

**Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry
Proposed Timber Harvest Summary
Name: Two Trail**

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

Region: Western
Recreation District: Southern
Forest Management District: SBK
State Forest: Beartown
Closest Road: Wilcox
Town: Great Barrington

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Stand Description:

This proposed area is composed of six stands. Stands 1 and 2 were harvested in 1985 to salvage dead and dying oak resulting from a gypsy moth infestation.

Stand 1. is composed primarily of sapling and pole size white birch and red oak with scattered sawlog size oaks. The area is 5 acres.

Stand 2 is more heavily stocked with red oak and beech. Adequate regeneration has not developed due to the large numbers of beech. The area is 6 acres.

Stand 3 is a 13 acre oak/hardwood stand composed primarily of red oak and white birch. The stand is fully stocked and has a mean stand diameter of 15.5 inches. Approximately 60% of the basal area is acceptable growing stock. Portions of the stand were apparently thinned 40+ years ago, but the majority of the area has apparently not been managed.

Stand 4 is a 9 acre pine/hardwood stand located on an abandoned agricultural site. It is composed primarily of mature poor quality white pine, cherry and red maple with some large Norway spruce. Soils on the northern edge of the stand are poorly drained and will not be harvested.

Stand 5 is a 6 acre, 90 year old Norway spruce stand. Stand density is less than the typical unmanaged plantation and for that reason diameters are larger than typical.

Stand 6 is a 6 acre northern hardwood site.

Aesthetic, Recreation, Environmental and Wildlife Considerations:

Aesthetic: The sale area is bounded on the north and south by recreational trails and on the west by Wilcox Rd. Standard buffers will be retained. Within these buffers, slash will be lopped to within 2 feet of the ground. Although the entire area was intensively managed in the 19th century – cleared for agriculture in Monterey and clearcut for charcoal in Great Barrington- there are no archeological features other than charcoal pits.

Recreation: The Turkey Trail abutting the north side of the sale area is an ATV/snowmobile trail. The trail is severely eroded and will require bulldozing to re-establish water bars. The Ski and Bridal Trail is used primarily by mountain bikers.

Environmental: There do not appear to be any particular sensitive environmental issues associated with this proposal.

Wildlife: There are no Natural Heritage listed animals on the site. The rare plant inventory has not yet been conducted, but there do not appear to be any obvious rare plants. The area is adjacent to a significant wetland composed of beaver pond shrub swamp and marsh totaling 18 acres. A permanent stream flows out of the swamp through the sale area. The area provides habitat for the typical variety of upland forest and beaver pond/wetland related wildlife species. It is not anticipated that the harvest will have a significant impact on wildlife habitat. With the exception of the 5 acre spruce stand, the harvest will not be heavy enough to result in early successional habitat. A no cut buffer will be left along the swamp and 2 or 3 cavity trees per acre will be left along with as many dead trees as can be safely retained.

Sale Layout:

There will be two landings. To the north of the stream, the landing will be a small area used in the previous harvest on Wilcox Road at the intersection with the Turkey Trail and near the stream. To the south of the stream, a landing will be constructed. If possible this will be located 50-100 feet off the road.

The Turkey Trail will be used as a skid road. This trail has eroded a foot or two below the existing water bars and will require significant grading to restore the trail and reduce future erosion. To the south, a new network of trails will be constructed, using existing charcoal trails as much as possible. If necessary a third small landing might be constructed near the Ski and Bridle trail.

Silviculture:

Silviculture will vary by stand.

Stand 1 will have a shelterwood removal cut. Scattered residual sawlog trees will be removed where economically and environmentally practical. All residual unmerchantable trees will be maintained.

Stand 2 will be a shelterwood seed tree harvest concentrating on removing beech and unacceptable growing stock.

Stand 3 will have a commercial thinning to remove white birch and provide growing space for oak crop trees.

Stand 4 will be a shelterwood/seed tree harvest to salvage overmature white pine, cherry and red maple and to reduce the numbers of poor quality trees and to provide for the establishment of a new crop of pine and cherry. Residual trees will be mostly large unmerchantable trees capable of providing seed and or having particular value as wildlife trees. This residual stand will probably be retained into the next rotation and allowed to naturally deteriorate.

Stand 5 will be a shelterwood harvest to remove mature and poor quality non native Norway spruce. Hardwood trees will be retained to provide seed.

Stand 6 will have an improvement cut to remove poor quality and mature hardwoods.

Park Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

Regional Director: _____

Date: _____

District Forester: _____

Date: _____

Attached: Topographic map showing location of Forest Products Sale Area

