

DCR & USFS Land Conservation Grants  
**Forest Legacy Program &  
Community Forest  
Program**

Lindsay Nystrom

January 7, 2020



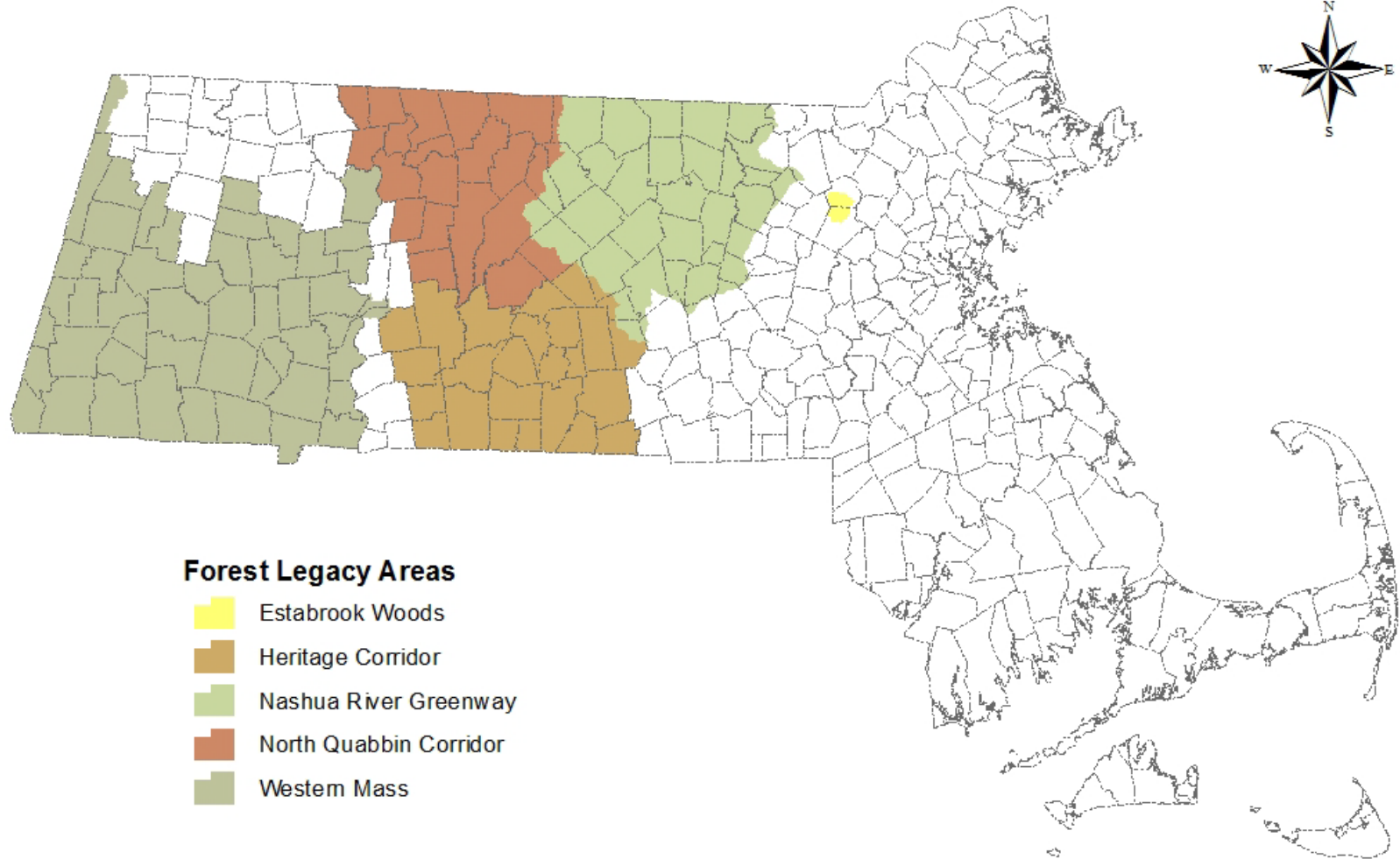
# What is the Forest Legacy Program?



