

**FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECT COMMENTS AND RESPONSES – Winter Proposals 2020**

The Department of Conservation - Bureau of Forestry requests comments about the specific proposals brought forth each year. The DCR considers all comments received and endeavors to respond to those comments whose focus is directed at the specific projects and the intent of the projects. Comments and questions that are general in nature are noted. Comments that are similar in theme are combined and summarized in the column below. All comments received can be found [here](#).

| <b>Individual or Organization</b>   | <b>Public Comment Summary</b>  | <b>DCR Response</b>  |
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| <p>matt hochkeppel,<br/>Ralph S. Baker, Walt Burnham, Salvatore Raciti, Kate O’Connor and Frederick Spence, Ellen Moyer, Stephanie Jo Kent, Glen Ayers, Bill Copeland, Susan Purser, Rick Lent, Terisa E. Turner, Laura Bentz, Nathalie Bridegam, Anne-Louise Smallen, Lexi Allaway, Priscilla Lynch, Gloria Kegeles, Rebecca Hull, Christopher Queen, Alys Terrien-Queen, Paul Lauenstein, Laurel Facey, Patricia Hynes, Miriam and Mike Kurland, Lynn Waldron, Jodi Rodar, Tasondra Jardine, Fergus R Marshall, denis mahoney</p> | <p align="center"><b><u>All Proposed Projects</u></b></p> <p>Generally opposed to logging on all state properties but without specific issues with proposed projects. Many comments from individuals called for a moratorium of logging on state lands with the general premise that all forest management inappropriately benefits the logging industry, is detrimental to carbon sequestration and storage and therefore harmful to the climate.</p> | <p>The DCR thanks the individuals for their comments. Logging is one tool for forest management on a portion of state lands and was vetted and supported through the Forest Futures Visioning Process (FFVP) and the Landscape Designations and Guidelines (LD&amp;G).</p> |
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| <p>Kenneth Conkey</p>                | <p align="center"><b><u>All Proposed Projects</u></b></p> <p>Agrees with the positive and multiple benefits of forest management including carbon sequestration, regeneration of native species and wildlife habitat on DCR land but did not submit specific comments to proposed projects.</p>   | <p>The DCR – BOF thanks the individual for his comment. Timber harvesting is one tool for forest management on a portion of state lands and was vetted and supported through the FFVP and the LD&amp;G.</p>  |
| <p>Massachusetts Forest Alliance</p> | <p align="center"><b><u>All or Several Proposed Projects</u></b></p> <p>Glad to see varying project size that could perhaps allow more competition for timber, lower costs, and /or greater revenue for DCR.</p> <p align="center"><b><u>Balance Rock State Park, Huntington State Forest and Granville State Forest</u></b></p> <p>Appreciates the DCR – BOF explanation of diseased American beech monocultures, why it is important to control their proliferation and the methods for control. Glad that instead of using only herbicides for control, DCR – BOF proposes a silviculture approach using cutting and creating openings for control of beech monocultures created by the beech bark disease.</p> <p align="center"><b><u>Florida State Forest, Huntington State Forest, October Mountain State Forest, Granville State Forest, Erving State Forest, and Marlborough-Sudbury State Forest</u></b></p> <p>Native forests and the mixed species vegetation they provide are superior for a variety of ecosystem services to the plantation forests established in the Great Depression. Work to harvest the plantations and release the native forest is beneficial.</p> <p align="center"><b><u>Western MA Projects</u></b></p> <p>Sensible to remove some ash trees whose mortality is imminent to capture their current value and create long lived</p> | <p>The DCR – BOF thanks the organization for their comments.</p> <p>The DCR – BOF acknowledges that a variety of size projects can be beneficial for the reasons stated and has taken strides to offer a mix of timber sales that are relatively small, medium, and large.</p> <p>We are pleased that our explanation of beech bark disease, beech monocultures and control of the monocultures was appreciated. We are also pleased that the organization concurs that the DCR – BOF prioritizes using silvicultural/cutting approaches over herbicides when conducting beech clone control work.</p> <p>The DCR – BOF concurs that diverse natural forests are superior to artificially established plantation forests that are often monocultures.</p> <p>The removal of trees infested or whose infestation and / or mortality is imminent due to invasive pests such as</p> |

