

Manuel F. Correllus State Forest Project Fact Sheet and FAQ

As part of DCR's ongoing work to engage with our stakeholders, the agency collected additional public comment on the Manuel Correllus State Forest (MCSF) Plantation Removal and Restoration Project from March 12, 2025, to March 26, 2025, following the March 12 Martha's Vineyard Commission's MCSF Task Force Public Meeting. In response, DCR has compiled the following fact and FAQ sheet, along with the public comments received, to provide the public with additional information on the restoration project and its scientific rationale.

Project Overview:

- This project is a restoration of a native plant habitat that will support state-listed and other rare species by removing non-native conifer plantations within a 175-acre project area. DCR is required to remove 175 acres of conifer plantations within MCSF and restore conditions to pitch pine scrub oak barren, and/or oak woodland (collectively, barrens-oak woodland communities) by a 2001 Conservation Permit issued by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, for fire break management and maintenance, and by a 2021 Permit Amendment for retention and maintenance of new pedestrian trails.
 - DCR received credit under the 2021 permit amendment for removing dead and dying red pine plantations for previous work in the state forest to arrive at the required 175-acre restoration.
- The goals of the project are to: 1) remove and restore the white pine plantations to high-quality native barrens-oak woodland communities; and 2) reduce the fuel load, thereby reducing the wildfire danger and increasing public safety, and providing safe access for firefighters and fire apparatus.
 - These barrens-oak woodland communities, which comprise much of the State Forest, cannot occur just anywhere. These natural communities are globally rare, fire dependent communities occurring on dry, nutrient poor, usually sandy soils. They support a broad array of state- and federally-listed, as well as other rare plant and wildlife species that are dependent on these unique vegetation types. Unfortunately, over 90 percent of these globally rare sandplain communities have already been lost to development, making restoration and maintenance of our remaining sandplain habitats even more essential.
- This project will increase the resilience of the State Forest to future climate impacts by restoring a diversity of native trees and understory plant species that are not currently present due to the plantations. This biodiversity is important, as it is a major component of both resiliency and the adaptive capacity of this ecosystem to climate change.

- Manuel Correllus State Forest is one of the state’s most important properties for state- and federally-listed, as well as other rare species in Massachusetts. Once this project is complete, it will have re-established a rare native barrens-oak woodland ecosystem that is home to 33 state-listed species, two state- and federally-listed species, and many otherwise rare and common species.
- DCR is initially concentrating on 79 acres of this total area, removing and restoring two white pine plantations - a 32-acre and 47-acre stand - totaling 79 acres.
 - The 32-acre plantation will initially have four 3-acre patch cuts, as there are little to no native plant species growing in this plantation. These patch cuts will be monitored post-harvest, with results used to inform later removal of the remaining 20 acres of the stand.
 - The 47-acre plantation will include overstory removal of white pine but leave the existing oak trees and other native shrubs.
- **This project is not a “clear-cut”** but rather a targeted removal of selected white pine plantations to restore a globally rare, native natural community that will support rare species.

Recommendations for Climate-oriented Forest Management Guidelines:

- There was consensus by the Climate Forestry Committee that plantations should be converted to more compositionally diverse forests via harvesting. Conversion of plantations aligns with many climate-smart forestry practices highlighted in the [Climate Forestry Committee report](#), such as: improving resistance to pests and pathogens, increasing resiliency by promoting a diversity of plant species, providing age class/structural diversity, improving conditions for a wide variety of local wildlife through the creation of temporary young forest habitat, and promoting future-adapted tree species in the regeneration mix.

Public Process to Date:

- Per regulations, the project at Manuel Correllus State Forest was proposed in 2022 and opened for public comments at that time. The comments that were submitted can be found on the DCR [website](#).
- DCR held two virtual public meetings on forestry projects in 2022 on October 18 and 20, followed by a 45-day comment period. Any comments that were made at that time are reflected in the link above. Resources from those public meetings can be found here:
 - [DCR Forest Management Project Proposals Public Meeting 10/20/2022 | Mass.gov](#)
 - [DCR Forest Management Project Proposals Public Meeting 10/18/2022 | Mass.gov](#)
- The public process for this project was then postponed in 2022 during the pause of forest management projects as DCR awaited the recommendations from the [Forests as Climate Solutions Initiative](#) and the Climate Forestry Committee. The project was then evaluated under these [recommendations](#) and found to be in alignment, as it converts the plantation into a more compositionally diverse forest through harvesting. The project also aligns with many climate-smart forestry practices.
- DCR held a [public listening session](#) on October 10, 2024, regarding the management of the State Forest.

- DCR held a public [pre-harvest tour](#) on November 7, 2024 that provided attendees with an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the project.
- On March 4, 2025, DCR briefed the legislative delegation on the project, and on March 6, DCR met with the Edgartown Town Administrator, the Chairs of the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission as well as the Town's Conservation Agent.
- Task Force: Since November, DCR Forestry and Public Affairs staff have attended the Martha's Vineyard Commission's Manuel Correllus State Forest Task Force (MVC MCSF Task Force) monthly public meetings to discuss and answer questions about the plantation removal and restoration project. The project has the [support](#) of all of the members of the Task Force, which includes the Friends of the State Forest, Edgartown Fire Department, West Tisbury Fire Department, The Nature Conservancy, Vineyard Conservation Society, BiodiversityWorks, Polly Hill Arboretum, and Village and Wilderness. Additionally, the project is supported by all six of Martha's Vineyard's fire chiefs.
- The State Forest's plantation removal and restoration project team presented on the project at the Task Force's March 12, 2025 [public meeting](#).

Existing conditions photos and post-treatment photo examples:

Photo 1: Existing MCSF pine plantation



Photo 2: Existing MCSF pine plantation



Photo 3: 0-1 year, post-treatment example, Myles Standish State Forest



Photo 4: 2-year post-treatment example, Myles Standish State Forest



Additional Clarifying Questions:

Q: Will the pitch pine that is now being attacked by the southern pine beetle need to be removed to reduce fire risk and if so, at what cost?

- DCR anticipates cyclical outbreaks and periodic pitch pine mortality events but will retain healthy pitch pine and continue to recruit seedling and sapling regeneration. Active management to promote resilience will help to retain pitch pine resources and the ecosystem services they provide. Removing pitch pines will depend on several factors: density; where they are located; and how fast the beetle moves across the forest. DCR foresters have cut and left in place several infested trees within the interior of the State Forest. This was completed at no cost, as DCR used its Forest Health Tree crews.

Q: Would widening several key fire lanes give the fire departments an upper hand in the event of a fast-moving fire?

- The main concern regarding wildfire danger is that if a wildfire were to get into the crown of the plantations, embers could be transported up to a half mile away. Widening the fire lanes will not necessarily reduce this risk.

Q: Could tree encroachment on the fire lanes be managed to reduce crowning or jumping of a rapidly moving fire?

- The fire lanes are mowed every one to three years. While this does reduce the intensity of a wildfire, it does not necessarily reduce the risk of a wildfire from moving across the fire lanes and into adjacent vegetation.

Q: Can an immediate and sustained effort be made to remove all of the proliferating pine saplings by employing island workers in the off season?

- The concern with this approach is that the plantations will continue to produce seeds and spread the seeds into native habitats outside the plantations, as well as into areas that would be in the process of being restored. This restoration project will reduce the seed source.

Q: Can the largest stands of pine be allowed to fully mature into a marketable size to maximize productivity and carbon sequestration? Can a local harvest plan be drawn up around this effort?

- Allowing the pine to mature to marketable size will take a considerable time given the site conditions (sandy soils) and will not reduce the fire danger. DCR is working with the MVC Task Force to identify local markets that may be interested in utilizing the raw material, preferably in long-lived wood products to reduce carbon emissions.

Q: Could the understory of these remaining pines be cleared to 30' to reduce the laddering effect and limit the risk of a crown fire?

- While this may reduce the risk of a crown fire, it does not address the regulatory requirement from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program to remove and restore 175 acres of conifer plantations to native barrens-oak woodland communities for the benefit of state-listed rare species.

Q: Can DCR reprioritize its restoration efforts in the areas where the pine trees are in poor health?

- Many parts of the plantations that will be removed are currently in poor health and highly susceptible to insects and diseases. DCR has also worked with the MVC MCSF Task Force on identifying the first phase of this project, which would include:
 - Removal of two white pine plantations (a 32-acre and a 47-acre) totaling 79 acres. The 32-acre plantation will initially have four 3-acre patch cuts, as there are little to no other plant species growing in this plantation. The 47-acre plantation will have an overstory removal of white pine, leaving the existing oak trees.

Q: Can there be a carbon solution for the biomass being removed that keeps it local and minimizes carbon losses into the atmosphere?

- As mentioned above, DCR is working with the Martha's Vineyard Commission and others to supply local markets with raw materials.

Q: Could some means be employed to make biochar and compost out of the chips and duff so that it can be recycled back into our soils?

- As part of the MVC Task Force conversations, MVC did receive a grant to explore uses of biochar, and DCR is working in coordination with MVC on biochar implementation for this restoration project.

Q: Will there be a long-term commitment to complete restorations of the entire forest? How does the current plan affect that?

- DCR plans on starting a comprehensive forest management plan in the coming year for Manuel Correllus State Forest. The plan will detail future restoration efforts.

Q: Will herbicides be used in the restoration project?

- DCR does not foresee using herbicides for this restoration project. No non-native invasive plants were observed in the plantations during our sampling procedures.

