

**Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry
Proposed Timber Harvest Summary
Name: Beulah's Red Pine Lot**

Date Posted: July 1, 2008

End of Comment Period: August 15, 2008

Region:	Western
Recreation District:	Southern Berkshire
Forest Management District:	Central Berkshire
State Forest:	Chester Blandford State Forest
Closest Road:	Beulah Land Road
Town	Blandford

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Stand Description:

This is a 33 acre mixed stand of planted red pine, red oak and aspen approximately 75 years old and in the small sawlog size class. The stand ranges from pure red pine to pure red oak with various amount of aspen mixed in. The red pine is in decline in both vigor and health and is close to complete mortality. Other significant species within the stand include paper birch, black birch and red maple. The stand is located on a west facing gradual slope with at least one intermittent stream. The stand is bound by Beulah Land Road to the west, Observation Hill Road to the north, a previously harvested red pine plantation to the south and native forests to the east. Across from Beulah Land Road another previous harvest occurred in 2006 which removed the red pine as well. Many existing skid trails run throughout the sale area.

Aesthetic, Recreation, Environmental and Wildlife Considerations:

Aesthetic: Along Beulah Land Road and Observation Hill Road slash will be treated to the standards of the Central Berkshire Forest Resource Management Plan (CBFRMP). The landing will be graded and cleaned of all logging debris upon completion of harvest.

Recreation: There is no formal recreational use of this parcel, however it is open for DCR approved passive recreation. There is some evidence of illegal ATV use on the roads in the area. Both Beulah Land Road and Observation Hill Road are in extremely poor condition. Repairs and sediment control features will be addressed through this project (see sale layout).

Environmental: The project area is not located near any designated forest reserve, high conservation forest or Natural Heritage site. There are however, as mentioned above, at least one intermittent stream that will be buffered and protected to the MA Forestry BMP standards and the

CBFRMP. Stream crossings if needed will be designed and located to cause the least amount of disturbance. Erosion issues with the road system will be addressed as well.

Wildlife: As mentioned above there are no Natural Heritage sites located in or around the project area. This project will remove the off site red pine and regenerate these stands with native species as outlined in the CBFRMP. The stand currently has many trees with features potentially beneficial to wildlife use. At a minimum approximately 1 or 2 of these trees will be left per acre where available. The wildlife trees to be left will be greater than 20”dbh on average and have existing cavities and dead limbs. All water features found will be flagged and buffered to prevent equipment damage as per the Massachusetts Forestry Best Management Practices. All uncommon species in this stand will be retained for diversity.

Sale Layout:

Access for this project is Beulah Land Road in the Town of Blandford. Landings and skid roads will be located to provide the least amount of disturbance and to avoid stream crossings where available. There are two possible landing sites for this project: one on Observation Hill Road and one on the woods road to the south. This sale will utilize existing skid roads where possible and construction of new roads will be kept to a minimum. The intermittent streams within the sale area will be buffered from equipment and filter strips will be in place.

A portion of the proceeds from this project will be used to repair drainage issues on Beulah Land Road and Observation Hill Road. The current poor condition of these roads is causing erosion of the gravel and loss of the road base. The planned work will address several cross drainage culverts that need to be cleaned/replaced, ditches that have filled in and side berms that need to be removed to keep this road from eroding further. Erosion control features will be added, such as water bars and broad based dips to add further protection. This will also improve access to the State Forest for recreational uses. Coordination with the Regional Trail Coordinator, Park Supervisor and Town Highway Department will be sought for determining the level of access control needed.

Silviculture:

Due to decline in the red pine vigor and health, the abundance of high quality red oak and the current regeneration on site, the prescription for the stand is to perform a shelterwood harvest. This will be done by removing all red pine along with other hardwoods to approximately 60 square feet of basal area. The actual amount of growing stock removed will vary based on health and quality within the stand. The future stand will consist of primarily red oak with other northern hardwoods mixed in.

Park Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

Regional Director: _____

Date: _____

District Forester: _____

Date: _____

Attached: Topographic map showing location of Forest Products Sale Area

