

The Working Forest Initiative

Your woods collectively provide the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with many benefits, including clean air and water, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and a local wood supply. Navigating the many programs associated with forest management and land conservation can seem like an overwhelming process. The Working Forest Initiative was created to streamline the programs and services that MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) offers woodlands owners.

Collaboratively administered by the following organizations:

 Massachusetts
Woodlands Institute



UMassAmherst



www.MassWoods.net

Service Forestry Program

The DCR Service Forestry Program serves the public through a variety of programs, partnerships and initiatives designed to conserve working forests, encourage sustainable resource management and enhance public benefits from forests.

Service Foresters provide free, current information about available programs that are well suited to your needs and fit with your property size and condition. If you are just starting to consider your options for your woods, or want information on new programs, the Service Forestry program is a great place to start.

Find your local Service Forester at MassWoods.net

The Working Forest Initiative

*Massachusetts Department of
Conservation & Recreation*

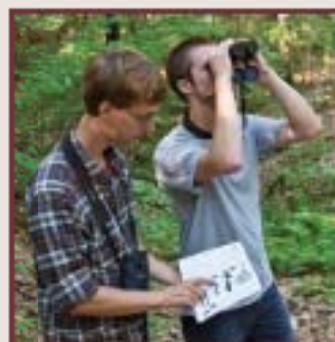


The Forest Stewardship Program

The DCR Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) helps landowners learn more about what's on their land and how to achieve their management goals, which might include enhancing wildlife habitat, recreational trails, and conducting timber harvesting. The FSP typically provides funding assistance to landowners with more than 10 acres of woodland to create a Forest Stewardship plan with the help of a consulting forester.

Managed by the Massachusetts Woodlands Institute

Contact Michael Downey | michael.downey@state.ma.us | (978) 368-0126 ext. 129



Assessing Your Woods for Bird Habitat

Limited to land in specific regions in the state

The DCR Bird Habitat Assessment Program provides funding assistance to landowners to work with a forester or other qualified professional to evaluate existing and potential habitat for a selection of birds. The Bird Habitat Assessment must be conducted in concert with a Forest Stewardship Plan, or update an existing Plan.

Managed by the Massachusetts Woodlands Institute

Contact Alison Wright | alison.wright@state.ma.us | (413) 545-5751

FSC Green Certification

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that promotes the responsible management of the world's forests. By certifying your Forest Stewardship Plan to the FSC national standard, you agree to ecologically beneficial, socially responsible, and economically viable forest management practices.

Contact Douglas Hutcheson | douglas.hutcheson@state.ma.us | (413) 545-7020



Due Diligence Funding

Limited to land in specific regions in the state.

Forest Conservation Due Diligence Program provides financial assistance to qualified forest landowners who permanently protect their land, and who donate land or conservation restriction value. This program covers the costs of appraisals, title exams, surveys, closing costs, and environmental site assessments.

Managed by the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

Contact Jay Rasku | rasku@mountgrace.org | (978) 248-2118



Estate Planning

Deciding what will happen to your land after your lifetime is a critical step in stewarding your land. Your land is likely one of your most valuable assets, especially if you have owned it for a long time and it has increased in value. However, land often carries family connections, memories, and emotions that can make planning for it more complicated than other assets. Estate planning can help meet both your financial needs and personal goals for the future of the land.

Free copies of *Your Land, Your Legacy*, an informational publication with in-depth information about estate taxes, ownership structures, and land conservation, as well as 12 case studies of landowners across Massachusetts are available online or through the mail. Several free informational workshops are held across the state throughout the year.

Managed by University of Massachusetts Extension

Contact Paul Catanzaro

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For more about these programs and associated events

Visit www.MassWoods.net

Or Contact Wendy Ferris

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