

**Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry
Proposed Timber Harvest Summary
Name: Beulah Land Old House Lot**

Date Posted: January 9, 2008
End of Comment Period: February 25, 2008

Region:	Western
Recreation District:	South Berkshire
Forest Management District:	Central Berkshire
State Forest:	Chester/Blandford SF
Closest Road:	Beulah Land Road
Town	Blandford
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Stand Description:

This approximate 40 acre area is a mosaic of old fields that are now Norway spruce plantations, red pine plantations and poplar dominated stands. Throughout the project area the age class and size class are the same, 60-70 years old and small to medium saw log sized respectively. One four acre Norway spruce stand has been thinned in the past, and has since experienced continued blow down due to the prevailing winds. Stocking within the un-thinned plantations is extremely high and there is a high rate of mortality due to over crowding and age. The poplar stands are also experiencing high levels of mortality due to the life cycles of this type.

Most of the area is level or slightly sloped to the northeast. There are intermittent streams and one forested wetland associated with the project area. There are some historic features surrounding and internal to these stands. Existing woods roads and landings are available to use for access to the project area.

Aesthetic, Recreation, Environmental and Wildlife Considerations:

Aesthetic: Through this project the aesthetics will be enhanced along Beulah Land Road by salvaging and/or removing the wind blown spruce that have fallen along and across the road. In areas previously along the road un-treated in the previous harvest slash will be treated to the standards of the Central Berkshire Forest Resource Management Plan (CBFRMP). Throughout and

surrounding the sale area all historic features will be identified by the Forester and protected through the standards of the Departmental Archeologist.

Recreation: There is no formal recreational use of this parcel, however it is open for DCR approved passive recreation.

Environmental: The location of this project area is not near any designated forest reserve, high conservation forest or Natural Heritage site. There are however, as mentioned above, intermittent streams and a small forested wet land within the project area. These water features will be buffered and protected to the MA Forestry BMP standards and the CBFRRMP. Stream crossings if needed will be designed and located to cause the least amount of disturbance.

Wildlife: As mentioned above there are no Natural Heritage sites located in or around this project area. There is however the possibility to create/maintain the poplar forest type in this area. This early succession forest type has become less common across the state and is desirable to maintain. Coordination will be sought with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) as to the best approach to managing the approximately 12-15 acres associated with the project. This project will also begin the process to removing the non-native Norway spruce and off site red pine and regenerating these stands with native species as outlined in the CBFRRMP.

Sale Layout:

This project will utilize Beulah Land Road as the main access and will use where appropriate existing landings, woods roads and skid trails. Buffers and/or filter strips will be used along water features, historic features and Beulah Land Road. Stream crossings, if needed, will be designed and located to cause the least amount of disturbance. No seasonal restrictions are anticipated for this project.

A portion of the proceeds from this project will be used to repair drainage issues on Beulah Land Road. Several cross drainage culverts will need to be replaced, ditches re-dug and surface material added to keep this road from eroding further. This will also improve access to the State Forest for recreational uses.

Silviculture:

The goals of this project are to begin the process of regenerating the non-native and off site plantations to native tree species. This will be done by a two or three step shelterwood system, to reduce the possibility of wind damage to the residual trees after each treatment in the plantations. Outside of these plantations it is anticipated that patch cutting (removal of all trees in ½ - 1 acre patches) will be the preferred method of maintaining the poplar forest type. This will provide a large enough opening for the poplar clones to respond while leaving more mature poplar in an older age class.

The future silvicultural treatments will include the next treatment of the plantation to either remove them completely or thin for a second time if a desirable amount of regeneration is not achieved

through the first thinning. The poplar stands will continue to receive small patch cuttings on a 10-20 year cycle to keep this type viable.