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|   | <p>forest products. Also concur that hemlock wooly adelgid is a serious pest and removing weakened hemlock trees favoring healthy cohorts is an appropriate approach.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Huntington State Forest</u></b></p> <p>Proposed work here to create early successional habitat is important because natural disturbances are suppressed. Many threatened species and species of special concern are dependent on this habitat. Expanding on neighbor’s habitat work affirmed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Florida State Forest and Granville State Forest</u></b></p> <p>Glad to see cooperation with town of Florida to remove hazard trees from along town roads. Also appreciative of DCR rerouting trails and reducing illegal motorized vehicle use to reduce erosion and protect water quality.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>October Mountain State Forest</u></b></p> <p>Makes sense to reduce plantation trees in developed area using a timber sale instead contracting and paying for their removal.</p> | <p>the emerald ash borer and hemlock wooly adelgid is incorporated in DCR forestry guidelines and management plans. The DCR – BOF appreciates the organizations support of this approach to provide for safety in DCR facilities as well as capture the asset value in the forest products.</p> <p>We thank the MA Forest Alliance for agreeing that diverse habitats are important on the landscape of Massachusetts and that using silviculture to establish and augment existing young forest habitat is appropriate. These are also important tenets of DCR’s forestry guidelines and plans.</p> <p>The DCR - BOF seeks to assist communities whose infrastructure (roads) often provide access to state properties. The timber sale program is uniquely suited to provide services to communities and the DCR Operations wing to accomplish objectives that often cannot be completed due to shortfalls in funding.</p> |
| <p>Michael Kellett, Janet Sinclair, J. William Stubblefield, Stephen C. Frantz, Rick Lent, Ralph S. Baker, Don Ogden, Christopher Queen, Alys Terrien-Queen, Gloria</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>All Proposed Projects</u></b></p> <p>Concurs that there may be some legitimate need for some of the logging activities such as the removal of hazard trees.</p> <p>Concerned that claimed benefits of logging proposed in each project - are</p>  | <p>The DCR – BOF thanks the commenters for their letter. We offer these responses to those comments pertinent to the proposed projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon Sequestration – Forest management and carbon sequestration have been</li> </ul>  |

Kegeles, Laura Bentz, Susan Waltner, Susan Garrett, Patricia Gallagher, Joan Levy, Timothy Holcomb, Laurel Facey, Joslin Stevens, Richard Last, Teresa Turner, Madeline Liebling, Juliana Vanderwielen, James Thornley, Lynne Man, Susan Therberge, William Copland, Tim Bennett, Lisa Hoag, Patricia Gallagher, Warren Wetherell, Kimberly Wetherell, Stephanie Gelfan, Wolfe Lowenthal, Shelley Hines, Kit Sang Boos, Leonore Alaniz, Alvin Blake, Susan Waltner, Carole Horowitz, Tom Neilson, Vivienne Simon, Joanna Kent and Martin Kent, Kenneth Lederman, Jodi, Chris Matera, Glen Ayers, Miriam and Mike Kurland, Dale LaBonte, Salvatore Raciti, Carissa Sinclair, Anne Zewinski

questionable or are not supported by fact:

- Carbon Sequestration – Signatories comment
  - Project proposals do not provide information on carbon stocks
  - Projects are inconsistent with language contained in 2018 UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report regarding climate change, storing carbon and the importance of forests
  - Intimate agreement that carbon stocks are increasing but argue that it is happening not because of forest management but despite it
  - Purports that allowing forests in MA grow without interference, so called proforestation is the best forest management carbon strategy
  - Infer that the forest management conducted by DCR has a cumulative and adverse effect on carbon emissions and climate change
  - State that young forests sequester carbon but store less than maturing forests and that forests increase the rate of carbon sequestration as they age and logging releases soil carbon over time
  - Submit that studies contradict the concept of

addressed by the DCR – BOF numerous times and can be viewed at these locations: [2019](#), [2018](#), [2017](#), and [2016](#) See also [Managing our Forests for Carbon Benefits](#) for further explanation of forest management and carbon storage.

