

Appendix A. Planning Process

1. Background

The Connecticut Statewide Forest Resource Plan is designed to serve as an overview for planning future activities within the forest community of Connecticut. The plan will identify priorities and issues regarding the state's forests, and provide the basis for putting limited available state and federal funds, as well as participating groups and individual's time, to the best and most urgent uses. It is intended to provide government, industry, and private citizens an overview of existing conditions and key issues affecting Connecticut's forests as well as to promote a model management plan for landowners to follow. The plan contains several recommended action steps to be implemented. In an effort to include as many perspectives as possible, the participatory process that was used in the creation of the plan ensured that stakeholders and professionals from a wide range of forest-related interests had direct input.

2. Managing the Plan's Development

The plan was structured around the following:

- "Visions" for the forestlands of the state
- "Current conditions" of the forestlands, as a basis to judge future conditions
- Recommended actions that would help address and achieve the "visions"

The beginning stages of this planning process included examining other state's models for their relevancy to Connecticut's situation. Vermont's plan was used as the primary model since many of the same issues exist, and Vermont contains similar forest types. The "visions" were developed with input from the DEP Forestry Division and various other forestry professionals. Consultations with the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System and the Center for Social Research at Central Connecticut State University were used to determine the

most applicable method of data collection. Stakeholder groups were identified, and representative individuals and organizations were chosen to participate in the planning process. A schedule was developed to maintain the flow of project activities and tasks over the entire planning period. This timeline was divided into phases and was revised as needed during the planning process.

3. Phases of the Forest Resource Planning Effort

PHASE I

A series of ten focus group sessions with the various stakeholder groups met during January and February of 2003 (See Table 1 for list). Using the "visions" of Connecticut as a basis, discussions were generated at each of the sessions regarding current issues related to the state's forestlands that are considered hindrances of achieving the statewide "visions". After each focus group compiled a list of relevant issues, time was allotted to discuss possible action steps. All information was compiled into one condensed document that was used in Phase II of the planning process.

PHASE II

At least one representative of each of the focus groups was asked to participate in Phase II of the planning process. This ensured continued participation from the various stakeholder groups. Eleven participants agreed, and an Advisory Committee was formed to evaluate the results of Phase I data. Over a series of four meetings held during March and April of 2003, the Advisory Committee compressed, reworded and reorganized the ideas. Issues were more clearly defined, wording was crafted to be more generally applicable, and action steps were refined and simplified.

PHASE III

During August of 2003, the first draft of the issues and action steps was sent out to

all Phase I and II participants. In addition, individuals and organizations that had been unable to actively participate, but had shown interest in the planning process also received a copy. Furthermore, this mailing included all DEP Division of Forestry personnel and other various forestry professionals in Connecticut. The first draft was mailed to a total of 221 participants. Accompanying the draft plan was a questionnaire used for both feedback and for determining potential partners for plan implementation. Comments were accepted for a limited period of four weeks. Over 30% of the participants responded, representing almost 50% of the people contacted.

After comments were received, a final draft was compiled. A meeting was called of the Advisory Committee to evaluate the plan. The plan was then sent out for a last stakeholder review in May 2004. The final draft included additional sections on Connecticut's forest history, the forest and the Connecticut economy, the current conditions of Connecticut's forests, an executive summary, partnering organizations, and other miscellaneous items.

PHASE IV

Once comments were received, final changes to the Connecticut Statewide Forest Resource Plan were made and partners were named throughout the plan. The plan was submitted for publication in July 2004.

4. People Who Participated in the Plan's Development

People from many walks of life participated directly in formulating the Connecticut Statewide Forest Resource Plan. Among those who participated were professional foresters within the Department of Environmental Protection, stakeholders from various user groups of the forest

(see Table 1 for list), and members of an Advisory Committee whose participation was meant to represent a wide range of forest-related interests. The Advisory Committee also served as a forum for recommending actions steps and partners within the plan.

A. Department of Environmental Protection Involvement

Under the leadership of Donald Smith, State Forester, the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Forestry assisted in many ways with this planning process. In the initial steps of planning, the Division was used as a sounding board for determining "vision" statements for Connecticut's forestlands. These vision statements became the basis for the plan.

