

Pittsfield State Forest Trail Planning Workshop



DCR Public Meeting

February 25, 2015; 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
DCR West Region Headquarters

DCR Mission Statement



To protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well being of all

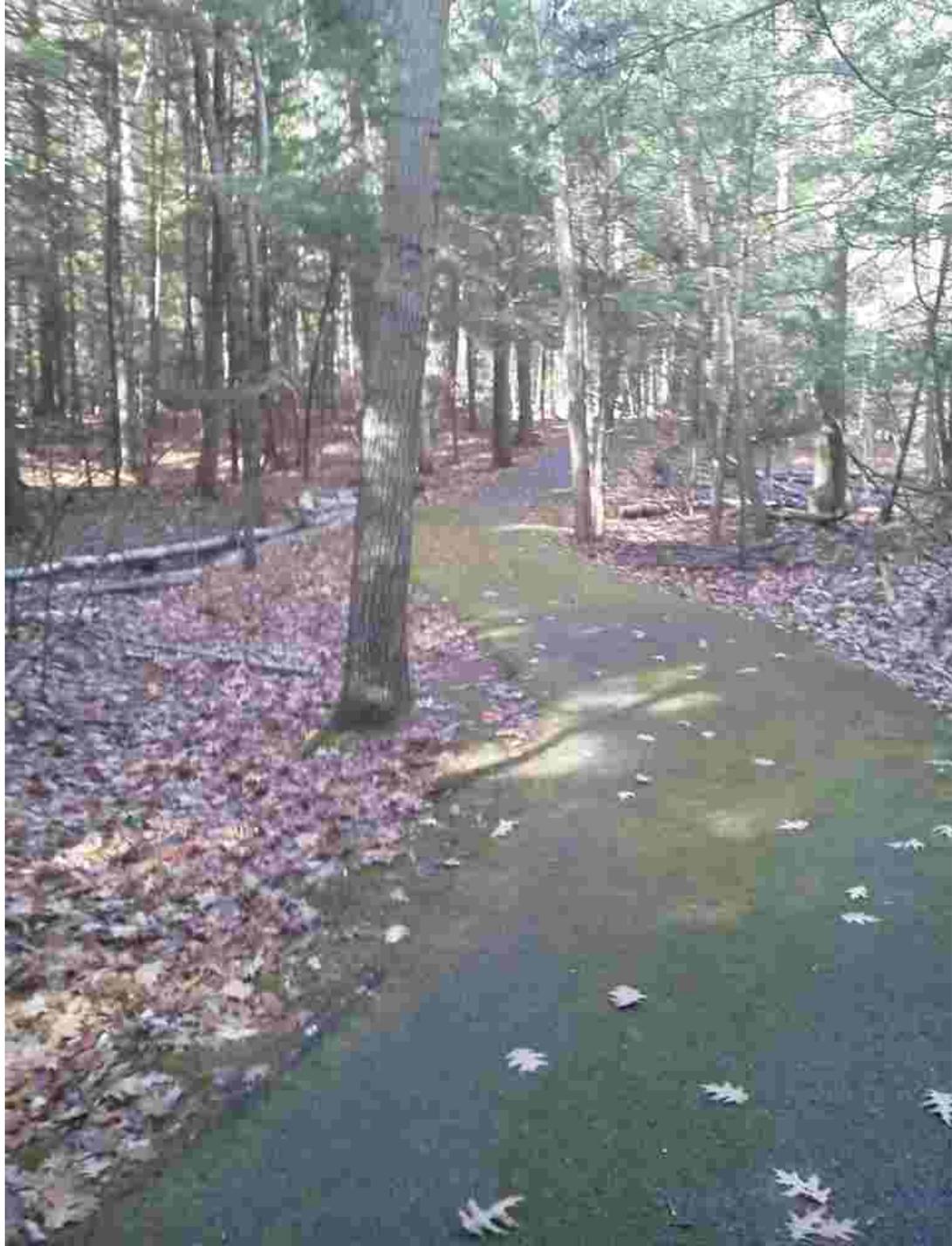




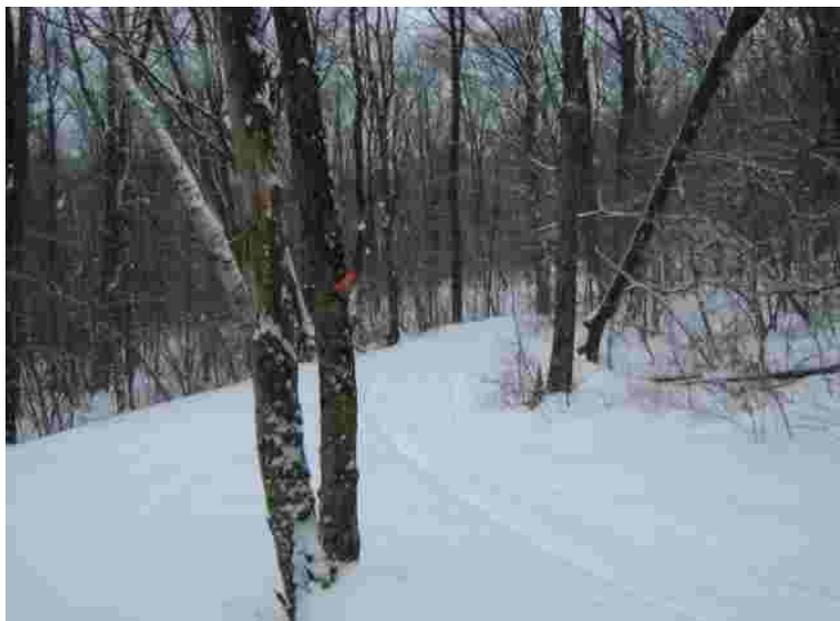
TACONIC CREST

TRAIL











Pittsfield State Forest Trail System

