Resource Management Planning Program:
Program Updates & Presentation of South Coast RMPs
November 9, 2023

Raynham State Forest

Fall River Heritage State Park

Today's Presentation

- ▶ Program Updates
  - ▶ Staffing – Seasonal vs. FTE
  - ▶ Pending RMPs
- ▶ Presentation of South Coast RMPs

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Program Updates

Staffing – Seasonal vs. FTE

Aimee Graeber

John Daly

Paul Cavanagh

➤ Resulted in gain of 15 additional weeks of productivity for RMP Program as compared to 2022, including:

  ➤ 5 additional weeks/employee/year due to no breaks in employment.

  ➤ 2 weeks formerly spent recruiting, interviewing, etc.

  ➤ 3 weeks of Regional Planner time due to new GIS support.

➤ Unquantifiable benefits – elimination of employee turnover, functioning as a team, ownership of process and plans by all involved.

Pending RMPs

▶ <u>South Coast</u> (9 RMPs) – Stewardship Council review.

▶ <u>Blackstone Complex</u> (6 RMPs) – Release to public after update of Interpretive Information.

▶ <u>Central Highlands District</u> (31 RMPs) – To be released for internal review in stages over the next three months. Anticipated public release Spring 2024.
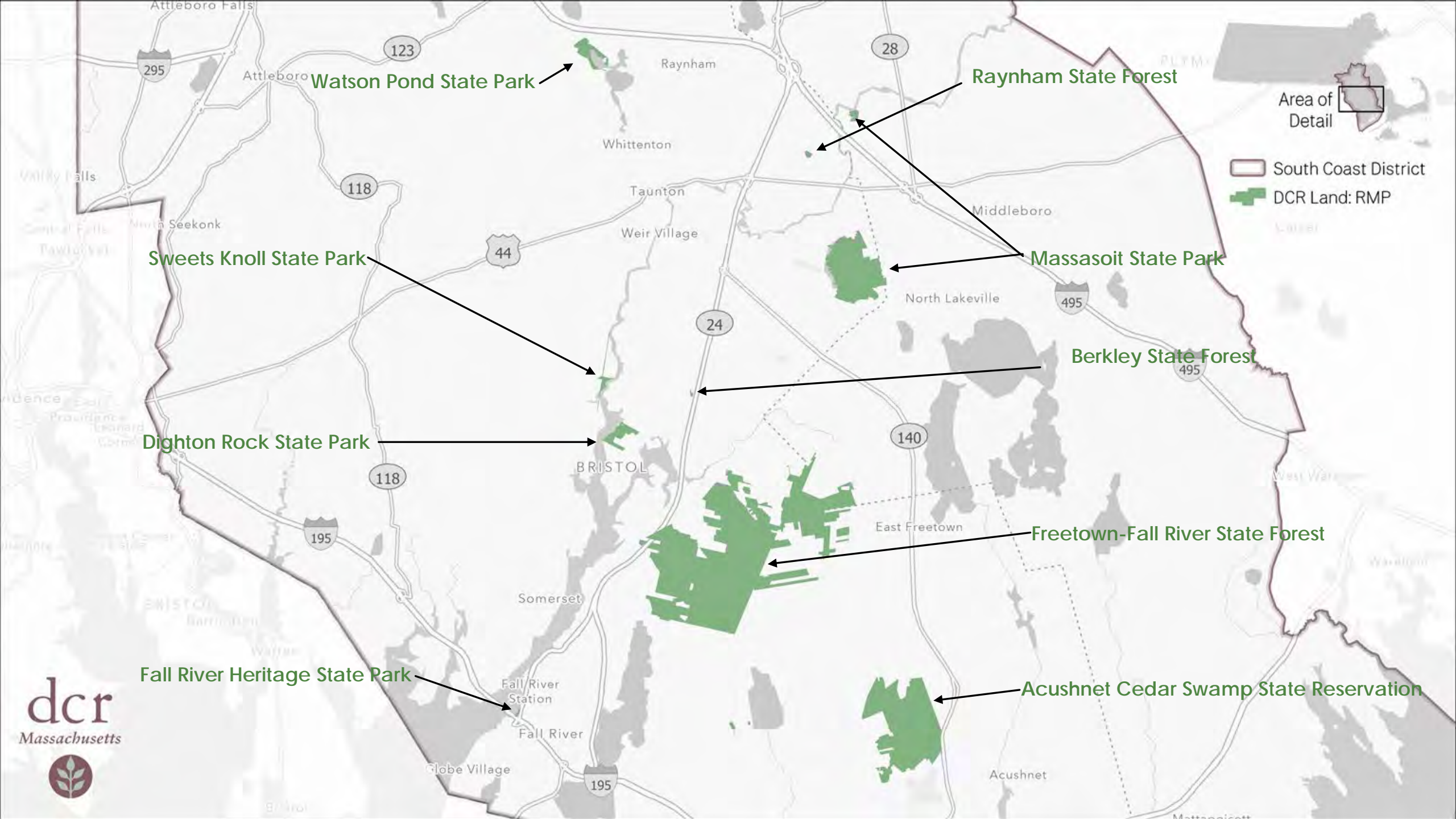
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Freetown-Fall River State Forest

