

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Water Supply Protection, Office of Watershed Management
Forest Management Project Summary

Project Title: Blackington Road Young Forest Focus Area

DWSP Harvest Permit Number: 3163A
DWSP Proposal ID: NS-19-24 YFFA
DCR Forest Cutting Plan File Number: 204-25744-20

Site Information

Watershed: Quabbin	Town(s): New Salem
Acres: 11.4	Nearest Road: Blackington Road
Natural Heritage Atlas overlap?: yes	Public Drinking Water Supply Watershed?: Yes
Forest Type: mixed oak, white pine-oak, white pine	ACEC?: No
Soils: Windsor loamy sand, Canton fine sandy loam, Deerfield loamy sand, and Newfields fine sandy loam, all of them 3-8% slope.	
Wetland Resources: none	
Vernal Pools: There is a certified vernal pool (CVP) outside the harvest area to the southeast.	

Harvest Information

Harvest Start Date: 9/28/2021	Harvest End Date: 4/27/2022
Number of Wetland Crossings: 0	Number of Stream Crossings: 0

Best Management Practices Applied

Stream Crossings	none
Filter Strips	The required 50' filter strip for the CVP is outside the lot boundaries. An additional 100' shade zone and 200' low ground disturbance zone (maintained by DWSP for all vernal pools) overlap the southeast corner of this harvest.
Wetland Crossings	none
Harvesting in Wetlands	none

DWSP Forester supervising this harvest

Name: Helen Johnson
Forester License #: 383
Phone #: 617-733-2937
Email: Helen.Johnson@mass.gov

NARRATIVE

General Description/Forest Composition/History

Lot 3163A is located just northwest of the intersection of Route 202 and Blackington Road. The northern portion of the lot is dominated by red, black and white oak with poor to fair vigor. White pine becomes increasingly common to the south, transitioning to a nearly pure white pine overstory in the southwest portion of the harvest. Less common species include clumps of red pine, black birch and red maple poles, and an occasional pitch pine. Regeneration is patchy and, where it exists, dominated by white pine. The understory is dominated by blueberry, huckleberry and wintergreen, with some clubmoss and bracken fern and widely scattered small patches of mountain laurel.

Forest health prior to harvest was poor, with large numbers of dead and dying trees. The 2019 spongy moth infestation hit the oaks hard, followed by opportunistic pests like chestnut borer, resulting in heavy mortality in subsequent years. Red pine scale was present prior to marking, and most of the red pine was dead or in severe decline by the time of the harvest. These invasive insects are ubiquitous in the region, and will neither be eliminated nor exacerbated by this harvest.

Site Selection

This harvest is in one of the Young Forest Focus Areas (YFFAs) designated in the [DWSP 2017 Land Management Plan](#) (pp. 117-123) for the purpose of providing much needed early successional habitat for numerous uncommon and declining wildlife species, including chestnut-sided warbler, prairie warbler, towhee, whip-poor-will, ruffed grouse, and American woodcock. This first entry into the Blackington Road YFFA is being sited in an area with poor forest health and vigor, with plan for future adjacent entries rotating through the YFFA until they return to this starting point.

Silvicultural Objectives

As stated in the 2017 Management Plan,

In order to create conditions favorable for early successional species, forest openings need to be large enough and placed appropriately to provide sufficient habitat to sustain viable animal populations over time. It would be counter-productive to create early successional habitat that was ecologically isolated or undersized. Such a site may actually serve as a sink habitat (when reproduction is insufficient to balance local mortality) causing populations to decline over time.

Accordingly, this harvest is a 11.4 acre clearcut with a very small number of oak reserve trees. Seeds from those oaks and surrounding stands along with hardwood stump sprouts are expected to provide ample regeneration. If regeneration response is deemed inadequate after five years, enrichment planting will be utilized to increase density.

Cultural Resources

There are two pairs of cellar holes with associated wells in or near this lot. One is surrounded by scale-infested red pines in the northern tip of the harvest area. The state archeologist has been consulted about the risk of damage to these cultural features from dead or dying trees breaking or uprooting, and she expressed support for cutting them as a preventative measure.

The other cellar hole-well pairing is outside the project area near Blackington Road, about 300 feet north of the certified vernal pool. The harvest boundary has been drawn to exclude these features in order to protect them.

