

**Forest Management Projects – Public Meeting
Fall River Heritage State Park – December 4, 2012, 6:30 – 8 pm**

Public attendees: Richard Stafursky, Steven Gardner, Everett Castro, Joe Carvalho, Jeffrey Hutchins, Pedro Amaral, Priscilla Chapman (see sign in sheet for email, mailing address and phone number)

DCR and EEOEA staff attendees: Peter Church, William Hill, Robert O'Connor and Paul Gregory

DCR Presentation:

1. Peter Church presented an introduction and a brief discussion of the Forest Futures Visioning and Landscape Designation Process that has led to this point where the Management Forestry staff is now proposing 6 commercial timber harvesting projects in the new Woodland zone. He discussed the internal and external review process, the parameters of this public meeting and the next 2 in West Bolyston and Pittsfield and ways for questions and comments to be submitted during this 45 day review opportunity.
2. William Hill presented an overview of the 6 forest management projects, including the location, how they were chosen, objectives, general silvicultural techniques to be used and the desired outcome of each project. He stated that the projects will help to create multi-aged, species diverse forest habitat with the goal of enhancing the ecological restoration of degraded natural community types and follow the guidelines and recommendations that came from the Forest Futures Vision Process.
3. Paul Gregory presented the Freetown Co-peace Forest Management Proposal. This is located in the Freetown – Fall River State Forest in the Southeast Management Forestry District. There are two stands to be treated – one is a 17 acre large white pine stand and the other is a 31 acre medium and large white pine stand. The goal of this proposal is to demonstrate a two age silvicultural system and an irregular shelterwood system that have various stages of advanced regeneration. He discussed the aesthetic, recreation, wetland, cultural resources, rare and endangered species and wildlife concerns as well as the sale layout and harvesting limitations.

Questions and Comments:

1. Everett Castro, Greenfutures.org: Stand 1 (S1) should be pulled or “refleshed” or carefully reconsidered. His concern is the erosion from the project can not help to mediate the current ATV damage. Stand 2 (S2) is good and should be approved. He quoted the Bioreserve mission.
2. Richard Stafursky: Asked how many acres of non-native tree species are present in Freetown – Fall River SF. Answer: About 20 acres.
3. Priscilla Chapman, MA Audubon: Concerned with the current condition of S2 from ATV use and strong steps should be taken to correct before harvesting.

4. Steven Gardner: Concerned that dollars drive the need to harvest timber on state land. Wants the opportunity to ride his ATV on state land.
5. Jeffrey Hutchins, MA Forest Alliance: Supports sustainable forestry, DCR's woodland management and timber production from the FFV process.
6. Richard Stafursky: "Excellent forestry" doesn't make sense. Forests should be left in their natural state. He does not like the term woodland. Stakeholders only want money.
7. Everett Castro: Calls for better planning on goals for all of DCR properties.
8. Steven Garner: Don't keep the projects secret – advertise better.

Notes taken by William Hill and transcribed by David Goodwin

Forest Management Projects – Public Meeting
DCR Watershed Division Headquarters, West Boylston – December 5, 2012, 6:30 – 8 pm

Public attendees: Richard Stafursky, Jeffrey Hutchins, Fred Heyes, Dicken Crane, Bill Taylor, Marcella Sinta, Ellen Arnold, Chris Pryor, Alan Miano, Ed Yaglou, Heidi Ricci, Kurt Birch and Andy Finton (see sign in sheet for email, mailing address and phone number)

State staff attendees: Peter Church, William Hill, Robert O'Connor, Stephanie Cooper, Tom O'Shea, John Scannell, David Goodwin, Harris Penniman and Mike Gieryk

DCR Presentation:

