



SIERRA CLUB
MASSACHUSETTS

Forest Protection Team

An Overview By Tara Wallace

The Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter's Forest Protection Team's mission is to:

- protect and preserve forests throughout Massachusetts as part of the global strategy to maximize natural solutions to carbon sequestration and storage;
- promote worldwide biodiversity and the rights of nature to exist;
- maintain a water cycle that contributes to a healthy climate; and
- optimize human health.

The term forest management is meant to be the practice of preserving and protecting forests while also meeting the needs of people. Yet, forest management practices explicitly include commercial timber harvesting. For decades logging has been integral to the state of Massachusetts' water management strategy, under the so-called "protection-forest" logging theory. But scientific data do NOT support this theory. Still, commercial timber sale projects are conducted throughout our state, most intensively in the Quabbin, Wachusett, and Ware watershed forests, which provide fresh water to most of Eastern MA.

Our goal is to permanently protect all public Massachusetts' public forests, including watershed forests, as wildlands - free from development and commercial extraction, where natural ecological processes are allowed to proceed with only minimal human intervention, only as may be necessary to protect health or safety. The Quabbin, Wachusett, and Ware watersheds contain among the most carbon-dense, biodiverse and connected forests in Massachusetts that support countless species, including our own.

We pursue these goals through raising public awareness and advocating for inclusion of all stakeholder concerns in the formation of public policies that promote forest protection on local, state and national levels. All work is informed with the lenses of environmental and social justice.

Protecting forest ecosystems from further degradation is of critical importance for a fully functioning biosphere and our own survival.

The 2024 Report of the Massachusetts Climate Forestry Committee and the DCR Division of Water Supply Protection agree that active management (i.e. logging) of watershed forests is not necessary to maintain clean water. Within this report they also acknowledged that there are other goals for active management, the report also states that passive management is "the best approach for maximizing carbon (sequestration), ecological integrity, and soil health."

As our team member Bill Stubblefield said, "Our only home is but a tiny sphere floating in the vastness of space. This little blue dot must provide everything we need. Unfortunately, our planet has some serious health issues, and we very much need a check up."

We seek permanent public forest preservation in the Quabbin, Wachusett, and Ware watersheds to benefit all Massachusetts residents, preserve ecosystem integrity, and support wildlife. **Please sign this petition asking the state to end logging on these state lands!**

FOLLOW THIS LINK TO SIGN OUR PETITION:



Forests are essential! End logging on public lands of the Quabbin, Wachusett, and Ware watersheds