The timber harvester(s) for this project will be alerted to the need to protect these cultural features, and to promptly report any others that may be found in the course of the harvest.

Rare or Endangered Species

The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has determined that state-listed sensitive species or habitats may exist within the harvest area. To protect them from unnecessary disturbance, detailed information regarding affected species and their locations is not included here. DWSP has coordinated with NHESP to gather recommendations to protect these species during the harvest. NHESP has reviewed the Forest Cutting Plan for this lot and determined that

“Based on details in the Plan and information in our database, the Division [DFW] does not expect activities proposed in the Plan to negatively impact Estimated Habitat or result in Take (as defined in 321 CMR 10.02) of plant or animal species protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act and its implementing regulations (321 CMR 10.00).”

NHESP has further indicated that the particular protected species in this area make use of early successional habitat and are expected to benefit from this harvest.

Figure 1: Forest Cutting Plan

02-27-20P03:07 RCVD

Forest Cutting Plan

and Notice of Intent under M.G.L.
Chapter 132 – The Forest Cutting
Practices Act, 304 CMR 11.00
(Effective Date: 1/1/04)

For DCR Use Only:

File Number 204-25744-20 Case No. —
Date Rec'd 2-27-20 Nat. Hert. YES /
Earliest Start 3-13-20 Nat. Hert. Imp. NO
River Basin Millers Pub. Dr. Wat. NO
Gen. Obj. LT ACEC NO

Site Information

Location

Town New Salem **Quabbin Lot 3163**
Road Blackington Road & Route 122
Acres 11.4 Proposed Start Date March 25, 2020
Vol. MBF 51.9 Vol. Cds. 92 Vol. Tons 78

Plan Preparer

Name Helen Johnson, Watershed Forester
Address DCR-DWSP Quabbin Section
485 Ware Road
Town, State, Zip Belchertown, MA 01007
Phone 617-733-2937
Type of Preparer Mass. Licensed Forester
*Mass. Forester License # 383
*Required for land under Ch61, Ch61A or Forest Stewardship

Landowner

Name DCR-DWSP, Quabbin Section
Mailing Address Forestry Program
485 Ware Road
Town, State, Zip Belchertown, MA 01007
Phone 617-733-2937
Ch61 ☐ 61A ☐ 61B ☐ Stew ☐ *Case #
CR ☐ CR Holder

Licensed Timber Harvester**

Name TBD
Address
Town, State, Zip
Phone
Mass. Lic. Harvester #
**This information may be supplied after the plan is approved, but before work begins.

Best Management Practices

Stream Crossings No Crossings

Indicate location on map	SC-1	SC-2	SC-3	SC-4
Type of Crossing				
Existing Structure				
Type of Bottom				
Bank Height (ft)				
Stabilization				

Wetland Crossings No Crossings

Indicate location on map	WC-1	WC-2	WC-3	WC-4
Length of Crossing				
Mitigation				
Stabilization				

Filter Strips

	CVP			
Indicate location on map	FS-1	FS-2	FS-3	FS-4
Width (50', 100', or VA)	50			

Harvesting in Wetlands None

Indicate location on map	HW-1	HW-2	HW-3	HW-4
Forest Type (see pg 2)				
Acres to be Harvested				
Resid. Basal Area (>50%)				

Service Forester Comments

X Heritage Letter Attached - No Impact DR

Codes

Type of Preparer	Type of Crossing	Stabilization	Mitigation	Type of Bottom	Note:
LF Mass. Lic. For.	CU Culvert	SE Seed	FR Frozen	LE Ledge	Applicant must provide DCR with all relevant information before plan may be approved and cutting may begin.
TH Lic. Tim. Har	BR Bridge	MU Mulch	DR Dry	ST Stony	Some forestry activities, such as prescribed burning and pesticide or fertilizer application may require additional permits.
TB Timber Buyer	FO Ford	CO Corduroy	OT Other	MU Mud	Consult MA Forestry BMP Manual for further information.
LO Landowner	PO Poled	ST Stone		GR Gravel	
OT Other	OT Other	HB Hay Bales		OT Other	

If Other (OT) is used in any category an explanation must be given on an attached narrative page

pg 3 of 5

Products to be Harvested*

Species	Mbf/Cds		Mbf/Cds
White Pine	38.3	Red Maple	0.9
Red Pine	4.2	Sugar Maple	
Pitch Pine		Red Oak	1.0
Hemlock	0.8	Black Oak	5.5
Spruce		White Oak	1.2
Other Sftwd.		Other Hdwd.	
White Ash		Total Mbf	51.9
Beech		Cordwood (Cds)	92
White Birch		SW Pulp (Tons)	78
B & Y Birch		HW Pulp (Tons)	
Black Cherry		Chips (Tons)	

*Note: Volumes and values indicated in the Plan are as reported by the plan preparer and have not been independently verified by the service forester upon approval. Mbf = thousand board feet.