1. Peter Church presented an introduction and a brief discussion of the Forest Futures Visioning and Landscape Designation Process that has led to this point where the Management Forestry staff is now proposing 6 commercial timber harvesting projects in the new Woodland zone. He discussed the internal and external review process, the parameters of this public meeting and the next one in Pittsfield and ways for questions and comments to be submitted during this 45 day review opportunity.
2. William Hill presented an overview of the 6 forest management projects, including the location, how they were chosen, objectives, general silvicultural techniques to be used and the desired outcome of each project. He stated that the projects will help to create multi-aged, species diverse forest habitat with the goal of enhancing the ecological restoration of degraded natural community types and follow the guidelines and recommendations that came from the Forest Futures Vision Process.
3. Harris Penniman discussed his Goodale Lot Pine Sale in the Sudbury – Marlborough State Forest. This is a 104 acre parcel consisting of 4 stands – stand 1 is a 14 acre red pine plantation in decline, stand 2 is a 4 acre white pine stand with high stocking, stand 3 is a 4 acre white pine and oak stand with high stocking and stand 4 is a 6 acre white pine – hardwood stand with medium stocking. The goal of this proposal is to demonstrate thinning an even age pine plantation for native regeneration and to increase local vegetative diversity. He discussed the aesthetic, recreation, wetland, cultural resources, rare and endangered species and wildlife concerns as well as the sale layout and harvesting limitations.
4. Michael Gieryk discussed his Federated Women's Club Campground sale. There are 3 stands in this sale – stand 1 is 11.2 acres and consists of medium to large white pine, stand 2 is 25.8 acres and consists of medium to large oak and stand 3 is 5.8 acres and consists of medium to large white pine and oak. The goal of this proposal is to demonstrate uneven and multi-age silvicultural management systems of regeneration including irregular shelterwood in maturing pine and oak forests. He discussed the aesthetic, recreation, wetland, cultural resources, rare and endangered species and wildlife concerns as well as the sale layout and harvesting limitations.

Questions and Comments:

1. Richard Stafursky: What is the purpose of a two-aged forest? Why are you trying to accomplish this? Answer: diversity, resilience against natural damage, promote regeneration and increase sunlight to encourage red and white pine regeneration.
2. Ellen Arnold, Friends of Upton SF: What are the goals for slash near residences? Answer: Around 2 cords/acre are needed to meet the FFV coarse woody debris guidelines. The plan is to pay extra attention to the aesthetics of slash near houses.
3. Bill Taylor, Friends of Upton and Sudbury – Marlborough SFs: What is the buffer around trails? Answer: Harvesting happens with
4. in a 50 foot buffer but “with care”. Since many of these stands were planted by the CCCs, what was their original intention? Would they have been thinned? Answer: Their plan was to prune them but they weren’t able to keep up with the schedule. What will the wood be used for? Answer: The salvageable sawlogs will be used for lumber and the tops will probably be used for pulp and cordwood. There is currently a prohibition of using the wood from state land for biomass. CLARIFYING NOTE – there are new regulations for renewable energy credits and the guidelines they establish for sustainable biomass likely greatly decrease the market for biomass.
5. Heidi Ricci, MA Audubon: Commented that she sees consistency and follow through from the FFV process and recommendations. How will you address ATV damage to keep them out in the future as new trail creation could bring more ATVs? Answer: Need better enforcement by the Environmental Police and may install five gates to prevent illegal ATV use. Comment: Many abutters and residents nearby hope DCR will engage them. Response: We plan to do outreach and invite neighbors help reporting illegal use. The hope is to have educational signage to discourage ATV use. Question: What time of year will the work happen to avoid species impact? Answer: Winter. Question: How will you deal with invasive species? Answer: We will monitor them post-project and take measures necessary to control them.
6. Bill Taylor: Does harvesting encourage invasives? Answer: Yes, all disturbances do. DCR will require all equipment coming onto the site to be steam cleaned and require the use of forwarders instead of log skidders to minimize soils disturbance.
7. Ellen Arnold: Have you coordinated with the Environmental Police to help with ATV mitigation? Do they know this work is happening? They might be able to monitor the area if they know the right time. Answer: We should reach out to the EPOs to get their help. This is a good suggestion.
8. Richard Stafursky: If diseased trees are inaccessible, why can’t you turn them into snags? Answer: That would happen naturally but we can’t actively create snags for liability and safety reasons. We do reserve wildlife trees according to forestry best management practices and the FFV guidelines. Comment: Concerned that harvesting machinery causes damage and brings in invasives and that it would be better to leave the snags even if there are safety issues.
9. Jeff Hutchins, MA Forestry Alliance: Comment: As a society we have a responsibility to be more concerned with our consumption as every person uses an average of 4 pounds per day of wood products. Only 2% of this product is produced locally in MA yet our state is 60% forested. We can do better than this. These 2 projects have been well vetted with sound objectives, they follow the FFV guidelines and MA Forestry Alliance supports demonstrating good forest management in the state.

