

**Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry  
Proposed Timber Harvest Summary  
Name: Potter Mountain East**

**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:** Pittsfield State Forest  
**Closest Road:** Potter Mountain Road  
**Town:** Lanesborough

**Contact Information:** Dave Robb  
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**Stand Description:**

Type: Oak / Hardwood  
Acreage: 85  
Structure: Even-aged / Medium and Large Sawtimber  
Management History: Thinning – no date in records (appx. 30yrs)  
Age: 85 years  
Stocking: Fully stocked  
Topography: Mild east slope  
Conditions: Crown dieback in red oak / epicormic sprouting

**Aesthetic, Recreation, Environmental and Wildlife Considerations:**

**Aesthetic:** Frontage along Potter Mountain Road provides woodland scenery to hunters and hikers. Hardwood slash will be contractually required to be lopped within 2 feet of the ground within a 100-foot visual buffer area adjacent to Potter Mountain Road.

**Recreation:** Potter Mountain Road is a main access road for hunters and hikers as well as a major snowmobile and ATV trail. Other gated trails with similar use provide access to the eastern stand. There is a main parking area at the bottom of Potter Mountain Road that is the most likely location for a landing.

**Environmental:** The potential harvest area (PHA) is located approximately 1 mile to the east of the nearest designated forest reserve located within Berry Pond Circuit Road. The nearest Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) designated Priority Habitat is located along Church Brook and Daniels Brook approximately 2/3<sup>rd</sup> mile to the south. NHESP will determine if the PHA falls within or near any high conservation value forests. There are no nearby designated scenic byways.

**Wildlife:** The PHA is not located in or near any NHESP-designated priority habitat areas. No certified or potential vernal pools are located within the PHA. NHESP staff will survey the PHA for rare species, vernal pools, and other critical wildlife and habitat conditions prior to harvesting activities.

**Sale Layout:**

The landing area will most likely be the parking lot at the bottom of Potter Mountain Road. The outlet for all main haul roads will most likely be the bottom of Potter Mountain Road, just north of the Daniels Brook crossing. An existing bridge will be used to minimize any risk of erosion and sedimentation. Harvesting will not occur during mud season (March 15 – May 15).

**Silviculture:**

Areas dominated by red oak will be treated with a shelterwood seed cut designed to establish a new age class of moderately shade tolerant and less shade tolerant species (red oak, yellow birch, white ash). Areas with a mixture of oak and northern hardwoods will be treated with small group selections to establish an uneven-aged stand structure. Small group selection (3-4 trees) will be used to release desirable advanced regeneration (sugar maple, yellow birch, black cherry). A combination of small group selection and group selection (maximum of ½-acre in size) will be used to regenerate new shade tolerant trees (sugar maple) and moderately shade tolerant trees (yellow birch, young white ash, young red oak) as well as to release desirable seedlings, saplings, and poletimber. Areas of the stand not selected for regeneration will be thinned where appropriate to maintain or improve growth rates and quality in the desirable stock.

In the oak-dominated areas, the short-term desired condition is the establishment of a vigorous understory of good quality hardwood seedlings and saplings sheltered under a partial oak/hardwood canopy. In the mixed hardwood areas of the stand, the short-term desired condition is a higher quality overstory spaced to allow the growth of desirable poletimber in the midstory with some small group openings being populated by newly established mixed hardwood seedlings and saplings.

Over the long term, both areas can be managed as an uneven-aged unit with continued implementation of group selection. Species composition should be gradually shifted towards northern hardwoods with at least three distinct age classes.

**Park Supervisor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Regional Director:** \_\_\_\_\_

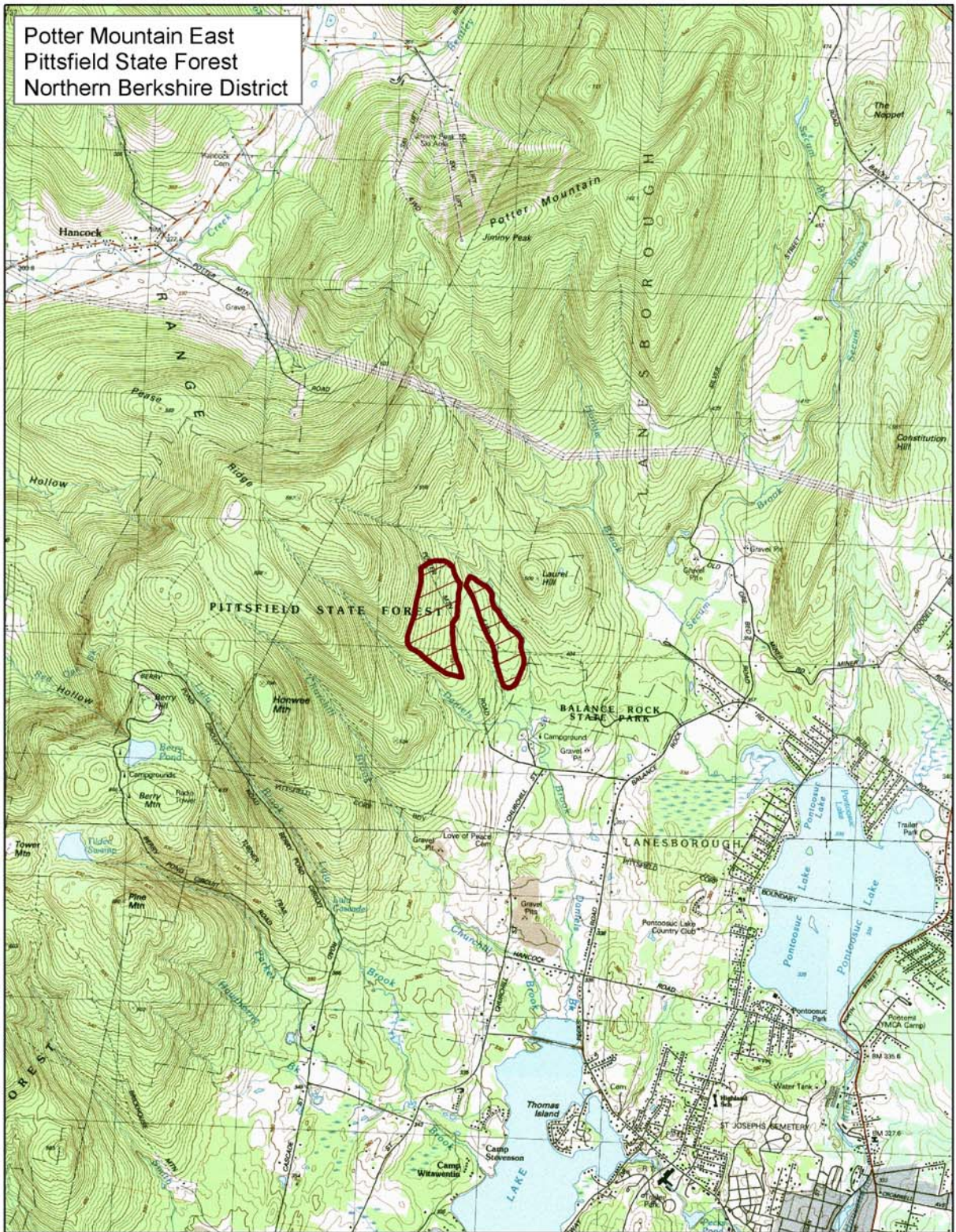
**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**District Forester:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Attached: Topographic map showing location of Forest Products Sale Area

Potter Mountain East  
Pittsfield State Forest  
Northern Berkshire District



NOTE: Proposed harvest boundary is based on preliminary stand type data and is subject to change.

