

**DCR Bureau of Forestry  
Public Meeting Notes  
Forest Management Proposals – Winter 2017  
Athol Town Hall; Athol, MA  
Wednesday, March 15, 2017 6:00PM-7:30PM**

**Warwick State Forest - Bass Swamp**

Keith Ross:

- Concerns with truck traffic along Bass Road
  - o Response: winter month harvest to help mitigate potential damage road
- Concern regarding the use of NET trail for skidding; both with aesthetics and potential damage to existing concrete culvert
  - o Response: discussions are ongoing with AMC in regards to aesthetic buffers along trail; culvert will be bridged with swamp mats
- Suggestion to utilize three smaller landings as an alternative to skidding along NET trail and utilizing one large landing along Bass Road. Mentioned the possibility of bringing wood from the eastern portion of the timber sale north to Northfield Road.
  - o Response: Options have been discussed within DCR regarding bringing wood out to the north and utilizing multiple landings. As it stands, it was decided that the proposed plan would be the most feasible and most closely coincides with current BMP's, specifically in regards to utilizing existing roads.

John & Mary Williamson

- Concern regarding aesthetic buffer along NET trail; specifically large white pines along the trail
  - o Response : discussions are ongoing with AMC in regards to aesthetic buffers along the trail
- Concern with timber sale impacts on personal property, asked about possible aesthetic buffer along their property boundary near their house.
  - o Response: Care is taken to avoid damage to abutting property; DCR will comply with MGL 132 regulation in regards to slash law along abutter's property. Abutters notices will be sent notifying abutters prior to the start of harvesting operations. Keith DiNardo stated that he is not entirely opposed to the implementation of some type of buffer along the property line near the house, as long as it is not in excess.

**Otter River State Forest – Whitcomb Hill**

No Comments

**DCR Bureau of Forestry  
Public Meeting Notes  
Forest Management Proposals – Winter 2017  
DCR Western Regional Headquarters; Pittsfield, MA  
Thursday, March 16, 2017 6:00PM-8:00PM**

**Florida State Forest**

Susan Masino:

- Questioned discussion of “old growth”
  - o Response: Large, old trees left as a part of the management approach. Stand will not be old growth but may, through this management approach take on the characteristics of old growth with many size and age classes represented.

Lev Margulis

- Why manage against Norway spruce; what is wrong with it?
  - o Response: Although Norway spruce grows very well here, it does tend to be susceptible to many environmental factors such as wind and snow load. It is our policy and we would prefer to manage for native species on their natural sites.
- Given that our forests evolved over many thousands of years without human intervention, how can we assume to have enough information to manage them?
  - o Response: This is a huge discussion point and there truly isn't enough time to adequately discuss this evening. Please submit a comment to that regard.

**Peru State Forest – Garnet Hill Lot**

Susan Masino

- Noted that historical areas and artifacts or wetlands were not shown on the proposal map and concerned about the protection of both during the logging.
  - o Response: Prior to the proposal the DCR Archeologist reviews each project. The Archeologist has provided a list of known sites close to and within the proposal area. Department of Environmental Protection maps are consulted to the proposal also. The proposal and map are based on that and initial ground reconnaissance. A complete inventory of the forest will be conducted in the preparation of the Prescription. Careful documentation of all resources will happen at that time.
- Concerned about the protection of water resources – this area is the headwaters of the Westfield River.
  - o Response: Forest Cutting Regulations and Best Management Practices for protection of water quality in MA are some of the most rigorous in the United States. When conducting timber harvesting on state lands in MA, practices used almost always exceed the regulations and BMPs.

Lev Margulis

- Concerned that the proposed harvesting activity would change what is a wild forest.
  - o Response: Many areas in Peru State Forest have been harvested multiple times.
- Concerned that a proposed parking area would draw too many people to the forest and that a parking is not appropriate for this forest.

- Response: The parking area is proposed in consultation with “Park Operations” staff; they were asked and it was confirmed that it would be appropriate so that vehicles, albeit only a couple at a time, can get off the road safely.

### **Hawley State Forest**

No comments received

### **Berkshire Road and Trail Ash Removal**

Numerous questions of clarification were asked by Berkshire Eagle Reporter Dick Lindsay. Lindsay published [an article in the Eagle](#) March 19, 2017 that addressed many of the questions and answers received.

**Public Meeting regarding Forest Management Proposal at F. Gilbert Hills State Forest  
March 21, 2017 Borderland State Park, North Easton, MA**

**Attendees:**

**DCR: Paul Gregory, Management Forester; Tom Aston, Forest and Park Supervisor; Andrew Buckley, Forest and Park Supervisor.**

**Public: Ron Clough**

Paul Gregory presented information on the Bristol Lot Proposal at F. Gilbert Hills State Forest. The following comments and questions were received and answered by Paul Gregory:

Ron Clough:

- No historical features? What about the historic quarry?
  - The quarry is outside the project area. It is to the southeast of the project area.
- What is the brown polygon to the north of the project area on the map?
  - That is the wooded swamp.
- Is the project right on the town line between Wrentham and Foxborough?
  - Yes. The boundary in this section of the state forest is the town line.
- Will this project be in one timber sale?
  - Yes, it will be administered as one sale.
- Always thought this should have been done years ago.

**Transcribed by Tom Ashton**