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It is surprising to hear Elisa Campbell claim there is no policy to clear-cut the Quabbin forests. Despite the verbal summersaults used to avoid using the “sensitive word clearcut”, in reality, the new management plans call for exactly that. Even in her 2007 Amherst Bulletin column Elisa admits...

“the management plan for the next 10 years is currently being reviewed and it might bring bigger, less welcome, changes.....it seems to those of us familiar with the way forestry has been done at Quabbin that things have changed – dramatically.....I think Quabbin should not be planning to create openings in the forest of 1 to 2 acres....”

Maybe Elisa’s conflicting perspectives stem from working for both the Sierra Club and now as the executive director of the Massachusetts Forest Landowner Association, which represents timber interests.

In truth, the new management plan calls for cutting over large areas with multiple 1-2 acre clear-cuts spread across the landscape, and also proposes some much larger clear-cuts. This clear-cutting is creating a fragmented forest, even nearly down to the waters edge on the Prescott peninsula where even hiking is prohibited, allegedly to protect the watershed. For photos see: www.maforests.org/QUABBIN.pdf

Most importantly, there is no need or desire for commercial logging the Quabbin or any other publicly owned watershed areas. These forests are intended as protection of the drinking water supply for 2.2 million residents, not as a resource for the timber industry. In 2000, the EPA even granted Massachusetts a waiver from installing a \$200 million filtration plant with the stipulation that the watershed forests are protected.

Finally, the state run timber program loses money so now is the time to stop paying to cut down our public forests and ship them to Quebec while needlessly threatening the drinking water supply for 2.2 million Massachusetts residents.