



Eastern White Pine was the preferred nursery stock for reforestation of the Massachusetts landscape

Massachusetts State Forest Commission 1914-1919

In 1914 the state legislature created the State Forest Commission for the purposes of purchasing “waste lands” and establishing productive forests. From 1915-1919 thousands of acres of land were preserved as state forests, with provisions for recreational use. Planted, harvested and managed as crops, these forests helped Massachusetts residents build and heat their homes, provided habitat for wildlife, and enriched the recreational landscape for all to enjoy.



Forest Types at Otter River State Forest (1929)
Courtesy DCR Plans Library

The SFC on the Great War:

Here is the opportunity for the Commonwealth to be just and generous, and also to reap a profit. The manhood of our Commonwealth is its most precious asset. Death will claim a large proportion of our young men who in days of peace would have become the fathers of our race. It will be wise statesmanship, then, and no more than common gratitude, to take care of those who escape. Many can find permanent employment in road building, in fire-guard patrolling, in cutting of timber, and in planting, and those not equal physically to any of these occupations can be employed as forest rangers. It is possible, also, to establish upon areas of considerable size a woodworking shop where returned soldiers and sailors unfitted for outdoor labor can be employed.

(Fifth Annual Report of the State Forest Commission, January 1919)



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lt. Governor
Matthew A Beaton, Secretary, EOEEA
Carol Sanchez, Commissioner, DCR

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation is steward to over 450,000 acres throughout Massachusetts. For more information on the DCR and the Massachusetts State Park system visit www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr, call 617-626-1250 or write to DCR, 251 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's mission is to protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all.