

# THE QUABBIN RESERVOIR

## Boston's Drinking Water Supply Area



**The Quabbin Reservoir is Surrounded by 58,000 Acres of Public Forest Which Protects the Drinking Water for Boston and 2.2 Million Massachusetts Residents**

**According to the Department of Conservation and Recreation**

*“The primary purpose of DCR water and surrounding lands is drinking water supply. Public access, therefore, is carefully regulated and controlled to protect over 2 million people’s source of drinking water.*

*State regulations require all entry and exit through gates or other designated areas only. Anything that could pollute the water supply system, such as litter or refuse of any sort, is prohibited. Please observe restrictions on recreational activities.”*

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/quabbin.htm>





**Stream Entering the Quabbin Reservoir**



**IF YOU THINK THE QUABBIN FOREST IS PROTECTED....**



**THINK AGAIN....**

## **Recent Clearcutting in the Quabbin Watershed**



**Ground View, Woodward Road, January 27, 2010**







Ground View, Gate 40, Quabbin Visible Behind Trees, November 22, 2009





# **RAVAGING BOSTON'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA**



**Ground View, Gate 40, November 22, 2009**





## **RAVAGING BOSTON'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA**



**Ground View, Gate 40, Quabbin Visible Behind Trees, November 22, 2009**





# FULLY PROTECT THE QUABBIN FOREST

## Boston's Drinking Water Supply Area

In 2007, the Division of Water Supply Protection (within the Department of Conservation and Recreation), who manage the Quabbin protection forests, implemented new aggressive logging plans that call for larger openings with no retention. The following photos show this destructive logging on these forests that provide protection for Boston's drinking water supply.

(White Blotches are Recently Clearcut Forest Areas)



**Prescott Peninsula – Aerial View, January 27, 2010**

Off limits to hikers, allegedly to protect the water supply

In 2000, the Environmental Protection Agency granted the state a waiver from building a \$180 million dollar filtration plant to protect the drinking water with the stipulation that the state protect the Wachusett and Quabbin reservoir watersheds and “*maintain the integrity of the watershed as the first barrier against contamination of the source waters*”. The logging in the watershed unnecessarily and recklessly threatens this \$180 million dollar waiver.

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/watershed/documents/quabbinaccessch1.pdf>





