

Ms. Jessica A. Rowcroft  
Bureau of Planning, Design & Resource Protection  
Department of Conservation and Recreation  
251 Causeway St. Suite 600  
Boston, MA 02114

April 1, 2017

Dear Ms. Rowcroft,

Below please find comments and questions for the public record. Most apply to the Garnet Hill Forest Management Project but some are more general questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Masino, on behalf of Friends of Peru State Forest

**General Questions from Friends:**

1. Have ecological surveys been done in each season to ensure avoiding sensitive habitats and species?
2. Can the public participate in wetland and ecological mapping?
3. How many times do you expect to go out to survey the wetlands and ecology?
4. What if this is a particularly dry (or wet or cold or hot) year?
5. Has DCR contacted other organizations for input about this specific project?
6. Beech trees are a food source for people and animals. Why would we kill them – even using chemicals? <http://www.recorder.com/outdoor-column-8852215>
7. Is there going to be monitoring on site during the project to ensure sensitive areas are protected – and restored?
8. How can we advocate for this particular area to be converted to a Reserve?

**Additional comments and questions:**

In a time of extinction, every tree you cut accelerates the process.

Tom Neilson, Ed.D.  
37 Solar Way  
Greenfield, MA 01301

1. Proposed projects provides no justification that cutting 50+ acres of forest will benefit the environment. On the contrary in a foreseeable future it will increase rather than reduce carbon footprint.
2. Peru forest as it stands now provides habitat for multiple species. Project of this size will destroy this habitat.
3. There is no need to improve roads in Peru forest – it is for passive recreational use.
4. It is totally unacceptable to use chemicals to discourage growth of beech trees.
5. There is no economic justification provided for this project.
6. I learned about this project only by chance. There were only three people attending DCR meeting. DCR needs to find a way to better inform public of their projects.
7. Ecological justification for the project is very poor – there are no scientific arguments. Project of this magnitude should be reviewed by respected and independent environmental scientists outside of DCR.

Lev Margulis  
80 Wayne Road  
Needham, MA 02494  
Phone: 781-449-8076  
Email: [margulisf@gmail.com](mailto:margulisf@gmail.com)

We have seen areas that have been clear cut with buffers along roads so people won't notice. It is an obvious decimation to the wild life that make their homes in those areas. The highest areas such as Garnet Peak should not be touched especially with the rocky area to the west. It would take forever for growth to return and that would lead to erosion and more problems. Most of the forest is already 100 years old - fostering old growth in this area is a better way to go.

Ann and John Galt  
Pittsfield, MA

This is a beautiful area that we share love to with the kids. How can DCR think this will improve it?

Geoff and Sarah Casey  
Leeds, MA

Do not cut down our Massachusetts forests to produce energy. In a time of serious climate change we need old trees to sequester carbon. In fact more trees should be planted. DO NOT approve the cutting of trees for wood bio-mass. Farmers should be harvesting methane from cow manure in New England and solar panels should only be put up over parking lots, in vacant fields and already paved vacant lots in cities. Leave the trees standing!

Ellen Hopman  
67 Munsell St, Belchertown, MA 01007

I am concerned with the decline of native plant diversity by the introduction of invasive non-native grasses and the invasion of weeds. I fear that there will be a loss of bird species, animals and reptiles, and beneficial insects particularly pollinators, that rely on mature trees for nesting and colony development. Clear cutting will adversely change the climate by decreasing the humidity that many of the current animal species depend on. I believe that clear cutting will have a negative impact on understory vegetation and previous animal diversity will not fully return to the targeted areas.

Kimberly Wetherell

Peru, MA