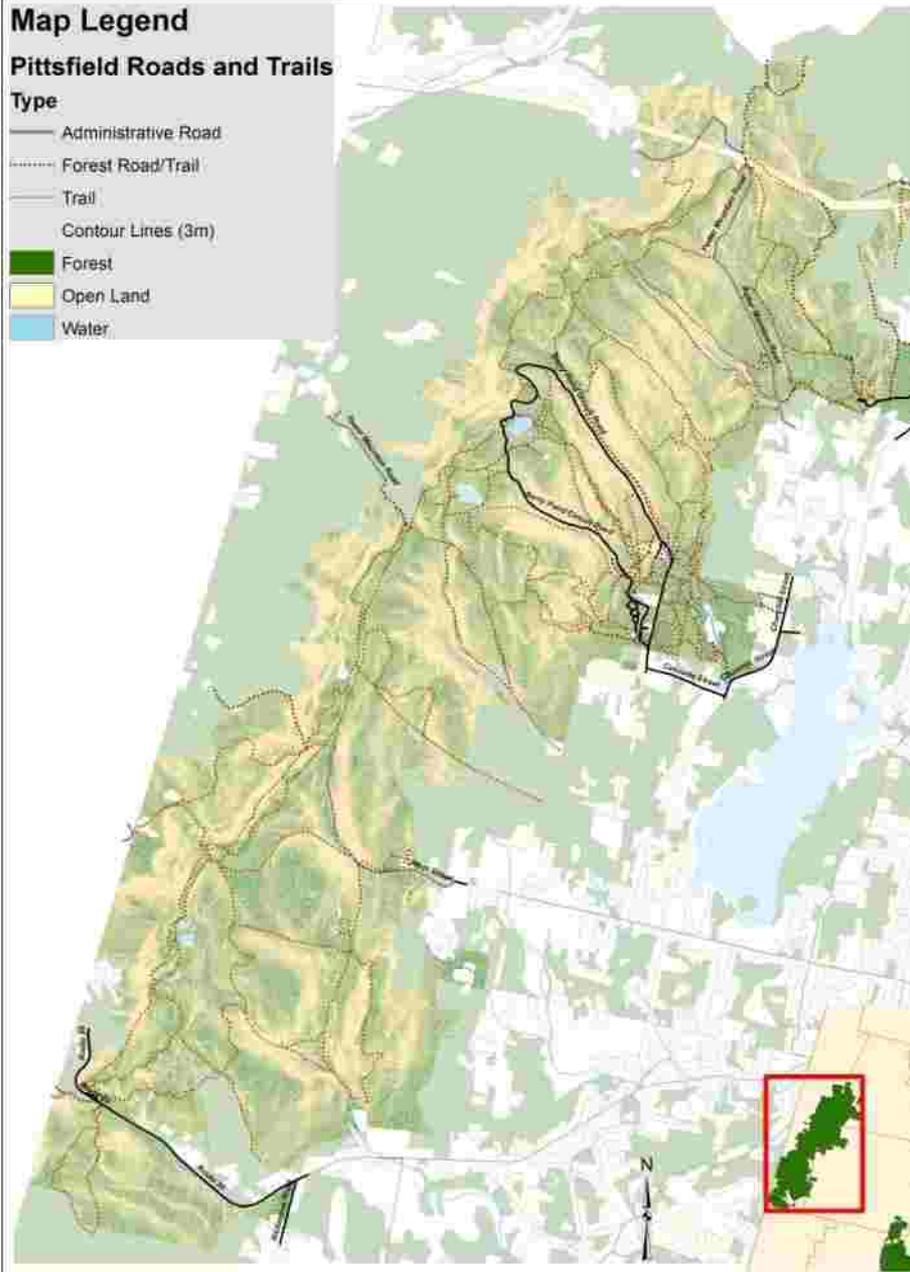
Pittsfield Trail Planning

Map Legend

Pittsfield Roads and Trails

Type

- Administrative Road
- ⋯ Forest Road/Trail
- Trail
- Contour Lines (3m)
- Forest
- Open Land
- Water



0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 Miles

Map created by DCR Greenways and Trails Program
Data from MassGIS and DCR Road and Trail Inventory
Boundary lines are approximate







