

Recent Outreach Publications

Restoring Old-Growth Characteristics

http://www.masswoods.net/pdf/Restoring_Old_Growth_Characteristics.pdf

Connecting People and Partners: A Town's Guide to Land Conservation

http://www.masswoods.net/your_woods_and/Connecting_People_Partners.htm

Your Land, Your Choices

http://www.masswoods.net/pdf/YourLand_YourChoices.pdf

High Grade Harvesting: Understand the Impact, Know Your Options

http://www.masswoods.net/pdf/High_Grade_Harvesting.pdf

Silvicultural Options for Managing Hemlock Forests Threatened by Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

http://www.masswoods.net/pdf/HWA_SilviculturalOptions.pdf

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Thank you to USDA-CSREES "Renewable Conservation Act" (RREA) which provides support to the UMass Extension Forest Conservation Program.

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UMass Amherst Forest Conservation Program



UMassAmherst Outreach **UMass
Extension**



“Relegating conservation to government is like relegating virtue to the Sabbath. Turns over to professionals what should be the daily work of amateurs.”

Aldo Leopold

THE CHALLENGE

- Forests cover 62% of Massachusetts and provide tremendous public benefit.
- More than 75% of Massachusetts forests are owned by families and individuals.
- Over 46,500 people own more than 10 acres.
- The average land ownership in Massachusetts for all land more than 3 acres is 18 acres, and if you only consider land more than 10 acres, the average ownership is 43 acres.
- Fewer than 20% of Massachusetts landowners have a professionally prepared forest management plan.
- The average age of a Massachusetts landowner is over 61 years old. **Many landowners will be deciding their land's future in the coming years.**

Many landowners don't think about their woods on a day-to-day basis, except to enjoy the privacy, scenery, and tranquil environment. However, at some point in every landowner's life, a decision about what to do with their woods arises (see diagram on reverse side). Often these decisions are made in a hurried or reactive manner where choices are based on incomplete information. **The cumulative effect of the independent decisions landowners make about their land will determine the future of our landscapes and the public benefits they provide.**