In addition, several people from the Division assisted in the organization and administration of the 10 focus group sessions along with the five Advisory Committee meetings.

Representatives of other DEP Divisions were also included in the planning process. Members of the Wildlife, Inland Fisheries, and Parks Division, along with EGIC, were invited to participate in focus group meetings, and all were asked to provide comments during Phase III of the planning process.

It is assumed that over the course of plan implementation, members of the Department of Environmental Protection will continue to play an important role.

B. University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System

The UCONN Cooperative Extension System provided valuable assistance in advising about different means of collecting data, acting as a sounding board for determining the "visions" of Connecticut and also helping to provide research data

and maps for the plan. Two members of the UCONN team attended focus group meetings, one of who also sat in on an Advisory Committee meeting. The UCONN Cooperative Extension System will be included in future aspects of the planning process, and will be listed as a partnering organization for plan implementation.

C. Partners Providing Funding or Administrative Assistance

This plan is strongly supported by various facets of the forestry community through both funding and planning assistance. Contributing organizations include: The United States Forest Service, The Connecticut Tree Farm Executive Committee, the Connecticut Chapter and the Yankee Division of the Society of American Foresters, The Nature Conservancy, the Connecticut Forest Stewardship Council, the Connecticut Farm Bureau, The Rockfall Foundation, the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, and the Department of Environmental Protection.

D. Focus Group Involvement

After the “visions” of Connecticut’s forestlands were determined, 10 focus group sessions with various stakeholders were organized to identify issues and discuss possible action steps to address these issues. The focus group participants were picked to represent various types of user groups of the forests. These meetings involved over 120 stakeholders. The stakeholders represented are shown below in the order of focus group meetings:

Table 1. Focus Group Stakeholder Participants
1. Private Consulting Foresters
2. Loggers and Sawmills
3. Large Landowners
4. Sportsmen’s Organization Landowners
5. Connecticut Forest and Park Association Members
6. Private Landowners
7. Multi-use Recreation User Groups
8. Municipalities
9. Nature Conservancy Members
10. Forestry Professionals

The Director of the Center for Social Research at Central Connecticut State University acted as moderator for both the focus groups and Advisory Committee meetings, helped streamline the planning process, and provided important guidance and advice throughout.

E. Advisory Committee Involvement

After completion of the focus group meetings, an Advisory Committee was formed to review the data collected. Volunteers from the various focus groups staffed the committee. During March and April of 2003, the Advisory Committee met four times to narrow the focus of the compiled information, further address the action steps, and organize the information into a format that represented the various stakeholder groups. During April 2004 the Advisory Committee was called upon to review the final draft, and outline initial plans for plan implementation and creation of the Connecticut Forestlands Committee.

F. Public Involvement

Informative presentations were made at various times during the fall and winter of 2002/2003 to introduce and explain to the public what was occurring in regards to the Connecticut Statewide Forest Resource Plan. Requests for funding often accompanied these talks. Opportunities were given to sign up to receive information on the plan, or to be considered for active participation. Over 200 people attended the sessions, and those who signed up for information were put on a list to receive copies of the draft Forest Resource Plan for review and comment.

The list of those who signed up for information was combined with the list of Phase I and Phase II participants, as well as various DEP personnel during Phase III. A total of 221 individuals received the draft plan and questionnaire to complete. Over 30% responded, representing close to 50% of those contacted. In actuality, the number of people represented during this process numbered in the thousands, as many important organizations in Connecticut responded as partners.

Appendix B. Definitions/Glossary

Connecticut Important Bird Area

(IBA) Program - The Connecticut Important Bird Area (IBA) Program was started in 1997 by Audubon Connecticut, and is part of a global initiative to identify sites that are important to birds in all seasons. The goals of the program are to identify a network of sites throughout the state that are essential for sustaining wild bird populations, and to protect or manage these sites for the long-term conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. For an IBA to be identified it must be evaluated by a Technical Committee, made up of ornithological experts from throughout the state, to ensure that it meets certain scientific criteria. The IBA Program has no regulatory authority, but rather has been a useful tool to increase the resources that are available to protect and manage these sites so that they remain important to birds, increase the efficiency of conservation planning at these sites, and to raise awareness about the importance of these site to birds. There are currently 15 publicly announced IBAs in Connecticut and Audubon is working to announce 75 sites within three years.¹⁷

