

**Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry  
Proposed Timber Harvest Summary  
Name: Borrow Pit Lot**

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

**Region:** Western  
**Recreation District:** Central Berkshire  
**Forest Management District:** Central Berkshire  
**State Forest:** October Mountain  
**Closest Road:** County Road  
**Town:** Washington

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**Stand Description:**

This 35 acre project includes two stands. One stand is a 13-acre Norway spruce plantation and the other stand (22 acres) is composed of northern hardwoods (birch, beech, maple) with associated red spruce and hemlock.

The spruce plantation is approximately 80 years old and consists of small to large sawlog size trees. The stand is unthinned, but has areas of low stocking, possibly as a result of heavy ATV and off-road vehicle use of the area. Size classes range from small to large sawlog.

The northern hardwood stand is approximately 50 to 60 years old and consists of fair to good quality northern hardwood species with components of good quality red spruce in the overstory. Size classes range from pole to small sawlog in the hardwoods and small sawlog in the softwoods. The project area is bounded on the north and east by October Mountain Reservoir and associated dams and to the south and west by County Road. There is a gravel bank (14 acres) in the southwest section of the project area. The area slopes moderately to the west.

**Aesthetic, Recreation, Environmental and Wildlife Considerations:**

**Aesthetic:** County Road is a gated forest road that borders the southern and western edge of the project area. Slash along this road will be treated according to the standards listed in the Central Berkshire Forest Resource Management Plan (CBFRMP) for aesthetic slash management.

There are two dams on the October Mountain Reservoir which are near the project area. Any harvesting done within 100 feet of the dams will be in cooperation with and after discussion with Dam Safety personnel.

**Recreation:** There are no legal authorized recreational uses on the harvest area. There is substantial unauthorized use of the area for ATV and 4WD off road travel. This is especially evident in the gravel bank.

There are two gated access roads for dam maintenance, one to the east of the project area and the other traverses the middle of the project area. These roads will remain clear of slash for the duration of the project, and will be graded as necessary afterwards.

There is a legal multi-use trail that comes up from the south and runs west along County Road to Washington Mountain Road and west into the town of Lee. Slash along this road will be treated as stated above. County Road is presently in very poor condition. At the completion of this project, the road will be restored by improving drainage and grading as needed.

**Environmental:** There are no designated forest reserves or high conservation value forests in the area, nor are there any designated scenic by-ways.

**Wildlife:** October Mountain Reservoir to the northeast of the project area is maintained by the Office of Dam Safety. Fishing is allowed on the reservoir. Buffers will be left around the reservoir after consultation with Dam Safety personnel.

The area to the southeast of the reservoir has been designated as both priority and estimated habitat by the NHESP. The designation appears to cross over into the extreme southeastern section of the project area. Prior to marking this project, NHESP will be consulted.

Within the project area 1-2 trees per acre will be left that show characteristics favorable to wildlife such as large holes and dead branches.

### **Sale Layout:**

Access to this project is from County Road. Through this project, the road will be reconditioned. Existing landings and skid trails will be utilized where feasible. There are no anticipated stream crossings on the project area. The reservoir will be buffered according to MA BMP standards for wetlands and will incorporate Dam Safety recommendations.

### **Silviculture:**

This project will begin to convert the Norway Spruce plantation to native forest types through natural regeneration. The plantation stocking will be reduced by 1/3 to 1/2 to allow ample light for regeneration. Future entries into this stand will remove the remaining overstory once regeneration has been established.

The northern hardwood stand will receive a quality thinning. Poor quality stems will be removed, allowing good quality red spruce and hardwood stems more growing space. Where appropriate, existing and potential wildlife trees will be retained throughout the project area.

Park Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Regional Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

District Forester: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attached: Topographic map showing location of Forest Products Sale Area

