



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry 2020





MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Massachusetts Resource Facts

- 3.2 million acres of forested landscape, or approximately 60% of the state
- 1 million acres of protected open space
- 450,000 acres DCR managed lands
- 6th smallest state, 9th largest state park system

- Quiz

- Who is John Wingate Weeks?



Natural Disturbances

- Hurricanes, tornados, thunderstorms
- Snow storms
- ice storms
- pathogens (insects and disease)
- fires
- wildlife
- Climate Change



DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry Programs

- Forest Fire Control (Dave Celino) (18 FTEs)
- State Lands Forestry (William Hill) (10)
- Service Forestry (Jennifer Fish) (13)
- Forest Markets and Utilization (1)
(Sean Mahoney)
- Forest Health (Nicole Keleher) (35)
- Urban and Community Forestry
(Julie Coop) (23)
- Forest Legacy (Lindsay Nystrom) (1)
- Land and Forest Stewardship (Mary Cardwell) (1)



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

DCR

Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry

Forest Fire Control Responsibilities

Providing aid and assistance in the prevention, detection and suppression of forest fires to cities and towns since 1911.



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION



DCR

Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry

- **43 Fire Towers Statewide**
- **Fire Detection**
 - Staff 22 fire towers statewide
- **Forest Fire Prevention Programs**
 - Smokey Bear message
 - Firewise Program



Importance of assisting other DCR Programs



Urban and Community Forestry

- Greening Gateway Cities initiative (26,000 trees planted)
- Coordinate Worcester County ALB reforestation program
- Annual urban challenge grants
- Provide technical assistance to municipalities and partner groups
- Tree Planting in DCR Parks



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

STATE LANDS FORESTRY

The Management Forestry Program

Mission of Forestry on DCR Woodlands

- demonstrate exemplary forest management practices
- manage carbon stock
- to produce wood products
- protect water quality and enhance supply
- create diverse habitats
- provide recreational opportunities

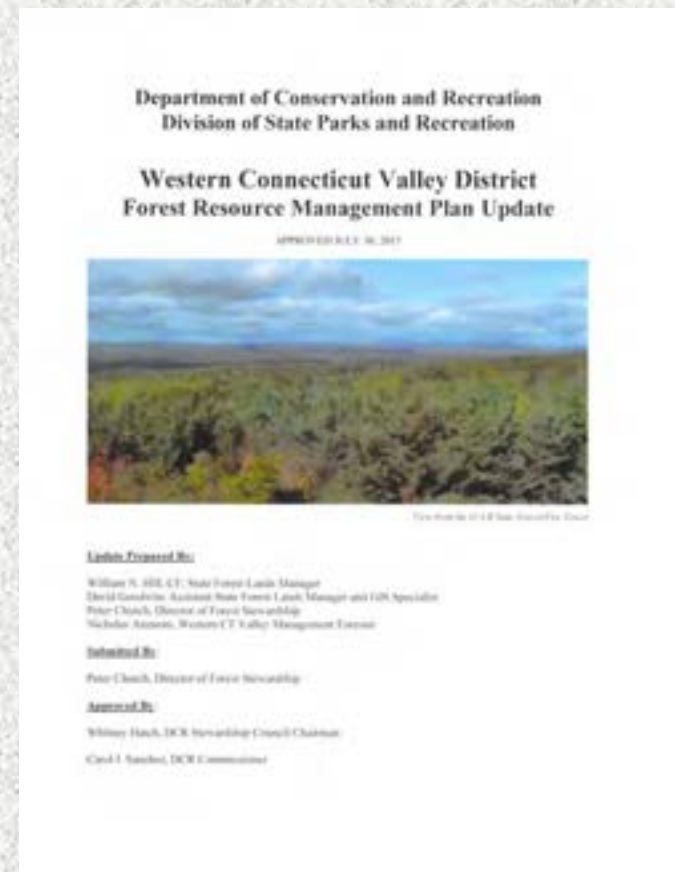
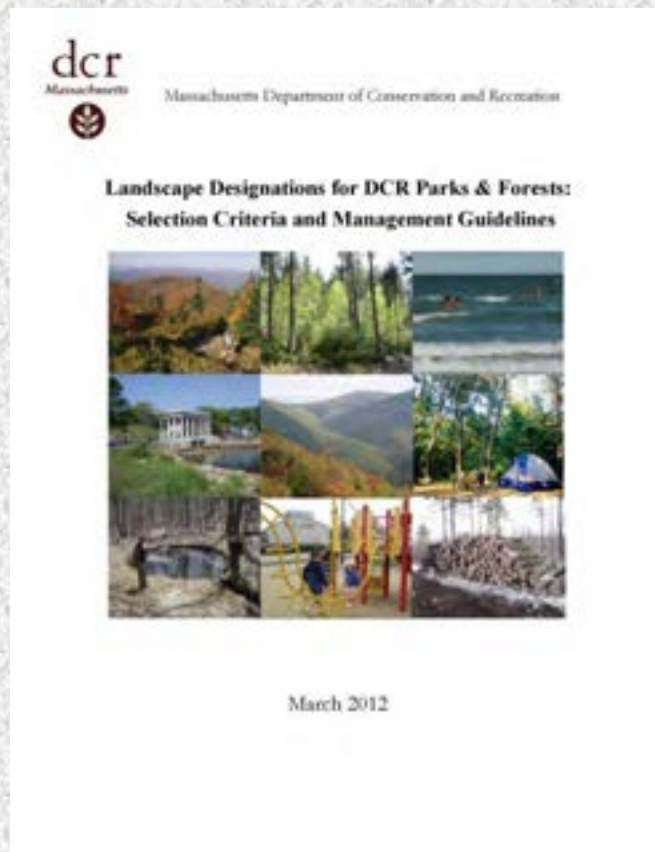
Manage – Actively manage State Forests for a variety of ecosystem services

