

**Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Bureau of Fire Control and Forestry
Proposed Timber Harvest Summary
Name: SAV Balance Rock Trail SCF**

Date Posted: July 18, 2007

End of Comment Period: September 1, 2007

Region: Western
Recreation District: Berkshire Highlands
Forest Management District: North Berkshire
State Forest: Savoy Mountain SF (Compartment: 16)
Closest Road: Tannery Road
Town: Savoy

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Stand Description:

Portions of stands 202, 230 and 262 and all of stand 225 are included in the proposed sale area. The entire 262 acre area is in the northern hardwood forest type. A 30 acre section of the area, including stand 225, was previously harvested in 1987; other areas were partially harvested in 1971 and 1979. The predominant size class is small sawtimber. All stands were originally even-aged. Stand 225 is now two-aged.

Aesthetic, Recreation and Wildlife Considerations:

Aesthetic: Harvesting activities will be quite visible on both sides of the trail and will be mitigated using buffers according to DCR policy.

Recreation: Balance Rock Trail, a designated ORV trail, runs along the west edge of the sale area and through stand 225. The immediate area of the balanced rock is outside the sale area and will not be impacted physically or visually. The surface of Balance Rock Trail is quite rough due to years of ORV use and little maintenance.

Wildlife: The only wetlands concern appears to be a corridor along Ross Brook that is designated priority/rare wetlands wildlife habitat and will require review by NHESP.

Sale Layout:

The primary log landing area will be on the access road to the balanced rock near the northern terminus of Balance Rock Trail. The sale contract will require improvements by the sale purchaser to the access road. Another landing area will be created on Adams Road south of the unnamed Parker Brook tributary. Due to the large area involved, the sale may be divided into two contracts. Actual implementation of the sale may depend on the condition of Tannery Road which is a municipal road owned by the Town of Savoy. The town’s decision to discontinue maintenance of the road has already resulted in a degraded road surface. Balance Rock Trail will be used as a main skid trail; the already rough condition of the trail will be improved by skidding activities and subsequent trail stabilization work. The trail will need to have appropriate caution signs posted prior to harvesting.

Silviculture:

In the 1987 cut area, including stand 225, the initial cut was characterized as a shelterwood harvest. The current harvest will be a combination shelterwood removal cut in regenerated areas and a shelterwood seed cut in areas that require more advance regeneration. The remainder of the area will be treated under an uneven-aged system primarily using group selection to eventually create the desired age class distribution.

Park Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

Regional Director: _____

Date: _____

District Forester: _____

Date: _____

Attached: Topographic map showing location of Forest Products Sale Area

Savoy Mountain SF

Locus Map
for Proposed Balance Rock Trail Hardwood Sale
262 Acres ±