Connecticut's Inheritance Tax

- A levy imposed on the transfer of a deceased person's property. The most common method of transfer is by a will. When someone dies without a will, i.e., interstate, state law determines how property is distributed. The three types of property recognized for purposes of this tax are real property, tangible property, and intangible personal property.¹⁸

Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Program's "A Practical Guide for Protecting Water Quality While Harvesting Forest Products"

- A 1998 guide intended for professional foresters, loggers and land managers who plan and conduct forest harvesting activities. It is a reference of practices and procedures, (Best Management Practices [BMP's]) to protect and in some cases improve water quality.¹⁹

Connecticut Resource Protection Project Maps (CTRPP "Resource Maps")

- A project funded by the Environmental Protection Agency that ran roughly between 1995 and 2000. It's purpose was to identify and protect the highest value resource areas in the state using an ecosystem approach that views resources as integrated systems requiring collaborative management strategies. This project as a whole was strictly planning oriented, there was never a regulatory component to the project. Sets of six standard statewide maps were produced as part of the project. Five of the maps focus on a particular resource or resource use: Habitat, Public Water Supply, Agriculture, Forestry, and Recreation. The sixth map was for Threats (to resources). The maps are no longer sold to the public because some of the data was considered significantly out of date.²⁰

DEP Service Forester – Under the Division of Forestry, this forester position provides technical advice and assistance to owners of forestland throughout the state. This service is available to private citizens, municipalities,

¹⁷Definition received from Patrick Comins, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon Connecticut 3.10.04.

¹⁸Obtained from www.ct.gov/drs/cwp/view.asp?a=1475&q=268962 on 4.1.04

¹⁹Taken from the 1998 Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Programs "Timber Harvesting and Water Quality in Connecticut" brochure

²⁰Personal contact with Jonathan Scull, Environmental and Geographic Information Center, DEP on 2.13.04

conservation groups or other private or public organizations. Currently, there are 3 such positions in the state.²¹

Environmental Conditions Online (ECO)

- An online mapping tool and environmental data resource developed by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. It allows the user to view, and interactively prepare customized maps for display and printing in an online setting.²²

Environmental and Geographic Information Center

- (EGIC) Conducts, promotes, and coordinates natural resource inventories; monitors and researches natural resource conditions; identifies and explains the interrelationships and processes among resources; publishes and disseminates its information in appropriate forms and provides technical support in the use of its information.²³

Environmental GIS Data for Connecticut

- A set of seven (7) CDs that contain environmental geospatial data for the State of Connecticut. The data originates from the Connecticut DEP, Office of Policy and Management, University of Connecticut, University of Connecticut Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and U.S. Geological Survey.²⁴

Envirothon - An annual problem solving natural resource education competition for high school students put on by Canon U.S.A. It is meant to bring environmental education to the youth of North America. It offers both in-class curriculum and hands-on field experience focused around ecology, natural resource management, and current environmental issues.²⁵

Forest Fragmentation - An interspersion of developed, non-forested inclusions within a forested landscape.

Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Data

- Periodic inventory data collected by the United States Forest Service in all states to provide up-to-date information on the forest resources of the nation. The last inventory completed in Connecticut was in 1998.

Forest Legacy Program – Assessment of Need

- Completed in 1994, this document “provides a comprehensive, long range process to identify and protect privately owned woodlands that are under threat of fragmentation and conversion to non-forest uses.”²⁶

Forest Practices Act - (Chapter 451a of the Connecticut General Statutes) In 1991, the Connecticut legislature overwhelmingly approved Connecticut's first Forest Practices legislation. The legislation is designed to protect and conserve Connecticut's forest resources by encouraging its wise and careful use. Forest practices such as commercial timber harvesting for logs or firewood are key examples of operations that are covered by the law. An important component of the FPA is the requirement of forest practitioners to be certified by the DEP prior to conducting any commercial forest practices in Connecticut. Forest Practitioners (people who design, supervise or participate in forest practices such as timber harvesting for logs or firewood) must now be certified to conduct commercial forest practices within the State of Connecticut.²⁷

