

**Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Bureau of Fire Control and Forestry
Proposed Timber Harvest Summary
Name: PTSF Bates SCF 092506**

Region: Western
Recreation District: Berkshire Central
Forest Management District: North Berkshire
State Forest: Pittsfield SF/Bates Memorial SP
Closest Road: Richmond Road, Hancock

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Stand Description:

The area proposed for harvesting is approximately 127 acres in size. The predominant forest type is even-aged northern hardwoods with some red oak also in the mix. Average sizes are in the small sawtimber to medium sawtimber size classes. The stands are, in general, adequately stocked with trees of desirable species and form. Overall health and vigor of the trees is good despite partial defoliation in 2006 from eastern tent caterpillar. Access to the harvest area by logging equipment may be hampered by the steep banks of Lebanon Brook.

Silviculture:

The silvicultural goal of this harvest is to begin the process of converting these even-aged stands to uneven-aged. The species composition and stand location also supports a change to uneven-aged management. The primary technique used will be group selection in ¼ to ½ acre gaps created by removing overstory trees in those groups. The entire range of gap size will be from about 0.1 acre to 1 acre.

Other Treatments: There is about 9 acres of old field off Route 20 and Richmond Road. Portions of this area are heavily invaded by exotic invasive plant species. The main culprit is Norway maple. The Forester will attempt to reclaim the area for shrub-grass habitat and eradicate invasive species in a separate operation using revenue from this sale.

Aesthetic, Recreation and Wildlife Considerations:

There are no designated or authorized recreational trails in the sale area. There are, however, several unauthorized ATV trails. The only wetland considerations are standard stream crossings and buffers. The area is not designated as priority habitat or wetlands rare species habitat in the NHESP atlas.

Sale Layout:

Access to the site is over state forest land from Richmond Road in Hancock. The header will be in the old field site off Richmond Road. The sale will use existing and some new skid trails to move logs. It may be necessary to seek a temporary right-of-way from an abutter to avoid the extremely steep banks of Lebanon Brook.

Park Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

Regional Director: _____

Date: _____

District Forester: _____

Date: _____

Attached: Topographic map showing location of Forest Products Sale Area

