

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is releasing draft documents of the "*Northern and Southern Berkshire and Western Connecticut Valley District Forest Resource Management Plans (RMPs)*" for public review and comment. The document will be available for your review at the following DCR website: www.mass.gov/dcr/forestry.

A public meeting will be held to review the key RMPs findings and proposed management strategies, answer questions, and listen to initial public comments from **6:00 pm to 9:00 pm on January 31, 2007 at Visitors Center at Western Gateway Heritage State Par, 115 State Building, North Adams, MA** and from **6:00 pm to 9:00 pm on February 1, 2007 at the Berkshire South Regional Community Center, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington, MA.**

DCR will be accepting public comments postmarked by **March 16, 2007**. Please clearly state which planning area (*Northern and Southern Berkshire and Western Connecticut Valley District*) you are commenting on and mail all comments to attn: Kris Massini, DCR-Bureau of Forestry, PO Box 1433 Pittsfield, MA 01202 or via e-mail: kris.massini@state.ma.us. If you need a hard copy of the document, please contact Kris Massini.

Comments will be evaluated and assessed to develop the final RMPs and released to the public.

The *Northern and Southern Berkshire and Western Connecticut Valley District Forest Resource Management Plans* (RMPs) were developed to guide forest and vegetation management decisions on DCR Forest and Park system lands. The RMPs will delineate forest management zones, and describe the present conditions, public issues, desired conditions, goals, objectives and management guidelines for land and natural resources within the State Forest and Park system in the three (3) Berkshire Forest Management Districts of Massachusetts. The RMPs also discuss how the State Forest system lands will be managed in a manner that meets the DCR's legislative mission and the requirements and conditions of the *Forest Stewardship Council's Northeast Region* Standards of sustainable well managed forests.

Public comments are being accepted through **March 16, 2007** by submitting your comments to: Kris Massini, DCR-Bureau of Forestry, PO Box 1433 Pittsfield, MA 01202, (413) 442-8928 ext 33 or via e-mail: kris.massini@state.ma.us. Please clearly state which planning area (*Northern and Southern Berkshire and Western Connecticut Valley District*) you are commenting on.

The public is also invited to attend a meeting scheduled from **6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. on January 31, 2007 at Visitors Center at Western Gateway Heritage State Par, 115 State Building, North Adams, MA** and from **6:00 pm to 9:00 pm on February 1, 2007 at the Berkshire South Regional Community Center, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington, MA.**

The intent of this meeting is to briefly review the key findings and management strategies, answer questions, and take comments.