Q: Can we invest in more firefighting equipment and man the fire tower regularly during dry spells?

- For continued management of the forest, the DCR Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket team includes one full-time Field Operations Team Leader, three seasonal staff (two summer and one winter), and additional support from mainland rangers. DCR Forest Fire Control also has one full-time firefighter assigned to assist on the island, augmented by fire staff from the mainland when needed. Finally, DCR has been approved to add an additional full-time park operations position to the forest, which has been posted, and the agency is currently reviewing applications. Recent investments in machinery have supported ongoing operations, including mowing and prescribed fire.

Q: Have the local Wampanoag tribal members been consulted on this plan? Do they have representation?

The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) has been invited to participate in the MVC Task Force, and DCR includes the tribe in its ongoing efforts and communications regarding MCSF.

Public Comment Submitted to DCR (Taken verbatim from the comments submitted)

I am the chair of the Edey Foundation, a small fund dedicated to conservation on Martha's Vineyard Island.

I applaud the Commonwealth's interest in supporting our state forest. Restoration of the deteriorating bike paths and the small house on the property will be wonderful. However, I am concerned about the massive forest clearing that is being proposed. I urge a go slow approach with less destructive alternatives. I hope you will instead consider a concentration on low intensity selective removal of non-native conifers.

Clearcutting such a large area has significant impacts on the environment, both to the land and wildlife therein that is being clearcut, in the use of resources necessary to do the work, and critically reducing carbon stocks. The reserve status purpose is to allow the forest to develop unimpeded and naturally.

Please consider spending all this money elsewhere in an area where it is needed. First do no harm.

Thank you

I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposal for the planned clear-cutting of white pine trees in the Correllus State Forest. While I appreciate the intent behind efforts to restore the forest to a sand plain environment, the decision to clear-cut these trees poses numerous ecological, environmental, and social challenges that warrant thorough reconsideration.

While I am certainly no arborist nor biologist....a simple search/some research indicates that White pines play a crucial role in an ecosystem. They provide habitat for a variety of birds and mammals, as well as cover for smaller species and ground-nesting birds. Their long needles and extensive root systems contribute to soil stabilization and prevent erosion. Clear-cutting these trees would significantly disrupt the habitat they provide, leading to the potential decline in biodiversity.

Furthermore, while the argument is made that white pines are invasive, it is essential to understand that these trees may NOT be invasive in the traditional sense. They are native to the region and have been part of the ecosystem. In addition, we do not know the impact this will have on the forest's Biodiversity/flora-fauna.

By the state's own comment--soil health degradation, increased runoff, sedimentation into other water bodies, groundwater disruption are REAL risks where I have zero confidence the plans are in place to prevent these from being realized, unintended outcomes. My final point. That forest. Now. Today. Is a cherished community space--free to all. Hiking. Biking. Birdwatching. A walk. The forest fosters a welcomed connection between people and nature, as do our beaches, fields and trails throughout the Island. None of us who spend time there leave disturbed that the White Pine is causing trouble.

In closing, I am urging you to reconsider this proposal; explore alternative means to keep the forest healthy and find an outcome that meets community and nature interests. Thanks.

This project needs to be rethought. The wholesale destruction of the pine forest is unneeded. Better clear the dead scrub oak that is much more flammable. This forest is used by many who have spent much time caring for it, something that the DCR has repeatedly ignored. You need to work with the community !!

I have walked the Manuel Correllus State Forest trails for the past 40 years. I have seen all manner of wildlife from raccoons and otters to bald eagles. Red tail hawks nest yearly in the White Pines. Clear cutting is not the answer. There are certainly areas that could be selectively cut and cleaned up. The White pines make it a true forest. Please preserve this natural habitat for all the wildlife that call it home and all individuals who walk the beautiful trails.

I am writing in support of the plan to clear non-native white pines from the State Forest. Non-native tree species are more susceptible to disease and pests, which could be increased with the warming climate. They will most likely need to be cleared in the future anyway. Additionally, restoring the habitat to native sandplain grassland not only benefits rare species, but decreased the risk of a major fire in the State Forest. The professionals in forest management should be trusted and respected to do the job they are trained for.

Since the fire chiefs believe that we do not have the capacity to fight a fire in those trees, I agree with the plan to cut them. The winds and drought periods on the island are scary. The state could give locals an opportunity to use some of it as firewood and some of it as lumber for construction. I'm sure that people would be happy to receive low cost lumber and firewood, making cutting the trees more acceptable.

They were planted as lumber anyway.

I oppose the plan to clear cut 175 acres.

A better plan would be to remove dead / and or diseased trees within that area.

Removing dead and diseased trees would clear the way for a natural reforestation and stop the pine beetle problem.

Clear cutting is not the most beneficial for the existing natural environment that exists now.

The many issues have already been aired.

I would like to add my voice to those respectfully asking for a pause and/or reduction to the white pine removal plans for the state forest reserve.

For Island residents such as myself, the project of "restoration" appears to resemble more an act of egregious vandalism.

There is no cogent excuse for the destruction of this sizable carbon-sink in the manner described and planned for.

Please re-think this.

Thank you,

~ abigail higgins

We all know the land itself is already working 24/7/365 for free capturing CO2 emissions and naturally storing the carbon. Destroying that is a climate crime that no disingenuous and euphemistic "climate smart" logging can conceal. It is as simple as that.

I support the current plan to cut invasive trees and return part of the state forest to its original sand plain status. While cutting trees is not ideal, doing so will provide a level of fire protection and a return to original habitat for species that are located on the island

A clear cut with no trees sounds very drastic.

I want to tell you that as a resident of Chilmark and a frequent visitor to the MCSF, I oppose the plan to remove the white pines. The red pines have largely disappeared, the pitch pines will soon follow thanks to the Southern Pine Bark beetle, so the DCR plan will leave the forest essentially entirely void of conifers. This is unacceptable to me. Manage the spread of pine seedlings. Out of 5000+ acres, the 175 acres of white pine cannot reasonably be expected to make a major impact on sandplain species, however, they soon will be the ONLY conifers left. Manage them, don't remove them! As for fire danger to the public, DCR is unable to make a major impact since the overwhelming portion of this danger [a la Pacific Palisades] does not reside within the MCSF but in the heavily forested, heavily populated unmanaged private lands covering the north shore of the island. So this is not a major public safety concern to me.

Please do not clear cut the state Forest. It is a valuable resource, and my family uses it every week to hike and bike. This plan will take a beautiful forest and turn it into an area of destruction. It will also use a lot of money and create a negative environmental impact. Thank you, josh levy edgartown Massachusetts.

Rather than cutting trees down, I think that they should concentrate on cleaning up all the dead wood that lays in the forest floor to help prevent forest fires.

I'm totally against clear cutting the 175 acres of forest on the vineyard. I believe the money spent on clear cutting can be used to find a better way to sustain the current forest.

Thus is not a project that needs to be accomplished. Why, just in the name of bringing back an historic tract of land would you clear cut a fully established swath of forest that Islanders and visitors use and love. The fact the grove of pines was planted years ago makes no difference. The current forest is majestic and the clear cutting in the name of conservation is unconscionable. Leaving the pines does absolutely no harm to the forest. This "invasive" species poses no threat to the rest of the forest. Stop wasting our tax money on frivolous efforts, please.

Please do not clear cut the land, leave it as it is with it's natural beauty and trails. It's such a beautiful place, please don't take it away.

Martha's Vineyard pines should not be cut. The island preserves what they have. Trees are healthy for us and beautiful. Shrub lands are darn ugly and serve no use. Preserve our forests!!!!

Cutting down well established healthy older trees is the antithesis of conservation. Leave the trees alone!

Our planet desperately needs the benefits established trees give the environment.

We believe strongly that maintaining the lovely white pines in the state forest is a must. If need be, they can be thinned, but the nature of the forest would be completely changed for the worse if the forest is cleared. If cleared, maintaining this area especially against invasive species would be a major burden and would not be cost effective and would dramatically alter this lovely area. Therefore we are strongly against clearing this area.

As an abutter to the State Forest in West Tisbury, I am opposed to the pine cutting project proposed. I believe this is a waste of resources to spend time, money and fossil fuels to deforest a previous reforestation project. What is the cleanup plan for once the forest is clear cut? Has there been research as to water runoff in this area and how the topsoils and watershed will be affected? Will we as a community in say, 50 years from now, regret cutting down the healthy forest that we regret planting?

After the unpermitted Sheriff's Meadow trails were cut around 2020 and subsequently closed shortly thereafter, I was disgusted by the "solution". Large healthy trees were cut and felled across the access points to these trails in a effort to "close" the new trails. It was difficult to explain to my young children who frequented the trails that adult disagreements over permitting and permission, and an effort to protect fragile wildlife species, lead to destructively closing a few seemingly harmless trails that connected to an already established trail network. The solution appears worse than the offense. Now years later, the aftermath is a gross mangle of fallen trees and DCR signage, clear signs of human intervention and aggravation, yet to be properly restored. In short, it's a small mess. Seeing this messy solution to closing a few small trails makes me worried for how this proposed clearcutting will be managed, cleared and cleaned up. Frankly I think it will be a mess not worth making on a scale much larger than closing a hiking trail.

I strongly feel that clear cutting the whole area of white pines is a drastic and expensive approach to managing the State Forest. I am all for thinning existing stands of white pine and removing dead wood.