HAWTHORNE
TRAIL

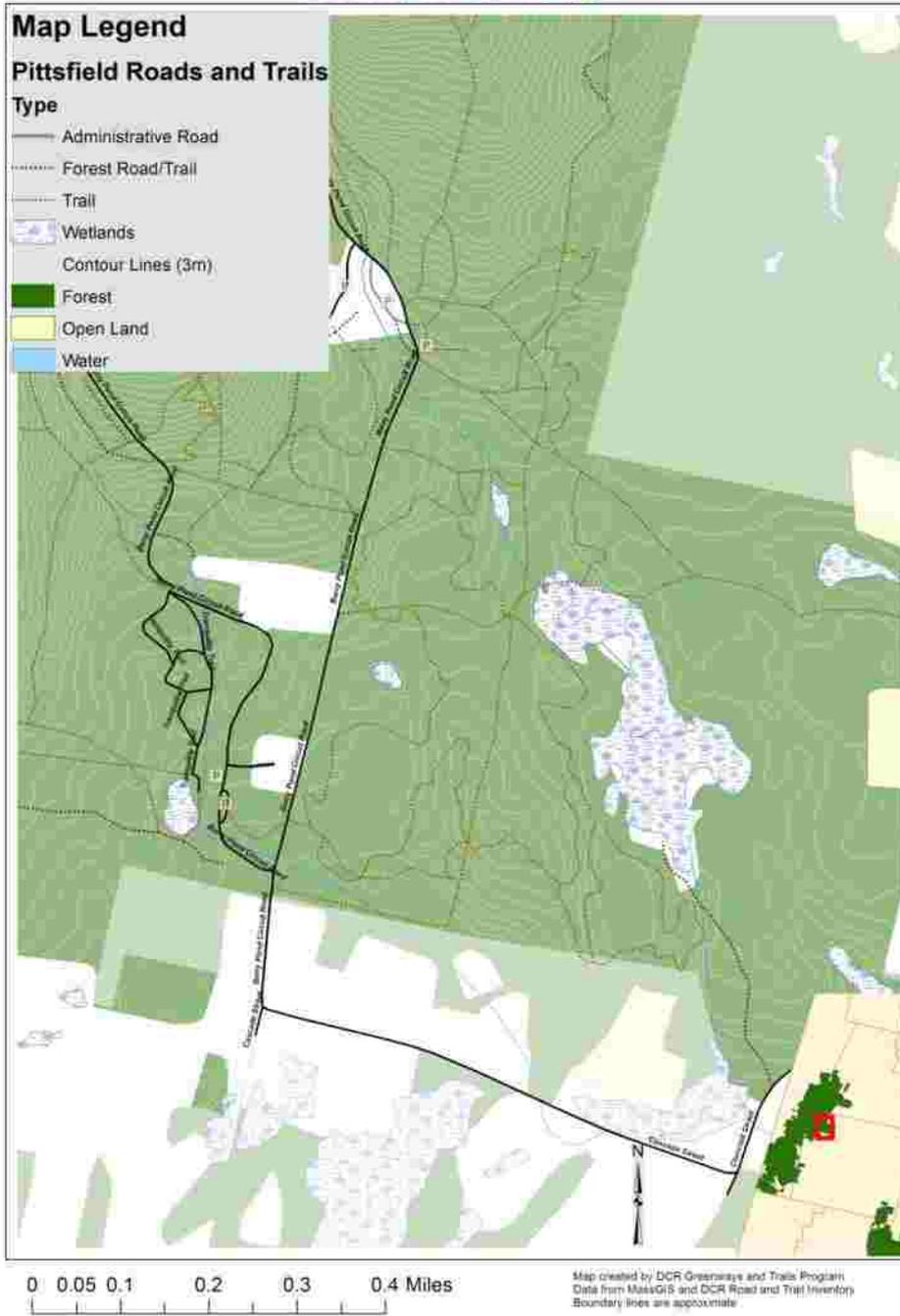






Pittsfield State Forest Trail System

Pittsfield Trail Planning



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles

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Data from MassGIS and DCR Road and Trail Inventory.
Boundary lines are approximate.







Pittsfield State Forest Trail System

Pittsfield Trail Planning

Map Legend

Pittsfield Roads and Trails

Type

— Administrative Road

⋯ Forest Road/Trail

— Trail

— Illegal Trails

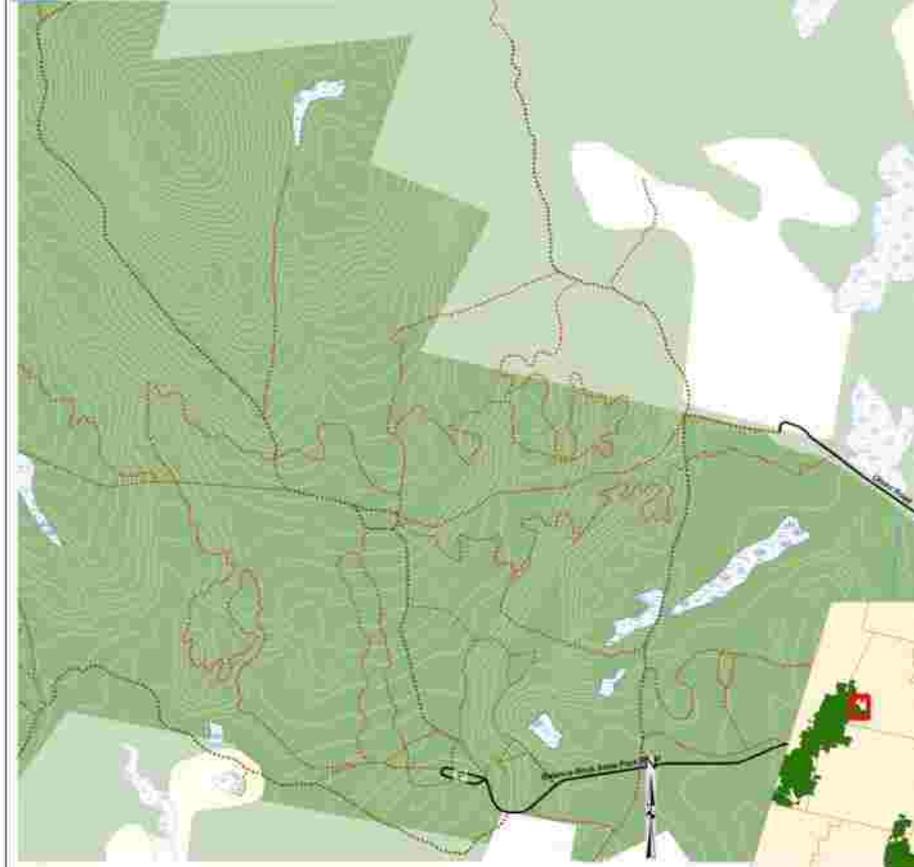
Wetlands

Contour Lines (3m)