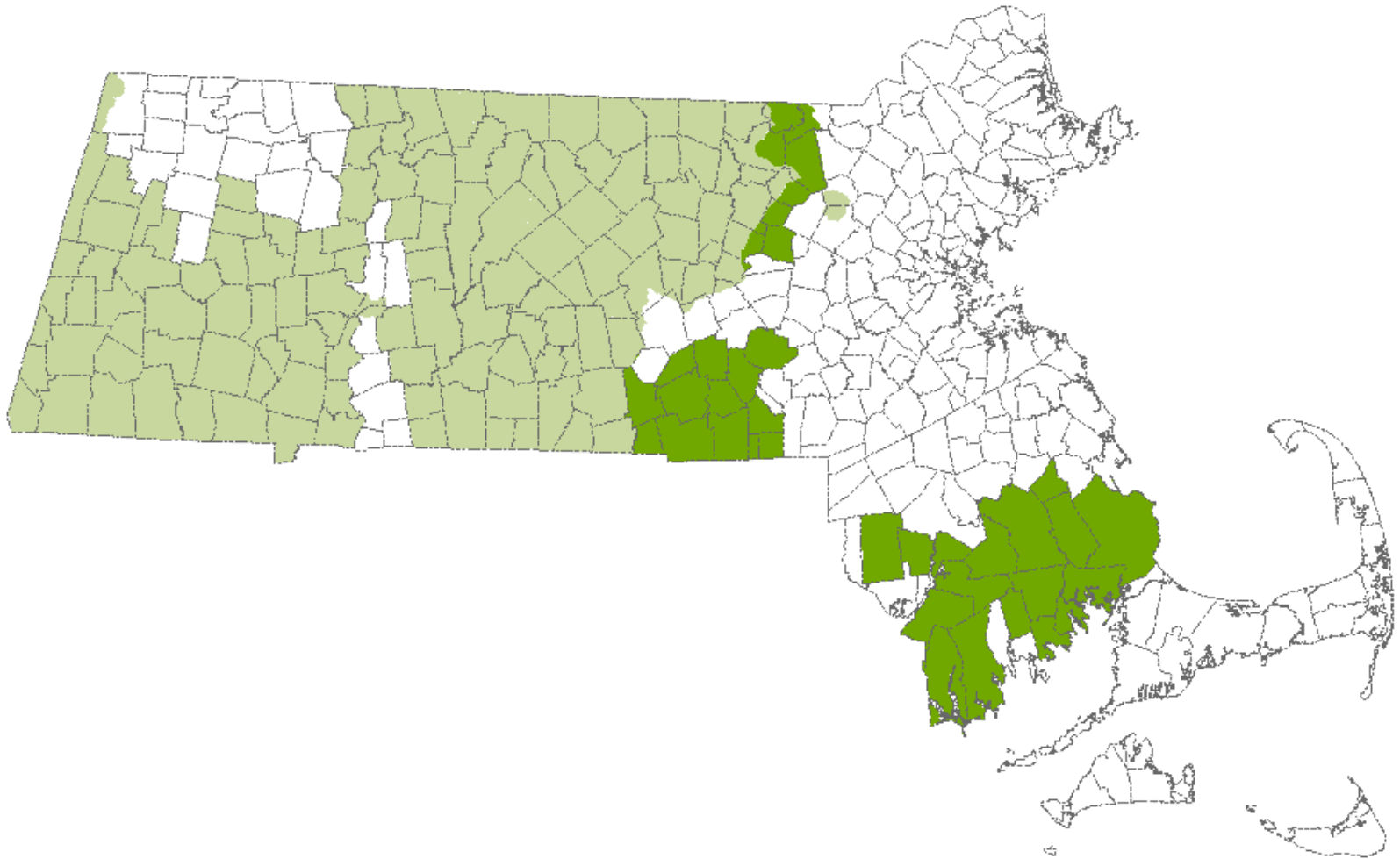
Photo by Ben Engel

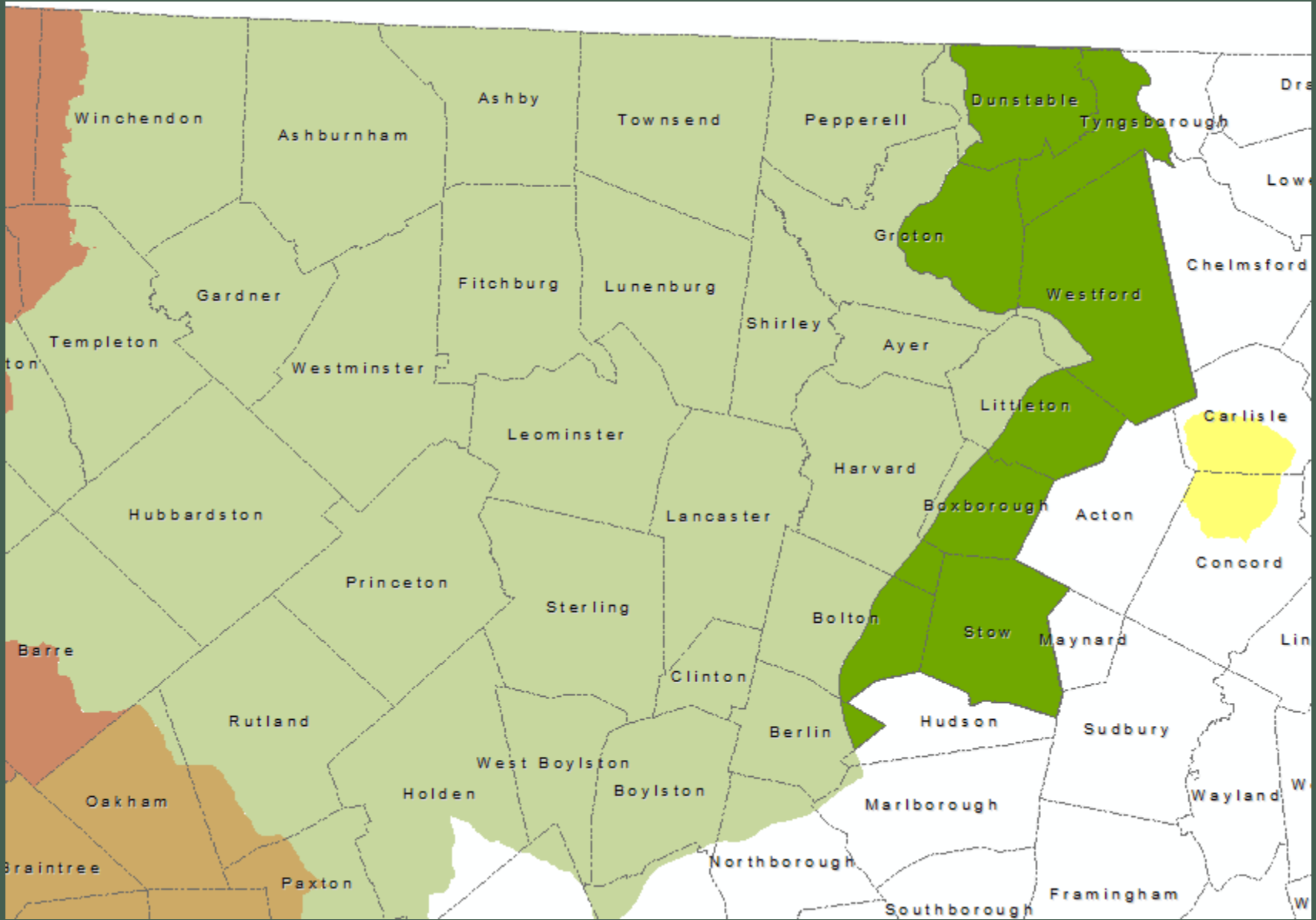
- Conservation program administered by the US Forest Service and DCR
- Identifies and conserves important forest areas threatened by conversion
- Protects privately owned land through CR or fee purchase
- Encourages sustainable forest management and supports working forests