I know this is State owned land, but i disagree with clear cutting. If they did a thinning or taking out certain marked trees determined to be diseased or otherwise not valuable to the overall health of the forest, it might make sense.

Please do not cut down the trees; they are important to our environment. Too many trees are being cut down. People in the area enjoy walking in the forest and some beautiful pictures are taken of this forest.

Please leave the pines..plenty of scrub oak..too expensive to maintain after clearcut..

Take out deadwood..open fire lanes and be done.

Thank you for listening

Please reconsider the proposed clear cutting in the Manuel Correllus State Forest. The white pines although not native have been established for years and provide excellent wildlife habitat. It would be a shame to lose thst

Please, please, PLEASE don't do this. :(

How can DCR justify estimated costs of \$3000-\$6000 per acre? There are 175 acres that would cost taxpayers \$500,000 to over a million dollars. This exorbitant figure doesn't include future costs in regard to future maintenance. In all good conscience, and for all that is good in the world, please take a closer look at this. Who are the stakeholders who have something to gain? What special interest group is driving this? It's one thing to prune and pare down trees for maintenance and safety, but \$1 Million / 175 acres is outrageous. I am no tree-hugger, but animals and birds need the trees and woods. How would you feel if someone took away your house? We have destroyed their habitats. Our ecosystem needs healthy trees/woods. This is elementary school 101. Why destroy this land? Where is this being driven from? Whom is to profit? What Senator/Representative supports this? This is a call for action. Please do not destroy / harm our trees/state forest that have taken generations/decades to grow!

I'm against cutting through the forest!

I think this is a horrible idea. The land on the island is beautiful, building more housing and bringing more people onto the island will only overcrowd and take away the beauty of the island. I hope this does not happen

My wife and I are strongly against removing the white pines in the state forest. Please spend the money instead on maintaining or adding fire lanes and other deferred maintenance. Please also allow the superintendent's house to be occupied once again.

I am against the clear cutting of 175 acres of the white pines in the MV state forest as I believe there are other more reasonable (and less drastic l) ways to create bio diversity and reduce fire risk (prune old wood). I believe other approaches should be considered and may also be much less costly.

The public is offering much more sensible, useful, climate friendly, people friendly methods to spend money on a lovely stand of trees rather than cutting more of them down! It takes no time to cut them down; it takes decades & decades to grow more. Anybody else notice a lot of trees disappearing day upon day? It has to stop... before it finally stops because there are no trees left to cut down.

The White Pines are amazing and have been here hundreds of years.

If you want to thin them out I'd agree but they really help our environment. When spread out and thinned your argument for fire is reduced. The brush and scrub pine nearby is also very much a fire hazard.

The obliteration of these pines is not fair. The impact to the wild life there saddens me(deer, birds, moles, squirrels etc...).

You have to compromise and not just push forward your agenda as I can assure you when the trucks come in to cut you will have uproar!

How is the timber being moved? Who profits from the timber sale?

I hope the island !

Please look at what the town of Bourne did and slow down. In our lifetime (I'm age 59) we will never see such amazing growth.

Anne-Marie Bell (year round resident MV Island and registered voter)

let's not allow massive brush fires on the vineyard, the clear cutting will only remove the dead and allow new growth, a healthy move forward

After listening to the last meeting held at the MVHC. I was alarmed at how many unanswered questions still remain. I am not satisfied with the information that has been given or lack of answers that still go unanswered. After clear cutting 173 acres, the question remains what will the department do when the "invasive species" start to return. That question is not answered to the fullest. No clear cutting till the public is satisfied with though full complete questions are fully vetted.

This would be a total waste of public funds. Unnecessary.

Trying to reverse what's there is liberal stupidity.

Lease out some logging rights to thin it out if you want or leave it be.

I'm a retired captain of the Tisbury fire dept.

NO CLEAR CUT!!!

Clear-cutting forests is detrimental to our environment and this is one of the most forested areas on the Island. It has a negative impacts on ecosystems, wildlife habitat, water quality, and climate regulation.. There is also increased erosion and reduced carbon storage.

While some would argue that clear cutting reduces fire risk, the opposite is true as the removal of trees and understory can create a more dry and flammable landscape.

The longterm negative impacts can persist for decades, making it difficult to reverse and get it back!

Martha's Vineyard pines should not be cut. The island preserves what they have. Trees are healthy for us and beautiful. Shrub lands are darn ugly and serve no use. Preserve our forests!!!!

Clear cutting of this forest area will cost half to a million dollars that can be spent on more critical ecological areas. It will open this area to erosion and degradation, and will cause more problems than it proposes to "fix". Forests are comprised of many kinds of trees, as is this area. There are good foresting practices that will lessen the fear of fire, such as clearing out the dead wood. This forest is more than trees, it is home to countless animals that will not easily find other habitat. Please find ways to conserve the forest, for the trees and the animals, that do not include denuding the whole area. Thank you. I live in RI now, and have spent many summers on the Vineyard, and am familiar with this area and hope it can be saved.

Don't clear cut the white pines. Please put money towards properly maintaining the fire lanes and conducting more controlled burns.

Please reconsider clear cutting. Selective reduction and replantation with other species is frequently used and effective. Remember how sandy the soil is here on the Cape and Islands.

Please proceed with the DCR plan for the Correllus forest. While a small number of folks have opinions against the project, they are generally emotional and ill-informed regarding the science behind this important effort. As is normal in cases like this, the vast majority of residents who support the project didn't feel the need to attend a meeting to declare support. We trust that the professionals have done their homework, so please, carry on as planned. Thanks!

Please halt clear cutting. Please educate islanders (during summer when more tax payers and interested parties are available to meet and learn).

I am against clear cutting the forest and hope that there is a better solution. These white pines allow diversity on the island. The area proposed to be clear cut is large, will displace many animals, etc that call it home. Ongoing costs for this would be better used elsewhere to the benefit of other projects. Please reconsider for the benefit of all in the island.

I do not agree that these pines should be clear cut. If anything thin them out.

Nature evolves and so will the forest. As climate change becomes more and more evident - now is not the time to get rid of any one species. Only when there is a disease spreading should any living thing be culled

It is beyond my comprehension why DCR still has the gall to propose clearcutting acres of mature forest. When we need as much carbon sequestering growth as we can get? When the northeast is seeing increasingly hotter summers and acreage of green, pervious surfaces is decreasing? Read the room, DCR! Stop cutting down trees!

Because of the significant climate impacts of removing 175 acres of mature and healthy carbon-sequestering trees, which runs counter to the recommendations of the Commonwealth's Climate Solutions Act and Climate Forest Committee;

Because of DCR's failure to engage and consult with the Island community on this clearcut and management plan;

Because DCR has not sought advisory review from the Forest Reserve Science Advisory Committee (FRSAC), which is required for Correllus as a designated State Reserve, where passive management and natural processes are prioritized;

Because much less intensive management alternatives exist to meet NHESP and DCR habitat restoration goals;

Because fire risk is best managed by allowing maturing forest to continue to grow and by focusing fire protection on neighborhood areas immediately around homes;

Because the clearcutting and maintenance plan "will require use of both mechanical and chemical means," which will negatively impact our sole-source aquifer;

Because DCR stewardship has lacked planning, resources, staff, and money for decades,

WE DEMAND that DCR and NHESP abandon this clearcut plan, prioritize repaving the bike path, resolve DCR staff housing issues, provide adequate staffing, and commit to an open engagement with our community concerning the long-term protection and management of our State Forest reserve

I am writing to express my support for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) proposed plan to remove approximately 175 acres of white pine plantation from the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest (MCSF) on Martha's Vineyard. This carefully planned ecological restoration project will affect less than 3.4% of the forest's total 5,200 acres while providing significant benefits to the island's ecosystem and biodiversity.

I believe this restoration effort is both necessary and beneficial for the following reasons:

- Fire Safety and Risk Reduction

The dense, highly flammable white pine plantations present a significant wildfire risk that cannot be adequately managed with the island's existing firefighting equipment. With climate change increasing drought and high wind conditions, proactive wildfire risk management is essential for community safety.

- Conservation of Globally Rare Habitat

The MCSF contains globally rare pitch pine scrub oak barrens that are critically important for biodiversity conservation. More than 90% of coastal sandplain ecosystems have been lost since the mid-19th century across the Northeastern U.S.

- Biodiversity Protection

The State Forest has one of the highest concentrations of state-listed rare species in Massachusetts. The white pine plantations do not support this specialized biodiversity. The mosaic of oak forests, scrub oak barrens, savannahs and grasslands in the state forest host many specialist and rare species, including 12 state-listed scrub oak dependent species and over 80 species specializing in scrub oak that are not state-listed. There is one state-listed pitch pine obligate, but over 300 species that specialize in pitch pine.

I urge the DCR to proceed with this ecologically sound management plan. The removal of white pine plantations from this small portion of the MCSF represents responsible stewardship that will benefit both the island's natural ecosystems and the safety of its human communities.

DCR estimates cost at \$3000-\$6000 per acre. 175 acres would cost \$500,000 to over a million. This does not include future costs of maintenance. Monies better used with projects near island neighborhoods to reduce fire risk.

I'm against clear cutting in favor of working together to find less drastic approaches. I believe the pines have value in creating the diverse environment that makes this island unique. I encourage you to seek other opinions.

I walk in the state forest 5 days a week. To clear cut is the most irresponsible act I can think of. I am disgusted by the thought. Pines may not have been native here but they are a huge part of our ecosystem now and have been for decades. Native wildlife depends on the state forest. What are you doing about that? I vote to keep the trees.

