

WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION TRUST

THE CASE FOR GREEN CERTIFICATION

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Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee

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WHY WSCAC RECOMMENDS RECERTIFICATION

- ▶ Rebuilding trust, addressing reputational risk, acknowledgement of public interest in sustainability of forests and forest products.
- ▶ There are public groups opposed to state forestry practices.
 - *H. 4415 - An Act to Study Forest Management Practices* is proposed legislation by Representative Whipps which is being refiled in January. It calls for a new commission to study forestry practices on all state lands.
 - September 2020 MA Attorney General Webinar – *The Critical Role of Forests in Protecting Climate and Public Health* calls for a rethinking of forest management practices in MA.
- ▶ The changing climate in New England demands modifications in forest management.


BENEFITS OF RECERTIFICATION

- ▶ Revitalizes the knowledge base of forest management by providing access to research and support from a wide range of professionals.
 - ▶ Adds credibility to the requirement to conduct forest management and avoid costly filtration.
 - ▶ Strengthens the support base, improves public understanding and confidence.
 - ▶ Establishes accountability for the increasing public support of sustainable forest management.
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OPTIONS FOR GREEN RECERTIFICATION

- ▶ Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) has certified more than 360 million acres of forest between Canada and the southern United States. SFI is adding Objective 3-Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources and Water Quantity into their revisions.
- ▶ Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has certified 154 million acres of forest across the United States and Canada. FSC first certified Quabbin watershed lands in 1997. In 2004, all DCR and Department of Fish and Game lands were certified. Certification was not renewed in 2009.
- ▶ Both are in the process of revising standards with drafts currently available for review.

NEXT STEPS

- ▶ WSCAC will continue to review revisions to SFI and FSC standards as they apply to the protection and maintenance of water resources, water quantity, and water quality.
 - ▶ WSCAC recommends that Division of Water Supply Protection initiate a preliminary evaluation of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Forest Stewardship Council programs, and provide a recommendation prior to the first Trust meeting in 2021.
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LINKS TO H.4415 AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S WEBINAR

- ▶ <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H4415>
- ▶ <https://youtu.be/IjAQsqACuWU>