- Additionally the DCR - BOF responds that the logging project plans do not provide project-specific information about carbon accounting because the accounting occurs at the forest/ownership/strategic scale (as it should) through the Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) system using a stock-change approach. The DCR - BOF accounting program uses empirical, long-term, repeated field measurements of locations; tree, shrub, ground cover, and down woody material (DWM) dimensions, and forest floor observations; observation of the fate of trees over time; and validated, peer-reviewed models – including those consistent with USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) methodology (e.g., [1] [2] [3] [4]) – to estimate the volume,

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|  | <p>forest management protecting carbon stocks and that a “do nothing” approach is the best management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement of Wildlife Habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No evidence that forest management is a benefit to forests and wildlife habitat.</li> <li>○ Naturally functioning forest ecosystems are important and are a better alternative to using forest management to improve wildlife habitat.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Treatment for Insects and Disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Disagree with DCR – BOF cutting trees infested or in imminent danger of being infested with insects or disease claiming that insects and diseases are a natural part of forest ecosystems.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Liquidations of Plantations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Claim that the DCR - BOF goal is to maximize the timber value by removing plantations</li> <li>○ State that the greatest cost of liquidating plantations will worsen climate change</li> <li>○ Commends DCR for treating the entire OMSF – Day Use Area project as Parkland and supports tree removal for public health and safety.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p>biomass, and carbon in ecosystem and harvested wood product pools, as well as other ecosystem characteristics. Accounting of individual harvested trees also occurs for reconciliation purposes; and while projecting the effects of an individual management action forward in time could be done [5] [6] [7], its utility is questionable and would be fraught with uncertainty over the outcome of carbon stocks on those particular acres. Additionally, a much wider range of objectives than solely carbon are considered by DSPR. DSPR acknowledges uncertainty in the outcome of management actions, and addresses this (in part) by adopting a conservative approach to forest management (e.g., structural retention); and implementing best management practices (BMPs) wherever feasible [9] [10]</p> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement of Recreational Experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contend that forestry work to improve wildlife habitat thus hunting and wildlife viewing will fragment the forest creating habitat not needed. Claim that improving opportunities for hunting and viewing early successional species is unwarranted.</li> </ul> </li> <br/> <li>• Sustainable Wood Products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is not an agreed upon definition of sustainable forestry</li> <li>○ Individuals comment that they are dubious of the viability of the local forest economy and that timber values are so low that their contribution to local economies are minimal.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The IPCC consistently includes strong recommendations for sustainable forest management as part of an integrated cross-sectoral strategy for climate change mitigation and adaptation: Fifth Assessment Report, “The most cost-effective mitigation options in forestry are afforestation, sustainable forest management and reducing deforestation . . .” [11] “Cross-sectoral integrated approaches such as Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), sustainable forestry management (SFM), and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) are viewed as being more effective than standalone efforts . . .” [12] “In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest</li> </ul> |
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|  |  | <p>sustained mitigation benefit.” [13]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The DCR – BOF is firm in its belief that total stored ecosystem and harvested wood product carbon at the scale of the ownership is increasing (e.g. [14] [15]) because of well-planned and conscious decisions about forest management activities.</li><li>○ A substantial portion (59.2%) of DSPR’s land base is currently devoted to allowing stands to grow intact. However, the reference to “proforestation” [16] as a way to increase carbon stocks is, at best, an untested hypothesis; the cited reference for this approach contains questionable assumptions and interpretations of referenced literature as well. It ignores the fundamental mathematical tradeoff that comes with maximization of stock of a growing resource, in that average annual sequestration (e.g., [17] [18] [19] [20] [21]) is less than maximum average sequestration. Proforestation values</li></ul> |
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|  |  | <p>forests primarily for carbon storage in the near term and does not consider the wide range of ecosystem values forests provide and their future values and productivity. Public lands – where there is less risk of forest loss to other land uses than private lands – are the perfect opportunity to reap the benefits of forest management over successive rotations and cutting cycles with respect to carbon and other ecosystem services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The Harris reference [22] objective “was to synthesize information from remote sensing observations of forest carbon stocks and disturbance with information collected by various US agencies into a framework that (1) more explicitly attributes C losses to major disturbance types (land use change, harvesting, forest fires, insect damage, wind damage and drought); and (2) disaggregates net C change” and, “To estimate average net changes in the stock...”).</li></ul> |
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|  |  | <p>Empirical data from, for instance the FIADB, indicates that harvest removals are a far smaller (25-50%, depending on the evaluation) source of depletion from the live tree carbon pool than all sources of mortality combined (e.g., [23] [24] [25] [26]).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The paper [27] cited in the comments (1) explicitly acknowledges that "...increasing individual tree growth rate does not automatically result in increasing stand productivity because tree mortality can drive orders-of-magnitude reductions in population density..."; and (2) does not represent a time series from individual trees [28], [29] but rather a weaker chronosequence (or size-sequence per se) representing individual observations from different trees which obscures variability of growth of individual trees and contradicts the conclusion that tree C accumulation increases with tree size.</li></ul> |
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|  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ DCR - BOF contends that cited research [30] largely overlooks the fact that the current forest structure and composition is in fact directly attributable to human actions and thus require additional intervention to prevent further degradation; and that humans depend on forests for various ecosystem services in quantities and scales that are different than might be provided under a more natural management regime. The DCR – BOF acknowledges uncertainty around forest management activities. In response, it first has both short-term/tactical and long-term/strategic monitoring efforts in place to observe the effects of those activities, including but not limited to carbon stock changes. Second, the DCR - BOF adopts a wide range of management practices across its land base, ranging from timber harvesting, to ecosystem restoration, to do-nothing. Finally, DSPR</li></ul> |
