

**Public Meeting to Present and Discuss 2019 Forestry Proposals in
Beartown State Forest, October Mountain State Forest, Savoy State Forest and Windsor State Forest
DCR West Region Headquarters, Pittsfield, MA - April 2, 2019**

Attendees: Randy Toth, Snowmobile Association of MA; Cosmo Catalano, MA Appalachian Trail Committee; Meredyth Babcock, Wild & Scenic Westfield River; Jacqueline and Joan Metsma; Susan Purser; Steph and Dan Harris, Savoy; Larry Parnass, Berkshire Eagle; Conrad Ohman

DCR – Bureau of Forestry: William Hill, Forest Management Supervisor; Kristopher Massini, Management Forester; Kevin Podkowka, Management Forester, Nicholas Anzuoni, Management Forester; Jeffery Martin Assistant Management Forester.

6:04 pm- Bill Hill begins the meeting with a brief introduction to the forest land management guidelines that DCR has followed since the Forest Visioning Process. There are four projects being proposed that were posted on 3/13/19 with the public comment period ending on 4/29/19.

6:13 pm- Kevin Podkowka begins his presentation on a project in Savoy SF named the “Shear Pin Lot”. He discusses our mission statement and goes on to talk about Emerald Ash Borer, and why DCR does these harvests.

- 1. (question) Why don't we hold onto mature trees to store carbon? Kevin answers by discussing the need for multiple age classes and how we sequester carbon in retained trees and finished wood products.**
- 2. What does frequent monitoring to insure compliance with BMP's mean and is there a way to insure that bad contractors are not retained for work on DCR land? Kevin answers by discussing DCR bonding of timber sales and how we have the right to cancel and not award contracts if we see fit.**
- 3. Do you know how much a logging truck weighs and what road will they use for the project? 80,000 lbs., Adams road.**
- 4. Are you using herbicides specifically glyphosphate? No, not on this project. Bill goes on to say that we, DCR – Bureau of Forestry is trying to find ways not to use herbicide.**
- 5. Will you be making efforts to reserve healthy ash trees? Kevin answers that no ash trees under 10" will be cut and all my riparian areas are no cut zones so those ash trees are free to die and fall in the stream/wetland as nature intended.**
- 6. Do loggers pay for road damage? Yes they are obligated to by contract and often roads are upgraded.**
- 7. What do you require so that non-native invasive plants are not brought onto the site and what steps are taken to monitor the site post-harvest? Kevin says that we require an inspection of all equipment before it enters the site to verify that it is clean and free of dirt and debris. We are in the process of establishing a regen monitoring program, Bill goes on to talk about our plan for doing regen monitoring on all new timber sales and ones that were completed 5 years prior to our shutdown.**

6:50 Kris begins his presentation on Beartown and Washington Mt. proposals. He begins with Beartown and a short discussion of the constraints of the "Reserve" designation and differences in the "Parklands" treatment in the project. Safety issues are what's driving the roadside work in the reserves.

8. Why not leave ash trees that are infected so as not to spread the bug? Kris discusses the benefits of harvesting the wood and the safety issues. Jeff Martin interjects that the insect spreads on its own regardless of harvesting.
9. One hundred and twelve acres seems like a lot? Kris explains that the linear acreage adds up fast and the road way is also counted as treated acreage.
10. Conrad Ohman, former DCR forester reminded us of the exotic plantations on Swann road and talked about the interesting limestone area behind the plantations.

7:13 pm- Kris starts discussion of Washington Mt. Norway spruce harvest. The project came about because of the declining conditions of the stand and that the Appalachian Trail runs through area. Kris also discusses how we are collaborating with the AT folks on the work is to be done, per a MOU.

11. Did Pugsie weigh in on this and will Norway spruce be eliminated from the area? Kris answers, No, and that Norway spruce won't be eliminated as the smaller more wind firm trees will be retained and also there is existing advanced regeneration of Norway spruce on the site.
12. I saw numbers on trees, what are they? Kris explains the Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) plot was the numbering on the trees and discusses how it's one of the oldest permanent plot inventories in the nation.
13. Why was there blue paint on trees along County Road? Kris explained how this was a roadside ash sale and described what the treatment was along the road.

7:27 pm- Nick starts his presentation of proposal called the "Two Cubs Lot" in Windsor SF. It's mostly a softwood timber sale of mixed species with a lot of roadway work along town roads to be done with the proceeds. He talked about the need to prepare for another 1938 event and how the Norway spruce in his area is worth keeping. Nick also talked about the mechanized equipment to be used and how the understory in the spruce stand is a sterile monoculture and how it is important to provide for a diversity of species.

14. The Baker Administration is focused on biomass and is that affecting how we manage our forests? No..., Nick, Kevin and Bill answered by describing that most of our material is put to a high value products however when someone buys a timber sale they own it and if they want to chip it, they can.
15. I certainly appreciate the presentations and the holistic approach to the program that DCR is taking, Thank you! Short discussion by Nick describing how DCR makes an effort at progressive and excellent forestry.

8:15 pm - Meeting adjourned

**Public Meeting regarding Forest Management Proposal at Myles Standish State Forest
April 9, 2019 Myles Standish State Forest Plymouth, MA**

Attendees: Sharl Heller, Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance

DCR: Paul Gregory - Management Forester and Michael Marquardt - District Fire Warden.

Paul Gregory presented information on the Norway Spruce Removal / Pine Barrens Restoration Proposal at Myles Standish State Forest. The following comments and questions were received and answered by Paul Gregory:

- Has the project being sold?
 - No. It is just a proposal at this time. Once comments are received and responded to, I will incorporate any legitimate comments into the prescription. I still have to do a stand exam to determine the volume, write the prescription, and mark the sale. Then we will have a pre-harvest walk for the public. Then I will offer it for sale.
- Will you take comments at the pre-harvest walk?
 - Yes, we will take comments and if someone has a legitimate concern we will try to address it.
- Why not take comments after the project is marked?
 - It would be better to incorporate comments into the prescription before the sale is marked.

Public Meeting to Present and Discuss 2019 Forestry Proposals in
Townsend State Forest
Trustees of the Reservations, Leominster, MA - April 9, 2019

Public Attendees: Steven Dyke, Jeremy Sauer, Scott Lessard all of Townsend, MA

DCR – Bureau of Forestry: William Hill, Forest Management Supervisor; Michael Waterman,
Management Forester

Bill Hill begins the meeting with a brief introduction to the forest land management guidelines that DCR has followed since the Forest Visioning Process.

Mike Waterman made his presentation on a project in Townsend State Forest named the “Barker Hill”.

1. (comment) We use the area for deer hunting and we are very familiar with the land.
2. What is the status of land sales in the area? Mike did not know.
3. The forests look pretty healthy right now. Mike explains how the scale insect is present in the red pine stand and unfortunately it is a matter of time before the trees die. Regeneration is needed in Stand 2 and this entry will help that process.
4. Is the goal to grow white pine? Mike responds that the goal is to diversify the species in the area so that there is a mix of hardwoods and white pine.
5. Will you clearcut the whole area? Mike answers no, the openings will be small gaps or openings in the forest canopy up to one acre in size.
6. What is the timing of the project? Perhaps cutting will begin one year to eighteen months from now.

8:15 pm - Meeting adjourned