

Forest Management: Scott Shumway, President of Westborough Community Land Trust

- **What are you managing?**
- **For what purpose?**
- **Why?**

- **Is what you propose**
 - **better than doing nothing?**
- **How & Why?**

**Conservationist
vs
Preservationist
Paradigms**

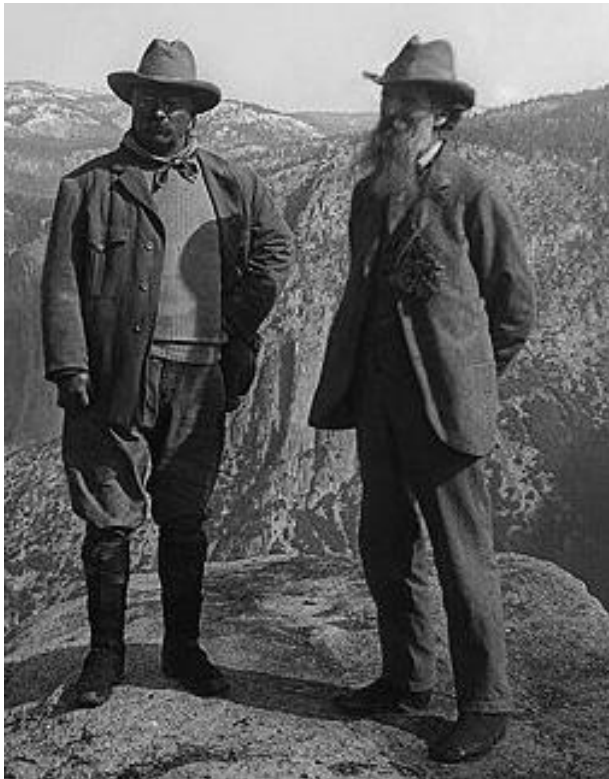
**Forester's View of the World
Vs
Ecologist's View of the World**

Conservation is “the art of producing from the forest whatever it can yield for the service of man.”

-Gifford Pinchot, founder of the U.S. Forest Service



Preservationist argument of Muir & Leopold – passive management that protects habitat in perpetuity without interference from the “hand of man.”



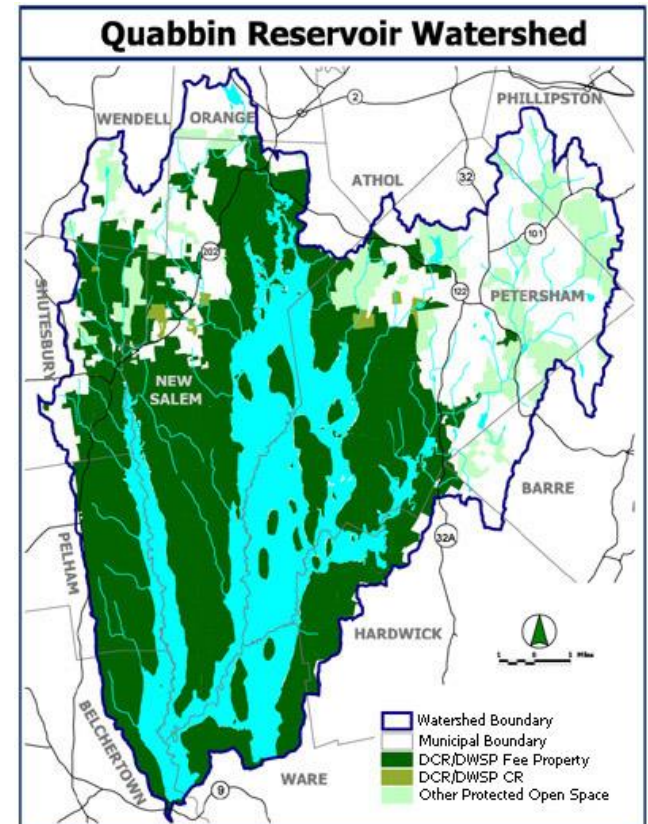
Consider the Setting

What type of management is appropriate?

Setting	Location	Matrix	% Land in Conservation	Forestry in Local Economy
Urban	128	Asphalt	Very small	Nonexistent
Suburban	495	Single Family Lots	Small – varies	Some
Rural	Outside 495	Forest/Agriculture	Large	Important

Consider Scale: Quabbin Watershed = 58,000 acres

Can the same management principles be applied to
1,000 acres? 200 acres?



Quabbin – Clear Cut Patchwork



Google Earth View, September 2010

Investigate Fact vs Fiction

- **Cutting trees for “Forest Health”**
- **Clearcutting to Create Early Successional Wildlife Habitat**
- **Cutting forests to improve / protect water supply quality and quantity**

Cutting Forests For “Forest Health”

Dr. Orwig & Dr. Foster - Harvard Forest

“All evidence suggests that harvesting exerts greater impacts on ecosystem processes than leaving disturbed or stressed forests intact.”

“Current management regimes aiming to increase long-term forest health and water quality are ongoing “experiments” lacking controls.

In many situations good evidence from true experiments and “natural experiments” suggests that the best management approach is to do nothing.”

Foster, D. & Orwig, D. 2006. Preemptive and salvage harvesting of New England forests: When doing nothing is a viable alternative. *Conservation Biology* 20: 959-960.



DO THE RIGHT THING

- **There is no single correct answer for who to manage conservation land.**
- **The best strategy is the one that is best for your particular situation.**
- **Remember that “doing nothing” is a viable management practice.**