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|  |  | <p>implements BMPs consistent with the best science at the time of management, so DCR - BOF wisely uses the forest resource and mitigates adverse management effects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improvement of Wildlife Habitat<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Prior to the arrival of settlers, forests were manipulated by native peoples for habitat purposes for centuries. [31] Natural disturbance such as wind, ice, and flooding also shaped the pre-settlement landscape resulting in numerous types of habitats supporting numerous species. The forests of Massachusetts have now been manipulated and changed by post European settlement for 400 years. In particular, the last 70 – 100 years significant agriculture has faded from the landscape, massive amounts of development especially in riparian areas has occurred, flooding is controlled with dam building and the control of beavers and fires have been suppressed. This</li></ul></li></ul> |
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|  |  | <p>has resulted in substantial declines in wildlife species and natural plant communities that benefit from disturbance. [32] In this light it is widely recognized that our ecosystem does not fully function naturally and habitats, especially young forests, that support a full suite of diverse species are lacking on the landscape. As a result, the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) for Massachusetts includes young forest as a habitat of greatest conservation need and the Massachusetts Audubon Society has identified a need for more early-successional habitat [33] [34]. The forest management work specifically calling for habitat manipulation as a goal is proposed regarding this evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Treatment for Insects and Disease - In the face of <u>invasive</u> insect and disease species whose populations are exacerbated by a changing climate, it is not accurate to state that insects and diseases are a part of a</li></ul> |
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|  |  | <p>natural ecosystem. Every project proposal noted by the commenters involves non-native species of insects and disease that have profoundly changed forest ecosystems in the last 100+ years. Certainly, native insects and diseases play an important role in our ecosystems but the forestry work proposed to control the spread of invasive pests follows recommendations made by the USDA Forest Service, university researchers and many state pathologists and entomologists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Liquidation of Plantations –<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The DCR – BOF has made it priority to manage for native forest conditions as they are more resilient to disturbance than a single species of trees planted in rows. The emphasis on native forests and native forest ecosystems through active forest management was brought forth in the FFVP and is emphasized throughout the LD&amp;G and approved forest management plans. In appropriate areas such as Woodland designated properties this is a valid approach to managing the forest property. When there is a precipitous decline in</li></ul></li></ul> |
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|  |  | <p>the health of an existing plantation, its removal is prudent from a safety and an economic standpoint. The gradual conversion of non-native plantations to native species is more desirable and conducted in that fashion whenever possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The claim that the replacement of these aging plantations with a vigorous young native forest will worsen climate change is simply invalid. See discussion on carbon and forestry above.</li><li>○ The DCR – BOF appreciates the support for removing plantations for public health and safety purposes. In fact, each of the projects proposed that include plantation management have a public health and safety aspect involved.</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Improvement of Recreational Experiences<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Note the DCR – BOF response above (Improvement of Wildlife Habitat) describing the basis and need for diversifying forest structure across the landscape. The work to provide habitat for</li></ul></li></ul> |
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|  |  | <p>the species noted by the commenters is as important as habitat management work for other species with different habitat needs. Of the species mentioned by the commenters the forestry work is predominantly important for ruffed grouse and American woodcock. [35] [36]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Although hunting is on the decline the demand for hunting experience is still high. In 2019 there were 13,920 deer harvested in Massachusetts - the second highest on record. [37]</li><li>○ Birding and bird watching in Massachusetts is extremely popular; webpages and publications are dedicated to this activity. An estimated 46 million Americans participate in bird watching each year making it a 43 billion dollar industry (Audubon Birds and bird watching webpage. [38] [39]</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Sustainable Wood Products<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ There are numerous definitions of sustainable</li></ul></li></ul> |
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|  |  | <p>forestry available whose concepts overlap. An excellent discussion of these concepts may be found <a href="#">here</a> on the Rain Forest Alliance webpage. A globally recognized and used definition was developed by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (FOREST EUROPE) and has since been adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It defines sustainable forest management as: <i>The stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The importance of continuing to foster and support a local forest economy was vetted and supported by the</li></ul> |
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|                    |   | <p>outcome of the FFVP and the LD&amp;G Process. One of the most recent reports on the Massachusetts forest economy stated that the gross output in the forest products sector was over 3 billion dollars with over 17,000 jobs.</p>  |
| <p>Gregory Cox</p> | <p><b><u>Balance Rock</u></b><br/> Supportive of the proposed work to remove dead and dying ash to be used in long lived forest products. Believes that creating larger openings to control beech proliferation is appropriate. Appropriate to use management activity to improve roads and trails and provide funding to town.</p> <p><b><u>Cold River</u></b><br/> States that it is beneficial to harvest declining non-native Norway spruce for forest products gradually converting the stands to native species. Will benefit local residents and town by reducing maintenance costs.</p> <p><b><u>Horse Valley</u></b><br/> Will provide multiple benefits: young forest habitat, improve health of some hemlock, provide revenue to repair roads and provide revenue to town</p> <p><b><u>October Mountain Day Use</u></b><br/> The harvest of the non-native plantation trees in this area will offset the costs of hiring this work done. There is a benefit to replacing the non-native trees with native species.</p> <p><b><u>Hubbard River East</u></b><br/> The project will allow threatened ash and hemlock to be utilized. The harvest will generate revenue to help repair eroding</p> | <p>The DCR – BOF appreciates the support of the proposed management approach.</p> <p>The DCR - BOF agrees that it is responsible stewardship to harvest and use trees planted for forest products use while coincidentally assisting those stands to regenerate into native diverse forests.</p> <p>We agree that there are multiple benefits to this project.</p> <p>The intent of this project was in fact to remove hazard trees commercially to offset the cost to the taxpayer. The project has the added benefit of creating conditions for the regeneration of a native diverse forest.</p> <p>These are goals of the project.</p> |