I think that off they would allow the people of Martha's Vineyard who own wood stoves and or fireplaces to retrieve falling and fallen trees from the forest. It not only would help the forest but it would give back to the community.

It would all so get everyone involved.

Thank you

to whom we concern:

Our western mass back country alliance membership -volunteers have logged over 1000 labor hours helping to create these public resources for recreation. However, in order to enjoy them, the public needs access and infrastructure, which would include parking areas, informational kiosks, trail signage, and snow plowing/removal. If we are going to invest in recreation, we also need to have infrastructure that supports safe access.

Forest ecology is important to our membership and so we are understand the value of the Reserves designation. We are deeply concerned that Reserves designation will impact our capacity to develop new backcountry ski zones in optimal areas within our 'parks'. We appreciate the DCR's commitment to recreation, and would like assurance in supporting our efforts to increase winter recreation opportunities for the public in these areas.

We would like recognition of 'backcountry skiing' (alpine touring, telemark and snowboard) as an official form of recreation by the DCR.

No, no, no! Don't waste \$1M of tax payer money to destroy part of our forest. It continues to serve as a carbon sink. Widen the firelanes if you must, but no more. Controlled burning if you must. But no cutting!

As a resident of Martha's Vineyard I fully support the clearing of the non native pine trees in the state forest. Any and all efforts to restore the habitat to its original state should be taken.

Dear DCR,

I appreciate the opportunity to continue working with you and MASS NHESP as conservation partners. I manage the Flora of Dukes County study at the Polly Hill Arboretum. Since 2006, we have worked on mapping the endangered plants of the state forest and the entire island. Read about our program here:

<https://saveplants.org/building-a-flora-on-the-vineyard/>

And:

<https://www.pollyhillarboretum.org/science/flora-of-dukes-county/>

We have also partnered with the Native Plant Trust, as part of their PCV - plant conservation volunteers, to monitor the critically endangered plants. In 2023, we hosted the lead scientist from NatureServe - Wesley Knapp, an extinction specialist - who tracks the globally rare plants and animals of North America. To understand one of the rarest plants in the world, found in the Sandplains of MV, see:

https://explorer.natureserve.org/Taxon/ELEMENT_GLOBAL.2.145455/Malaxis_bayardii.

Wesley and members of MASS Natural Heritage toured the MCSF and were absolutely enthralled by seeing one of the world's rarest plants. Wesley has since become the Director of the Center for Plant Conservation. My point here is that as a research botanist working to catalogue the island's plant diversity, we have the data to show that the State Forest is one of the last refugia for rare sandplain plants, which, beyond habit destruction, and fragmentation face more uncertainties with climate change.

The white pine plantations create a fragmented ecosystem. With thoughtful removal, the habitat for New England's rarest plants would increase, not decrease. Oak woodlands on the Vineyard are diminishing each year. Here is an opportunity to bring back oak woodlands on protected land. The irony is that we have already lost the Heath Hen to extinction. Yet, when it comes to diminutive rare plants, Should a monoculture of a legacy conifer plantation be the conservation imperative? I do not believe that is wise stewardship. Tim Boland - Polly Hill Arboretum.

Dear Climate Chief Hoffer,

Please accept this submission in strong support for the ecological restoration project on the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest on Martha's Vineyard, as proposed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

At over 5,200 acres, the MFC State Forest is the largest tract of globally endangered Coastal Sandplains on Martha's Vineyard and home to one of the highest concentrations of State-listed rare species. Removal of 175 acres of non-native white pine plantations will not only restore habitat for this biodiversity but may also be the single most important step for its climate adaptation. The reason for this is that many Sandplain species are currently concentrated on the south shore of the island, which is vulnerable to sea level rise and erosion. By restoring additional habitat in the center of the island at the MFC State Forest, the State will have provided a means for the landward migration of species. As you know, with biodiversity comes the ecosystem services it provides, such as pollination, watershed protection, and resistance to new pests and pathogens.

Moreover, the removal of the white pines will render the MFC more manageable in the event of a wildfire, as reported by the island's Fire Chiefs. The areas downwind of the MFC State Forest have one of the highest concentrations of homes in the Sandplains. A conflagration in the Forest not only threatens these homes and residents but will also release much more carbon into the atmosphere than controlled restoration.

Thank you for your attention to this, one of the most important conservation issues on the Vineyard.

Respectfully,
Tom Chase

I want to convey my strong support for DCR's proposal to cut around 175 acres of pine plantation in the Correllus State Forest. The pine plantations have not proved profitable or self-supporting over the years. Carbon sequestration is a national and global issue that is best focused, in my opinion, on those areas in the US and globally best suited to that function, at scale. And, native plant biodiversity on island would receive an extraordinary boost from removing the pines. There is every reason to believe - judging from the results of Corellus fire lane clearing over decades - that full-sun conditions, following clearing, would bring on a resurgence of Sandplain grassland, heathland and thicket species (some State-listed) from the existing seed bank in the soil. My own work is Sandplain restoration on the Vineyard, and there are significant opportunities, post-clearing, to supplement the existing seed bank in the soil with pro-active seeding of Schizachirium scoparium and many other Sandplain grass species, using a Truax brand No-till Seeder the could easily negotiate flush-cut pine tree stumps. The DCR project could purchase its own No-till Truax unit, with help from interested donors on-island, I feel confident. This kind of rarely post-clearing seeding would help stabilize against competition from opportunistic non-native and invasive species.

Thanks you for reading over these thoughts.

Best of luck.

Carlos Montoya
53 Moshup Trail
Aquinnah MA 02535
774-563-0541
carlos@cmontoya.net
Native Plant Associates

I am writing in complete and unequivocal support of the proposed ecological restoration plan for Manuel F. Correllus State Forest (MCSF), as proposed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and supported by the MCSF Task Force, for the removal of abandoned conifer plantations and the restoration of native habitats. As a resident of Martha's Vineyard and a committed advocate for the environment, I fully recognize the critical importance of MCSF in maintaining the region's unique and irreplaceable ecosystems.

The restoration of MCSF is of paramount importance for several reasons, which I wholeheartedly agree with:

1. **Fire Safety:** The increasingly frequent wildfire risks associated with dense pine plantations are a growing concern for the Island's safety, especially in light of climate change and drought conditions. Restoring native habitats and maintaining proactive fuel management practices will significantly reduce the risk of catastrophic fires and protect both wildlife and human life.
2. **Regional Importance:** MCSF's ecological significance extends beyond Martha's Vineyard. As one of the last remaining Coastal Sandplain ecosystems in the northeastern U.S., the restoration of MCSF will have lasting positive effects on regional biodiversity and conservation efforts.
3. **Biodiversity Conservation:** The State Forest hosts a remarkable array of rare species and habitats that are critical for biodiversity conservation. White pine plantations, while beneficial in certain ecosystems, are not suited to the unique coastal sandplain environment of the Vineyard and pose a threat to the rich biodiversity that characterizes the forest.
4. **Ecosystem Services:** By restoring native vegetation, we will promote the health of the ecosystem and the wildlife that rely on it. This, in turn, supports important ecosystem services such as pollination, pest control, and soil health-services that are indispensable for the Island's agricultural and natural systems.
5. **Carbon**

Comprising more than 5,200 acres, Manuel F. Correllus State Forest (MCSF) is the largest and most important conservation land on Martha's Vineyard. This site supports important coastal sandplain habitats, including globally rare pitch pine scrub oak barrens, that have many unique and specialized plants and animals. Given the importance of the State Forest for protecting this special wildlife, this Task Force* endorses its ecological restoration. Toward that end, we support the removal of artificial conifer plantations and the restoration of native habitat. A plan to remove 175 acres of white pine plantation is currently under development by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), to be administered by their Forest managers. In addition to restoring native habitat, this work would satisfy a legal requirement from Mass Wildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Our support for ongoing land stewardship at MCSF is founded on the following benefits to Islanders and nature:

1. Fire Safety
2. Regional importance
3. Biodiversity Conservation
4. Ecosystem Services
5. Carbon and Biodiversity
6. Invasion Control
7. Sustainability
8. Climate Adaptation
9. Controlled Emission
10. Cultural Heritage

See MCSF Task Force position statement for details on each benefit due to space constraints here. The Nature Conservancy is a member of the Task Force.

I encourage you to extend the period for public comments on this project and to seek further input from citizens living on Martha's Vineyard. The cutting of 175 acres of trees (the State Forest cutting plan) feels like it is moving forward too quickly and requires more careful deliberation and discussion.

I am strongly in favor of more time to investigate and discuss pros and cons before these trees are gone, and the forest potentially irreparably harmed. Evidence based practice is called for here. I am assuming research has been done regarding this type of clear cutting and "restoration" project. The public should be provided information about, and access to, the research articles that should be being cited as evidence of best practice, so that we may be better informed about the rationale for this project.

Big sudden changes, as well as seemingly small ones, have the potential for serious environmental harm. Recall the heath hen's final demise thought to be due to reforestation. But also do not forget that the treeless landscape resulting from sheep grazing and farming during the prior colonial period was also man-made, and we have no idea how many species were decimated then.

Regarding fire prevention, it seems logical that clear-cutting would be a solution, but if ongoing management of new growth is not well and consistently practiced, it seems also logical that increased fire danger might result. I have not read that there is a plan to fund and perform ongoing consistent management of new growth that would be required once the clear cutting is done.