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

- A non-profit organization devoted to encouraging the responsible management of the world's forests. FSC sets high

²¹Obtained from www.dep.state.ct.us/burnatr/forestry/boutfrst.htm 3.17.04

²²Obtained from the internal CT DEP website 3.17.04

²³Mission statement obtained from www.dep.state.ct.us/cgnhs/AboutEGIC.htm 3.17.04

²⁴Obtained from www.dep.state.us/gis/CDs/cds.htm 3.18.04

²⁵Obtained from www.envirothon.org 3.17.04

²⁶Taken from the Statement of Purpose page of the Connecticut Forest Legacy Assessment of Need. 1994.

²⁷Obtained from State of Connecticut Directory of Certified Forest Practitioners, February 2004 Edition.

standards that ensure forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable way. FSC accredited, independent, “third party” certification bodies certify forests. They assess forest management using the FSC principles, criteria, and standards, with each certifier using their own evaluative process.²⁸

Green Circle Awards – A DEP program that recognizes businesses, institutions, individuals, and civic organizations who have undertaken pollution prevention, waste reduction or other projects promoting natural resource conservation and environmental awareness.²⁹

ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act) - Also known as TEA-21, this grant program is for “transportation” activities, including multi-use trails, paved bike paths, etc. The Connecticut Department of Transportation administers the program.³⁰

Landscape approach – An ecosystem approach to land conservation and management in which one property is a small component in a much larger ecosystem complex in where property boundaries play little or no role for habitat or wildlife. Often, this means looking beyond individual boundaries to see the positive or negative impacts of actions on any one parcel to the surrounding ecosystem.

National Recreation Trails Program (RTP) - An assistance program of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration. It is administered through the DEP. Funds may be used for construction of new motorized and nonmotorized trails, maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails, access to trails by persons with disabilities, purchase and lease of trail

construction and maintenance equipment, acquisition of land or easements for a trail or trail corridor, and trail promotion, education and environmental/historical trail interpretation.³¹

Natural Area Preserve Lands – As designated by the Governor, a designated area must be an area of land or water containing or potentially containing plant or animal life or features of biological, scientific, educational, geological, paleontological or scenic value worthy of preservation in their natural condition.³²

Open Space – Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 203, section 12-107b: The term “open space land” means any area of land, including forest land, land designated as wetland under section 22a-30 and not excluding farm land, the preservation or restriction of the use of which would (1) maintain and enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources, (2) protect natural streams or water supply, (3) promote conservation of soils, wetlands, beaches or tidal marshes, (4) enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations or sanctuaries or other open spaces, (5) enhance public recreation opportunities, (6) preserve historic sites or (7) promote orderly urban or suburban development.³³

Project Learning Tree – An environmental education program which uses the forest as a “window” into natural and built environments, helping people gain an awareness and knowledge of the world around them and their place in it.³⁴

Public Act 490 – Passed in 1963, this act states that “(a) it is in the public interest to encourage the preservation of farm land,

²⁸Obtained from www.fscus.org/faqs/what_is_certification.php on 5.20.04

²⁹Obtained from www.dep.state.ct.us/pao/grncrc/greencircle.htm on 3.17.04

³⁰According to Leslie Lewis, Administrator of the DEP Trails Grant Program 3.19.04

³¹Obtained from www.dep.state.us/stateparks/greenways/rectrail.htm on 3.30.04

³²Obtained from www.dep.state.us/whathap/press/2000mf1204.htm on 3.30.04

³³Obtained from www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/pub/Chap203.htm on 3.18.04

³³Obtained from www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/pub/Chap203.htm on 3.18.04

³⁴Obtained from www.dep.state.us/educ/workshops.htm on 3.17.04

forest land, and open space land and (b) that it is in the public interest to prevent the forced conversion of farm land, forest land, and open space land to more intensive uses as the result of economic pressures caused by the assessment thereof for purposes of property taxation at values incompatible with their preservation as such farm land, forest land, and open space land.” A landowner with twenty –five acres or more of forest land may file an application for designation as “forest land” to receive the reduce tax rates.³⁵

