

**Department of Conservation a­nd Recreation**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**DCR Forest Management Projects in**

**Chester-Blandford, Mount Washington, Northfield, Otter River, Lawton, and Myles Standish State Forests**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s (DCR) Bureau of Forestry will be hosting two virtual public meetings to discuss the six forest management projects noted below. Each virtual public meeting will discuss three of the six forest management projects.

During the virtual meetings, slides describing each proposed forest management project will be presented by DCR foresters. Questions on specific projects may be posed through the written Q&A function during the respective presentations.

• Tuesday, August 17, 2021 - 4 pm – 5:30pm – Participants may join the meeting using [[[[this link](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_ZmI2ODFlOWUtN2FiZC00ODRhLThlZDMtM2MwODg3OGJiODkw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223e861d16-48b7-4a0e-9806-8c04d81b7b2a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b3f835cd-ceb9-4f17-a7ce-3fbbc84ea026%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d&btype=a&role=a)](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_ZmI2ODFlOWUtN2FiZC00ODRhLThlZDMtM2MwODg3OGJiODkw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223e861d16-48b7-4a0e-9806-8c04d81b7b2a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b3f835cd-ceb9-4f17-a7ce-3fbbc84ea026%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d&btype=a&role=a)](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_ZmI2ODFlOWUtN2FiZC00ODRhLThlZDMtM2MwODg3OGJiODkw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223e861d16-48b7-4a0e-9806-8c04d81b7b2a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b3f835cd-ceb9-4f17-a7ce-3fbbc84ea026%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d&btype=a&role=a)](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_ZmI2ODFlOWUtN2FiZC00ODRhLThlZDMtM2MwODg3OGJiODkw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223e861d16-48b7-4a0e-9806-8c04d81b7b2a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b3f835cd-ceb9-4f17-a7ce-3fbbc84ea026%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d&btype=a&role=a).

The project within Chester-Blandford State Forest proposes to use uneven age and even age management in both mixed hardwood stands and Norway spruce plantations to regenerate native species.

The proposed project within Mt. Washington State Forest proposes to use a combination of uneven- and even-age management systems to salvage and reduce ash density, and even-aged management in larch plantations to regenerate native species.

The project in Northfield State Forest proposes to use uneven-age management techniques to create better growing conditions for residual trees using a variable density thinning. Additionally, a collaborative research project with UMass Amherst is proposed here to study interactions between vegetative diversity, forest management, and forest carbon dynamics.

• Thursday August 19th, 2021 – 4 pm –5:30pm – Participants may join the meeting using [[this link](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_NzI4ZmFlMGMtMjMzZS00N2UzLTg3YzAtYjNlNzBjMjZhMzlj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223e861d16-48b7-4a0e-9806-8c04d81b7b2a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b3f835cd-ceb9-4f17-a7ce-3fbbc84ea026%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d&btype=a&role=a)](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_NzI4ZmFlMGMtMjMzZS00N2UzLTg3YzAtYjNlNzBjMjZhMzlj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223e861d16-48b7-4a0e-9806-8c04d81b7b2a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b3f835cd-ceb9-4f17-a7ce-3fbbc84ea026%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d&btype=a&role=a).

The project in Otter River State Forest proposes to use the shelterwood method to release stand understory and removing severely declining pine plantations. These declining stands pose a hazard to recreational users at Otter River. Other portions of the project area will incorporate uneven-aged management by group thinning.

The project in Lawton State Forest will incorporate even-aged silviculture to remove declining softwood plantations while releasing the established understory. The southerly section will incorporate uneven-aged management to remove declining softwoods and promote native regeneration. A collaborative research project with UMass Amherst is proposed here to study interactions between vegetative diversity, forest management, and forest carbon dynamics.

The proposed project at the Myles Standish State Forest proposes to use an even-age management system to reduce fuel loads and the risk of fire damage. The project area will improve public safety by creating safety zones for recreational users at the park.

The proposals may also be viewed at this website address:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/forest-management-projects#-forest-management-projects-proposed-2021->. Public comment period currently scheduled to end on August 14th, 2021 will be extended until August 31st, 2021 to ensure all participants are allowed the time for comment after listening to the presentations.

After the meeting, the presentations will be available for viewing at [https://www.mass.gov/dcr/past-public-meetings.](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.mass.gov_dcr_past-2Dpublic-2Dmeetings&d=DwMGaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=49SKs-Yzn_evRnA3jS-d8DHIhL2zuEVbOmnOVRE2wEI&m=NZiNJTAFIBoqM0R6PX2cD5DudpwsN11FEoIdx_9vCwE&s=_8nfO4aAKB48yPl4G5_fs98r4aP-rULtfyqJn1lg0gw&e) DCR encourages the public to share additional feedback on our website. Comments may be submitted online at Forestry.comments@mass.gov. Please note that the content of comments you submit to DCR, along with your name, town, and zip code, will be posted on DCR's website if provided. Additional contact information when commenting, notably email address, will only be used for outreach on future updates on the subject project or property.

If you have agency-related questions or concerns or would like to be added to an email list to receive DCR general or project-specific announcements, please email Mass.Parks@mass.gov or call 617-626-4973.

Join us on Twitter @ [MassDCR](https://twitter.com/#!/MassDCR)

*Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need, please include as much detail as you can. Also include a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please allow at least 10 days advance notice. Last minute requests will be accepted, but we may be unable to fulfill the request. Please send an e-mail to Melixza G. Esenyie, ADA and Diversity Manager at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs at* *Melixza.Esenyie2@mass.gov* *or call 617-626-1282.*