Why do humans continuously think we know best how to manage nature? The trees have been there for over a hundred years, are seemingly healthy, and are an integral part of a forest system that, at least as far as my untrained self can judge, seems to be also mostly healthy. Let's try not to do more harm than good.

As this project is only now coming to light, and it is very apparent there is already massive public opposition to it going forward in the timeline planned, I hope that the State of Massachusetts will consider its residents's request to put this project on hold, and allow more time for research and discussion regarding the clear cutting of 175 acres in the State Forest on Martha's Vineyard.

Thank you

I disagree with the plan to cut 175 acres of forest. Spending a million dollars to create a less effective carbon sink does not sound like a good plan.

I am in support of the project as presented. We need to bring this area back to a habitat that can be managed to reduce fuels and the potential for wildfire.

To DCR officials,

Please, I beg you to reconsider the current plan to clearcut beautiful white pines in the state forest of Martha's Vineyard. I strongly believe that this plan is too big too hasty and too destructive. I have read all of the arguments in favor of this plan and there are holes with each one of them. No, this will not inherently create less fire danger. No, there is not absolute fact and consensus that there have never been white pines on Martha's Vineyard. These white pines are among the most peaceful, silent and glorious parts of the state forest. They support an entire ecosystem of plants and animals and insects unique and distinct from the pitch pines, scrub oak and oak trees that make up the majority of our vegetation on island. I've spent my entire life in our forest. It is peace like no other. These days with the overdevelopment of our small Island, the state forest is one of the only places left in Edgartown to truly feel like you are in the wild. Clear cutting these gorgeous trees (Arguably the most beautiful in the forest) is a huge mistake, not only for what will be gone forever if you do so, but also for the horrific destruction of habitat, the pollution, the noise disturbance, the eye sore and the constant management that will take years beyond this initial clear cut.

I was born on Island, my family were among the earliest non-native settlers in the 1600s and we have been here ever since. The beautiful ways of the Native Americans and their treatment of the earth and animals intertwined with the values of my earliest ancestors and I carry this with me today, every time I run, walk or bike on the paths. My Native American friends feel the same way about our natural resources. We feel unbelievably lucky that the state initially put this into conservation. Please do not take it away from us by clear cutting such a massive portion of this presently undisturbed beauty. Please reconsider your plan and offer a less destructive way. Thank you

I endorse cutting down the white pines and the restoration of the sandplain and oak barrens. We should listen to the environmental experts and protect the species that rely on the native environment. The pines were planted specifically to be harvested, and it's time to do that and replace them with native trees. The fire risk is another reason to support this effort.

I am a year-round resident of West Tisbury, MA, and a Martha's Vineyard resident since 2000. I am also an avid birdwatcher and naturalist. It is with this in mind that I write to you in support of the Pine Plantation Removal and Restoration project to restore an initial 79 acres of pine plantations to oak habitat.

I have wondered through these pine plantations on DCR trails for over two decades while birdwatching and observing nature. There is little biodiversity within them. The birds and other wildlife I have observed in them are species that would also live in the restored areas. Well meaning people planted these plantations many years ago as an economic development plan that failed, after we failed to save the heath hen. It is clear from the first accounts in 1698 that what is currently the state forest was "a barren ragged plain of no town."(Athearn 1698). This was before any European impacts. It was in these barrens of oaks, shrub oaks, and oak savannahs that the heath hen lived along with many plants and animals that are now imperiled; some globally.

It would be irresponsible to manage these conservation lands for carbon sequestration alone. Biodiversity matters as it supports us all. We took these lands from our native species 90 years ago, and I support DCR and NHESP in their efforts to restore this habitat to an oak barrens system. There has been a lot of misinformation about restoring to grasslands. That is not the goal here. Please do not halt this effort as it is a requirement for taking of habitat for rare species and needs to happen for the benefit of those species.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Luanne Johnson

Back in the late 1970's and early 80's I worked for Vineyard Pine Lumber who had a contract with DCR to thin the pines and turn them into landscape timbers. We were careful to leave the best trees. Many of these are the ones being considered to clear cut. Please don't clear cut these healthy mature white pines! I and many others enjoy hiking under these trees. We are losing many other species of trees on the Island due to bug infestation and over development. Releasing all that carbon is a bad idea! I also think you will be increasing the fire risk. Please reconsider and spend money clearing fire lanes. Thanks for considering our concerns. Richard Toole, Oak Bluffs resident for over Fifty years

To Whom it may concern,

I am a year-round Martha's Vineyard resident and I am writing with fervent support for the DCR white pine removal habitat restoration plan.

Simply put - if you value the oak barrens biodiversity - these pine plantations were planted years ago as an economic development project that failed. Many are dying and diseased. There is little or no understory and thus no insects and few wildlife species occupy them. They are mostly a monoculture and fragment the native habitats. DCR has an obligation to steward for biodiversity too and it is time to restore this habitat that was taken 90 years ago. The management plan is supported by all six island fire chiefs who you respect.

Thank you,
Silas.

I support the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation plans to clear 175 acres of white pines in the Manuel F. Correllus Forest. The plans are well thought out, scientifically and environmentally sound. I appreciate the efforts to restore rare habitats, protect endangered birds and wildlife and also the forest and Island from possible tragic burns in our increasingly hot future.

I am writing to express my support for this project. Note that while I serve on the MVC Correllus State Forest Task Force and work for BiodiversityWorks, I am expressing my personal views and not representing either of those entities.

As a committed naturalist who has spent thousands of hours across more than a quarter-century studying nature in Correllus State Forest, I view the pine plantations as failed economic infrastructure exhibiting unnatural species composition and physical structure, supporting very little biodiversity and fragmenting natural habitat within the state forest. In contrast, the native habitats that will emerge from successful restoration are highly diverse and support a wide range of rare and specialized species. Properly conducted, this project will represent a major, enduring improvement in the ecological value of Correllus, already one of the crown jewels of Massachusetts conservation.

Despite my overall support, I share to some degree some of the concerns raised by project opponents and skeptics. The carbon footprint of the project, in terms of fossil fuel use during restoration and possibly in terms of carbon sequestration, will be considerable and should be minimized where practical. Moreover, DCR has a regrettably uneven record in paying sustained attention to Correllus - the fact that this project reflects a decades-old, long-forgotten mitigation commitment is sufficient evidence of that. Restoration of disturbance-dependent communities calls for long-term commitment to appropriate monitoring and management. Success of this project and community acceptance of future restoration work in Correllus depend on DCR's ongoing attention.

With sufficient commitment, though, I am completely confident that this project will succeed and represent a regionally significant improvement in biodiversity conservation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Please reconsider cutting the trees in the State Forest.

I feel that if something grows well in an area without causing harm it should be respected.

Why do humans always have to find reasons to change things in nature?

I think we've done more than enough damage to the environment already...

Please do not proceed with clear cutting white pine trees in the state forest. I'm an avid hiker outdoorsman and have spent many hours in the state forest. Seeing how the forest thrives in its current state with the beautiful healthy white pine trees towering over the forest. I believe cutting down these trees is unnecessary and someday we will realize we have made a mistake in doing so. I plead with you to not destroy an already thriving ecosystem!

As a Wildlife professional and seasonal Island resident, I fully support the management plan for the Manuel Correllus State Forest. Please cut the dead and dying trees, and the non native White Pine, to restore the Pitch Pine/scrub oak woodlands.

I've been following at a distance the proposed cutting of acres of the Manuel F Correllus State Forest. While a direct relative of the superintendent of the forest for over 50 years I am compelled to ask a few questions. Growing up I heard my grandfather speak of his worries for the forest, its land, the trees, and whether we would have a wet or dry season depending on the level of water in the pond in front of the house near the weigh in station.

Top of the list was Fire like the big fire in the 1950's that devastated acres of the forest, next was the diseased Pines, and that he diligently made sure that Smokey the Bear was the only one to spend a night in the forest.

I am interested as an island resident and direct descendant of the forests past superintendent that we are able to maintain the forest in the best possible way.

Kind regards,

Patti

Public comment is essential in the rural and isolated island community. Last year the DCR removed homeless tents and threw away medications, passports, life documents. They didn't consult local authorities or agencies and it will never be forgotten. The dcr gutted people's lives. Many of the documents and meds lost there were never recovered. It was cruel and there's no reason for that.

The white pine is sacred for our Wampanoag people on MV. Our state forest has a lot of dead wood that should be cleared and is a hazard, but the local public needs to be involved. It would also be good to hire local. We face myriad issues that those from off-island cannot understand. We watch your dcr employees come over on a boat daily. One brings his personal boat and moors it on state property. Wonder if he gets reimbursed for gas? We have thousands of commuters who don't.

Please do not make changes to our island by outsiders without consulting the residents. It's on par to what Trump has done. I live in a blue state where people are supposed to be respected by their government and the last year of state forest and DCR debauchery hasn't emulated that.

Don't do it! We need to find a more eco-friendly way of dealing with that area. I walk my dog there nearly every day and I can't imagine clear cutting that area for any reason. Perhaps just thinning it out selectively?

Please put off the project to cut white pines on Martha's Vineyard for the time being. We are losing a multitude of pines due to beetle invasion, as well as red pines.

The local community needs to be involved and weigh in on this situation.

Thank you.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the DCR's plan to clear-cut an initial segment of 75 acres of White Pine within the Manuel Correllus State Forest, a larger proposal that includes 175 acres overall. The importance of this forest to our community cannot be overstated, and I believe that any decision regarding its management must involve substantial community input and consideration of its ecological value.