Real Estate Conveyance Tax – Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 223, section 12-504a: Any land which has been classified by the record owner thereof as open space land pursuant to section 12-107e, if sold by him within a period of ten years from the time he first caused such land to be so classified, shall be subject to a conveyance tax applicable to the total sales price of such land, which tax shall be in addition to the tax imposed under sections 12-494 to 12-504, inclusive.³⁶

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program - The primary means of land acquisition by the Department of Environmental Protection. It is meant to: (1) Acquire land that represents the ecological diversity of Connecticut, including natural features such as riverine, montane, coastal and geologic systems or other natural areas, on behalf of the state, in order to ensure the preservation and conservation of such land for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic purposes, (2) acquire land of unusual natural interest as additions to the system of parks, forests, wildlife and fishery management areas, natural areas and dedicated natural area preserves in the state for the beneficial use and enjoyment of the public, (3) acquire land identified as essential

habitat for endangered and threatened species pursuant to the program established under section 26-305, (4) offset carbon dioxide produced through combustion of fossil fuels by preserving lands that naturally absorb it, and (5) establish a stewardship account to provide for the maintenance, protection and management of lands acquired pursuant to the provisions of sections 23-73 to 23-79, inclusive, and of the species that inhabit them.³⁷

Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program (SFI) - A comprehensive system of principles, objectives and performance measures developed by foresters, conservationists, and scientists, that combines the perpetual growing and harvesting of trees with the protection of wildlife, plants, soil and water quality. There are currently over 136 million acres of forestland in North America enrolled in the SFI program, making it the world's largest sustainable forestry program.³⁸

The Coverts Project - A special educational program of the UCONNCEs, and the RGS, the DEP and the CFP. Since 1983, The Coverts Project has been reaching out to Connecticut's individual woodland owners and teaching them how sound management practices can make wildlife healthier, more diverse, and more abundant.³⁹

The Nature Conservancy's Matrix Forests- A system used to identify areas where forest protection is most critical, or where ecosystem restoration would most likely be successful. To qualify, a viable forest ecosystem must exhibit the qualities of resistance (to small disturbances) and resilience (ability to rebound after a catastrophic disturbance) which lead to a dynamic persistence over centuries. To

³⁵Obtained from www.dep.state.us/burnatr/forestry/pa490/pa490htm on 3.18.04

³⁶Obtained from www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/pub/Chap223.htm on 3.18.04

³⁷Obtained from www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/pub/Chap453.htm on 4.1.04

³⁸Obtained from www.afandpa.org on 5.20.04

³⁹Obtained from www.canr.uconn.edu/ces/forest/coverts.htm on 1.30.04

determine these areas in Connecticut, specific criteria are used. Areas have to be of a minimum size of 15,000 acres, conditions have to include low density of roads, confirmed evidence of forest breeding species and the presence of mid-sized carnivores, and a landscape context of continuous forest, natural cover surrounding the area. There are seven matrix forest blocks identified to date in Connecticut, which are considered preferred habitat to protect. For every preferred block there is at least one alternate block that is highly threatened and deserves attention.⁴⁰

UCONN Extension Educators - Designs and implements educational programs in the areas of forest and wildlife stewardship, land protection tools and techniques and conservation inventories and analyses for private landowners, municipal land use decision makers and professional foresters.⁴¹

Upper Housatonic Valley Natural Heritage Area Act of 2003 (H.R. 1798)

- Creates a Natural Heritage Area covering nine towns in northwestern Connecticut and 20 others in southwestern Massachusetts. The area has been proposed as a means of heightening appreciation for the culture and history of the region, preserving its natural and historic resources, boosting its unique local economy, protecting the Housatonic River, and controlling sprawl.⁴²

