

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Bureau of Fire Control and Forestry
Proposed Timber Harvest Summary
Name: Old AT

Region: Western
Recreation District: Berkshire Lower
Forest Management District: Southern Berkshire
State Forest: Beartown
Closest Road: Brace Road

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Stand Description:

This sale will treat a highly variable area which can be considered to be a mosaic of varying species and size classes or a series of small stands. Most stands are not large enough to provide a statistically meaningful cruise and combining all plots into one stand does not accurately describe the majority of the area.

One stand (stand # 18) to be harvested adjoins a 10 acre, 8 year old clearcut. This is a small narrow mature/ poor quality stand which grades into a hemlock swamp. One portion of this stand is composed mostly of mature high value red oak mixed with very large unacceptable growing stock (UGS) red oak. Another part of the stand is a mixture of UGS hardwood, acceptable growing stock (AGS) oak and very large, mostly unmerchantable old field white pine. Portions of this pine area have excellent red oak regeneration.

The following three stands have been combined into stand 16:

1. The main portion of this stand is located on slopes above the hemlock swamp and is a mix of hemlock (both dominant and overtopped), red oak, cherry, red maple of varying size and quality, and beech.
2. A second area is a small stand of dying ash located on the upper elevations.
3. A third area is composed of a mix of mature, mostly poor quality white birch and good quality mid size red oak.

Total acreage is approximately 34 acres.

Silviculture:

The first area will receive a shelterwood harvest which will result in a two staged stand composed of hardwood/white pine seedlings underneath scattered very large white pine and red oak. This overstory will be retained into the next rotation to provide oak mast and to maintain a white pine component of the forest. The objective in this area is to regenerate the mature stand to red oak while maintaining some large trees to provide structural diversity and to provide wildlife habitat into the next rotation.

The second area will also receive a shelterwood harvest. Lower slopes approaching the hemlock swamp will be maintained as a hemlock stand. Ash on the upper slope area will be clearcut and one or two 1/2-1 acre patches will be clearcut in the white birch area. The objective in this stand is to establish a new oak/hardwood stand with a variety of species. Other objectives are to salvage declining ash and beech and to provide a diversity of size classes and stand types.

Aesthetic, Recreation and Wildlife Considerations:

This harvest together with adjoining stands will result in a variety to habit types including hemlock swamp, mature white pine, mature hardwood and temporary patches of early successional hardwoods. Retained mature oak should provide a long term supply of mast. Brace Road, which is an unmaintained town road, is used as a snowmobile trail connecting the Tyringham Valley and Beartown SF. Winter logging would severely hinder this use but it may be possible to locate a short detour around the landing area.

Sale Layout:

Brace Road is unmaintained, wet and in very poor condition. It is virtually unusable as a truck road in its present condition. The condition of the road and the presence of a hemlock swamp complicate access to the harvest area. Skid roads will have to be carefully located. The landing will be on Brace Road near the intersection of Beartown Mountain Road. Landing areas are severely limited in size. A significant amount of gravel will have to be added to Brace Road. One potential, but highly unlikely alternative is to arrange a permit with the abutting property to use an existing landing.

Park Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

Regional Director: _____

Date: _____

District Forester: _____

Date: _____

Attached: Topographic map showing location of Forest Products Sale Area