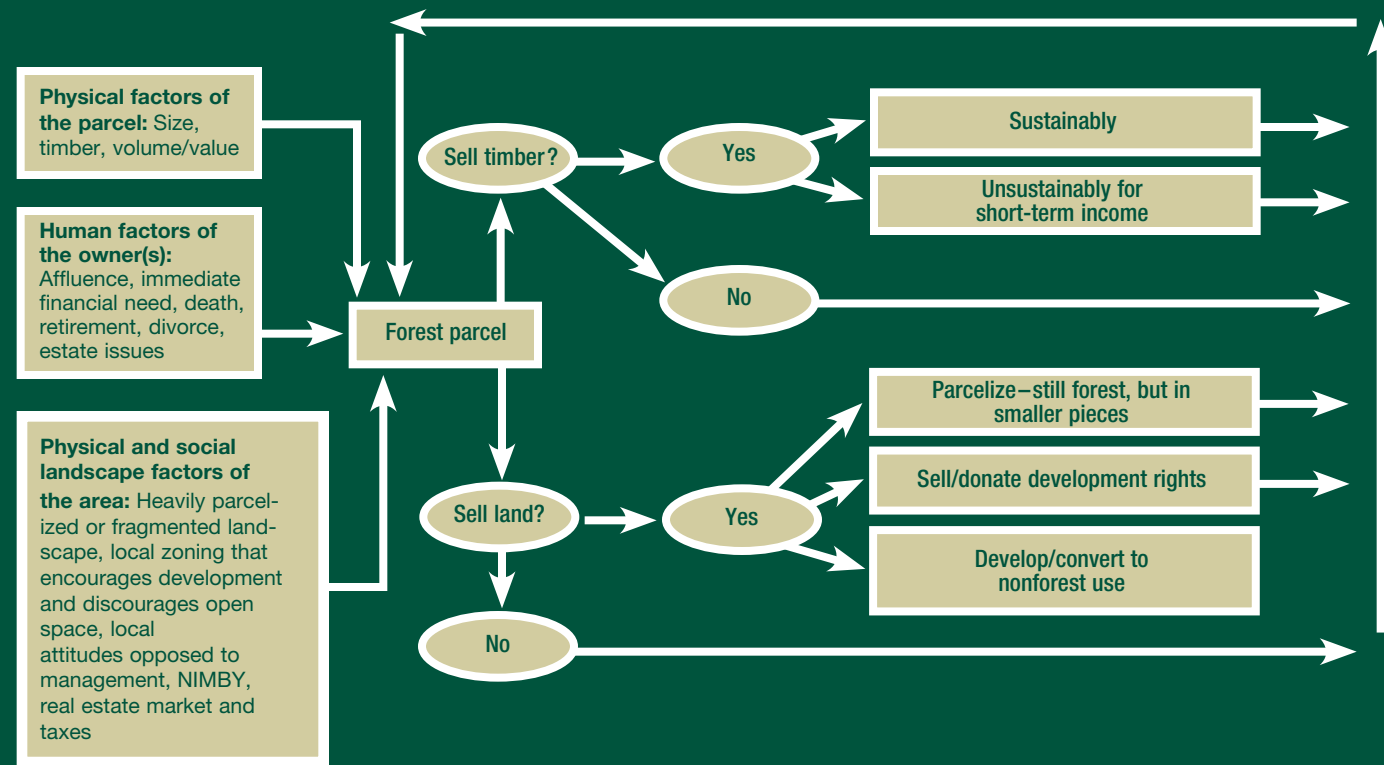
MEETING THE CHALLENGE

UMass Amherst Forest Conservation

The Forest Conservation program comprises a suite of related outreach programs and research aimed at encouraging local networks of conservation-minded community leaders, supported by Internet resources. Our goal is to have in each community the people who can deliver accurate information to landowners at crucial conservation decision-making times.

The wisdom of Aldo Leopold suggests we make investments in people and communities to ensure lasting environmental benefits. We see the "daily work of amateurs"—landowners, community leaders, municipal officials, members of conservation organizations, etc.—as critical to the success of forest conservation in Massachusetts.

Family Landowner Decision Cycle



The Keystone Project (formerly Coverts)

Important People Making the Conservation Difference

In Ecology, a keystone species is one whose impacts on its environment are larger and greater than would be expected from one species. The Keystone Project educates people with the potential for significant impact on their communities. Keystone cooperators—those who have gone through the training—commit to serve as a local source of information and work on conservation issues in their communities, with the continued support of UMass. The Keystone Project includes the following:

- A 3½-day retreat-style program;
- Subjects include forest ecology and management, wildlife management, biodiversity, and land conservation;
- Opportunities to learn from resource professionals and fellow forest conservationists;
- Take-home resources;
- A listserv and annual reunions to update and network Keystone cooperators.



<http://MassKeystone.net>

Woods Forums

Promoting Informed Decisions Through Information Sharing

Landowners have much to learn from one another about their woods and their experiences. Locally sponsored Woods Forums provide landowners important opportunities to:

- Ask their questions and get answers from **both neighbors and professionals;**
- **Meet and interact** with local land trusts, conservation organizations, and state service foresters;
- Create an **informal, local network** of contacts;
- Learn the value of woodlands and landowner decisions to local communities.

http://www.masswoods.net/Wood_Forum/Woods_Forum.html

Applied Research

All Forest Conservation programs are based on research findings. We work closely with the USDA Forest Service's Family Forest Research Center, based in the UMass Amherst Department of Natural Resources Conservation, to study

- Landowner characteristics (number of landowners, objectives, decisions, ownership size, and change);
- How landowners find information and make decisions;
- Internet as an outreach tool (<http://MassAcorn.net>);
- Landowner cooperation.

MassWoods

Promoting Informed Decisions at Critical Times

MassWoods is a **continuously updated Internet resource** that provides information to **landowners at two critical conservation decisions:** (1) considering the potential sale of timber and (2) planning for the future ownership and use of the property. MassWoods features information on the following:

- Foresters, land trusts, conservation organizations, and Keystone cooperators **working in your town;**
- Planning for your land's future use and ownership;
- Selling of timber;
- Forestry programs;
- A monthly highlight;
- Quarterly Southern New England stumpage price report.

<http://MassWoods.net>



A. Paul Catanzaro talking with a landowner on a field tour.
B. & C. Landowners sharing information at a Woods Forum.
D. Dave Kittredge leading a Keystone Project Fieldtrip.