# Forest Legacy Areas

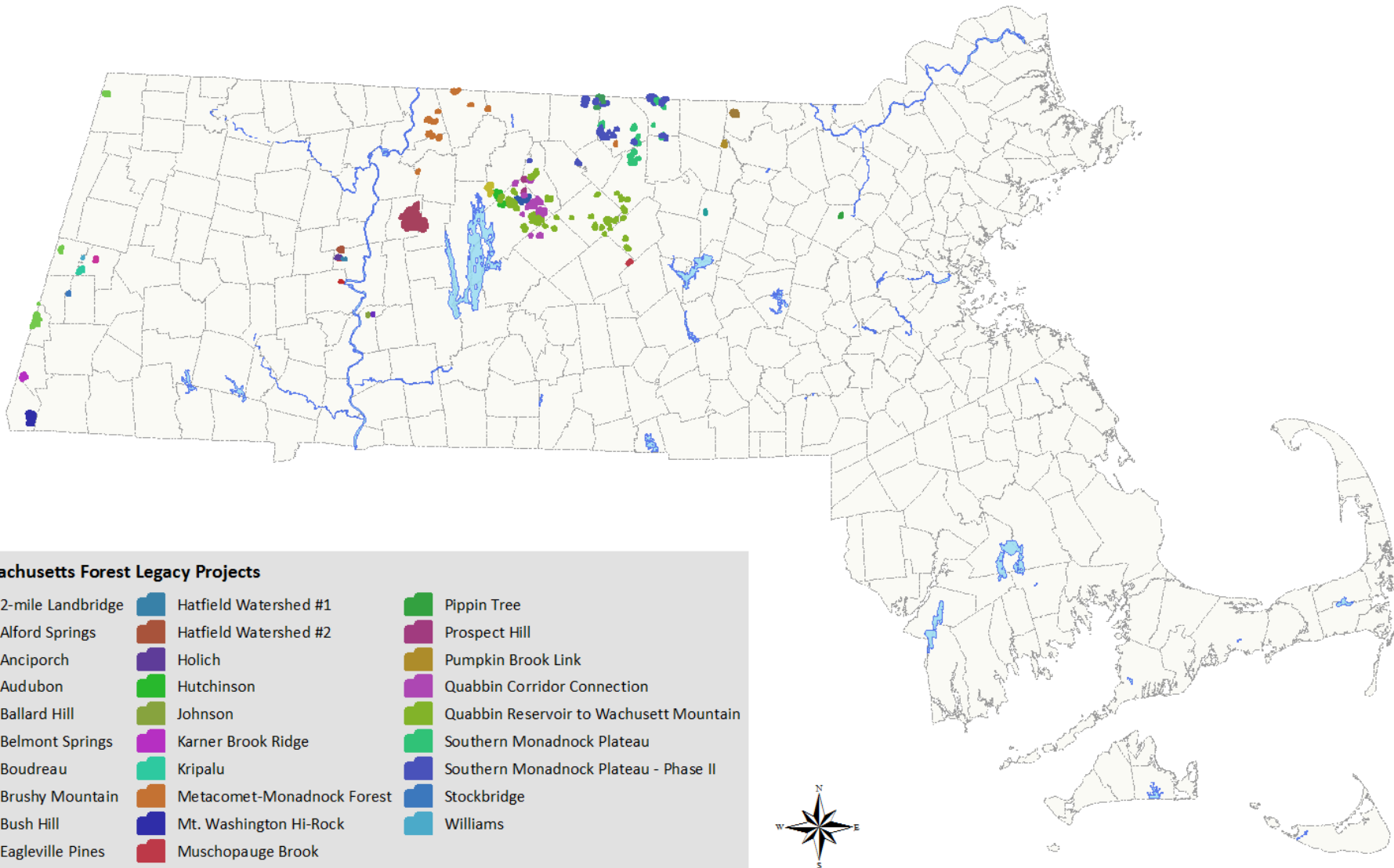


# Forest Legacy Areas



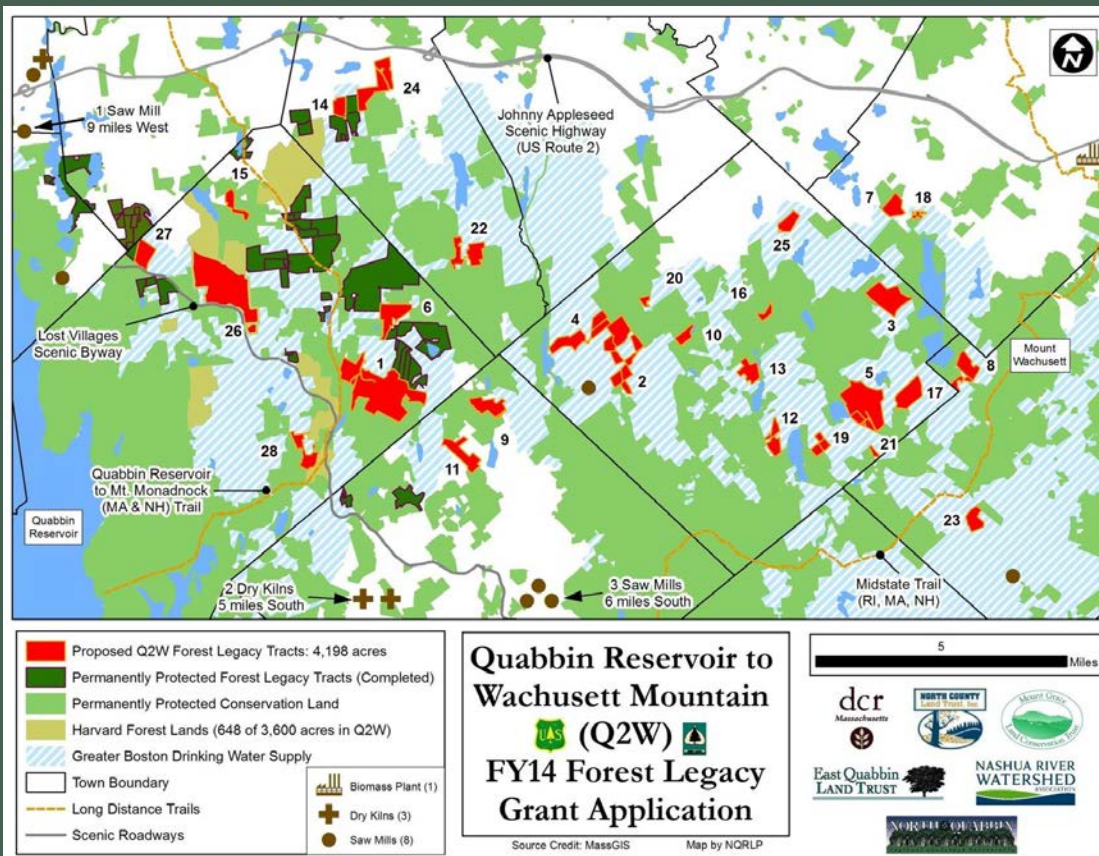


# Completed Projects





# Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain (Q2W)



- Multiple Ownerships
- Landscape scale
- 29 tracts
- 3,105 acres

# Program Requirements

- 25% of total project costs must be non-federal Cost-Share
- Fee or CR must be held by government entity (unless cost-share)
- Property must be 75% forested
- Required Due Diligence
  - Title Certificate and Narrative
  - Title Insurance
  - Appraisal & Appraisal Review
  - Monitoring Commitment Letter
  - Forest Stewardship Plan
  - Baseline Documentation Report



