

The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are holding a meeting on Tuesday, June 28 at 7:00 PM at the DCR Heritage State Park in North Adams to listen to public comments on the proposal to designate the Mt. Greylock State Reservation as a Forest Reserve. This proposal is part of a statewide initiative to set aside representative areas of state forest land from commercial forest harvesting. In selecting Mt. Greylock as one of eight state lands for Forest Reserves, EOEA and its agencies reviewed two dozen possible areas that contain large blocks of unfragmented forest and important natural resources. Overall, EOEA is proposing about 10% of its 500,000 acres of forest statewide to be set aside in larger Forest Reserves and an additional 10% set aside in smaller forest reserves surrounding local natural resource areas such as vernal ponds and wetlands. An important part of EOEA's proposal is to conduct sustainable forest management on areas not contained in forest reserves. Specific plans for sustainable forest management and forest reserves will be reviewed at additional public meetings.