

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

Date Posted: January 5, 2009
End of Comment Period: February 20, 2009

Region: Western
Recreation District: Berkshire Highlands
Forest Management District: North Berkshire
State Forest: Savoy Mountain State Forest
Closest Road: Adams Road
Town: Savoy

Contact Information: D. F. Robb, Jr.
MA DCR, P.O. Box 1433, Pittsfield, MA 01201
Telephone: (413) 442-8928, x 125
Email: david.robb@state.ma.us

Stand Description:

Type: Norway spruce plantation
Acreage: 15.0
Structure: Even-aged, poletimber to large sawtimber
Management History: No management history
Age: Approximately 80 years old.
Stocking: Overstocked
Topography: Mild slopes with a drainage that bisects the stand
Conditions: Substantial mortality of unknown cause. Possibly, Armillaria root rot, air pollution, or soil conditions (acidification, nutrient depletion).
Relative Density: 63%

Aesthetic, Recreation, Environmental and Wildlife Considerations:

Aesthetic: This stand is located approximately 350' from Adams Road at its nearest point and is visually separated from the road by a stand of hardwood trees. Adams Road is currently in poor condition and is only passable by high-clearance vehicles. A new log truck access road located between Adams Road and the landing will be required. This road will be similar in appearance to a typical rural unpaved road. A landing will be located off of Adams Road and most machine activity should be concealed by foliage during the growing season. Following the harvest, the landing will be graded and seeded.

Utilization requirements will be included in this contract in order to ensure minimal waste of material and reduce the levels of slash within the harvest area. Coarse woody debris is already abundant due to the natural mortality.

A stone wall is located along a portion of the west boundary of the stand. Trees will be felled away from the wall, slash will not be permitted on or around the wall, and any accidental damage will be repaired by the contractor to the satisfaction of the management forester in charge of the operation. An archeological assessment of the harvest area is underway (Oct 2008) to determine what, if any, historic archeological sites may exist.

Recreation: This is an interior plantation with no road or trail frontage. No recreational trails are located nearby.

Environmental: The proposed harvest area is not near any designated forest reserves, high conservation value forests, or designated scenic byways.

Wildlife: There are no Natural Heritage Priority Habitats, Estimated Habitats, or Certified Vernal Pools in or near the harvest area. A pre-harvest plant inventory by NHESP on an adjacent hardwood stand found no rare species or unusual plant species. One Certified Vernal Pool is located adjacent to Adams Road in an old borrow pit. All activity associated with the proposed harvest will take place well outside of regulatory buffer areas.

Following the harvest, early successional forest will become established. Tree species composition should consist of black cherry, red maple, sugar maple, white ash, beech, white pine, and Norway spruce. A wide variety of shrub and herbaceous species will occupy the site as well. This condition will likely persist for 5-15 years, providing critical habitat to a variety of birds, mammals, and amphibians, many of which are on the Massachusetts List of Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species which require this type of habitat at some point during their life cycle.

After early successional development, the stand should grow into a young, even-aged mixed hardwood stand. Most of the Norway spruce will likely be outcompeted by the native hardwoods.

Sale Layout:

Forest products resulting from this sale will be transported to a landing location off of Adams Road. One bridged stream crossing will be required to provide access to the southern portion of the main plantation.

One stream bisects the stand. There are a number of native hardwood trees growing within the areas adjacent to the stream. These will be retained in order to provide shade and soil protection along with an appropriate number of Norway spruce. All applicable Best Management Practice requirements as outlined in Chapter 132 regulations will be implemented on this sale in order to prevent or minimize erosion and impacts to water quality.

This harvest operation will require improvement of Adams Road. This work may be performed as in-kind services by the contractor.

Silviculture:

The primary goal of this harvest operation is to harvest an unhealthy plantation of non-native trees and to establish a new stand of native mixed hardwood trees. The secondary goal of this harvest operation is to establish a 13-acre contiguous block of early successional habitat.

The goals will be achieved through the use of a seed tree with reserves harvest regeneration system. This even aged system will harvest the dying Norway spruce, leaving hardwood seed trees aggregated in clumps of Norway spruce reserve trees.

The short term desired condition is a vigorous herbaceous, shrub, and tree cover type with minimal residual slash and little or no soil erosion. The long term desired condition is a forest of native tree species mixed with Norway spruce.

Park Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

Regional Director: _____

Date: _____

District Forester: _____

Date: _____

Attached: topographic map showing location of Forest Products Sale Area

Locus Map

Norway Spruce Plantation Removal
Savoy Mountain State Forest
Adams Road

