CT’s Forest Action Plan
Update
GC3 WNLW Group
Forests Sub-Group

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Dan Peracchio, Forest Planner

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
What is the Forest Action Plan?

- Required by the Farm Bill since 2008
- Assessment and Strategy sections

  - Assessment
    - Forest conditions
    - Trends
    - Issues
    - Threats
    - Mapping

  - Strategy
    - Goals/priorities
    - Strategies
    - Implementation
    - Resources
    - Challenges
What is the Forest Action Plan?

• Three National Priorities
  – Conserve and manage working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses.
  – Protect forests from threats.
  – Enhance public benefits from trees and forests.
2020 Update

• Summary of Actions
  – Contract with CFPA
    • Online survey
    • Stakeholder meetings
    • Summary report
  – Compiling data
  – Input from DEEP programs
  – Writing and creating maps and graphics
2020 Update

- Preliminary findings
  - About 61% forest - Stable 2010-2015 (UConn CLEAR)
2020 Update

• Preliminary findings
  – 53% of CT’s forest are core forest.
  – Larger blocks of core forest are generally more important.
  – Large core forest area is declining the fastest.

Forest Fragmentation

- Large Core
- Med Core
- Small Core
- Perforated
- Edge
- Patch

Year

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2020 Update

• Preliminary findings
  – Oak/Hickory most common type
  – Red maple most common tree
  – CT forests are older and even-aged
  – Increased mortality and less resilience
2020 Update

• Preliminary findings
  – Most of CT’s forests are considered timberland.
  – Net growth decreased between 2013 and 2018 due to mortality.
  – Net growth still more than 5x removals.
2020 Update

• Preliminary findings
  – Climate change challenges
    • Shorter and warmer winters
    • Increased extreme precipitation and flooding events
    • Changes in drought and moisture stress
    • Enhanced fire risk
    • Intensified biological stressors
    • Changes to forest communities and species distribution
2020 Update

• Preliminary findings
  – Visions from 2010 plan affirmed by survey and roundtable discussions.
  – Extent of participation shows broad concern about and strong connection to CT’s forests.
  – Highest interests in conservation, invasives, and recreation.
  – Input from natural resource professionals and the general public was mostly consistent throughout, with a couple of exceptions.
2020 Update

• Updated timeline and next steps
  – Ongoing
    • Input from DEEP staff
    • Writing/formatting the plan
    • Preparing maps and graphics
  – Draft for DEEP and USFS review in August
  – Draft for public comment in October
  – Revisions in November
  – Submit to USFS by end of November