

**Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry
Proposed Timber Harvest Summary
Name: WeSF West Street New Salem TS ECV-7-08-T**

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

Region: Central
Recreation District: ECV
Forest Management District: 5
State Forest: Wendell State Forest
Closest Road: West Street
Town: New Salem, MA

Contact Information: David Richard
Central Region
PO Box 484
Amherst, MA 01004
(413) 545-5747
dave.richard@state.ma.us

Stand Description:

The sale consists of a 69 acre proposed harvest area on the east and west sides of West Street, north west of "Poor Farm Hill," in New Salem, MA. The westerly edge of the sale area abuts but does not cross over the Wendell Town Line. The topography of the area is a hilltop summit and upper slope area with a southerly exposure for most of the lot. Soils on the site are mainly Essex very stony fine sandy loam (EvC) with lesser amounts of Scituate extremely stony fine sandy loam (SgC). These two soil types are well drained to moderately well drained with good moisture holding capacity. Site indexes for both soil types are in the mid 50's for hardwoods and the upper 50's for softwoods. Upland oaks and White Pine are well suited to these soil types.

White Pine Hemlock Stand: WK4A, 25 acres of good quality even age, 75+/- year old sawlog size Eastern White Pine and Eastern Hemlock. A limited amount of firewood thinning/salvage occurred in the early 1980's following gypsy moth and oak leaf tier infestations. The proposed sale will prescribe a Shelterwood Preparation cut for this portion of the sale area. The topography is gently rising in this western portion of the sale area.

White Pine Hardwood Stand: WH3A, 44 acres of good quality even age, 60+/- year old immature pole/small sawlog size eastern white pine and associated hardwoods. Past harvesting records are unavailable though there is evidence of past harvesting perhaps in the 50's. The proposed sale will prescribe a thinning for the middle of the sale area and the area east of West Street. The topography for this portion of the sale is flat to gently rolling.

Aesthetic, Recreation, Environmental and Wildlife Considerations:

Aesthetic: The sale area is bisected in a north / south direction by West Street, a New Salem town owned road. The east and west sides of the sale area will be operated independently with no crossing of West Street by harvesting equipment. Roadside healthy scenic trees will be retained and only diseased high risk trees will be harvested. Trees will be directionally felled away from West Street to keep roadside slash to a very minimal amount. All slash on the lot will be treated to remain at a level of two feet. At the completion of harvest the landings and main skid roads will be final graded to maintain the aesthetics and to stabilize the area from any potential erosion problems.

Recreation: The proposed sale area is an isolated parcel of DCR Bureau of Forest and Parks lands in New Salem. Administratively the parcel is managed as part of Wendell State Forest. Recreational use of this area is extremely light and dispersed with hunting probably being the main use though the area is open to other pursuits should one desire. The proposed timber sale will have minimal impacts on recreation.

Environmental: There are no out of the ordinary environmental impacts to the proposed harvest. Wetlands along the western and eastern perimeters of the sale area will be provided appropriate buffers according to Chapter 132 of the Massachusetts Forest Cutting Practices Act. At the completion of harvest main skid roads and the landing areas will be graded and stabilized to insure there are no erosion problems.

Wildlife:

There are no NHESP sites in the sale area. Wildlife will benefit in a number of ways from the proposed harvest. The proposed harvest will maintain the large diameter better quality overstory trees presently growing on site. The availability of cover and browse will be increased especially within a few years post harvest. Snags will be retained within the constraints of existing OSHA regulations and an effort will be made to retain live snags and cavity trees to insure this habitat component is met on site now and into the future. The landings will provide a small wildlife opening for the short term or longer if maintained through mowing.

Sale Layout:

Due to favorable topography there are no anticipated problems with sale layout. There are existing main skid road and landings that were historically used in the past and will be reused for the proposed harvest. As previously stated, all main skid roads and landings will be stabilized and graded following the completion of harvest.

Silviculture:

The proposed harvest is a regeneration cut utilizing a shelterwood preparation cut in the White Pine Hemlock stand WK4A and an Intermediate Cut utilizing a thinning in the White Pine Hardwood stand WH3A.

One objective of the shelterwood preparation cut will be to reduce the overstory to improve overstory spacing and to improve the seed bearing capacity of the better quality overstory crop trees. The second objective will be to create openings in the understory by removing suppressed low quality stems which will provide growing space and favorable conditions in which desired reproduction can germinate. This type of treatment is prescribed for a mature stand or a stand approaching maturity.

The objective of the thinning is to improve stand health, composition and quality and to concentrate growth on the healthiest highest quality trees found on the site. This type of treatment is prescribed for an overstocked immature stand.

Park Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

Regional Director: _____

Date: _____

District Forester: _____

Date: _____

Attached: Topographic map showing location of Forest Products Sale Area

MA – DCR, Bureau of Forestry: Pre-Sale Map