Cutting Standards

Indicate location on map	ST-1	ST-2	ST-3	ST-4
Forest Type	OM	WO	WP	
Acres	4.5	5.8	1.1	
Landowner Objective	LT	LT	LT	
Designation of Trees	CT	CT	CT	
Type of Cut	CC	CC	CC	
Source of Regeneration	AD/SE	AD/SE	AD/SE	

Landowner Signature

The most important information on a cutting plan is the Landowner's objective, as this will determine which trees will be harvested and which will remain; **this decision will also determine the future condition of the forest for decades to come.** After having read the Massachusetts Forest Cutting Plan Information Sheet on page one, indicate your objective by checking the appropriate box below.

☒ **LT - Long-term Forest Management**

Planned management of the forest to achieve one or more of the following objectives: produce immediate and maximize long-term income, enhance wildlife habitat, improve recreational opportunities, protect soil and water quality, or produce forest specialty products.

☐ **ST - Short-term Harvest**

Harvest of trees with the main intention of producing short-term income with minimal consideration given to improving the future forest condition, which often results in a forest dominated by poor quality and low value species.

I (we) have read the Massachusetts Cutting Plan Information Sheet, and am aware of my (our) management options.

I (we) hereby certify that I (we) have the legal authority to carry out the operation described above.

I (we) certify that I (we) have notified the Conservation Commission in the town in which the operation is to take place and the abutters of record within two hundred feet of the area to be harvested.

I (we) understand that the volumes and values (Ch61 only) in this plan have not been independently verified by the service forester upon approval and will report final values and volumes to the Director or his/her agent if the final figures differ from those reported.



Signature of landowner(s)

2-26-2020

Date

Determination and Status

Approved	Disapproved	Expires
Cutting Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2-27-22
		3-12-20
Signature of Service Forester/Director's Agent		Date

Extension	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Expires	Ser. For. Ints.
Amendment	App 1 <input type="checkbox"/>	Dis 1 <input type="checkbox"/>	App 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Dis 2 <input type="checkbox"/>

Final Report and Comments

I hereby certify that the afore described Forest Cutting Plan and all relevant statutes have been substantially complied with.

Signature of Service Forester/Director's Agent

Date

Forest Types				Designation of Trees	Type of Cut	Intermediate Harvester:	Source of Regeneration
WP White Pine	HK Hemlock	OM Mixed Oak	CT Cut Tree	SH Shelterwood	CT Commercial Thin	AD Advanced	SE Natural Seed
WK WP/Hem	HH Hem/Hdwd	RM Red Maple	LT Leave Tree	ST Seed Tree	NT Non Com Thin	PL Plant	CO Coppice
WH WP/Hdwd	BC Blck Cherry	BE Beech	SB Stand Boundary	CC Clear Cut	SE Selection	HG Highgrade*	DS Direct Seed
WO WP/Oak	BB Bee/Bir/Map	SF Spruce/Fir	OT Other	SE Selection	SA Salvage	DL Diameter Limit*	OT Other
RP Red Pine	OH Oak/Hdwd	SM Sugar Maple	Landowner Objective	SN Sanitation	OT Other*		
SR Red Spruce	OR N Red Oak	PP Pitch Pine	LT Long-term Mgt.				
			ST Short-term Har.				

*If Other (OT) or a non-standard system is used an explanation must be given on attached narrative page

pg 4 of 5

Forest Cutting Plan

Narrative Page (Effective Date: 1/1/04)

Use this page to provide further explanation or if Other (OT) was used in any category on pages 3 or 4.

Landowner DCR-DWSP Quabbin

Town New Salem

File Number _____

BMPs

Use this Section to provide further explanation or if Other (OT) was used in any category in the Best Management Practices Section on Page 3.