Forest

Open Land

Water



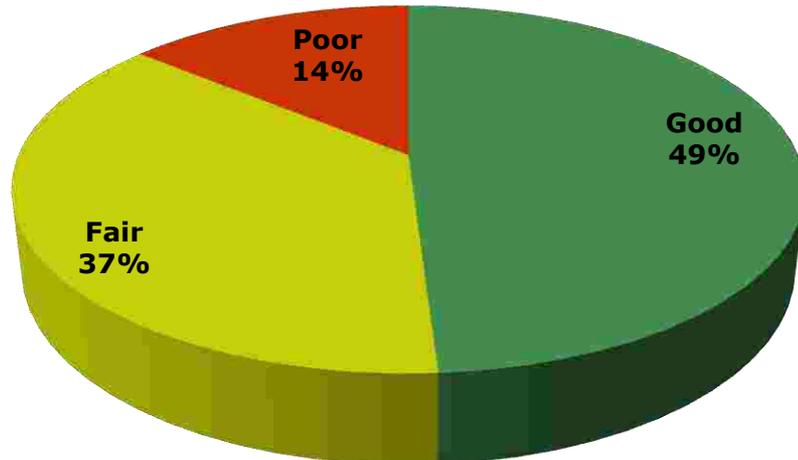
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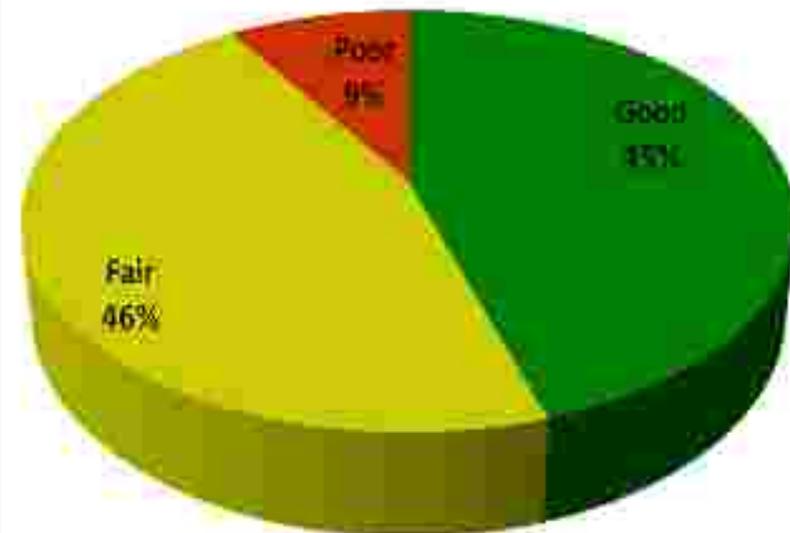
Pittsfield State Forest Trail System