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|  | <p>roads, reduce road maintenance costs to town and generate payments to the town via the Forest Products Trust Fund</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Erving SF Headquarters</u></b><br/><b><u>Marlboro SF</u></b></p> <p>Salvaging dying red pine will release new regeneration and store the carbon long term in forest products instead of having it be released as the trees die.</p> | <p>The DCR – BOF believes this is an appropriate and scientifically valid approach to forest management.</p>   |
| <p>Gia Neswald, Glen Ayers, Bart Bouricius</p> | <p>Did not appreciate the DCR – BOF effort and result in conducting the virtual public meetings</p>   | <p>Recognizing that we were not able to conduct in-person public meetings as our public outreach policy requires, the DCR – BOF did its absolute best in conducting the virtual public meetings. Extensive preparation with the technology preceded the meetings with the knowledge and experience that some things could fail. The meeting format and “ground rules” were clearly defined including the timeframe which was set for conducting the meeting. Many times during the meetings attendees were reminded that the intent was to take comments, discuss and answer questions about the specific projects and to submit written comments and questions if they were not addressed during the meeting. Numerous comments and questions were submitted that were irrelevant to projects specific. And of course, the technology failed us more than once. We are learning with the rest of the world how to conduct meetings with this technology and apologize for the shortcomings in our first two attempts.</p> |
| <p>Gia Neswald</p>                             | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Balance Rock Lot</u></b></p> <p>1. Harvesting ash 12”+ unwarranted. No evidence that</p>   | <p>1. Since the initial infestation of emerald ash borer, it has spread to 70% of the US states and five</p>   |

