

Threats to the conservation of Massachusetts land

Four potential scenerios for future of Mass.

By Adam Strzempko | December 12, 2013



A recent Harvard study shows that urban sprawl could threaten the conservation gains the state has made over the years. 22News is working to show you what the study revealed.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (WWLP) - A recent Harvard study shows that urban sprawl could threaten the conservation gains the state has made over the years. 22News is working to show you what the study revealed.

Scientists looked at four scenarios for what Massachusetts could look like in the future. The findings of the study were announced this morning at the Springfield Science Museum.

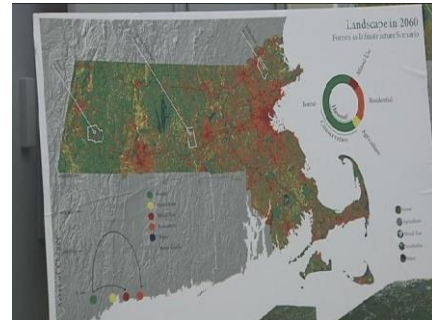
Sophisticated computer models were used in the two-year study to create a detailed acre by acre analysis of the entire forested landscape of Massachusetts over 50 years. The four different scenarios reflect patterns in land development, wood harvesting, conservation and agriculture.

The study revealed that if left unchecked the loss of forests to development will undermine land conservation gains, jeopardize water quality and limit the natural landscape's stability to protect against climate change.

Senior Ecologist Jonathan Thompson told 22News, “I think it's easy to take our forests for granted. They're the back bone of our lives, we drive through them. This study in quite excruciating detail quantifies what we get from our forest what's at risk with the land use choices we make.”

Of the four scenarios the "Forests as Infrastructure" scenario is the best in terms of the benefits it would provide to people and nature.

If you want to see the study and take a look the four different scenarios for the future of the Massachusetts landscape, [Click Here](#).



From: <http://www.wvlp.com/news/massachusetts/threats-to-the-conservation-of-massachusetts-land>