

## Notes on Science and Conservation Planning Session 2: Future Scenarios Workshop

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*Notes prepared by Jeb Stevens*

- Why look at scenarios of landscape change? For one, forest cover has declined after making major gains, in a densely populated region.
- Scenarios are not predictions! Instead of trying to make predictions, we can bring people together to think about possible scenarios and use science to look at consequences of scenarios.
- MA Pilot Study and Land Use Scenarios (2010-2060)
  - Purpose: define & analyze four contrasting scenarios of landscape change to inform and motivate land policy and conservation in MA.
  - Four Scenarios:
    - Recent trends
    - Forests as infrastructure (cons. doubles, etc.)
    - Opportunistic growth (rapid ecological growth, etc.)
    - Regional self-reliance (high food/oil prices, local food/fiber)
- How are the threats and drivers of change different for New England compared to just Massachusetts?
- Threat prioritization “survey”: threats to forest prioritized for entire New England area as well as a self-selected location.
  - We see that the perceived level of threat differs according to location