- 94 miles of authorized trail
- 31 miles of illegal / unauthorized trails

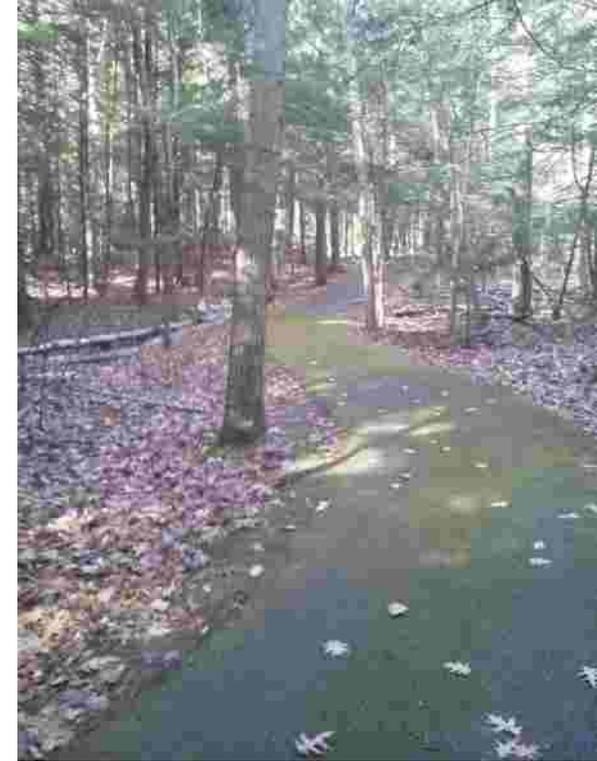
Trail Conditions - Pittsfield SF



Trail Conditions - DCR Statewide

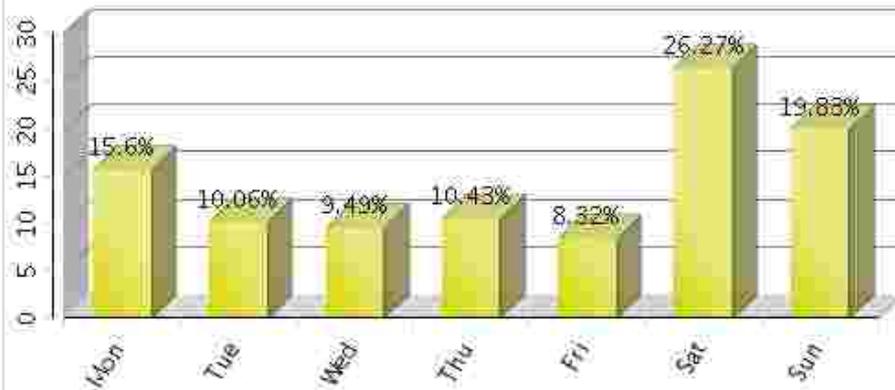


Trailhead counts

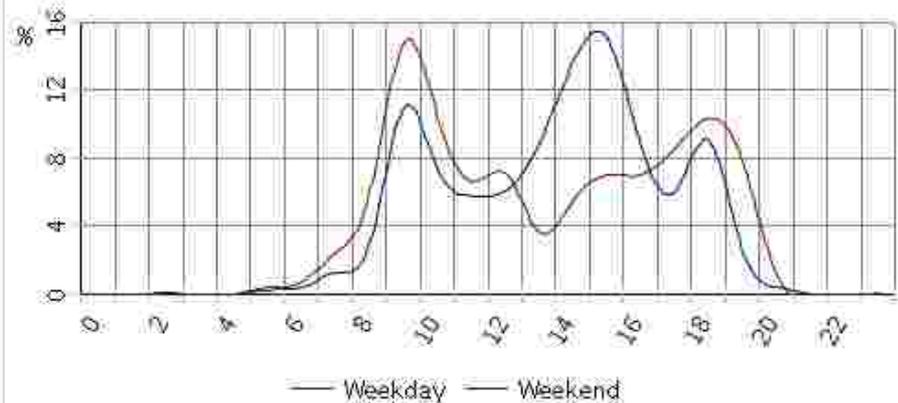


<u>Trailhead</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>Weekly Average</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Max</u>
Taconic Skyline Trail	Summer - Fall 2012	9	59	232	54
Taconic Skyline Trail	Winter 2012-13	3	23	98	20
Tranquility Accesible Trail	Summer-Fall 2012	45	311	1,165	175
Family Bear Claw Trailhead	Spring- Summer 2013	11	75	257	65

Weekly Profile



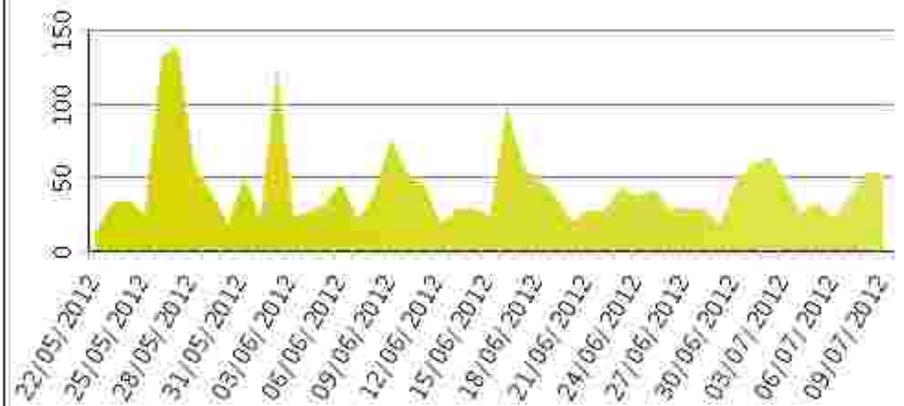
Hourly Total Count for Week



Peak day : (Sunday 27 May 2012)



Daily data























Leaving Only Footsteps? Think Again

By **CHRISTOPHER SOLOMON**

FEB. 13, 2015



All Trails and Uses Have Impacts

- Compact soils
- Trample vegetation
- Erosion and water quality impacts
- Wildlife disturbance

Pittsfield Resource Values

- Steep slopes
- Headwaters of the Housatonic
- Vernal pools and upland habitat
- Rare plant and animal species
- Historic Shaker and CCC cultural sites