Monitor – Inventory State Forest Resources. What tree species; how big; how old; how fast or slow is growth; how healthy?

Maintain – Property boundaries and forested recreation facilities. Assist State Parks with forested infrastructure on State Forests. Respond to natural disturbances on DCR properties.



Forest Future Visioning and Landscape Designations



Forest Future Visioning and Landscape Designations

- Adoption of an Ecosystem Services Model
 - Biological/ecosystem diversity
 - Soil, air, water quality
 - Carbon sequestration
 - Nutrient cycling
 - Culture, history, spiritual values
 - Public recreation
 - Renewable wood products



Ecosystem benefits from the proposed projects

- Demonstration forestry
- Restoration of native ecosystems
- Wildlife habitat enhancement
- Managing for carbon
- Home fuel wood
- Recreational access improvements
- Restore fuel breaks in fire prone areas
- Diversify species and stand age structure
- Hazard tree removal
- Increase forest resilience from forest pest threats (EAB)
- Produce forest products
- Provide forest products payments to municipalities

Harvesting Process

Timber Harvesting Summary Document

- Project proposals will be developed biannually
 - ✓ *External consultation:* DFW, NHESP
 - ✓ *Internal consultation:* natural and cultural resources, operations
 - ✓ Internal review and signoff of proposed projects



Forest Management Public Process

- Timber Harvesting Summary Document
 - Project proposals will be developed biannually
 - * Consult with NHESP, DFW wildlife staff, DCR natural and cultural resource staff and DCR operations staff
 - * Internal review and signoff of proposed projects
 - Posted on DCR Forestry Webpage for public viewing
- Public information meetings will be held on proposed projects
- Receive and respond to comments
- Prepare detailed silvicultural prescription documenting inventoried site level resources
- Conduct public site visit of planned harvest area.
- Prepare and file MA Cutting Plan



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

State Lands Forestry



State Lands Forestry



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

State Lands Forestry



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

State Lands Forestry



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Savoy State Forest



State Lands Forestry

Managing Our Forests ... For Carbon Benefits

- Using current science and up-to-date data from our own lands, the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Bureau of Forestry leads in delivering carbon benefits on state lands for future generations. By executing balanced, landscape-scale forest management strategies, we can also create resilient forests that will fight climate change for the benefit of all Commonwealth residents.
- <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/managing-our-forests-for-carbon-benefits>