The DCR has indicated that this action is part of a broader effort to restore indigenous species that existed prior to the establishment of the White Pine forests. However, we must critically assess the implications of such a drastic measure. The current pine forest, which occupies less than 20% of the 5,200 acres of the Manuel Correllus State Forest, provides essential ecological services, including carbon sequestration and habitat for wildlife.

Moreover, the DCR's rationale for reducing fire hazard damage due to the "crowning" potential of the pines warrants further scrutiny. Research has demonstrated that scrub oak and sand plain vegetation can pose a higher fire hazard due to their rapid intensification and combustibility compared to pine. Therefore, it is essential to evaluate whether clear-cutting pines will effectively address fire risks or create new challenges for our local environment.

This is not only a matter of ecological concern but also a reflection of our community's values. Many residents cherish the forest and see it as a critical part of our island's identity and ecology. Our community has shown significant engagement regarding this issue, gathering over 1,200 petition signatures and generating a video that has received over 18,000 views. These numbers reflect a strong desire for preservation and conservation rather than destruction.

Given the complexity of this situation and the potential long-term consequences the proposed cutting could have on our ecosystem, I urge the DCR to postpone any cutting plans un

I fully support the DCR-led plantation removal and restoration project given it will reverse fragmentation created through the establishment of conifer plantations that continue to encroach upon our native ecology. Pine barrens habitat is globally rare, and the Vineyard possesses the fast-drying sandy soils that support this ecology. It is critical we recognize our role in regional conservation dynamics and wildlife/biodiversity goals. An acre of native habitat on our island goes so much further than an acre in many other pockets of the state when viewed through the prism of wildlife abundance and threatened species. Other zones of the State can be leveraged to better achieve our carbon goals. Our island's role in conservation can complement the carbon banks in other parts of the state, even if we are not maximizing our carbon storage here on the island. These lands are put to much better use in other capacities, namely through promoting a fire-dependent landscape and the specialized species they support.

This is an important project that our community will ultimately build appreciation for in the years ahead, as we restore our lands to their former splendor.

Please WAIT! This is not the time to clear cut the White Pines in the forest. These trees are evidently the surviving conifer and conifer forest on the island. They may not be indigenous but they are healthy, live trees that give us oxygen, that provide a place of peace and tranquillity. People need nature; this forest is home to birds and other animals in the wild, they belong to this forest.

It is neither the time nor place for a restoration project. Who can be certain the necessary funds to cut, clear and replant a grass plain will exist tomorrow or the next day?? There certainly can be other more pressing needs that this money could go towards.

In response to the fire departments concern, if clear cutting a forest is a good strategy for fire prevention, why aren't they cutting forests in California and other places?

Leave this, beautiful healthy existing ecosystem in place, please.
Thank you for continued consideration.

To the DCR:

I am opposed to the cutting of the white pines in the Correllus State Forest, for the following reasons:

1) There is no evidence that this land was NOT forested at the time of first European contact, so there is not a clearly legitimate restoration target.

2) Clearing this land and keeping it cleared will require ongoing labor, costs, and pollution. The past record of DCR in caring for this forest is not encouraging that this ongoing requirement will be met.

3) Clearing this forest, which is in the peak of its carbon withdrawal cycle, will be a massive carbon emission, both from the trees cut and their root systems. We are at a moment in planetary history where we cannot afford this massive carbon emission and loss of carbon absorption. It flies completely in the face of the Commonwealth's stated carbon reduction goals.

4) Avoiding the worst effects of climate change will do far more for preservation of species than the plan for clear cutting the pines in the State Forest.

Please cancel this plan and spend the funds on far more important goals for our forest, which have been outlined previously in the past year.

Finally, I am dismayed to learn that the Wampanoag Tribe was not a participant in all of these discussions. If we want to know what was here before European contact, we have a reliable source of knowledge.

This approach seems rather harsh for such a wide area. Is there a plan that's less extreme ? It seems like a half baked plan with no fully formed plan for maintenance. I.e. how this land got the way it is.... The beauty of the vineyard is the forests and the fields and hiking trails and with all the construction that is currently underway, I feel this would be a huge detriment to the "green space" on the island. What about the purple needle grass and the protected moths in this area? What happens with them? Can we be more selective in our tree reduction and accomplish the necessary goals? Looking for a happy medium..

This project needs to be delayed allowing for further review. There are many trees dying for various reasons and clear cutting is NOT the answer.

Hi, I'm concerned about the pine beetles (I watched the video of the presentation on Nantucket) and I'm also concerned about losing the trees function in carbon capture. It might be that pioneering plants will capture a comparable amount of carbon, if only eventually.

-But might burning or chipping the wood hasten the release of carbon?-

I live in VH next to west chop woods and had someone from SMF behind my house marking trees. It occurred to me that the carbon could be sequestered if they were to dig big trenches, (perhaps in the nearby fire lanes), and bury the logs. (Think hugelculture). I think this could also smother any beetles still living in the wood.

TY! Tom

(botany degree/ conservationist/ former SMF property manager -'80s / energy conservation (CLC) and current solar guy)

Please delay this process. We need and want more community comment time. This is devastating to our natural resource. This is our home. Please stop.

I struggle with both the logic and methodology in use by those that plan on cutting the white pines in MCSF. So: the word 'unhealthy' is used. That requires a metric: what 'unhealth' and what percent of these pines have this 'unhealth'? If there is a large percent 'unhealthy' how does this impact your claim of milling and producing (an unknown) quantity of useable lumber? WHO would pay for the milling? Who gets the receipts for the sale of the milled lumber? Further: there is concern about 'crown fires'. Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama have some of the highest concentrations of pine plantations in the world. Yet, they rarely have crown fires. But, chapparal - scrub oak - is an acknowledged high fire risk. We're assured that MV has the capability to handle that kind of fire. Really? Isn't that a little arrogant? Los Angeles - which has lots of resources - found out the hard way for Eaton and Palisades. Even when massive resources were in the area, the Highes fire (Castaic) grew to more than 10,000 acre before containment. This desire to impose a human vision on the landscape is, of course, the ultimate ego trip: we know what it should look like, we know how to get there, we know how to keep it there. Not to worry, we've got good intentions. Well, good intentions illegally widened the firelanes, and good intentions illegally carved miles of bicycle trails.Should we be reminded of the heath hen attempt? And all the good intentions are useless against the new reality: fire weather. Finally: Plantations increase landscape diversity and provide novel, unique, and important habitat structures for bald eagles, raptors, owls, and migratory birds. Plantations do not expand, nor attack biodiversity. The problem we face is not the white pines, but the lack of effective management, in tune with both the current reality of climate change (FIRE WEATHER) and the limits of human agency.

Please put this project to clear cut on hold! Reevaluate please!

DCR has not done enough to answer questions about long term maintenance of the cleared area. Aquifer issues, pesticide use for the maintenance of invasive species. The DCR have not provided clear answers to these questions. Until more concise information are provided. I oppose DCR program to clear cut 173 acres in the state forest.

Please do not rush into this decision. I realize things have been put in motion to do this clear cut, but based on the science and my personal experience with the Forest, I believe it is clear that there is a better way to move forward than cutting it all down.

It will be extremely expensive and at this time there are so many things in the state needs money for this seems like a good place to pause for a reassessment.

My family calls this part of the forest Narnia because it's so magical. It's almost 100 years old and has value. With permission we harvest our Christmas tree here every year. This is an amazing service to the island. There is also incredible lumber that could be used from the trees that come down if taken down carefully and thoughtfully. It's Eques a massive amount of carbon any new plantings that are done. Will not have the opportunity to do this for 80 years. I believe the hypo Cradic oath is worth remembering here. First do no harm. Thank you for listening and considering the voices of our local community who care deeply about this place.

Sincerely,

Anna Fitch

West Tisbury resident and family of 4 (husband, Banker and our two children Oscar 10 years old Dylan 13 years old.)

Dear Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR),

I am writing to express my concern regarding the current proposal to clear-cut the white pine plantations in Manuel Correllus State Forest on Martha's Vineyard. There has been a lack of clear communication with the public about the plan and the broader potential impact on our community.

Over the past two months, I have attended several community meetings, and there is growing concern among island residents about the proposed plan. Many of us feel that there are alternative approaches to forest management that would be more sustainable and less disruptive than clear-cutting the entire pine stand at this time.

I urge DCR to consider a more holistic strategy that is both staged in its timing and addresses the entire forest ecosystem. Such an approach would not only maintain the ecological integrity of the forest but also take into account the broader environmental and community concerns that have emerged. Additionally, the current plan is quite expensive and management-intensive moving forward, and it may not be the most cost-effective or sustainable long-term solution.

As a community member, a father, and a lover of the environment, I am urging the state to pause any action and engage in a deeper discussion with our community. Any action taken will affect many decades to come, so I strongly encourage the creation of new opportunities for community input that foster public participation. The goal should be to build consensus around a vision for long-lasting stewardship of this beautiful resource for generations to come.

Thank you for considering this important issue. I hope you will take into account the voices of the local community and explore alternative options

Why in this day and age would the DRC CLEAR CUT? There are far better ways of maintaining a forest.

Dear Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation,

I urge you to put the Manuel Correllus State Forest clearcutting project on hold and revisit the 24-year-old plan guiding this decision. Since its inception, new research on forest management, climate resilience, and biodiversity has emerged, alongside evolving state climate goals. Additionally, the concerns of Martha's Vineyard residents must be fully considered in shaping the future of this vital ecosystem.