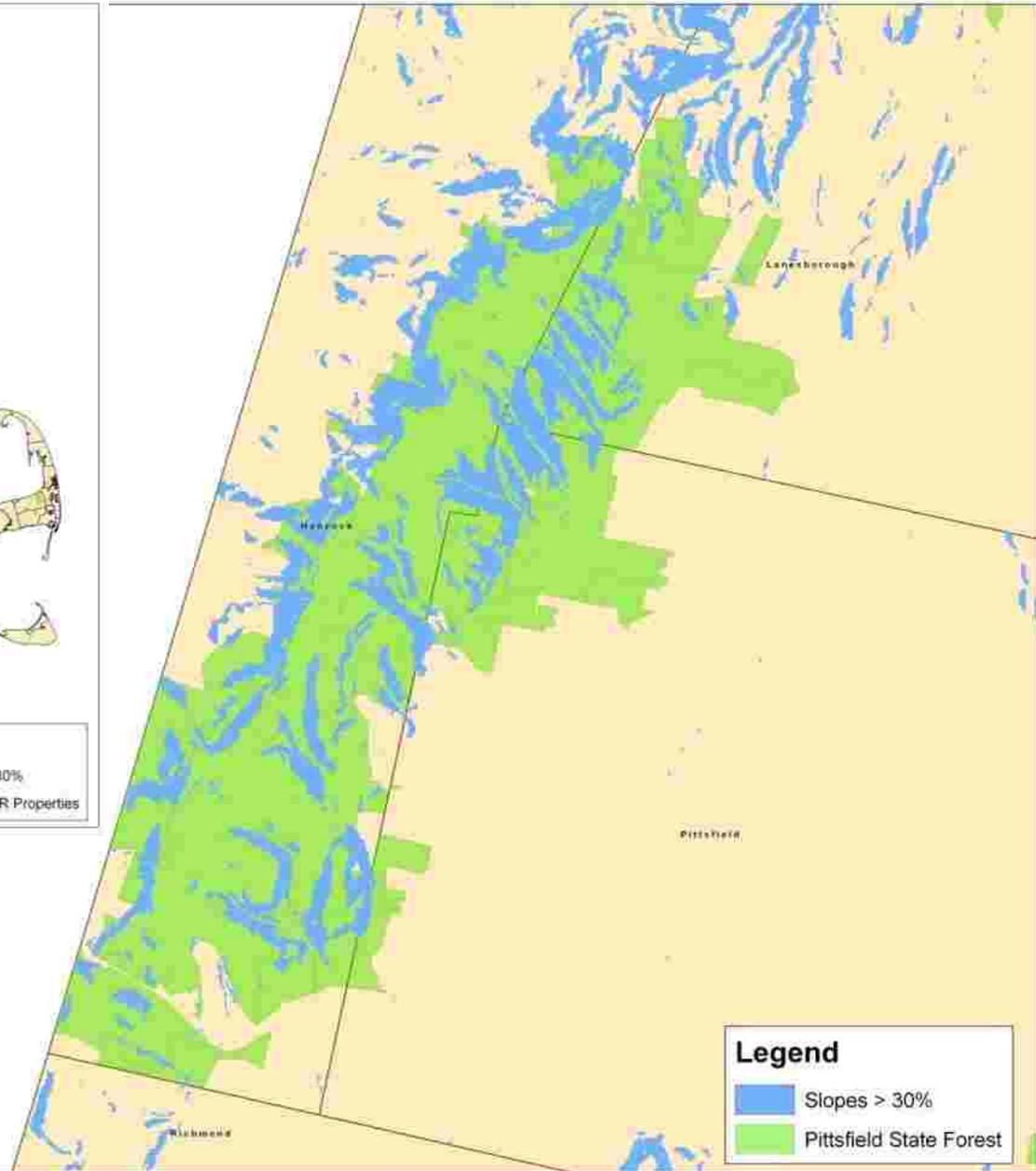
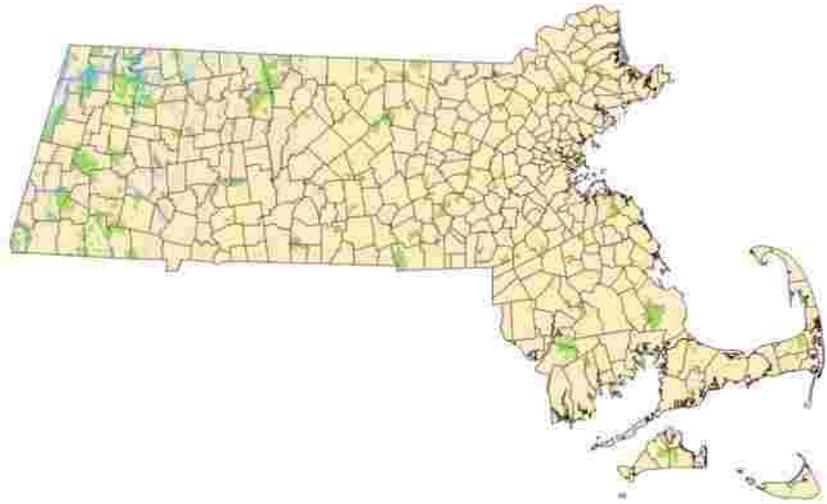
Trail Siting Criteria

From DCR's OHV Facility Assessment Policy - Fine Filter Criteria

Trail Layout Should:

1. Comply with MESA
2. Avoids known locations of state listed endangered species, threatened species, species of special concern
3. Not impact Priority Natural Communities and Vernal Pools
4. Does not impact Core Habitat
5. Comply with approved species management plans
6. Comply with Watershed Protection Act
7. Comply with DEP wellhead protection
8. Comply with Wetlands Protection Act
9. Comply with Zone 1 of DCR Land Stewardship Zoning
10. Comply with DCR regulations for Forest Reserves
8. Does not impact ACECs
9. Comply with regulations for Wildlands
10. Not located on dams, dikes or spillways
11. Locate trails on existing development
15. Avoids restricted soil types
16. Avoids trail grades > 30%
17. Avoids impacting unique geological features (not available)
18. Avoids impacting cultural and historic resources, remove wetlands from analysis
19. Avoids impacting trails of national, state or regional significance that are identified in the MA Greenway Plan

