretive programs including:
    - Cranberry Bog Tour
    - Nature Exploration
    - Swamp Tromp
    - Bike Hike
    - Family Campfire
    - Fishing Clinic
    - Fire Tower Climb
  - No Interior Program Space

### Interpretive Services Recommendations

- Provide interpretive panels with a forest overview and trail map holders at trailhead parking areas
- Conduct a visitors center feasibility study



Story at CCC Amphitheater, Judy Perry



Bird Watchers, Ron Hunter

### Goal: Work with Partners to Achieve Management Goals



Frost Pocket, Epsilon

- Partnership Findings:**
- DCR operating budget decreased by 30.6% from fiscal year 2009 to 2011
  - Friends of MSSF sponsor:
    - Pine Barrens Community Initiative
    - Native plant greenhouse and garden
    - Trail enhancement projects
    - Annual fishing derby
    - Annual photo contest
  - Division of Fish and Game operates Pheasant and Quail Wildlife Areas

### Partnership Recommendations

- Work with partners to identify and control invasive plant species in sensitive natural communities
- Work with partners to establish a native plant garden and pine barrens interpretive programs



Friends of MSSF Fishing Derby, Melissa Guimont

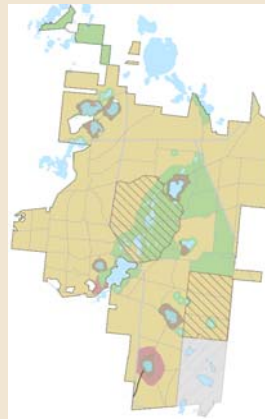


Monarch Butterflies, Bob Conway

### Number of Management Recommendations By Priority and Funding Availability

Priority	Funding Currently Available	Funding May Be Available in Near Future	Funding Unavailable in Near Future	Total
High	14	11	0	25
Medium	17	22	6	45
Low	4	4	8	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>86</b>

### Land Stewardship Zoning



- Zone 1 Sensitive Resources
- Zone 2 Conservation Areas
- Zone 3 Intensive Use Areas
- Developed Ponds Overlay
- Wildlife Management Areas

**Significant Features Overlay**

- Developed Coastal Plain Pond
- Wildlife Management Area
- Road or Trail
- Utility Lane
- Open Water

**Myles Standish State Forest**

- Fee Interest
- Conservation Restriction
- Other Legal Interest

Questions and Comments



Sunset, Widgeon Pond, Sally David