Please pause this project and conduct a thorough, updated review that aligns with current environmental science and community priorities.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Shenlei Winkler, PhD

White Pine forests are in rapid decline in Massachusetts due to disease, pests, and climate change. Even if those particular pines are not naturally occurring, as claimed, the species is native to this area and they are disappearing fast.

This project seems to be just trying to trade one problem for an other at potentially great expense to the tax payer. As far as I've been able to tell, no-one has actually calculated a realistic price tag or find funding for doing this clear cutting, and then maintaining the site which will require regular burning and/or brushing to achieve the desired result.

This is a gorgeous, lush, white pine forest, a rarity with it's own ecosystem. It would be a shame to destroy it for the sake of substituting one challenged ecosystem for another. A more sensible effort would be to put energy and money toward protecting the sandplain heathlands and barrens that already exist.

It is hard to understand the necessity or the wisdom of clear-cutting sections of a healthy white pine plantation. The energy and cost to remove the pines are significant, and the maintenance that will be required to preserve a sand-plain ecosystem will be costly. In addition pitch pines and scrub oaks will increase the fire danger significantly. Moreover, the pines that are 60-90 years old are sequestering a lot of carbon.

I support the proposal put forward by David Foster to focus efforts on limiting the spread of white pines into existing oak forests.

I strongly object to the plan to clearcut the Manuel Correllus State Forest. The costs, benefits, and reasoning behind this move are greatly controversial and understudied. I see no reason to mess with something that is beautiful and natural. I walk those pine-covered paths every day and it will be devastating, expensive, and useless to destroy them.

To the DCR and various responsible parties,

I believe strongly in science and environmental regulation and management, but the Manuel Correllus State Forest clearcutting plan seems to me an unnecessarily bludgeoning implementation of ecological ideals and practices. I would like to see it put on hold to assess a more nuanced approach that balances habitat restoration along with the ecology that has evolved in the white pine forests -- as well as human enjoyment and use. The latter is a huge part of fostering a healthy cultural relationship with nature.

I also think the public deserves to see a detailed account of what exactly is being saved by the clearcutting -- not only in terms of the native meadowland and scrub flora, but also insects, mammals, reptiles, etc. I have not seen an easily accessible account of what is at stake -- also in terms of what habitats already exist throughout the island -- and I think this would go a long way towards settling public and management unease.

Thank you for considering the matter. Please take a pause and re-think this!

Alexandra Thompson

Please do NOT clear cut the pines.

It feels evident that more is lost than is gained By putting so much resource into destroying a functioning, mature, working forest. For me, the haymaker was that sand plain habitat would require significant resource input every 3 to 5 years From NoW ON. That just doesn't feel sensible given that the forest that's there is functioning fine with zero added input since 1936. It's capturing a lot of carbon in its current state and that should be a priority for our world at this point.

Thank you,
Elisabeth Carnie

The proposed clear cut plan for the removal of white pines from Manuel Correllus State Forest is not a well thought out plan. It will require a large amount of funding to maintain. There is no plan, budget, strategy to secure those funds. Everyday folks that reside in surrounding towns do not want this. This is not a popular plan. There are alternatives to consider that would be more fiscally sound, maintain a healthy forest and work with all invested parties. Please stop and reconsider your motives and work with all parties on a more collaborative and comprehensive plan. Thank you for your time and I hope you read this and all the other comments of concern.

All , please pause the timeline for proposed clear cutting of white pines at state forest . I have lived on Martha's Vineyard 50 years and have watched them mature. The white pine is a beautiful and useful tree. White pine lumber sheds and outbuildings are transported to the island daily for sale at local garden centers . Our local lumber yard sells 2x4 studs that are shipped from Germany ! The idea of chipping the stands of white pine and trucking to sell on the mainland is shortsighted on many levels. If the stand must be thinned , a sustained yield approach with local sawyers milling the timber on site would be much more beneficial for all concerned . Please release an open request for proposals for alternate solutions to clear cut and chipping .

Thank you , mark hurwitz

Please don't cut the healthy trees. It's a beautiful forest to walk and bike through.

Please leave it be and fix up the bike path and spend money to house your staff

This project should be delayed to allow public participation & comments to be considered. As an island it is too dangerous to move ahead with out caution.

My family and I use the bike path on a regular basis. The quiet breeze through the pines as we bike, skateboard, rollerblade or scooter is a quiet respite from the hustle and bustle of the island, especially during the summer months. The community has made it clear - this is not what we want. Please consider revising your plan to preserve this area that has become part of our ecosystem, not willingly destroy it. As our climate crisis becomes more and more serious, it seems our resources could be better spent on other things.

As a year-round resident of Martha's Vineyard and someone who frequently walks and cycles the state forest, I am admittedly opposed to the plans to cut a large number of trees. The forest serves as a carbon storage and cooling resource for our island. Furthermore, the trees contribute to the soil quality and ecosystems of the forest.

The pine plantations are an egregious insult to the Island's native ecosystems. They were planted before an appreciation for the Forest's natural systems had developed. The restoration of native natural systems should be prioritized for the future of this important and imperiled system. Storms and pathogens will likely create emergency management responses as have been experienced historically. A prudent plan would include proactive restoration and management and include education efforts to improve Islanders and visitors understanding of the magnificence of these precious native habitats and the flora and fauna they would harbor if the pines are removed carefully.

Tim Simmons

Restoration Ecologist (Retired)

Dear DCR,

I am writing to support the proposed plan to remove 175 acres of white pine plantations from the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest. I am a resident of Vineyard Haven. I believe that conserving the biodiversity of the Atlantic Coastal Pine Barrens ecoregion is an important reason for this project to go forward. I believe that the White Pine and the Spruce plantations are causing the degradation of the surrounding habitats. I believe this quote from the position statement prepared by the MCSF Task Force to explain my support of the project explains "Of all the Coastal Sandplain lands left in the State, NHESP has identified our State Forest as having one of the highest concentrations of state-listed rare species in the Commonwealth, as well as some of the Vineyard's highest biodiversity. This is a direct result of the large, relatively high integrity examples of barrens natural communities in the State Forest. By contrast, the plantations within the State Forest are unnatural, do not support this specialized biodiversity, and represent a long-term threat to the integrity of the varied native natural communities inside the Forest. White pine is a common species in several mainland ecosystems covering thousands of square miles, where it fulfills important recreational and ecological roles in its native habitat in natural systems. Yet this species is disruptive to our rare sandplain systems found on the island." and "Oaks are widely considered the tree of life for the insects and birds they support, where in contrast, a plantation planting of a single species of (white) pine hosts far less diversity."

The introduced spruce and white pine trees that are rapidly colonizing the state forest beyond the original plantation footprints, and I think a larger program to contain the spread and maintain high quality habitat for rare and endangered species is needed from MFCFSF.

Thank you for taking my comments in support of the selective clearing.

Sincerely,
Liz Loucks

The State's outdated enforcement actions highlight why we must reconsider how we do things.

To deploy an expensive fossil fueled industrial tree cutting and clearing operation in a BAU manner in the forest raises many questions. The old enforcement order was stopped by the State and the mitigation was never done. Then in 2022 a public comment period was reopened and closed failing to receive a single comment. Now the plan is to remove the white pine plantations that were planted 90 years ago when the State Forest was taken as a forest resource for the Island. These white pine plantations are now maturing and could be a sustainable resource for the Island. The plan allows for the small possibility of recovering some timber as a by-product. This will yield little material and waste the resource. A better plan is one that lasts for decades and provides the Island with a supply of harvestable material over time, meeting our carbon sequestering goals. To help the case for the plantation removal a faulty fire hazard is raised without any factual basis. Others support the establishment of grassland habitats, which is not what the State plan calls for. What has not been provided is after the cutting, how do you get the landscape to an oak scrubland woodland habitat? State officials say this process will take upwards of 150yrs. The plan only says there will be ongoing maintenance needs - mowing, burning and chemical treatments. The State needs to develop a proper plan, that accounts for scientific, cultural and climate change issues. What the plan should not be is a way to clean up old paperwork, or conduct BAU approaches to forest management that are not recommended by the CFC nor the direction in the Work Plan issued from the Healey Admin. I object to the two week comment period when there is factual information promised to be provided by DCR that at the closing of the comment period has not yet been provided, depriving us of the very purpose of the comment period.

Please pause this project for further study.

We do not need acres and acres of trees clear cut.

How will this effect wildlife, vegetation and most importantly, those of us who walk and use the forest for peace and quiet recreation?

I walk in the forest every day; it is my sanctuary!

Please do not take a literal chainsaw to our forest! Please pause and rethink the 24 year old plan that you are currently using as your map of destruction.

To the powers that be,

I am opposed to the proposed removal of 175 acres white pines from our state forest.

At the 3/12/25 MV Commission's Manuel F. Correllus task force meeting at which DCR shared its cut plan, I did not hear anything that moved the needle on my opposition as stated in my 12/9/24 letter to DCR and the MVC task force.

Attendees at the listening session held on island by DCR last October overwhelmingly asked for DCR to install a full time year round employee in the state forest house, and for the bike paths to be re-paved. About this, we have not heard one word.

Prudy Burt, life-long, year round multigenerational island resident of West Tisbury

Thank you for offering this platform for public response. I have lived on Martha's Vineyard year round for over 40 years, yet only recently within the past year developed an affinity for the State Forest, guided there to see a woodland forest structure. Now, I am there often communing with white pine. Last Saturday, I did a Forest Gratitude Ceremony at that spot, honoring the awesome majesty of the natural world and giving gratitude to White Pine.