10. Bill Taylor: How have cultural resources been factored in and protected? Answer: The state archeologist has reviewed all 6 of the projects and hasn't found any issues of concern on either of these 2 projects. She did express some concern at the Freetown – Fall River Co-peace project which is near some “first contact” sites.
11. Ellen Arnold: What about stone walls and cellar holes? Answer: The state archeologist has given us her recommendations. In the Federated Women's Club project (where there are several stone walls), if any walls need to be crossed, they need to be disassembled at the entry point and reassembled after the project is done although crossings may be avoidable.
12. Andy Finton, The Nature Conservancy: Comment: As a participant in the FFV process, he's excited to see these projects move forward. He discussed the values that forests offer and felt that these projects will contribute to the advancement of these values.
13. Kurt Birch, logger: Is The Nature Conservancy supportive of forestry for wood products in other countries? Andy Finton: Yes. Comment: DCR land being taken offline has hammered the industry and prices for wood are low in MA. These projects are good and will help to put food on the table for many people. It is important to look at the big picture.
14. Dicken Crane, Holiday Farm and Forest Alliance: The potential for trees in these stands to die and collapse is a reason to support these projects. Another benefit is that the shade the trees create help to discourage the growth of invasives. The lack of an understory is an opportunity for invasives. These projects help to create the next generation of trees. Stands planted as plantations were not intended to be left unmanaged and are more vulnerable because of this. This is a choice that will help keep invasives out.
15. Chris Pryor, NE Forestry Foundation: Supports the direction that DCR is now headed and supports these projects and our approach to forest management.

Notes taken by Stephanie Cooper and transcribed by David Goodwin

Forest Management Projects – Public Meeting
DCR's Pittsfield Regional Office – December 6, 2012, 6:30 – 8 pm

Public attendees: Richard Stafursky, Jeffrey Hutchins, Ruth Wheeler, Jim Kelly, Jeff Poirer, Peter Bornis, Doug Bruce, Genevieve Fraser and Gary Pease (see sign in sheet for email, mailing address and phone number)

State staff attendees: Peter Church, Bill Hill, Robert Mellace, Tim Zelazo, Conrad Ohman, Kris Massini, Nick Anzuoni, Jeff Martin, Tom Byron and Jennifer Fish

DCR Presentation:

1. Peter Church presented an introduction and a brief discussion of the Forest Futures Visioning and Landscape Designation Process that has led to this point where the Management Forestry staff is now proposing 6 commercial timber harvesting projects in the new Woodland zone. He discussed the internal and external review process, the parameters of this public meeting and the next one in Pittsfield and ways for questions and comments to be submitted during this 45 day review opportunity.
2. Bill Hill presented an overview of the 6 forest management projects, including the location, how they were chosen, objectives, general silvicultural techniques to be used and the desired outcome of each project. He stated that the projects will help to create multi-aged, species diverse forest habitat with the goal of enhancing the ecological restoration of degraded natural community types and follow the guidelines and recommendations that came from the Forest Futures Vision Process.
3. Conrad Ohman discussed his Egg Shell Lot sale in Sandisfield State Forest. This is a 165 acre parcel (located on the 320 acres Hartshorn parcel) consisting of a variety of species, age and size classes and stocking levels. The goal of this proposal is to demonstrate silvicultural techniques such as thinning and gap expansion to create and maintain species and structural complexity in an area of multiple forest types. Additionally, this project seeks to protect against significant white ash loss due to emerald ash borer through regeneration of ash and to prevent the proliferation of American beech with beech bark disease complex. He discussed the aesthetic, recreation, wetland, cultural resources, rare and endangered species and wildlife concerns as well as the sale layout and harvesting limitations.
4. Kris Massini discussed his Sherlock Lot sale in October Mountain State Forest. This is a 166 acre parcel with individual forest stands that range in size from less than an acre up to 40 acres. The majority of the stands are Northern hardwoods (105 – 115 acres) while the remaining stands are beech (50 – 60 acres). Both have a variety of size classes and density and are about 80 – 100 years old. The goals of this proposal are to demonstrate thinning for stand improvement and group selection for regeneration in Northern hardwood forests damaged by ice storms and beech bark disease and to demonstrate multi-age silvicultural systems to regenerate forests dominated by severely diseased American beech. He discussed the aesthetic, recreation, wetland, cultural resources, rare and endangered species and wildlife concerns as well as the sale layout and harvesting limitations.