1913 Tax Law/10 Mill Law - (Connecticut General Statutes section 12-96 through 12-103). This law concerning the taxation of forested land was first passed in 1913 and subsequently amended several times to its present form. The law is a functioning anachronism in that there remain 75 landowners in Connecticut (14,050 acres) with active classifications of their land under

this law, but it is no longer possible for new land to qualify for classification under this law. The law requires a minimum of 25 acres and that the land, exclusive of the timber thereon, have a value of not more than \$100 per acre. Since there is no longer any forested land in Connecticut having a value anywhere near \$100 per acre, the law remains valid, but no new land may be classified under it. Land classified under this law is taxed, based on 100 percent of the true valuation as established by the assessors at the time of classification. That the valuation is frozen for a 50-year period, providing the land use does not change. Law establishes the tax rate at no more than 10 mills. At the end of the 50-year period, a revaluation is made and the land is again taxed at a rate not to exceed 10 mills for another 50 years. The 10-mill classification does not terminate upon sale or transfer of the land. It is tied to the land and is not personal to the owner. The owner of the land must pay a yield tax to the town on any timber cut, with the exception that timber cut for domestic use is exempt from the yield tax. There is also a substantial penalty to be paid upon cancellation of the classification. Any use of forest land classified under the 10-mill law is permissible as long as the use does not cause a change in the basic character of the land as forest land. Any conversion of the land from its growth, management and use as a forest is a change of use. It should be noted that the classification of land under the 10-mill law is binding upon the entire tract of land and, when any portion of that tract must be removed from classification, the classification for the entire tract must be cancelled.⁴³

⁴⁰Anderson, M.G. and S.L. Berstein (editors). 2003. "Planning Methods for Ecoregional Targets: Matrix Forming Ecosystems." The Nature Conservancy, Boston, MA. Additional information gathered from person conversations with Kevin Essington, Pawcatuck Borderland Project Director, The Nature Conservancy. 3.17.04

⁴¹Obtained from www.clear.uconn.edu/cesdata/default.asp on 3.30.04

⁴²Obtained from www.house.gov/nancyjohnson/pr_heritagepassage.htm on 2.6.04

³⁸Definition as described by Don Smith, State Forester, Connecticut DEP, April 1, 2004.

Appendix C. Public Comments

In the Final Draft Review of the Connecticut Statewide Forest Resource Plan, participants were given the opportunity to accept the final draft as satisfactory, or to declare it unsatisfactory. If not otherwise addressed in the plan, comments not in favor of this plan were to be included in this appendix. The following comments were received with the return questionnaire:

“There are many positive proposals in the Forest Plan that will enhance the health of Connecticut’s forests. However, the plan has its roots firmly planted in the 19th century, when wood products were a major economic commodity. Our world is a far different place now than it was in 1903. Forest products are now a small part of our economy, a romantic vestige of the past. With growing urbanization, our forests now have a much higher use: maintaining our quality of life as well as helping to keep our air and water pure. Forests add to our history, by reminding us, in a small way, what the first European settlers encountered.

The major fault with the draft plan is the continuing emphasis on “sustainable forest based economy.” Today, it is much more important to nurture our forests for what they bring to our quality of life; places where, for a few hours, we can escape the frantic world in which we live. We do need to address forest health, but with an eye on promoting diverse forests. Diverse in species and in species age. Let’s allow some forests to mature, to reach biological, rather than economic old age. We can’t experience an old growth forest in Connecticut. Of course, this is a very long term plan. It may take a generation to phase out the “sustainable yield” mentality, and rebuild diverse forests with chestnut trees and white pines as well as oaks.

In addition to these general criticisms, I would single out one additional criticism: the draft leaves the impression that ATV use in state forests is inevitable. My problem is that nothing is said about the responsibility of ATV riders, to ride legally. If we are to allow ATV’s in our forests, then the riders should be required, as a precondition to register their vehicles and display their registration numbers. Without such a concession, I am categorically opposed to the use of our state forests by ATV’s.”

Respectfully,

Frank A. Junga

Appendix D. Advisory Committee Members

Mike Bartlett-Hull Forest Products

Peter Bergan-Peaceful Hill Tree Farm

Patrick Comins-Audubon Connecticut

Helene Flounders-Coordinator and Author

Mike Fotos-The Nature Conservancy

Fred Gliesing-Aquarion Water Company

Huber Hurlock-DEP District Forester

John Majewski-Central Cycle Club Inc.

Chris Marino-Northwest Connecticut Sportsman's Council

Adam Moore-Connecticut Forest and Park Association

Curtis Rand-Private Consulting Forester

Bill Toomey-The Nature Conservancy