

GENERAL FORESTRY COMMENTS AND RESPONSES – Fall 2013

Individual or Organization	Public Comment Summary	BOF Response
Cosmo Catalano	Please label maps included with the proposals more accurately, particularly roads and trails to better assess the possible impact to those recreation resources	The BOF will take steps to improve the maps and feature labeling that are included with the proposals.
Randal Toth	<u>October Mountain State Forest – Schoolhouse Lot</u> Supports this project for improved forest health, income to the state, improvement of sustainable recreation, and the general return of harvesting on state lands. Strongly favors buffers between recreational trails and major harvesting.	<p>Forest Management on DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation lands is designed to provide ecosystem services that include sustainable recreation, a diverse, disturbance resilient forest landscape, and wood products. Thank you for your support.</p> <p>The DCR – BOF Management Guidelines and Forest Resource Management Plans provide for corridors around designated trails where forestry activity is minimized to reduce visual impacts to recreational users.</p>
Melissa Guimont, Green Futures, Austin Mason, Pine Barrens Alliance	Support the <u>Pine Barrens Project in Myles Standish State Forest</u> for ecological reasons; to reestablish native vegetation communities and to provide for public safety.	Thank you for your support of the Pine Barrens Project which through careful timber harvesting techniques does seek to fully reestablish native vegetation communities composed of primarily pitch pine, scrub oak, huckleberry and blueberry.
Leif and Diane Gilbert, Jonathan Michaud – Cetrulo LLP on behalf of Leif and Diane Gilbert, Bill and Shari Bates, Patricia Dennehy-Jordan, Daniel and Ronnie Hirschhorn, Rep.	Oppose the <u>Pine Barrens Project in Myles Standish State Forest</u> particularly in the “Big West Pond” and “Furnace Road” area for reasons of concerns over destruction of natural beauty and aesthetics of the area, cutting apparently healthy trees, impact from logging machinery, wildlife habitat destruction including endangered species, impression that the project is profit motivated, property value degradation, concern	<p>The DCR – BOF recognizes that the residents of the Big West Pond area abutting Myles Standish State forest will be directly affected by the removal of the red pine plantations in the state forest near their homes. Therefore, the plantation stand in that area of the project will be removed from the project.</p> <p>The DCR - BOF would like to offer response to the concerns voiced by the residents of the Big West Pond area and their representatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The red pine plantations in Myles Standish State Forest are not native to southeast MA. They are currently, and have for decades

<p>Vinnie deMecedo on behalf of constituents</p>	<p>that native white pines will be cut</p>	<p>inhibited the growth of native vegetation and thus the native wildlife species from flourishing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The red pine trees in the state forest are rapidly dying due to insect and disease attacks as is common in other plantation settings throughout MA and southern New England. The stand in the Furnace Road area of Myles Standish State Forest although appearing healthy, shows signs of disease and is virtually sure to succumb in the relatively near future. • The wildlife that is indigenous to the native “Pine Barrens” habitat will not be adversely impacted by the removal of the red pine but will thrive in the open canopy, savannah pitch pine forest. This includes the New England cottontail rabbit and numerous threatened and endangered species of moths and butterflies that live in the shrubby, early successional vegetation structure of the Pine Barrens. • The impact of logging machinery is minimized by careful planning, monitoring and rehabilitation of harvesting activities by licensed State Lands Foresters. All harvesting projects in MA are regulated by M. G. L. Chapter 132. The law and regulations therein are closely followed to protect forest, soil, and water resources. • The main goal of the Pine Barrens project is to restore a naturally functioning ecosystem. It is not profit motivated per se but the incentive to conduct the project now is to be good stewards of the financial resources of the Commonwealth; namely save taxpayer dollars. At this time the DCR – BOF believes that the harvest will generate a small amount of revenue that will be returned to DCR and Myles Standish State Forest. As the red pines die though, they will lose their economic
--------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

		<p>value and a point will be reached in the near future where a logger will not pay for the value of the red pine but will charge for its removal. At the current rates for that type of tree removal the Commonwealth could pay approximately 1 million dollars to complete the project in Myles Standish State Forest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White pine will not be cut in the harvesting project only red pine and Norway spruce will be cut. The Forest Product Harvesting Permit to guide the harvest will specify this with penalties incurred for the cutting of undesiganted trees.
Green Futures	<p>Although supportive of the proposed Pine Barrens project but feels that the proposal is lacking in information on other flora and fauna species present and the affect the harvest may have on them, plans to control invasive species, control of illegal ORV use, archeological review.</p>	<p>The Forest Management Proposals offered to the public are intentionally general. They gather and present information available from initial reconnaissance of the site, known data such as Natural Heritage Atlas information and available forest inventory. In the process of public outreach and consultation used by the DCR – BOF the proposal posting is followed by gathering internal comments from the DCR Ecologist, DCR Archeologist, DCR site staff, Division of Fish and Wildlife and comments from the general public. Additionally, a complete forest stand exam/ inventory of the specific site is conducted. In the case of the Pine Barrens Project the DCR Ecologist conducted an additional forest structure and species inventory and the DCR Archeologist conducted a site visit to augment initial project review. Per the public outreach policy of the BOF, a detailed silvicultural prescription has been prepared for the Pine Barrens Project as is done for all commercial timber harvests. The prescription integrates comments and data gathered after the Forest Management Proposal and provides most of the information that is noted in the comment to be lacking.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MA Natural Heritage and Endangered

		<p>Species Program reviewed the project prior to its proposal so as to offer initial advice on impacts to threatened and endangered species. They will also conduct an additional review of the Forest Cutting Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Considerable consultation regarding the control of invasive species has been conducted during the preparation of the Pine Barrens project and an Invasive Species Control plan is being developed, albeit in the early stages.• As noted above the DCR Archeologist has conducted a review and the management recommendations for resource protection have been incorporated in the prescription and will be implemented during the harvesting process.
--	--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------