

A SUMMARY: LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS FOR DCR STATE AND URBAN PROPERTIES

With the exception of continued off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in newly designated Reserves, which will be further evaluated, Landscape Designation has no *effect on existing recreational uses*.
Public access at existing facilities and designated trails will continue within all three designations.

Reserves

Allocation: 111,227 acres (currently approx. 40,000 acres in existing large Reserves)

Overall Goal: Protect the least fragmented forested areas, representing diverse ecological settings and long-term evolutionary processes that can be monitored to assess and inform forest stewardship.

Management approach for Forestry in Reserves - generally follows current management in existing Reserves

- No commercial timber harvesting, salvage or preemptive logging due to disturbance.
- Limited active forest management - to maintain rare species habitat, control invasive species, or to address threats to public health or safety. Decisions about vegetation management activities will be made with information, review and advice of a science advisory council.
- Controlled burning may be used to achieve goals compatible with Reserve values and to ensure public safety.
- Natural processes will dominate, determining structure, function, composition and dynamics of the forest.
- Tree cutting will be allowed to protect recreational assets or mitigate public safety hazards.

Management approach for Other Activities in Reserves

- No new roads, wind turbines/cell towers, or new intensive use areas.
- No new OHV use – pre-existing OHV use will be maintained while the fine filter criteria analysis is run to determine whether continued use is sustainable.
- Existing authorized trail uses and networks will be maintained.

Parklands

Allocation: 77,331 acres

Overall Goal: Focus on recreation, reconnecting society to nature while recognizing aesthetic and cultural values and protecting sensitive resources.

Management approach for Forestry in Parklands

- No commercial timber harvesting.
- Tree cutting done to support recreational assets and uses and address public safety hazards - such as trail and viewshed maintenance, expansion of facilities within intensively used areas, clearing/maintaining power lines, maintaining rare species habitat, and controlling invasive species.

Management approach for Other Activities in Parklands - No changes from existing policies. Future recreational facilities may be planned, where appropriate with proper public input and site planning and permitting.

Woodlands

Allocation: 122,108 acres

Overall Goal: Protect and restore forests by implementing excellent, sustainable forest management practices as model forestry for the general public and landowners and to provide high quality forest products to local markets.

Management approach for Forestry in Woodlands

- Application of best management practices, including the marking of individual trees, and matching equipment appropriate to each site and roadways.
- Focus on uneven aged management of productive sites with small openings (up to 1/3 acre) and thinning to create three or more diverse age classes over time and habitat for forest interior species.
- Even age and overstory removals for early successional habitat or other exceptional circumstances (e.g. storm damage, insect infestation) allowable with openings up to 5 acres after careful consultation and review.
- Conservative approach to retaining tops and limbs on the ground for wildlife habitat and nutrient cycling.

Management approach for Other Activities in Woodlands - No changes from current policies.

Landscape Designation Allocation Target - Patrick Administration commitment to designating at least 60% of DCR State and Urban lands as Parklands and Reserves.