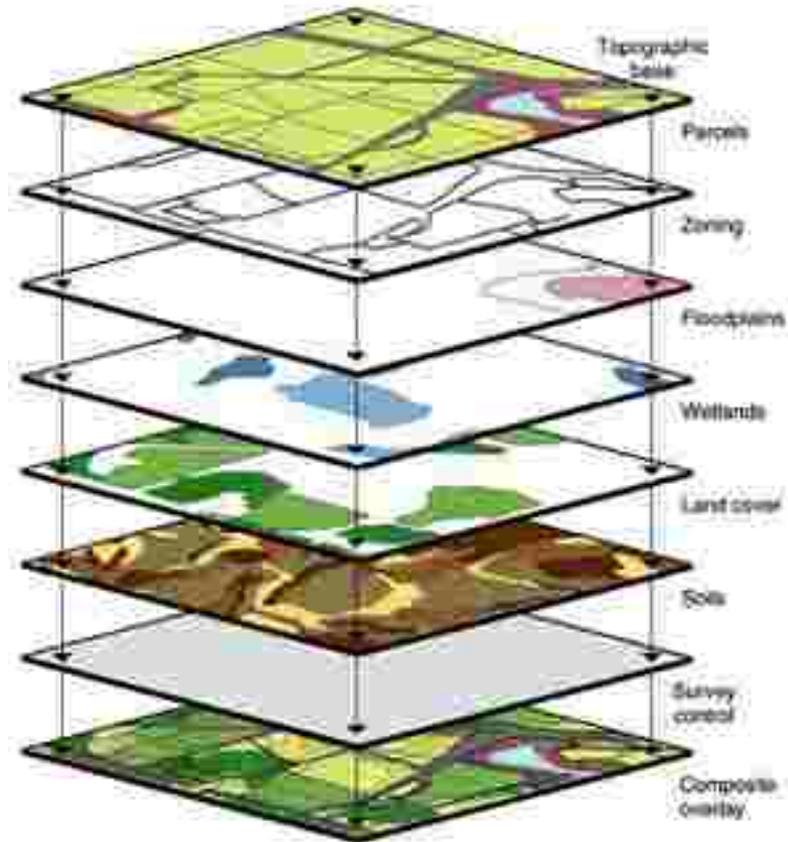
16) The proposed trail layout avoids grades in excess of 30 %



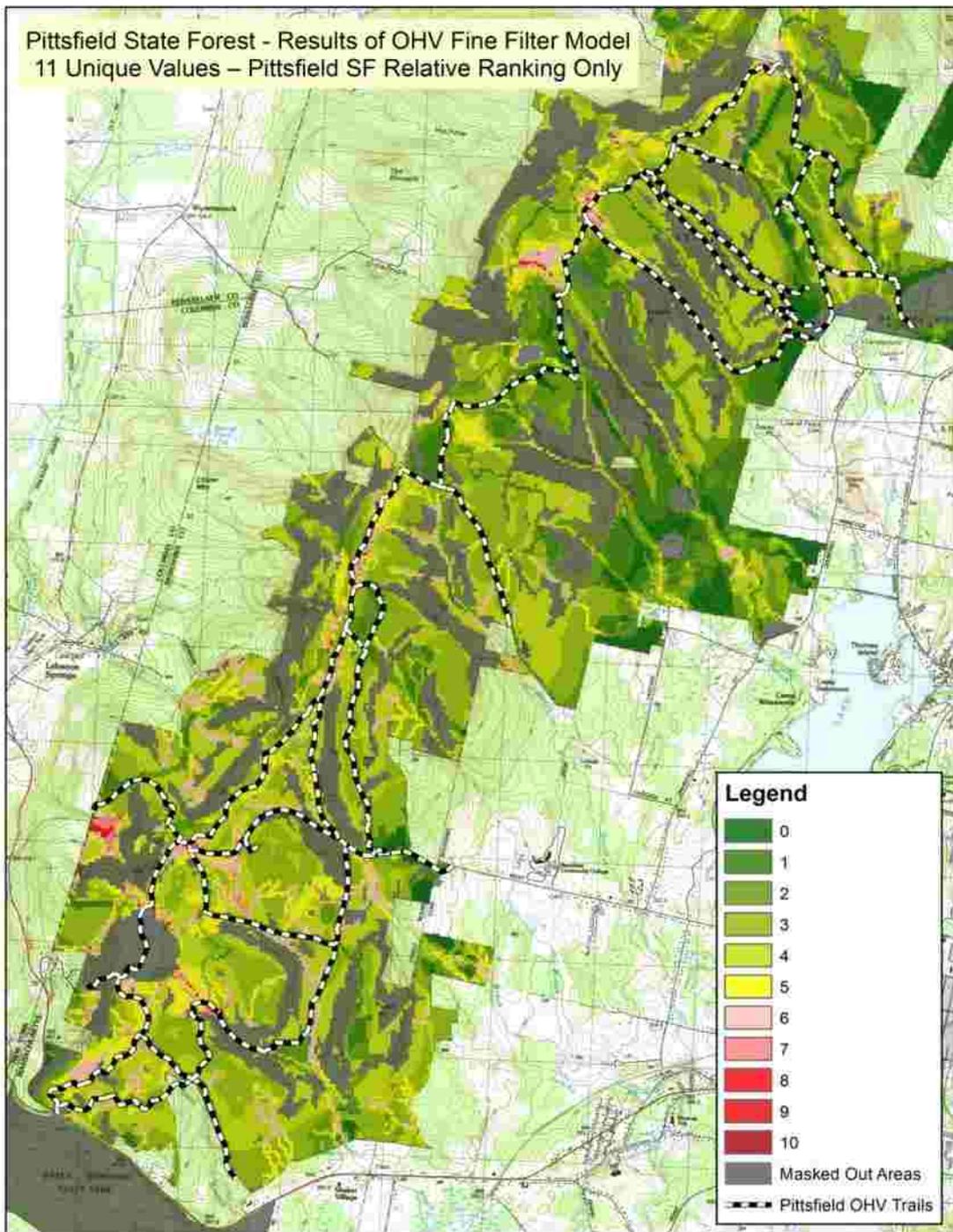
Model Values (2 is Poor for OHV Trails, 1 is Fair, 0 is Best)
In/out Slopes > 30%.....mask/0
(changed)