5. Nick Anzuoni discussed his Breezy Knoll sale in Leyden State Forest. This is a 61 acre parcel composed primarily of Norway spruce and Eastern white pine. Average stand age is approximately 100 years; average tree diameter is 16" and they are severely overstocked. The goal of this proposal is to demonstrate uneven silvicultural techniques to regenerate native species within an even age Norway spruce plantation. He discussed the aesthetic, recreation, wetland, cultural resources, rare and endangered species and wildlife concerns as well as the sale layout and harvesting limitations.

Questions and Comments:

1. Richard Stafursky: Commented that we should do things that protect the environment, silviculture itself is destruction not restoration. How can we use the word "environment" when you are doing a destructive process?
2. Jim Kelly, MA Forest Alliance: Will "clean" sites be treated for invasives if they are found? Answer: Conrad said yes, he has seen barberry on his sale area. Will the equipment be prewashed? Answer: There is a requirement to power steam wash all equipment coming onto the site.
3. Doug Bruce, Berkshire Natural Resources Council: What did MA Fish and Wildlife and Natural Heritage have to say about these projects? Answer: Conrad and Kris: not big enough openings, no comments from Heritage.
4. Jeff Poirier, Berkshire Hardwoods/MA Forest Alliance: Why aren't you making bigger openings? Peter Church said this was appropriate for habitat enhancement but that is not the primary goal for these projects.
5. Jim Kelly: Discussed diseased beech research of Max McCormack and a methodology of eliminating the diseased trees first. Conrad responded that if there is clone from a healthy beech, at least one would be left for a marker.
6. Jeff Poirer: Commented that it was good to see the projects from a forest health perspective and it was good for the local economy.
7. Jim Kelly: Agreed with previous comment and added that this was a good example of responsible management. Local forest products help to save the rainforest.
8. Richard Stafursky: Commented that we should try to eliminate Norway spruce and wondered if replacing it with another species would be appropriate. Nick responded that we will let it grow if it reseeds itself and that squirrels were helping to plant the seeds. Bill responded that our goal is to restore the forest to native species.
9. Doug Bruce: Commented that we should differentiate between the terms non-native and invasive and that DCR is not managing for a non-native species. Response from Nick: Norway spruce was originally chosen and planted for plantations due to its ability to grow in this area. Response from Conrad: the spruce will grow as a "native" tree in a natural forest. Response from Peter: the goal is a multi-aged, multi-species forest.
10. Jeff Hutchins: Commented that resource use is high in MA, each resident consume 4 pounds of wood products per day or statewide, 13,000 tons per day yet only 2% come from local sources. We can do better and these projects are a good start.
11. Doug Bruce: How will the forest walks be advertised? Peter said they will be posted like any public meeting and notifications will be sent out via the various list servers and

networks. Conrad suggested that DCR might want to consider direct mailings as there are a lot of people that aren't on the list servers.

12. Gary Pease, licensed harvester: Commented that Norway spruce are historical left overs and should be protected. However, we should get rid of multi-flora rose.
13. Genevieve Fraser, GF Strategies Enterprises: Stated she was involved in a project to put together "Commonwealth Wood", a heritage center that shows off and celebrates MA wood products. This is one of the oldest industries in the state. This exhibit will look at BMPs and have videos and pictures tell the story of various experiences. Documentation on these forest management projects could be helpful. Could DCR provide a write up for this exhibit?
14. Tim Zelazo –DCR Interpretive programs are already doing this and are currently doing an educational component.
15. Richard Stafursky – Explained why he is interested in returning the forest as it has taken 11 years for his family forest to return after being logged, best practices should be to let the forest return and to remove invasives. To say silviculture is a good thing for the forest is ridiculous, it's the opposite. Its fine if the state wants to harvest trees but don't say it's good for the forest.
16. Gary Pease – Return the forest to the people!

Notes taken by Jennifer Fish and transcribed by David Goodwin