

The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) has released a draft of the ***“Landscape Assessment and Forest Management Framework for the Berkshire Ecoregions”*** for public review and comment. The document is available for your review at the EOEA website at: www.mass.gov/envir/forest/. A public meeting will be held to review the key findings and recommendations of the assessment, answer questions, and take comments at **6:30 p.m. on June 22, 2005 at the Berkshires Regional Headquarters (South Mountain), 740 South Street, Pittsfield MA.**

EOEA will be accepting comments postmarked by **July 1, 2005**. Please mail all comments to Mike Fleming, DCR, 180 Beaman Street, West Boylston, MA 01583. If you need a hard copy of the document, please contact Mike Fleming at (508) 792-7423 ext 502 or e-mail: mike.fleming@state.ma.us. Comments will be addressed and used to develop the final assessment and released to the public.

The ***“Landscape Assessment and Forest Management Framework for the Berkshire Ecoregions”*** is the second in a series of ecoregion-based planning documents that will help guide land management on ~~state and private lands~~ forested lands in Massachusetts for the coming years. The document is primarily focused on the physical and natural resources of the five ecoregions within the Berkshire area of western Massachusetts. The assessment / framework is designed to inventory and ~~discuss~~ assess the current state of the natural resources; identify the ~~public’s~~ major issues related to management of the area’s natural resources; and identify opportunities for and to recommend courses of action which may lead towards for improving forest and other resourceed management in the Berkshire Ecoregions.

The public is invited to attend a meeting scheduled for 6:30 pm on June 22, 2005 at the Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Pittsfield Regional Office. The intent of this meeting is to briefly review the key findings and recommendations, answer questions, and take comments.

Public comments are being accepted at the meeting and postmarked **July 1, 2005** by submitting your comments to: Mike Fleming

–DCR
–180 Beaman Street,
West Boylston, MA 01583

-or via e-mail: mike.fleming@state.ma.us .