FS-1 is for a certified vernal pool that is outside the lot boundary. DWSP exceeds Forest Cutting Practices Act requirements for vernal pools by

maintaining a 100' shade zone, and a 200' low ground disturbance zone ("Streamside Management Zone" flagging) within which ruts will be graded

to <6". This will be done daily if the harvest takes place during the breeding season, and as needed at other times of the year.

The harvest boundary is indicated by "Timber Harvest Boundary" flagging and/or three blue dots. Double orange dots indicate the boundary of

the Early Successional Habitat (ESH) area (see below for more information).

Designation of Trees

Use this Section to describe the types of trees to be harvested and/or retained if Other (OT) was used for "Designation of Trees" in the Stand Treatment Section on page 4.

Stand No.	Species to be Cut	Size of Trees to be Cut	Quality of Trees to be Cut	% BA/Acre Removed
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Regeneration & Future Condition

Use this Section to describe how Chapter 132 requirements will be met if a non standard system (HG, DL, or OT) was used for the "Type of Cut" in the Cutting Standards Section on page 4.

Stand No.	Source of Regeneration (ex. AD, SE)	How will Regeneration be obtained/protected? If using AD - Describe the species present and how the regeneration will be protected If using SE - Describe the source of the seed and the number of seed trees/acre
ALL	AD	Hardwood seedlings, saplings and poles will be cut and are expected to sprout.
ALL	SE	Mature, vigorous oaks & other hardwoods have been retained around the periphery of the lot to encourage hardwood regeneration. White pine is expected to seed in from surrounding stands.

Stand No. **Desired Future Condition**
Describe what the stand is expected to look like five years from the harvest, including the condition of the overstory & understory

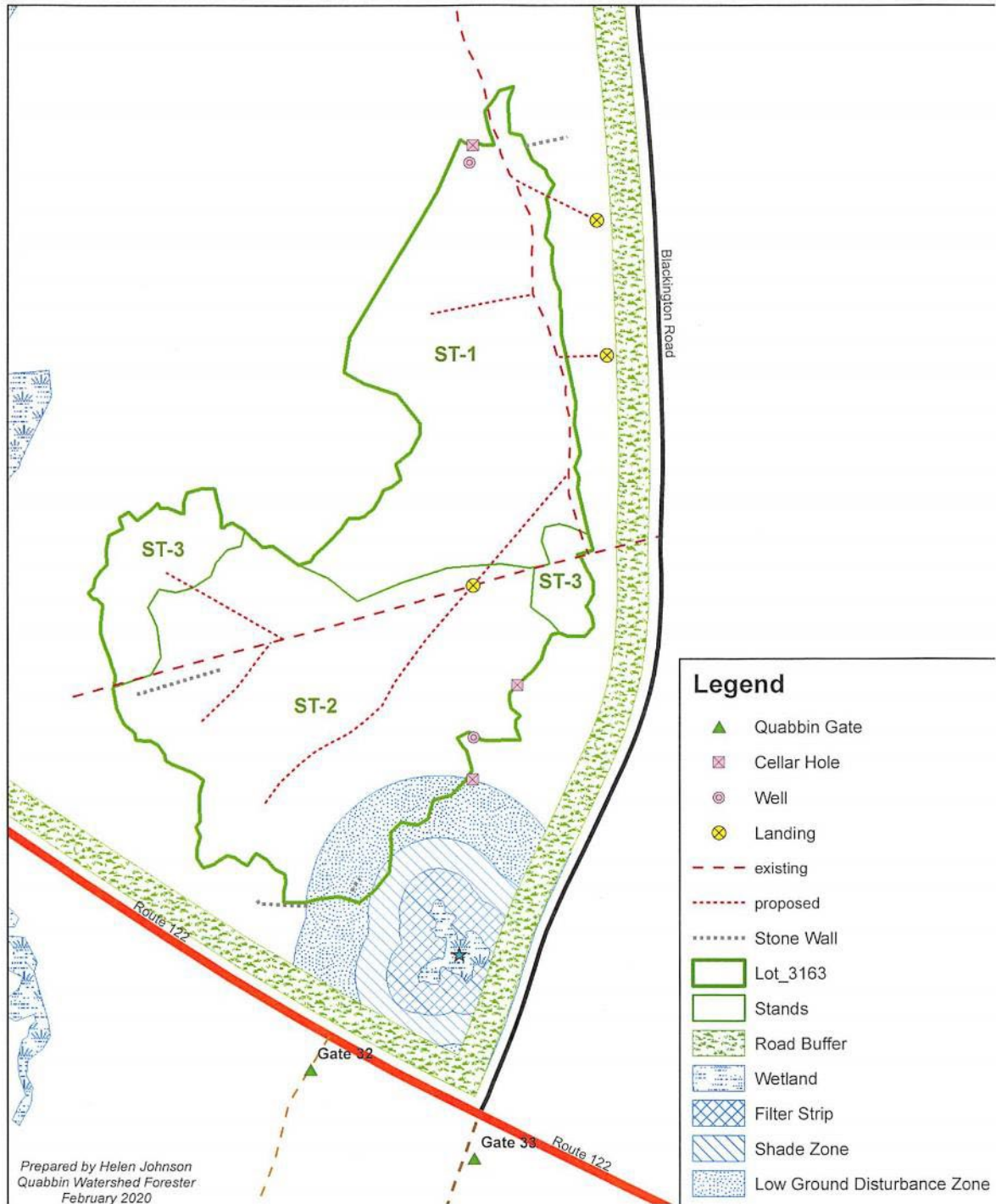
ALL	The purpose of this harvest is to create early successional wildlife habitat (ESH), as described in the DCR-DWSP 2017 Land Management Plan, pp.117-123. As noted in the LMP, "Blocks of this habitat type need to be relatively large (at least 10 acres) in order to support breeding populations of early successional wildlife species (Schlosberg and King, 2007)." In addition, "This type of silviculture provides the opportunity to regenerate important shade intolerant species such as aspen, cherry, and gray and paper birch." Further, "It would be counter-productive to create early successional habitat that was ecologically isolated or undersized. Such a site may actually serve as a sink habitat (when reproduction is insufficient to balance local mortality) causing populations to decline over time." Consequently, all trees of all sizes (including seedlings & saplings) will be cut unless flagged for retention.
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Quabbin Lot 3163 Stand Map