Park Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

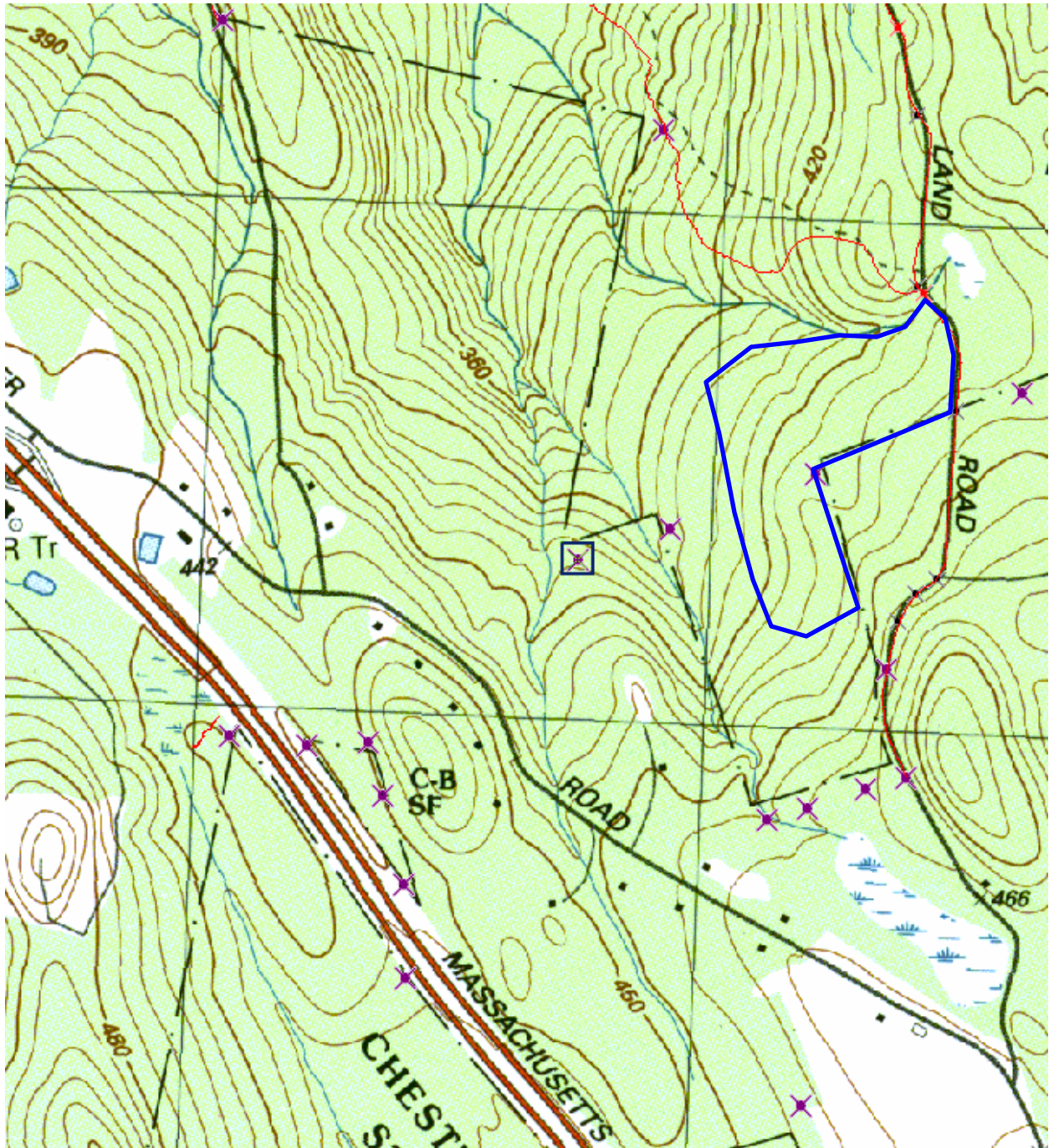
Regional Director: _____

Date: _____

District Forester: _____

Date: _____

Attached: Topographic map showing location of Forest Products Sale Area



Area outlined in Blue is the approximate project boundary.