Pending RMPs (continued)

▶ <u>Belle</u> <u>Isle</u> <u>Marsh</u> <u>Reservation</u> (1 RMP) – Public process to begin early 2024.

▶ <u>Lakes</u> <u>District</u> (31 RMPs) – Site visits wrapped up this week; public process and writing begins early 2024.

▶ <u>Islands</u> <u>District</u> (9 RMPs) – Preliminary work begins 2024.

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Presentation of South Coast RMPs

Watson Pond State Park

Offers recreation opportunities (e.g., swimming, fishing, boating, picnicking) on the tree-lined shore of a beautiful pond.

Raynham State Forest

A suburban state forest that protects common natural resources and offers opportunities to engage in passive recreation.

Sweets Knoll State Park

The Park protects significant natural and cultural resources associated with the Taunton, while providing public access to the river for passive recreation.

Massasoit State Park

An outdoor recreation destination that offers year-round day use and seasonal camping.

Berkley State Forest

A suburban state forest that protects common natural resources and offers opportunities to engage in passive recreation.

Dighton Rock State Park

Strongly associated with its namesake feature, a glacial erratic that bears petroglyphs. These petroglyphs, the Taunton River, and Native People's use of the area are all intertwined and are all part of the Park's identity.

Freetown-Fall River State Forest

A year-round recreation destination that combines distinct cultural and recreational resources with unique resource protection strategies.

Fall River Heritage State Park

An important part of the Fall River Community, telling the story of Fall River's industrial history, providing access to its waterfront, and serving as a venue for civic and cultural events.

Acushnet Cedar Swamp State Reservation

An exceptionally large Coastal Atlantic White Cedar Swamp…with excellent structure and species diversity.

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South Coast RMPs Timeline

Date	Action/Event
June 2, 2022	Public Meeting #1 Public input
June 23, 2022	Close of public input period (4 week)
July 26, 2023	Meeting announcement Release of draft RMPs Start of public comment period
August 2, 2023	Public Meeting #2
September 8, 2023	Close of public comment period (6 week)
November 9, 2023	Presentation of RMPs to Stewardship Council
December 14, 2023	Vote to adopt/not adopt

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Massasoit State Park

Public Input

▶ Attendance – 28 members of the public

▶ Oral comments – 10 individuals

▶ Written comments – 10 individuals

▶ Comments submitted for only the following properties:

  ▶ Acushnet Cedar Swamp State Reservation

  ▶ Freetown-Fall River State Forest

  ▶ Fall River Heritage State Park

  ▶ Sweets Knoll State Park

Acushnet Cedar Swamp State Reservation

Frequent/Key Comments

▶ Clarification of historical distribution and history of Pocasset Tribe in region. Freetown-Fall River SF. (6)

▶ Trails are almost unusable due to OHV use. Freetown-Fall River SF. (3)

▶ Purchase land to expand Acushnet Cedar Swamp SR (2)

▶ "Daylight" falls of Quequechan River. Fall River HSP. (2)

▶ Facilities are not universally accessible, preventing programming from taking place in building. Sweets Knoll SP. (1)

Fall River Heritage State Park

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Questions, Comments, and Conversation