**Quabbin  
Reservoir**

**Aerial View of Clearcutting, Near Gate 40, January 27, 2010**



**Quabbin Reservoir**



## **RAVAGING BOSTON'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA**



**Prescott Peninsula – Aerial View, East Side, January 27, 2010**





## **RAVAGING BOSTON'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA**



**Aerial View, Woodward Road, January 27, 2010**





## **RAVAGING BOSTON'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA**



**Ground View, Woodward Road, November 22, 2009**





# **RAVAGING BOSTON'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA**



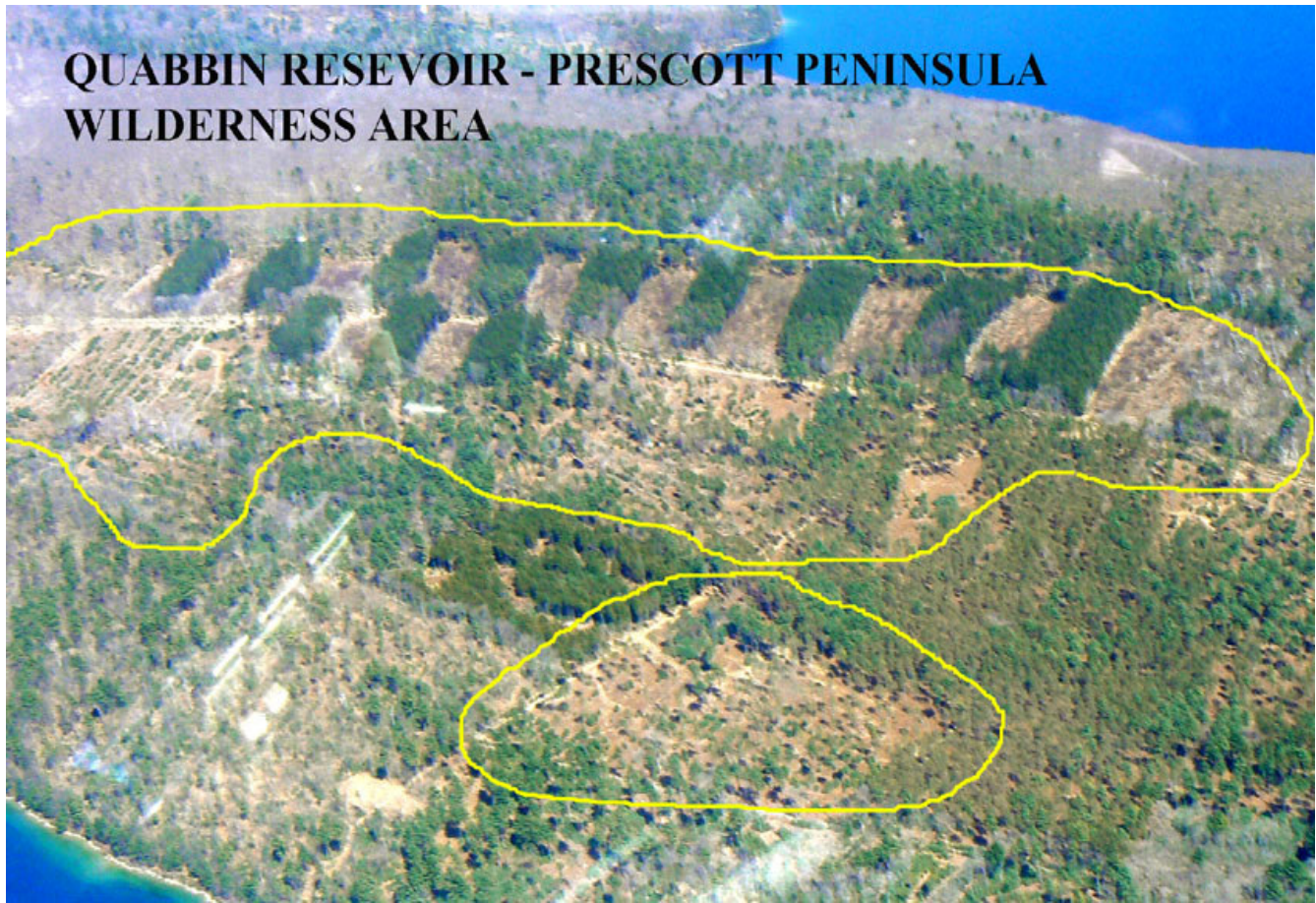
**Ground View, Woodward Road**





# PROTECT THE QUABBIN FOREST

## Boston's Drinking Water Supply Area



**Aerial View, Prescott Peninsula, Southern Tip, 2008.**

**The state's unsupportable excuses for the clearcutting are exposed by Scientific Certification Systems, auditors of the State Public land logging program.**

*"Given that in several instances the audit team observed harvested Norway spruce plantations regenerating or returning to Norway Spruce (with no actions by the State to correct this), the argument of removal of an exotic (i.e., restoration of native hardwoods) was not a sufficient justification for converting mature conifer plantation stands. Creating early successional habitat was another stated rationale for removal of conifer plantations. However, the FSC Northeast Standard does not explicitly state that managers should be creating early successional habitat nor does it mention early successional being of importance. The States rationale for these treatments do not take into consideration the fact that such plantations offer valuable habitats, viz. dense mature coniferous habitat used during migration and as winter habitat for animals. In addition, such habitats require at least 50 years to create, whereas early successional pioneer hardwoods require only a year or two. The precautionary principle would thus suggest that clearcutting such stands would be a last, not first, resort."* [http://www.mass.gov/Eoea/docs/eea/lff/green\\_certification\\_report\\_peer\\_review\\_2009.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/Eoea/docs/eea/lff/green_certification_report_peer_review_2009.pdf)



# PROTECT THE QUABBIN FOREST

## Boston's Drinking Water Supply Area

**Dr. David Foster – Director of Harvard Forest**

*“All evidence suggests that harvesting exerts greater impacts on ecosystem processes than leaving disturbed or stressed forests intact. A conservative alternative hypothesis for the long-term management of watershed lands might be proposed: the elimination of harvesting and its associated impacts (e.g., soil compaction, road development and improvement) will yield forest and landscape conditions that maintain and improve water quality in the face of ongoing disturbances and stresses.”*

[http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/publications/pdfs/Foster\\_ConservationBio\\_2006.pdf](http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/publications/pdfs/Foster_ConservationBio_2006.pdf)

**The illegal logging in the photo below was cut by a New Hampshire company and took place in rare species priority habitat for the loon and bald eagle.**

***“Uses and Activities Prohibited:***

***Any alteration which could degrade the quality of the water in the watersheds that lie within 400 feet of the Bank of a Reservoir (350 CMR 11.04(1)(a))”***



**Gate 40**



# **RAVAGING BOSTON'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA**



**Gate 40**





## **RAVAGING BOSTON'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA**



**Above - Prescott Peninsula, Below - Quabbin Park**





## **RAVAGING BOSTON'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA**



**Clearcutting, W Main St, New Salem – Aerial View, January 27, 2010**



## **RAVAGING BOSTON'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA**



**W Main St, New Salem, Ground View of Aerial View on Previous Page, May, 2010**





## **RAVAGING BOSTON'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA**



**W Main St, New Salem, Ground View of Aerial View on Previous Page, May, 2010**





## **RAVAGING BOSTON'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA**



**W Main St, New Salem, Ground View of Aerial View on Previous Page, May, 2010**





## RAVAGING BOSTON'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA



**Gate 15 - Cut Just Above Stream**





## **RAVAGING BOSTON'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA**



**Near State Route 202**





Invasive plants, which inhibit the regeneration of native species and reduce biodiversity are now a big problem in the Quabbin forest. Invasives spread more easily in the disturbed soils and open canopy of logged areas. According to Natural Heritage:

***"Keeping soils undisturbed helps to keep out invasives."***



Japanese Barberry shown here, as well as many other invasive plants, have moved in to this and many other areas of the Quabbin forest. More logging will encourage the spread of invasive species and invasive control is particularly difficult due to toxicity issues with using herbicides in a drinking water watershed.



## **RAVAGING BOSTON'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA**



**Gate 21A – April 2010**





## **RAVAGING BOSTON'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA**



**Gate 21A – April 2010**





## **RAVAGING BOSTON'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AREA**



**Gate 21A – April 2010**





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<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/quabbin.htm>

**Why are logging and diesel trucks allowed in areas of the watershed where even hiking is prohibited to protect the drinking water supply?**





To view more Massachusetts state public forest clearcut photos, see [www.maforests.org](http://www.maforests.org)

**For the following reasons, there is no justification for commercial logging on Massachusetts state public forests, watersheds or parks:**

- State public forests, watersheds and parks comprise only 11% of Massachusetts land area and 17% of its forests and represent our best chance to preserve and protect wilderness areas, fish and wildlife habitat, clean water, clean air, tourism income, carbon sequestration, scenic beauty and recreational opportunities in this 3rd most densely populated state of 6,000,000 residents.
- The timber program loses money, taxpayers are paying to cut down their own forests.
- The \$14 billion tourist industry depends heavily upon protected public forests.
- Proposed biomass fuel demands are enormous and seriously threaten public forests and we need a failsafe mechanism to ensure our public forests don't go up in smoke to provide tiny amounts of dirty power we do not even need.
- According to the FSC peer review, the public "overwhelmingly" prefers no commercial logging on public lands.
- Most of the wood is sent to out of state to Quebec and 90% of Massachusetts logging occurs on private lands.
- Massachusetts has the opportunity be a leader in forest protection to help reduce global warming and to avoid valid claims of hypocrisy when we ask third world countries to protect large swaths of *their* forests for the global benefit.

***Public Lands Belong to the Public.... It's Our Choice!***



**Deerfield River, Mohawk Trail**



## ***Logging the Quabbin Loses Money for Ratepayers***

From 1996 to 2005, the average annual logging revenue averaged \$625,000 per year which represents only 0.1% of the nearly \$600 million dollar budget of the MWRA who manage the Quabbin and other watersheds. The logging revenue does not cover the costs of the timber program, so these state public forests are being cut and mostly shipped to Quebec at a loss to ratepayers. See:

[www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/watershed/documents/2007QuabbinLMPCh5\\_2.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/watershed/documents/2007QuabbinLMPCh5_2.pdf) p7

[www.mwra.state.ma.us/finance/rates/fy2010/ratefacts/ratefacts.htm](http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/finance/rates/fy2010/ratefacts/ratefacts.htm)

### ***PLEASE TAKE ACTION NOW TO SAVE OUR FORESTS, WATERSHEDS AND PARKS***

**1. Contact Governor Patrick** [www.mass.gov/?pageID=gov3utilities&sid=Agov3&U=Agov3\\_contact\\_us](http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=gov3utilities&sid=Agov3&U=Agov3_contact_us)  
**and your Representative** [www.mass.gov/legis/city\\_town.htm](http://www.mass.gov/legis/city_town.htm) and call on them to:

- a. Halt Commercial Logging in State Public Forests and Watersheds
  - b. Stop Permitting New Wood Burning Biomass Plants and Exclude Them From the “Renewable Portfolio Standard.” Remind Them That Burning Forests Is Not “Green” Energy.
- 2. Get the word out.** Send this information to your contacts and to the media.
- 3. Sign up** to receive action alerts: [www.maforests.org/signup.pdf](http://www.maforests.org/signup.pdf)
- 4. Hold “green” groups accountable:** Contact Massachusetts “green” groups to which you belong and ask them to enlist their membership into action to protect our state public forests, watersheds and parks.
- 5. Contact Senator John Kerry,** ask him to remove biomass burning from eligibility for federal “clean” energy subsidies. [www.johnkerry.com/page/s/contact](http://www.johnkerry.com/page/s/contact)

***Our State Forests, Watersheds and Parks  
Need Your Voice Now!***

MASSACHUSETTS   FOREST WATCH

[www.maforests.org](http://www.maforests.org)