Process

1. Convert each dataset to a grid (raster)
2. Assign a numeric value to each cell (0, 1, 2 or 3)
3. Add up the values from each cell
4. Each final output cell gets a value based on the addition of each input cell
5. Mask out with 8 “No Go” grids
6. The total value for each cell can be from 0 (most appropriate for OHV trail siting) up to a maximum of 14 (least appropriate for OHV trail siting)



Pittsfield State Forest - Results of OHV Fine Filter Model
11 Unique Values – Pittsfield SF Relative Ranking Only





TRAIL
CLOSED

CAT





Trails Planning Workshops

Identify Features and Experiences:

- **Scenic, Recreational and Cultural Features**
- **Key Recreational Experiences**
- **Important Access Points**
- **New Desired Connections or Opportunities**

Identify Constraints, Issues and Problems:

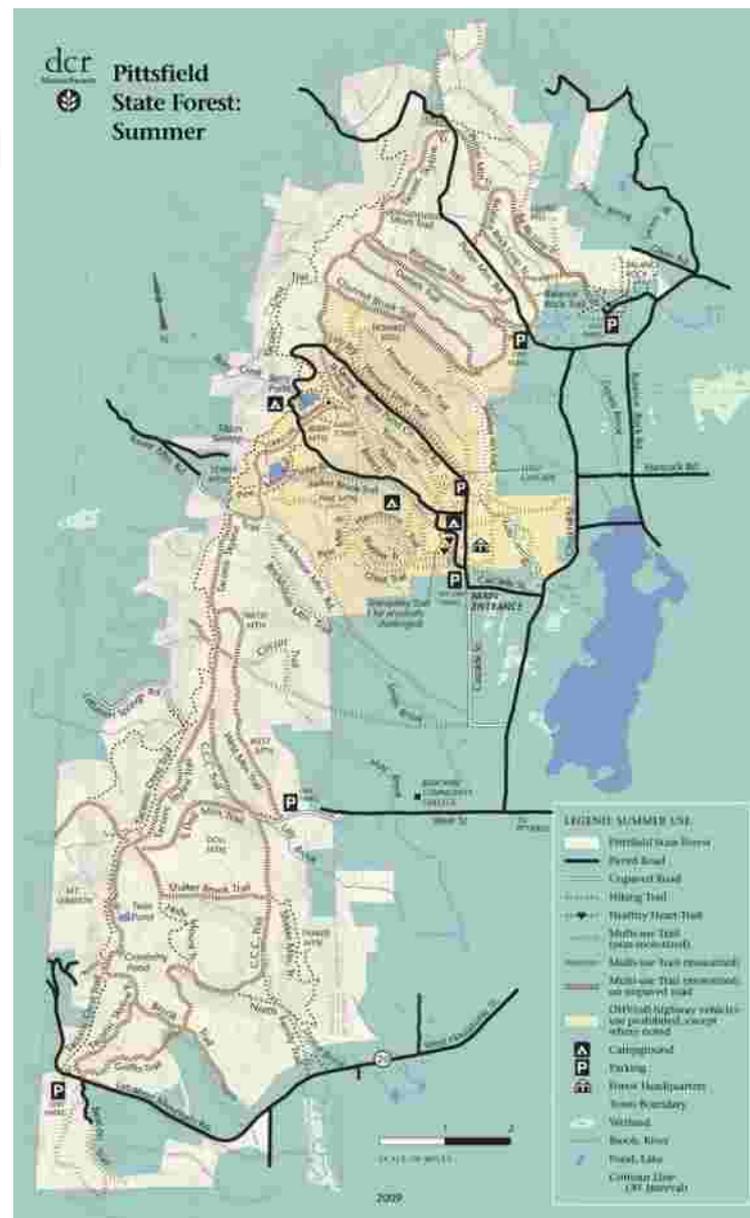
- **Pinch Points and Problem Areas**
- **Sensitive Areas to Avoid or Protect**
- **Redundant and Poor Condition Trails**



Trails Planning Workshops

Guidelines:

- Each group should select a facilitator and reporter
- There are no “bad” questions, ideas, or opinions
- Listen to each speaker (no side bar conversations)
- Be aware of “air time” and sharing it
- Stay on track
- Encourage everyone to participate
- Respect each other’s opinions!



Trails Planning Workshops

Keep in Mind:

- **Multi-Use Trail System – Balancing various motorized and non-motorized trail use**
- **Balancing New Trails and Closures (No Net Gain)**
- **Woodland**



Additional Information

For more information:

Google "Massachusetts DCR Trail System Plan"

If you have comments or suggestions:

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Call: 413-586-8706 ext. 20