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|  | <p>the emerald ash borer (EAB) is rampant. If EAB is widespread then a passive approach will result in resistant individuals.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Not in favor of five acre openings to control beech proliferation nor the use of herbicides to control.</li> <li>3. 1/3 acre openings in the oak hardwood forest is what is termed high grading.</li> <li>4. Concerned about carbon released in harvesting and lost carbon sequestration potential.</li> </ol> | <p>Canadian provinces. It is in every county in Massachusetts and every New England state. After emerald ash borer was discovered in MA and on state owned lands the DCR -BOF has followed research and guidelines developed by the USDA. EAB attacks larger and stressed ash and mortality of these trees has been observed to approach 100%. Forestry operations focused on alleviating safety issues and capturing timber value emphasize harvesting ash trees that are larger (&gt;12") because of their imminent mortality. All DCR – BOF silviculture prescriptions call for the retention of a portion of the ash component of a stand in the face of EAB infestation. Generally smaller, vigorous ash are retained to maintain stand diversity and potential for ash existing into the future. Continued research on EAB and ash indicates that certain individuals will survive and therefore some ash are retained.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The DCR –BOF believes that beech is an ecologically important species. Populations of American beech that are heavily infested with “Beech Bark Disease” (BBD) will contain disease resistant individuals. In all forest management projects on DCR lands, disease resistant beech will be left to hopefully</li> </ol> |
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provide a source of future disease free beech. It has been observed and well documented now for decades that the aftermath BBD in a forest stand often results in excessive beech sprouting and a preponderance of American beech seedlings and saplings that will ferociously compete with other tree species to the detriment of stand diversity and ecosystem health. The control of excessive beech sprouting is therefore to aid in ecosystem health. The use of chemicals to control excessive beech sprouting is the last choice, thus the reason for larger openings which have shown great promise in a silvicultural control of excessive beech sprouts. The shade tolerant American beech grows poorly as a seedling in full sun and often is out competed by less shade tolerant species such as red oak.

