

MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS 2006 STATE REPORT

MA Chapter Membership

The MA Chapter of SAF has 152 members in good standing (12/31/06).

2006 MA Chapter Annual Meeting

The Annual MA Chapter SAF meeting was held on January 19, 2006 in Sturbridge.

2006 MA Chapter Elections

Results of the MA Chapter SAF 2006 elections were as follows:

Chair: Michael Fleming, CF

Vice-chair: Christopher Pryor

Secretary / Treasurer: Joel Dumont, CF

Term of office will expire on December 31, 2007

MA Chapter News Correspondent / MA Representative to NESAF Executive Committee

Randall Stone is the MA Chapter News Correspondent and was elected in 2006 as the Massachusetts Representative on the NESAF Executive Committee.

Forestry Innovative Grant (FIG) / USDA Forest Service

"Improving Forest Management through Increasing Use of Professional Foresters: A Marketing Approach"

The FIG grant originally submitted by the MA Chapter SAF and other partners was transferred to the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) / Bureau of Forestry due to project administration (tax) related issues and subsequently will be administered by the "[Southern New England Forest Consortium](#)".

The purpose of the project is to improve the quality of forest management by promoting wider use of privately licensed foresters by Massachusetts landowners. DCR and its partners will oversee a professionally guided marketing and information program. The core issue addressed is "public understanding and awareness of forestry".

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification of Private Forest Landowners

DCR / Bureau of Forestry entered into a contract with FSC to certify private forest landowners (4,200) with approved Chapter 61 Forest Management Plans and/or Forest Stewardship Plans (330,000 acres) in Massachusetts. FSC has recently issued a report with Conditions. Additional information is available in the Spring 2007 issue of the Bureau of Forestry newsletter "[Current Use Updates](#)" on page 4.

MA Chapter 61/A/B Amendments

Amendments to the MA Current Use Programs (Forest, Agriculture, and Recreation/Natural Lands) were signed into law and will become effective March 22, 2007. Additional information is available at: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/docs/ch61ammend1-07.pdf> and in the Spring 2007 issue of the Bureau of Forestry newsletter "[Current Use Updates](#)" on page 1.

MA Chapter 132 (Forest Cutting Practices) Regulations and Forms

The MA "State Forestry Committee", with assistance from the MA Bureau of Forestry, will soon submit recommendations to amend the regulations and corresponding forms to the Commissioner of DCR. Additional information is available at: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/docs/pubnot.htm> and <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/sfc.htm>

DCR "Public Outreach & Consultation for Forest Cutting Plans" Policy

DCR has posted this policy for public comment. The deadline for submitting written comments is March 16, 2007. "This policy applies to DCR State Forests, Parks, and Reservations vegetation management projects." <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/documents/forestcuttingplanspolicy.pdf>

Landscape Assessment and Forest Management Framework: *Berkshire Ecoregions in Massachusetts*

The Assessment / Framework was completed on June 30, 2006. A copy is posted at:
<http://www.mass.gov/envir/forest/berkshire.htm>

Central Berkshire District “Forest Resource Management Plan” (FRMP)

The CBD Forest Resource Management Plan was approved by the DCR “Stewardship Council” on January 5, 2007. A copy of the CBD FRMP is posted at:
http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/manage/docs/cbk_resourceManagement.pdf

DRAFT Northern Berkshire District, Southern Berkshire District, and Western Connecticut Valley District “Forest Resource Management Plans”

DCR / Bureau of Forestry has posted these DRAFT FRMPs for public comment. The three district plans addresses Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC) “[Green Certification](#)” requirements. The deadline for submitting written comments is March 16, 2007. The DRAFT FRMP documents are posted at:
<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/index.htm>

“Sustainable Forest Management Initiative and Forest Reserves”

The MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) announced the creation of the “Sustainable Forest Management Initiative” and the establishment of nine “[Forest Reserves](#)” (50,203 acres) on September 21, 2006. Additional information is available on the EOEA web site at:
<http://www.mass.gov/envir/forest/>

Draft “High Conservation Value Forests: *Defining HCVFs in Massachusetts*”

DCR / Bureau of Forestry posted the DRAFT HCVFs on December 12, 2006. The deadline for submitting comments is March 16, 2007. The DRAFT HCVFs document is posted at:
<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/manage/docs/hcvf.pdf>

DRAFT “Taconic Mountains and Marble Valley Forest Management Zone (FMZ) and the Berkshire Highlands Forest Management Zone

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife) is seeking public comment on these forest management plans. Both management plans integrate principles of MassWildlife’s Biodiversity Initiative and addresses Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC) “Green Certification” requirements for habitat management planning on state forest and wildlife lands. The deadline to submit written comments is February 16, 2007. The DRAFT FMZ documents are posted at:
http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/draft_fmzs.htm

DRAFT “Forestry Conservation Management Practices for Rare Species (CMPs)

Forestry Conservation Management Practices (CMPs) are specific, science-based guidelines for conducting timber harvesting within known habitats for species protected under MESA. The CMP documents provide information on the species’ life history and habitat requirements and make scientifically-based recommendations on how to minimize potential adverse impacts of forestry activities.
<http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhsp/cmpdraft.htm>

2006 MA Sawmill Directory

The 2006 Massachusetts Sawmill Directory has been completed and will soon be posted on the DCR / Bureau of Forestry web site at: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/utilmark/index.htm>

Massachusetts Sustainable Forest Bioenergy Initiative

Collaborative effort funded by US Dept of Energy/\$495K, Mass. Technology Collaborative/\$245K, and USDA Forest Service/\$60K. Funding will be used to conduct research and development on forest management and market infrastructure needs, and enable the state to provide the resources necessary to facilitate biomass supply markets to emerge.

MA DCR awarded \$60K Grant to promote Utilization of Wood Energy in New England

The Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) has been awarded a grant by the USDA Forest Service-Wood Education and Resource Center in Princeton, WV. The grant will be used to fund an "Educational Effort to promote the Utilization of Wood Energy in New England, particularly in the Industrial and Institutional Sectors".

Biomass Heating System / DCR Quabbin Administration complex in Belchertown, MA

The Department of Conservation & Recreation has recently received proposals for design and engineering of a Biomass heating system to be installed at the DCR Quabbin Administration complex in Belchertown, MA. DCR hopes that the wood-chip heating system can be installed during 2008.

DCR Off Highway Vehicle Policy

DCR has been working on a new policy for OHV trail use, siting, maintenance, and management since 2005. DCR assembled an OHV working group composed of trails users, scientists, land managers, and others to expand the discussion and inform the agency's decisions. The group developed a set of objective criteria that could be used to assess the appropriateness of OHV use on any given DCR property. The draft criteria were presented in public meetings across the state in 2006. Public comments from these sessions were incorporated into the final policy. The draft policy was submitted to the Stewardship Council (DCR's advisory board) for their review. The full policy is available on DCR's website at: www.mass.gov/dcr/recreate/orv.

Additional information about the Massachusetts Chapter of the Society of American Foresters is available at: http://www.nesaf.org/about_divisions_machapter.htm

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Fleming, CF
Chair
MA Chapter SAF