

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

Date Posted: July 1, 2008

End of Comment Period: August 15, 2008

Region: Western
Recreation District: Central Berkshire
Forest Management District: Central Berkshire
State Forest: Peru State Forest
Closest Road: Curtin Road
Town: Peru

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Stand Description:

This project area encompasses 55 acres along Curtin Road and Bryan Road in the town of Peru. The forest type of the general area is a mixture of white pine and hardwoods with small sections of hemlock along the bordering Tuttle Brook. The estimated age of this area is 70 with tree sizes ranging from pole to large sawlog depending on the species. Preliminary field work indicated most tree species appear to be of good health and vigor; however the white pine and white ash are showing signs of stress and dieback. There are several patches of high quality disease free beech that will be retained.

This area is a former sheep pasture and also includes foundations, barbed wire and stone walls of the previous home site. The south and east portion of this project area is bounded by Tuttle Brook, a small un-named brook to the north and Curtin Road to the west. Bryan Road (abandoned town road) runs easterly from Curtin Road through the stand. Also located in the project area are several intermittent streams and a spring which is located near the house foundation.

Aesthetic, Recreation and Wildlife Considerations:

Aesthetic: All hazard trees and snags will be cut and felled within one tree length of Curtin Road and Bryan Road. Slash along the road and property lines will be removed for the first 50 feet. Stonewalls, foundations and other features will be left intact and undisturbed with directional felling to avoid damage to these features. Landings, truck roads and skid roads will be graded at the completion of the sale. Crossings of stonewalls if needed will only be permitted through existing bar ways and openings unless approved by the Forester.

Recreation: There is no formal recreational use of this parcel, however it is open for DCR approved passive recreation. Bryan road is currently used by illegal ATV users. The condition of this road is poor and sediment is entering Tuttle Brook. Repairs and sediment control features will be addressed through this project (see sale layout) and coordination will be sought from the Trail Coordinator in addressing the ATV situation.

Environmental: The project area is located approximately 500 feet west of a designated forest reserve along the steep slopes of Tuttle Brook. Within the project area the Hemlock forest type along Tuttle Brook will not be treated during this project; however this site should be monitored in the future for hemlock wooly adelgid. There are no Natural Heritage sites near the project area. There are, as mentioned above, intermittent streams and a spring within the project area. These water features as well as any found during a more extensive ground search will be buffered and protected to the MA Forestry BMP standards and the CBFMRP. Stream crossings if needed will be designed and located to cause the least amount of disturbance and will be restored upon completion of the project. Current erosion problems with Bryan Road will be addressed (see sale layout).

Wildlife: This 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:

The access for this project is Bryan Road off of Curtin Road in Peru. Landings and skid roads will be located to provide the least amount of disturbance and to avoid stream crossings where available. All historic foundations and stone structures will be protected from equipment damage and will be treated according to the recommendation from the Department Archeologist. Along the frontage of Curtin Road, Bryan Road and Department property lines, slash will be removed at least 50 feet from the edge of the road.

A portion of the proceeds from this project will be used to repair drainage issues on Bryan Road. The current poor condition of the road is causing sediment to wash into Tuttle Brook. 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.

Tuttle Brook, the un-named brook and all other stream/wetland features will be buffered according to the Massachusetts Best Management Practices and as outlined in the CBFMRP. There are no trails or recreational activities to buffer for this project.

Silviculture:

This majority of this project area will be treated using commercial thinning to promote growth of current shade tolerant tree species and to continue growing the high quality hardwood poles as well as retaining large diameter pines. Approximately 30% of the basal area will be removed. The

actual amount of growing stock removed will vary based on health and quality within the stand. The remaining stand will consist mainly of large diameter and large crown white pine to provide shade as well as high quality hardwood poles. As noted above the disease free beech patches and the small hemlock stands along Tuttle Brook will be retained during this project. In approximately 10 years, this area should be reviewed for potential regeneration harvesting and hemlock wooly adelgid.

Park Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

Regional Director: _____

Date: _____

District Forester: _____

Date: _____

Attached: Topographic map showing location of Forest Products Sale Area