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

DCR Markets and Utilization

Wachusett Visitor Center



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Walden Pond Visitor Center



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Service Forestry

Protecting the natural resources of our forestland

- Forest Cutting Practices Act
 - Since 1943
 - Purpose protect public values through water and soil conservation, habitat improvement while providing a continuing supply of forest products
 - Oversight through permit review and field inspections
- Current Use Ch61 Program
 - Significant property tax reduction through commitment to sustainable forest management

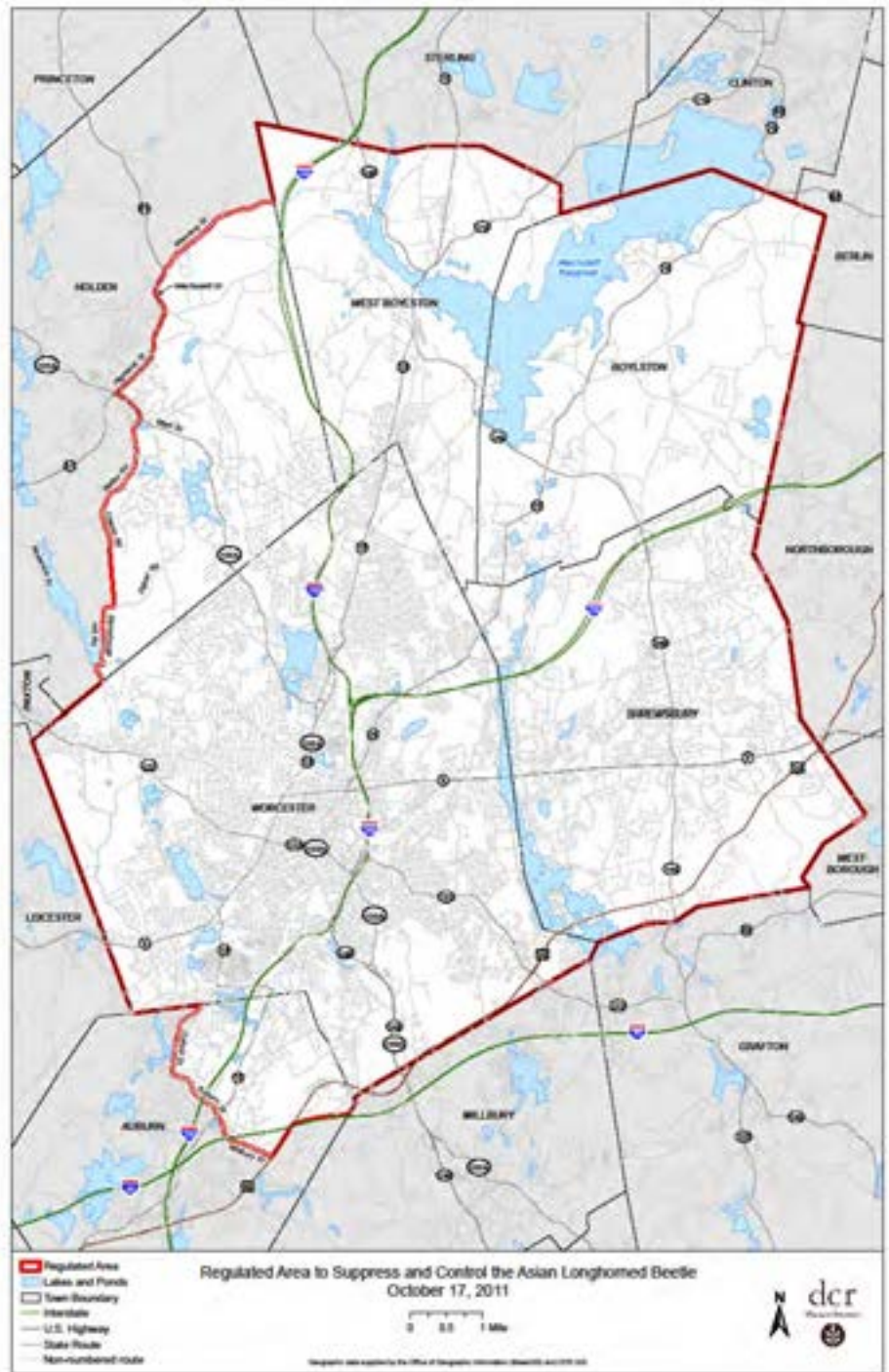


The Big Three!