Photo by Ben Engel

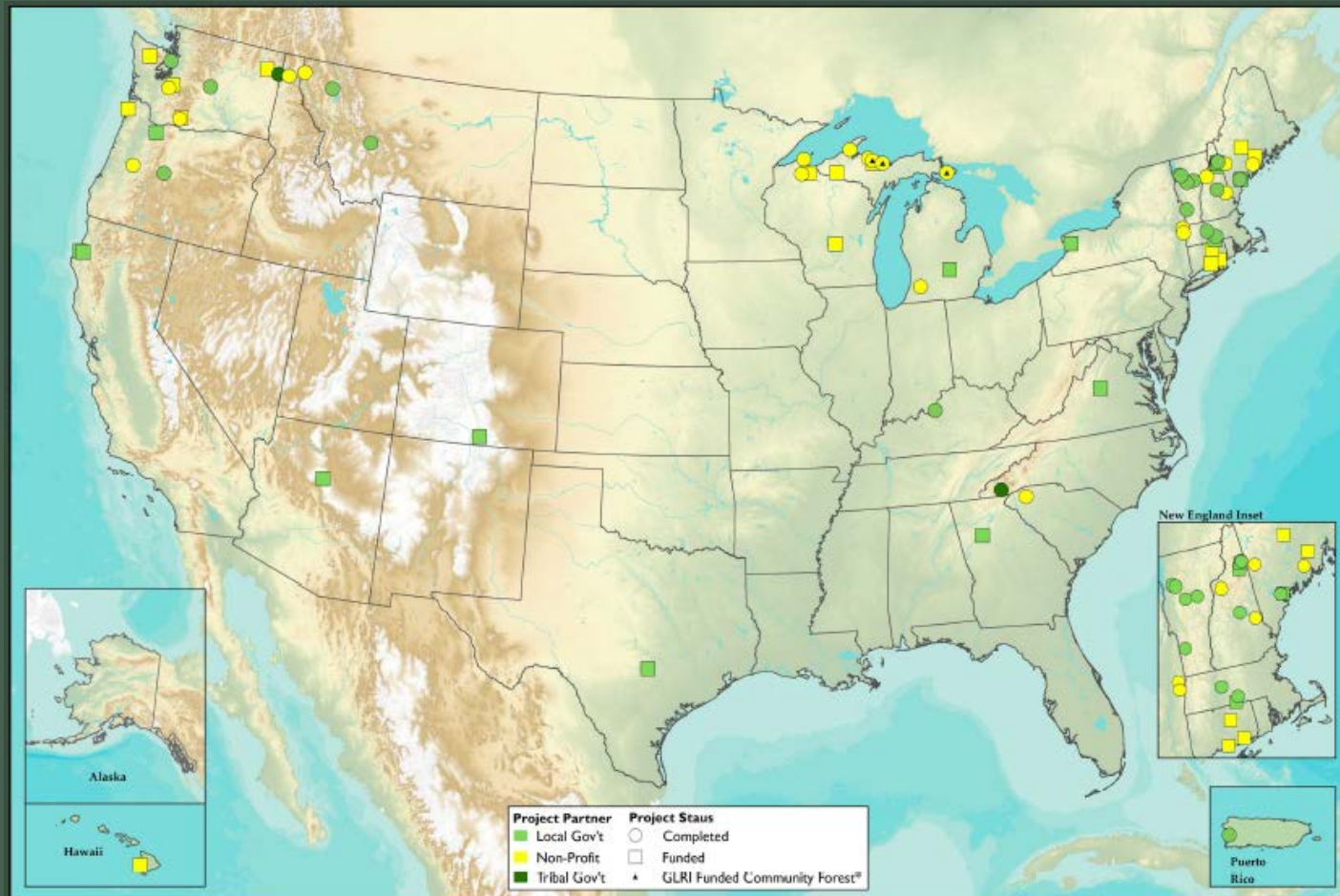


# Project Applications

- Application due to Forest Legacy Coordinator in September
  - Project Scoring based on: Environmental Importance; Threat of Conversion; and fit into national, regional, or state strategic conservation plans
  - Interest Owner & Landowner Letters of Commitment
  - Budget; Shapefiles; Project Map



# Community Forest Program



# Program Basics

- Purpose – to protect private forest lands that provide public benefits for the community
- Full fee purchase is required.
- Community Forests can be owned by
  - Local governments
  - Tribal governments
  - Qualified nonprofit entities that have a land conservation purpose
- The program pays 50% of project costs and requires a 50% non-federal funding match