I have attended public meetings and talked to knowledgeable, concerned people. The meeting hosted by the MVC task force was very informative.

My take away is that there exists on Martha's Vineyard a corridor of globally rare, unique sandplain grassland habitat in communion with diverse species and ecology. This corridor benefits by contiguous connection in order to thrive. So much of this habitat on the Vineyard has been destroyed by development with no turning back.

Might those two parcels in the State Forest be an opportunity to reclaim, nurture and give back?

Might there be a way to manage/nourish the rest of the forest to allow white pine to continue to nourish us?

I envision a Kincentric community here where the participation of the Wampanoag knowledge of land/spirit tending is joined with all of us in caring for this place. Abundance, reciprocity, deep belonging, regeneration is possible in a culture of care.

I would like you to reconsider your plans regarding the white pines on Martha's Vineyard.

Is there no way to conserve this resource? Are there any other options on the table other than clear cutting that part of the forest?

Like me, many Islanders & stakeholders are torn because restoring, protecting & promoting globally rare sandplain, barrens & oak forest habitat is critical with respect to the biodiversity crisis, yet cutting down a century old pine forest seems to be extreme in the face of threats to forests nationwide, & climate change. Some of the loudest voices see this as an expensive waste of a beautiful forest that nature wants there.

I recognize now that my biggest issue is less about the ecological debates: what is a native species, what is the value of saving a mature white pine forest, the value of prescribed burns to maintain sandplain habitat, fire risks because it's really more about the flawed public process.

Slowing down the project & having more public engagement would bring a lot of good will.

DCR notified the Vineyard with a single letter sent to the Town of Edgartown, where the project would be based.

Edgartown did not respond so DCR did not host any informational/public input sessions on the Island. This is unfortunate because many members of the Vineyard community feel left out of this process.

The Islands are unique & hard to deal with sometimes. Perhaps it's the ferry, but I am not alone in saying that there has been a lack of good DCR management going back at least to the late 1990s. I attended a few meetings back then. We discussed ecological & listed species concerns, as well as conflicts with and the need for fire management, best practices to fell trees & protect the soils, what to do with the cut timber.

Here we are a quarter of a century later, & very little that is positive has happened with the State Forest.

Members of the Vineyard community have reasons to distrust DCR. Neglect of the forest & rare species habitat destruction by DCR in constructing the fire lanes back in 2001 are 2 reasons.

I think we can build back trust.

It's up to DCR to respond to our concerns.

There is more than this space affords to discuss, so thanks in advance.

MOS

The plan to clear-cut white pines in our state forest is appalling in its destructiveness, cost to the environment, and cost in dollars. The various rationales for the clear-cutting simply don't make sense.

- The white pines are labeled "non-native." In fact, *Pinus strobus* is native to eastern Massachusetts.
- The white pines are "plantations," originally planted for timber. So what? Much of the replacement habitat will also be installed via "plantations" and managed like a zoo. Advocating the clear-cutting of healthy, growing forests significantly undermines the DCR's and conservationists' credibility.
- "Mitigation." The "mitigation" trigger seems to be getting pulled in order to carry out a 25-year-old plan that someone is still emotionally attached to.
- Need to "restore" sandplain grasslands and/or oak scrublands to host rare species. Just since FY 2016 the state has spent well over \$5 million in 2025 dollars to manage habitat, including funding about 18 projects to create or maintain sandplain grasslands, scrublands, and heathlands on or near Cape Cod. If these projects have been successful, how come these sandplain habitats are still rare?
- White pines represent a major fire hazard. Oak scrublands are far more flammable than tall white pine trees. The "wildfire!" panic is one of the less credible rationales for clear-cutting.
- Climate resilience through biodiversity.

None of these rationales is credible. The DCR has opened up a comment period, but few believe the agency will listen to the public. The DCR is in a very great hurry to start the clear-cutting this year. Why the urgency?

Could the answer be something as simple as money? The state's budget process? Could it be that the DCR must spend all the money it has been allocated for this year, on the projects the money is allocated for, in order to avoid budget cuts next year? And don't forget that most of the money is paid to private companies that rely on the income stream and work closely with the DCR.

To the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Please rethink the White Pine Clearcut in the Manuel Correllus State Forest. I am against the proposed short time frame and the proposed large scale of the project and the "throwing away of a forest".

Climate change.

These forests are the most dense carbon sequestering and pooling entity on the island. The land for the plantations was taken by eminent domain for forestry and the heath hen. They were planted no till and have been building biomass and soil for 80 years for free. They could be a sustainable long term carbon, timber, chip, biochar source for the island.

I respect our local fire and State fire personnel, however, I am baffled by NHESP and its rejection of widening or making fire lanes. Fire lanes can help contain fires and fire lanes seem to enhance rare species habitat. I would volunteer to clear up the ladder fuels and trim the lower branches for the older plantations in the Southeast of the State Forest to help prevent crown fire issues. Alternative plans to mitigate fire issues were not encouraged during the meetings with DCR. I could be convinced that some of the crowded plantations could be modified/ or removed to reduce fire hazard but why not work together to figure out which ones should go?

Recreation and biodiversity.

Islanders like walking in the white pines. It is quiet, shady and free. The word "Recreation" occurs 3x in your mission statement. Where is the species inventory for the white pine?

The DCR's clearcut is a bizarre modern mashup of the king's broad arrow policy claiming the islands's white pine for the king's navy. However, this is bureaucratic seizure with double non benefit. Not only will you take away the forest from the islanders who love it but you intend to throw it out neither making masts nor birdhouses for the rare bird species you desire.

FYI

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-tech-bro-who-pivoted-to-plant-a-trillion-trees-8f2fa084>

Follow up questions to March 12th joint meeting:

- Will the pitch pine that is now being attacked by the southern pine beetle need to be removed to reduced fire risk and if so, at what cost?
- Would widening several key fire lanes give the fire departments an upper hand in the event of a fast moving fire?
- Could tree encroachment on the fire lanes be managed to reduce crowning or jumping of a rapidly moving fire?
- Can an immediate and sustained effort be made to remove all of the proliferating pine saplings by employing island workers in the off season.
- Can the largest stands of pine be allowed to fully mature into a marketable size to maximize productivity and carbon sequestration? Can a local harvest plan be drawn up around this effort?
- Could the understory of these remaining pines be cleared to 30' to reduce the laddering effect and limit the risk of a crown fire?
- Can DCR reprioritize their restoration efforts in the areas where the pine trees are in poor health?
- Can there be a carbon solution for the biomass being removed that keeps it local and minimizes carbon losses into the atmosphere?
- Could some means be employed to make biochar and compost out of the chips and duff so that it can be recycled back into our soils.
- Will there be a long term commitment to complete restorations of the entire forest? How does the current plan affect that?
- Will herbicides be used in the restoration project?
- Can we invest in more fire fighting equipment and man the fire tower regularly during dry spells?
- Have the local Wampanoag tribal members been consulted on this plan? Do they have representation?

I am in support of restoring this ecosystem but i urge you to schedule an in person meeting with our community to engage in a deeper dialogue! Thank you!!!

In the face of climate change we should be planting forests not cutting them down. Though I'm in support of protecting native species I think we need to look at the bigger picture here.

1242 people have signed the petition to stop the clear-cut in our state forest. We are requesting that the project is put on hold and the plan is revised to account for new research, state climate objectives, and adequate time and resources are allocated to public education and collaboration with this issue. We need to drive the creation of management goals or strategies to mitigate biodiversity loss and fire risk on our Island.

We are writing to ask you to halt the Department of Conservation and Recreation's plan to clearcut 175 acres of white pines in Manuel F. Correllus State Forest.

In this time of larger ecological and climate crisis, we are truly upset by the proposed clearcut and deeply concerned about this proposal's inevitable ecological damage to our land and waters, as well as its negative climate effects - both destroying existing carbon stores and preventing future carbon sequestration.

Although fire-risk has been cited as motivation for the clearcut, research suggests that transitioning the area from dense forest into sandplain could actually increase fire risk. Research also suggests that the actual effective method for reducing fire risk to structures is by managing vegetation within 100 ft of them, not through altering nearby forests.

There are so many projects that need attention, and so many ecological harms that need healing. To use important funds and energy to do a massive clearcut (in the name of restoration or fire management) seems negligent, shortsighted, and destined to cause more harm.

We ask you to use your leadership to halt this plan and support a process of open engagement with the community, including Wampanoag tribal representatives, concerning the state forest.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Tory Field and Mary Hatch

Please consider not cutting the white pines in the state forest. This is a mature and beautiful section of the island that ought to be preserved. Let's leave making horrible, irreparable decisions about to the private sector. Thanks.

Shawn Barber

I am not in favor of the present plan for our state forest on Martha's Vineyard. I understand the reasoning partially, but feel it is far too extensive. There is so much deadwood culling and regular maintenance that should be addressed before undertaking this huge clear cutting. Please start slowly and see how the forest compensates. I've spent much of my life in the forest, walking, jogging, riding and driving my horses. It's such a treasure. I appreciate being able to comment, thank you.

Clear cutting pines on Martha's vineyard. : The forestry experts probably know best, But clear cutting in large areas is unsightly and disturbing to the general public + mass fishing, wildlife and DCR should take better care in the execution and communication of these projects and maybe think about doing them in phases so it's not such a visual shock.