

## **Myles Standish State Forest Management Issues**

### **A. Natural Resources**

1. Establish long range forest ecosystem management goals (Forest Reserve).
2. Finalize Fire Management Plan funded by ARRA grant.
3. NHESP approval of management activities in state-listed species habitat areas ( e.g. vegetation maintenance along roads and trails).
4. Recovery plan for the Plymouth Red Bellied Turtle.
5. Coordinate RMP with Mass Wildlife wild life management area activities (wildlife plantings and hunter trails).
6. Management of pond shore natural communities near recreational areas which are subject to compaction and erosion.
7. Invasive species management: *Cabomba caroliniana* (Carolina fanwort) is starting to be a problem related to degradation of Red Bellied Turtle habitat. Some of the invasive species occurring in the wildlife management area are spreading to other areas within MSSF. Some of these species may have been purposefully introduced by DFW to provide a food source for game species.

### **B. Water Resources**

1. Erosion at Barretts Pond. Much of the banking along the campground edge needs to be stabilized. Erosion is also a concern at Fearing, College, Three-Cornered and Curlew Ponds.
2. Monitor water rights of cranberry growers.
3. Environmental standards in cranberry bog leases.
4. Assess storm water discharges into ponds and wetlands.
5. Review management activities and volunteer projects for compliance with the Wetlands Protection Act and Endangered Species Act (along pond shores and wetlands).

C. Cultural Resources

1. CCC log structure at Fearing Pond. Stabilization / restoration / future use.
2. Protect archaeological sites from disturbance.

D. Recreational Resources

1. Demographic assessment of recreational demand created at full build-out of abutting communities vs sustainable recreation opportunities at MSSF.
2. Paved bike path lacks appropriate signs and markings at road intersections on both the path and road.
3. Site restoration and cottage foundation removal at Charge Pond. Consider reducing total number of sites and increasing the number of sites with pond views.
4. Enforcement of ban on OHV use.
5. Develop a hiking trail to connect camping areas and ponds.
6. Identify equestrian trailer parking areas to provide access to all equestrian trails. The width of the existing equestrian access-way does not provide a sufficient turning radius for vehicles with a large horse trailer.
7. Designate accessible parking spaces in the Headquarters parking lot (near picnic tables); parking at east entrance; and Upper College Pond Road parking lot.
8. Lack of sanitary facilities for beach users at Fearing Pond who come to the shoreline from the camping area.

E. Interpretive Services and Environmental Education

1. Work with Friends and SE Interpretive Coordinator to develop interpretive plan that supports the pine barren and pond shore habitat management programs.
2. Collaborate with the Robbins Museum of Archaeology and Mashpee tribal council to develop a Native American interpretive program.

F. Operations and Management

1. Large number of vehicles (including commercial vehicles not permitted in the Forest) speeding through the forest to travel between Routes 3 and 495.
2. Reduce road damage caused by heavy trucks servicing MCI Plymouth, Camp Squanto and Camp Cachelot.
3. Develop access control plan with Town of Plymouth to control access to the cottages and camp grounds (e.g. contact stations at campgrounds).
4. Condition and management of road and utility infrastructure.
5. Assess feasibility of replacing Fearing Pond Road bridge to facilitate access to Fearing Pond, Charge Pond and Camp Cachelot.
6. Work with DCR Forest Management and State Parks Recreation staff to improve the system for trail maintenance and downed tree removal .
7. Coordinate with cottage owners related to pondshore community and water quality management.
8. Roadside parking – public access challenge in a huge forest, roadside parkers are ticketed, or might be in the future. Is it possible to establish a few strategically located small pull-off locations?
9. MCI – What is the actual current agreement? Are they overstepping their bounds? Are there alternatives or is this a permanent feature that we have to accept. Eutrofication of Bumps Pond is cited as a primary concern.