ALB Regulated Area



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Asian longhorned Beetle



Forest Health Tree Crew

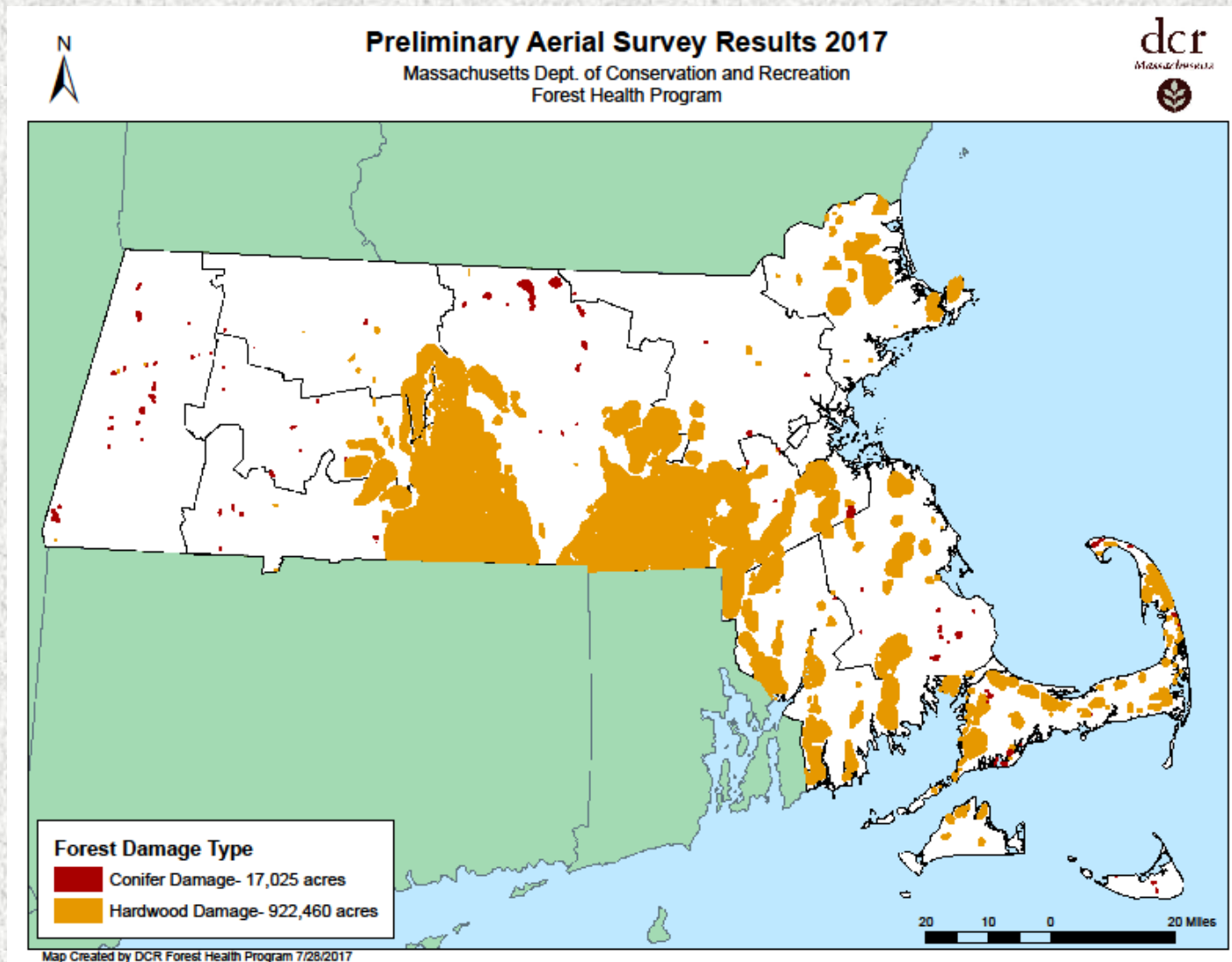


Aerial view of 2011 tornado path

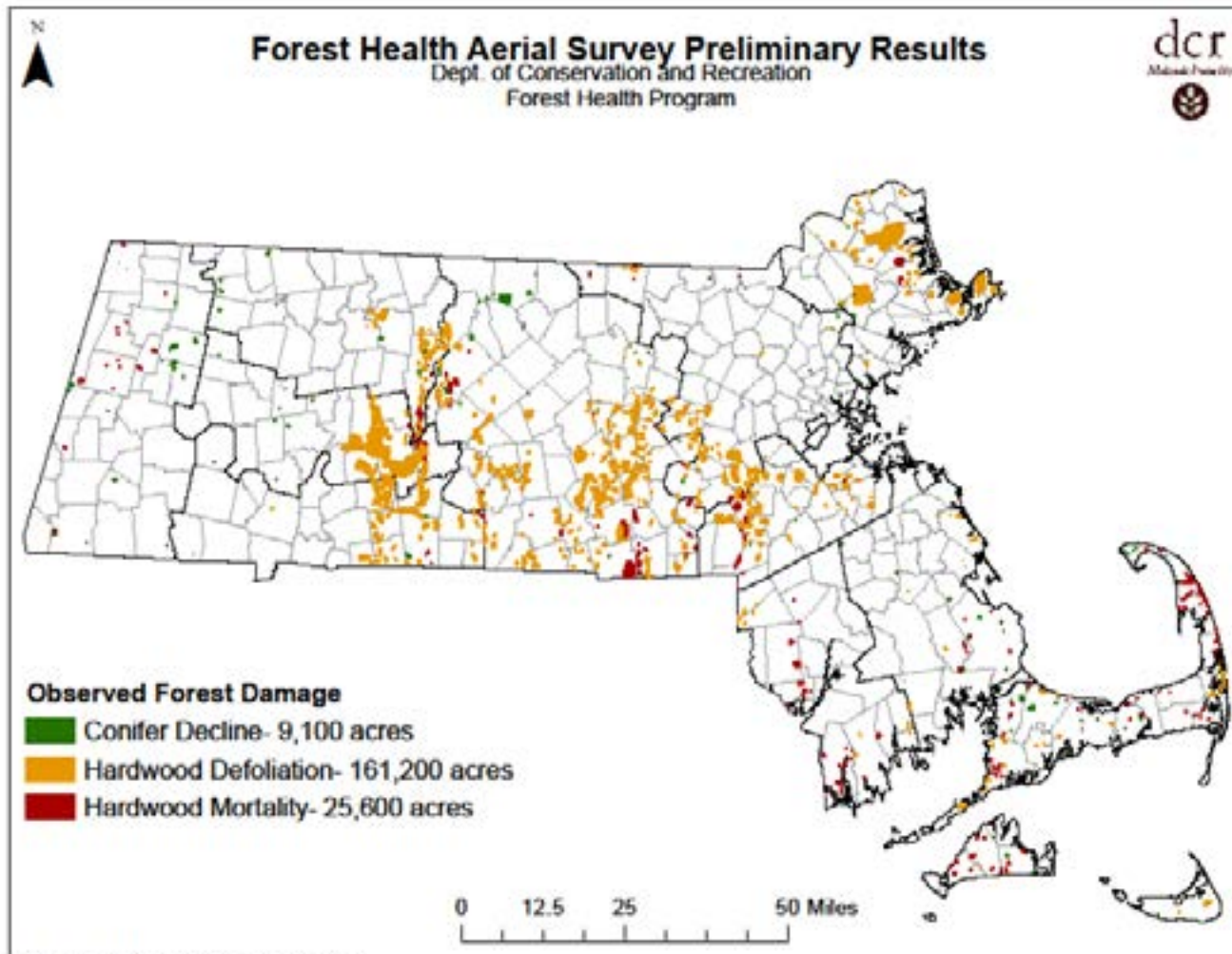


MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

2017 Aerial Survey

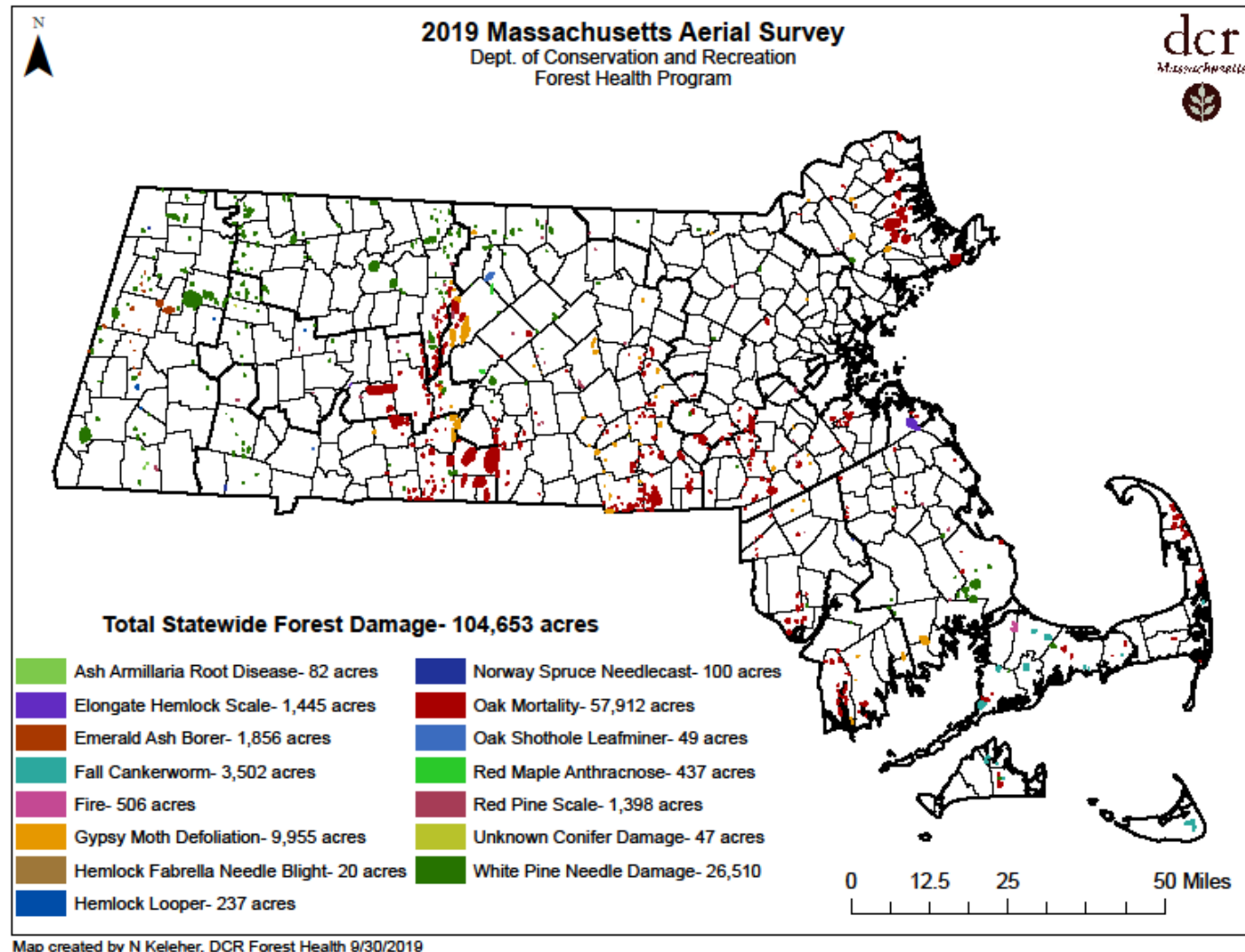


2018 Aerial Survey



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

2019 Aerial Survey



Gypsy Moths in Massachusetts



Conservation Education

- * Fire Prevention Programs
- * Importance of messaging to our next generation



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Questions?



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION