

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

Date Posted: July 18, 2007

End of Comment Period: September 1, 2007

Region:	Western
Recreation District:	Central Berkshire
Forest Management District:	Central Berkshire
State Forest:	Middlefield SF
Closest Road:	Skyline Trail
Town	Middlefield

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Stand Description:

This is a 36+/- acre highly stocked small sawlog size, northern hardwood stand located adjacent to Department leased agricultural fields. Major components of the stands include white ash and sugar maple with other components of American beech, red maple and black cherry. Minor components of the stand include eastern hemlock, basswood, white pine and white birch. The stands age is approximately 70 years old and originated as abandoned agricultural land, most likely pasture. This stand is bound by the type change caused by previous agricultural activities to the north, west and south and by the Skyline Trail to the east.

Aesthetic, Recreation and Wildlife Considerations:

Aesthetic: All hazard trees and snags will be cut and felled within one tree length of the Skyline Trail. Slash along the Skyline Trail will be removed for the first 50 feet and under three feet for an additional 50 feet. Stonewalls and foundations will be left intact and undisturbed, directional felling will be used to avoid damage to these features. Landings, truck roads and skid roads will be graded at the completion of the sale. Crossing of stone walls will only be permitted through existing bar ways and openings unless approved by the Forester.

Recreation: There is no formal recreation in this area of the State Forest; however the area to the north of this stand is leased agricultural lands. Prior to the marking of this stand, the Department will coordinate with the lessee to avoid any conflicts during the seasonal growing season.

Wildlife: This stand currently has many trees with features potentially conducive to wildlife use. There will be 1 or 2 of these trees left per acre. The wildlife trees to be left on average will be greater than 20" dbh and have existing cavities and dead limbs. All water features found will be flagged and buffered to prevent equipment damage. All uncommon species in this stand will be retained for diversity. There are no NHESP concerns for this area.

Sale Layout:

The access for this project is off of the Skyline Trail in Middlefield. The landing area will be in the existing hay field and will be positioned so that it does not interfere with this land use. Where feasible, existing skid roads and bar ways will be used. Along the frontage of Skyline Trail, slash will be removed at least 50 feet from the edge of the road and will be below three feet for an additional 50 feet to reduce the visual impact to passing traffic.

Although there are no major water features in this sale area, there is a potential for springs or intermittent springs to occur. If any are encountered, they will be buffered according to the Massachusetts Best Management Practices. There are no trails or recreational activities to buffer for this project.

Silviculture:

This project will be a commercial thinning to promote the growth of the healthy and high quality trees. Approximately one third of the basal area will be removed to achieve this, bringing the total basal area down from an A level stocking to a moderate B level. This will increase growing space and the amounts of nutrients each remaining tree will have. Throughout the stand, all basswood, white pine, hemlock and other un-common species of moderate health will be retained for diversity. Thinning will first remove diseased beech followed by suppressed and intermediate shade intolerant species. This project will leave behind a diverse stand with moderate to high quality trees growing.

Park Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

Regional Director: _____

Date: _____

District Forester: _____

Date: _____

Attached: Topographic map showing location of Forest Products Sale Area