# Community Benefits

- Involves the community in establishing and managing the community forest. Lands are actively managed in accordance with a community forest plan to provide community benefits such as:
  - Economic benefits through active forest management or tourism
  - Environmental benefits including clean air and water, stormwater management, and wildlife habitat
  - Education benefits from forest based experiential learning including k-12 conservation programs and vocational programs in forestry and environmental biology
  - Benefits from serving as a replicable model of effective forest stewardship for private landowners
  - Recreational benefits such as hiking, hunting, and fishing secured with public access



# Application

- Deadline: January 6, 2020
- Maximum grant request: \$600,000
- Components
  - Two maps
  - Documentation verifying applicant's eligibility
  - Narrative
    - About the proposed Community Forest
    - Establishing the Community Forest
      - Objectives, description of benefiting community and community involvement
    - Acquiring the Community Forest
  - Budget
  - Draft Community Forest Plan

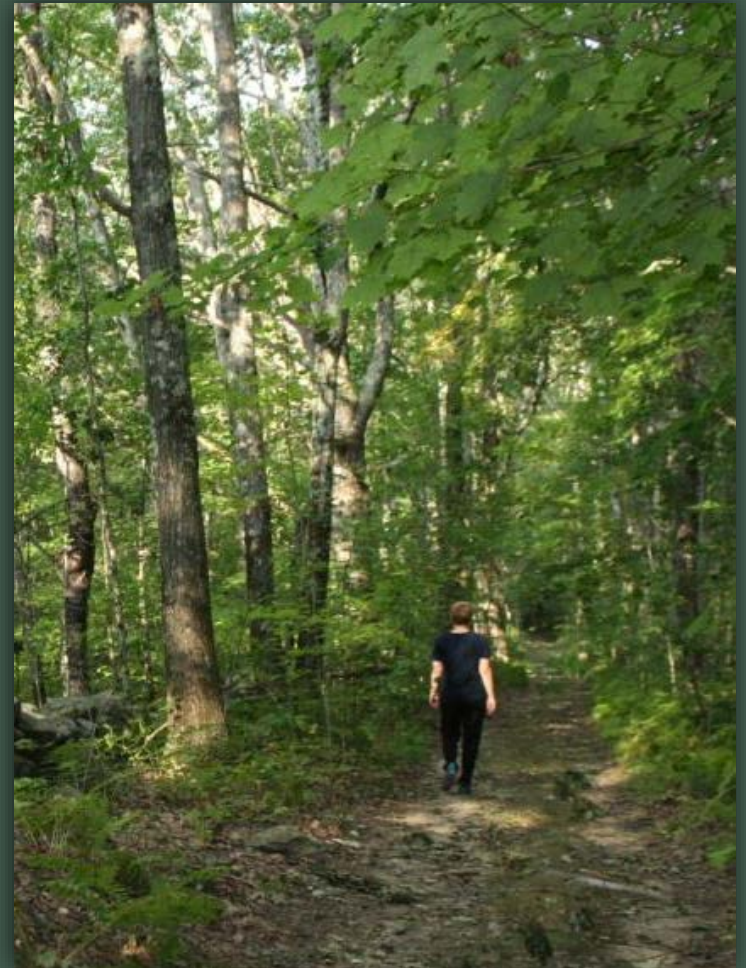


Photo by North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership



# Community Forest Plan

- A tract specific plan that guides the management and use
- Developed with community involvement
- Includes the following components:
  - Description of property - i.e. acreage, location, land use, forest type, and vegetation cover
  - Objectives of the community forest
  - Community benefits to be achieved from the establishment of the community forest
  - Mechanisms promoting community involvement
  - Implementation strategies for achieving community forest plan objectives
  - Planned public access



Photo by Janet Valle

Lindsay Nystrom

[lindsay.nystrom@mass.gov](mailto:lindsay.nystrom@mass.gov)

508-792-7714 x114

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/forest-legacy-program>

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/community-forest-grant-program>