New Salem, MA

1 inch = 200 feet

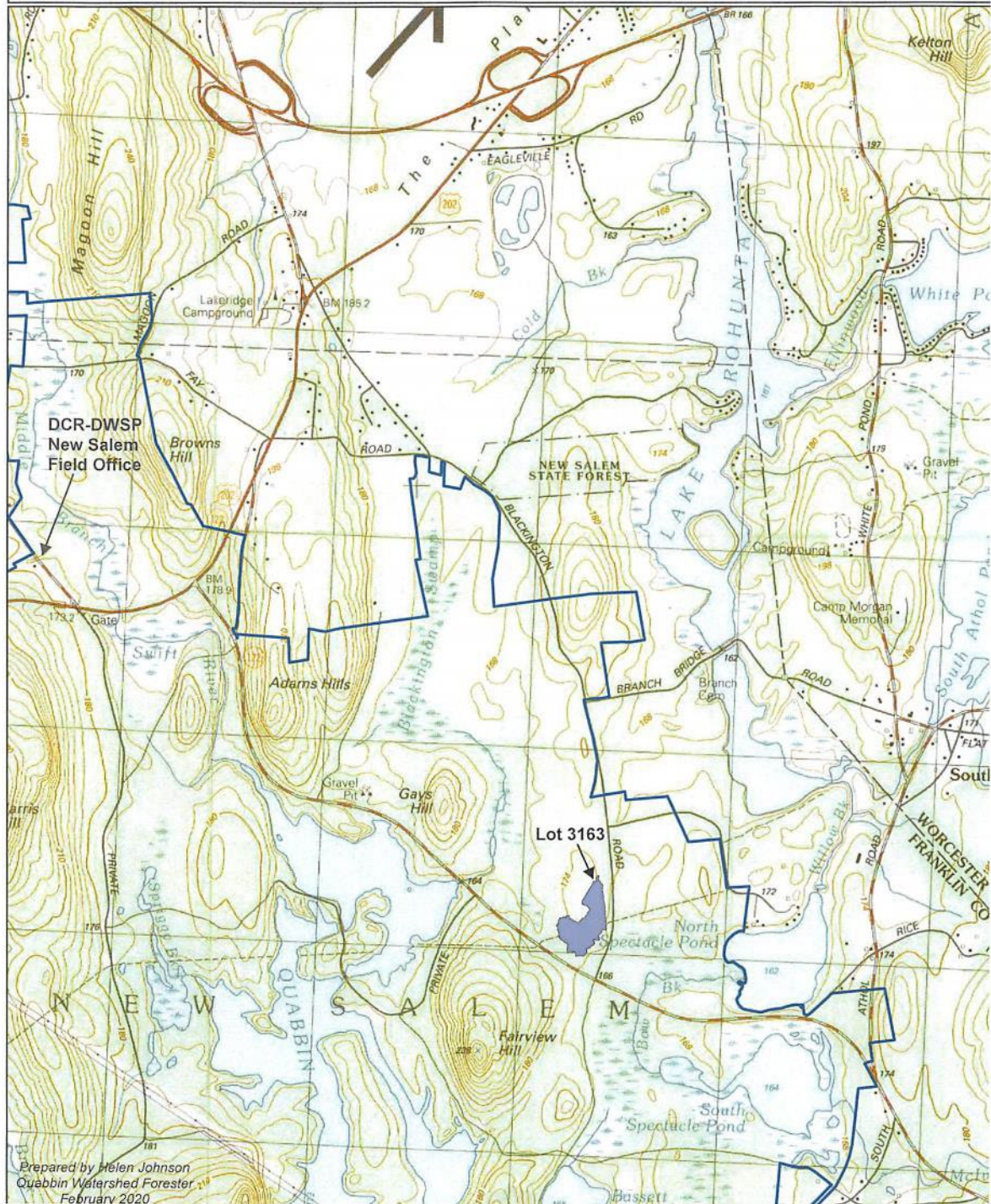




Quabbin Lot 3163 Locus Map

New Salem, MA

1 inch = 2,000 feet



Prepared by Helen Johnson
Quabbin Watershed Forester
February 2020



**DIVISION OF
FISHERIES & WILDLIFE**

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581
p: (508) 389-6300 | f: (508) 389-7890
MASS.GOV/MASSWILDLIFE

Andrew Rawcliffe
40 Cold Storage Drive
P.O. Box 484
Amherst, MA 01004

Cutting Plan No.	204-25744-20
NHESP Tracking No.	20-39222
Town	New Salem
Road	Blackington & Rt 122
Landowner	DCR-DWSP Quabbin
Preparer	Helen Johnson
Date	March 4, 2020

Dear Andrew,

The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife ("the Division") has reviewed the above-referenced Forest Cutting Plan ("the Plan") pursuant to the special approval procedures of the Forest Cutting Practices Regulations (304 CMR 11.04(6)). Based on details of the Plan and information in our database, the Division does not expect activities proposed in the Plan to negatively impact Estimated Habitat or result in **Take** (as defined in 321 CMR 10.02) of plant or animal species protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) (M.G.L. c. 131A) and its implementing regulations (321 CMR 10.00). Therefore, the Division does not require that the Plan be modified at this time.

Please copy the Division on any proposed amendment, extension and on the approved Plan for the site. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Rebekah Zimmerer at (508) 389-6354 or Rebekah.zimmerer@mass.gov.

Sincerely,

Everose Schlüter, Ph.D.
Assistant Director

Cc: New Salem Conservation Commission

MASSWILDLIFE

dcf



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of State Parks and Recreation

FILE #

204-25744-20

W

FOREST CUTTING PLAN CERTIFICATE

Post this in a conspicuous place within the area in which the harvesting operation is to take place.

This certifies that DCR-DWSP 485 Ware Rd, Belcher town, MA in accordance with the
(Name of Owner) (Address) 01007

provision of M.G.L. Chapter 132, Section 40-46, filed in Amherst F.O. with the Dept. of Conservation
and Recreation, Division of State Parks and Recreation, a Notice of Intent to cut forest products upon the
Quabbin 3163 lot.

Approval Date

3/12/2020

Director's Agent

Andrew Rawcliffe

DCR Phone No.

617-549-1677

ISSUED BY:

Priscilla E. Geigis, Director
Division of State Parks and Recreation