

**Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Bureau of Fire Control and Forestry
Proposed Timber Harvest Summary
Name: SMSF Black Brook Pine THS**

Date Posted: July 18, 2007

End of Comment Period: September 1, 2007

Region: Western
Recreation District: Berkshire Highlands
Forest Management District: 1-North Berkshire
State Forest: Savoy Mtn. SF
Closest Road: Black Brook Road
Town: Savoy

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Stand Description:

The proposed harvest area is 60 acres with about 83% coverage in white pine or pine-hardwood forest types. The pine types are listed in the small sawtimber size class yet field survey revealed that much of the pine is mature large sawtimber for this site. Most of the pine types were cut in 1979 using a group selection/patch cut method. About 8 acres of an adjacent northern hardwood, small sawtimber stand is included in the sale area. Much of the hardwood area contains beech afflicted with beech bark disease. There are also some oak trees in the stand. The topography ranges from 12-22% on the slopes leading up from the brook valley to nearly flat in the northeast section of the sale area. The aspect is north (in southern sections) to generally southwest in most of the area.

Aesthetic, Recreation and Wildlife Considerations:

Aesthetic: There are 3 abutters within the notification zone. There is approximately 650' of sale area along a public road which will require extra softwood slash management within 100' of the road. Felling will be directed into the forest and away from the road wherever possible. There is at least one cellar hole within the cutting area.

Recreation: The CCC Trail runs in and out of the sale area. The trail is designated for multiple uses, in the summer (non-motorized) and for snowmobile (motorized)/skiing in winter. Standard trail buffers will be observed. In addition to trail users, the main recreational pursuit is hunting.

Wildlife: According to the NHESP 2006 Atlas, there may be a small rare/endangered species polygon impacting the sale area. If a closer examination proves it necessary after the GPS boundary data is field collected, DCR will file the appropriate paperwork with NHESP. The completion of this sale and the previous sale in a plantation spruce will provide a nearly 50 acre block of early successional habitat. There is a small wetlands and associated intermittent brook in the cutting area.

Sale Layout:

An existing landing area on a discontinued portion of Black Brook Road will be used as the primary header. A secondary landing could be on Tannery Road at the entrance to the CCC Trail. Another landing area could open up on Torrey Road once sale # NBK-01-07 (plantation spruce) has been completed. Existing skid trails will be re-used whenever possible.

Silviculture:

The silvicultural goal in the pine and pine-hardwood stands is to regenerate the stand to native hardwoods using uneven-aged management. The method used will be a continuation of the patch/group selection technique. In the northern hardwood stand, clearcutting with reserve oak trees will be used. This will connect the regenerated spruce stand (in NBK-01-07) with the 15 year old, 9 acre regenerated stand on Torrey Road. Standard trail and roadside buffers will be observed.

Park Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

Regional Director: _____

Date: _____

District Forester: _____

Date: _____

Attached: Topographic map showing location of proposed harvest area

Locus - Proposed Black Brook Road Pine timber harvest