3. The opening size proposed for the oak hardwood stand is greater than 1/3 acre and up to 5 acres, one purpose being to create conditions to control beech proliferation as discussed above – open to maximum light. High grading is selecting the highest value trees over lower value trees, leaving behind the lowest value trees which populate a new forest stand with genetically inferior trees. The silviculture proposed here makes

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|  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Cold River Lot</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There were unsubstantiated claims of that forestry activities benefit resources, particularly water.</li> <li>2. Long life forest products storing carbon that is removed is an exaggeration.</li> <li>3. If, as stated, this is an uneven aged management project, then the barely adult trees slated for cutting must be retained along with the younger trees that were shown to be coming up in this lot</li> <li>4. Concerned about carbon released with harvesting and lost carbon sequestration potential.</li> </ol> | <p>no differentiation of which trees to select and in fact allows the forest to regenerate unimpeded and succeed to be genetically diverse.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. See response above to Kellet et al regarding similar concerns</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Centuries of forest management and research of forestry have shown that active management of forest vegetation will affect numerous forest resources such as wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and water yields. The intended result and actual result determines it's benefit to the landowner and society as a whole. There is no mention of benefits to water resources in the Cold River proposal.</li> <li>2. High value forest products derived from harvesting will store sequestered carbon as long as they remain in use - and beyond. No claim has been made that that the entirety of the sequestered carbon in a harvested tree will be stored in long lived forest products. The benefits of carbon stored in forest products are important and significant and a part of carbon budgeting discussions.</li> <li>3. An uneven age management system will be used in the mixed northern hardwoods oak stand.</li> </ol> |
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|  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>OMSF day Use Area</u></b></p> <p>1. Harvesting ash 12”+ unwarranted. No evidence that the emerald ash borer (EAB) is rampant. If EAB is widespread then a passive approach will result in resistant individuals.</p> <p>Concerned about carbon released with harvesting and lost carbon sequestration potential.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Horse Valley Lot</u></b></p> <p>Concerned about carbon released with harvesting and lost carbon sequestration potential.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Erving Red Pine</u></b></p> <p>No DCR activities should proceed with Forest Resource Management Plan</p> | <p>Individual trees across all size/age classes will be cut (single tree selection) to move the structure of the existing stand to uneven age structure. Please see the South County Silviculture prescription pages 13 – 15 for a full explanation of the prescription for this stand.</p> <p>4. See response above to Kellet et al regarding similar concerns.</p> <p>Please see response above for the same comment under the Balance Rock Lot.</p> <p>See response above to Kellet et al regarding similar concerns.</p> <p>See response above to Kellet et al regarding similar concerns.</p> <p>With regard to forestry activities, the Landscape Designations for DCR Parks &amp; Forests: Selection Criteria and Management Guidelines (LDMG) document states that “Upon finalizing the Woodlands designations, DCR will undertake projects to demonstrate excellent forestry according to the Woodlands guidelines included in this document”. As management plans have been in draft the DCR – BOF has used the</p> |
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|  | <p>Concerned about carbon released with harvesting and lost carbon sequestration potential.</p> <p>The red pines should absolutely not be cut but monitored for safety and removed piecemeal by DCR personnel when and only when they are fully dead.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Hubbard River East Lot</u></b></p> <p>Concerned about carbon released with harvesting and lost carbon sequestration potential.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Goodale Chipman Lots</u></b></p> <p>The trees should be left to their own devices; if one fails, it will become a fantastic snag for wildlife. Unless there is a safety issue, these trees should be left. This area is naturally wild, and need not be tailored into rec area tidiness.</p> | <p>LDMG guidelines to direct forestry activities.</p> <p>See response above to Kellet et al regarding similar concerns.</p> <p>The DCR – BOF Forest Health Director has sampled red pine in the area and found that it is infested with the red pine scale. The DCR - BOF observation is that virtually all trees in red pine stands in this condition will suffer rapid mortality. The cost of removing the trees certain to die can, at this time be borne by the current value of the live trees saving the Commonwealth tens of thousands of dollars.</p> <p>See response above to Kellet et al regarding similar concerns.</p> <p>During the forestry operation trees will be left specifically as structural retention to in fact fail/die and be used in part as wildlife habitat. The Marlboro Sudbury State Forest is in a suburban setting where many local residents use the roads and trails for recreation. One of the major objectives of the project is to remove dead and dying trees along roads and trails in the areas for recreational safety.</p> |
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|  | Concerned about carbon released with harvesting and lost carbon sequestration potential. | See response above to Kellet et al regarding similar concerns. |
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