



Quabbin Park Fire Planning

MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION OF
NATURAL COMMUNITIES

Why reintroduce fire to the park?

- ▶ Several fire-dependent natural communities
 - ▶ Pitch pine – oak woodland
 - ▶ Inland sandplain grassland
 - ▶ Oak- hickory woodland
 - ▶ Pockets of scrublands comprised of scrub oak

Why reintroduce fire to the park?

- ▶ Existing rare species and potential for restoring more
 - ▶ Two state listed endangered plants that benefit from fire and one watch-listed plant.
 - ▶ Expansion of some grasslands could provide needed habitat for state listed birds.
 - ▶ Suite of Lepidopteran species that depend on these communities



Photo By/Credit
Jim Hudgins/USFWS



Hank's Meadow

(half is within ASMR- denoted by light orange hash marks)

- ▶ Approximately 19.2 acres.
- ▶ Area includes rare sandplain grassland (S2- globally rare; imperiled) with lowbush blueberry, little bluestem and other fire adapted plants.
- ▶ Fire interval estimated 2-4 years



Goodnough Dike Woodland Restoration and Grassland

Out of Special Management Consideration Area

- ▶ 59 acres
- ▶ Pre-fire Management
 - ▶ Oak woodland already proposed, ready for marking and sale.
 - ▶ Grassland would need invasives treatments.
- ▶ Fire Intervals
 - ▶ Woodland: 3-5 years introductory; 8-10 maintenance.
 - ▶ Grassland: 2-4 years.
- ▶ Benefits two state listed endangered plant species and rare inland sandplain grassland.



Windsor Dam, Spillway and Adjacent Woodland

Areas identified in CLMP (total area in CLMP is 143 acres), proposed areas is 84 acres.

- ▶ Pre-fire Management
 - ▶ Eastern area adjacent to spillway (45.5 acres)– thin by removal of white pine and other generalist tree species to restore to an oak woodland.
 - ▶ Western area adjacent to spillway, below Windsor Dam (31 acres) – island of white pines, 6.7 acres, to be removed. Area under white pines is heavily infested with invasives.
 - ▶ Spillway (5.5 acres) - Spillway needs all woody vegetation removed mechanically (in process). Continuation of sandplain grassland.



Windsor Dam, Spillway and Adjacent Woodland

- ▶ Fire Intervals
 - ▶ Eastern woodland: introductory 3-5 years; maintenance 8-10 years
 - ▶ Western grassland: 2-4 years
 - ▶ Spillway: 1-4 years
- ▶ Benefits two state-listed bird species: Grasshopper Sparrow (state-listed threatened) & Eastern Meadowlark (state-listed special concern). Also watch-listed plant species, wild lupine.



Administration Fields

- ▶ Prescribed fire only
 - ▶ Area across from the Forestry building
 - ▶ Pollinator area near Admin building
 - ▶ Fields lining entrance
 - ▶ Fire interval: 2-4 years
- ▶ Increases acreage of rare inland sandplain grassland and pollinator habitat.
- ▶ Public and staff education opportunity.



Thanks!

