



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Eastern Region  
Regional Office

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**File Code:** 3000

**Date:** March 26, 2024

Secretary Rebecca Tepper  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Secretary Tepper:

In June 2019, in partnership with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), the Forest Service signed a Shared Stewardship Framework to assist the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and participating communities in furthering the goals of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership (MTWP) as codified in Massachusetts' State Law Chapter 209, Sections 89-91, as amended. Since that time, the towns and organizations that comprise the MTWP have established a strong and dynamic partnership with many excellent accomplishments and inspiring goals and plans.

On October 11, 2022, the MTWP Board unanimously passed a resolution to change the name of the MTWP to the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts. The Board's resolution included a request for both EEA and the Forest Service to recognize the name change. Given that the MTWP was established by Commonwealth legislation signed into law on October 31, 2018, we consulted with EEA Undersecretary for the Environment Stephanie Cooper, who expressed that EEA had no issue with the Forest Service recognizing the change.

In consideration of the Board's decision and with EEA's support, the Forest Service will honor the request to use the name Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts.

Let me take the opportunity to say how much I value our Shared Stewardship Framework with EEA and all the efforts to implement actions that support that agreement. The Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts is vital to forest conservation efforts in the region. We look forward to continuing our work together to advance the partnership's goals in conservation and sustainability.

With this letter, we officially recognize the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts. We will use the new name in all future correspondence.

Sincerely,

ANTOINE  
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ANTOINE L. DIXON  
Regional Forester

cc: Lisa Hayden, Connie Carpenter, Stephanie.Cooper3@mass.gov

