

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

**Project Title:**

<b>DWSP Harvest Permit Number: 5280</b>
<b>DCR Forest Cutting Plan File Number: 282-9797-19</b>

**Site Information**

<b>Watershed: Wachusett</b>	<b>Town(s): Sterling</b>
<b>Acres: 30</b>	<b>Nearest Road: Griffen Road</b>
<b>Natural Heritage Atlas overlap?: Yes</b>	<b>Public Drinking Water Supply Watershed?: Yes</b>
<b>Forest Types: Mixed oak, oak hardwood</b>	<b>ACEC?: No</b>
<b>Soils: The excessively drained soil is the Hinckley sandy loam making up 26%. The well drained thick soil is the Paxton fine sandy loam, very stony making up the other 74%.</b>	
<b>Wetland Resources: None</b>	
<b>Vernal Pools: None known</b>	

**Harvest Information**

<b>DWSP Permit Start Date: 3/27/19</b>	<b>DWSP Permit End Date: 6/30/21</b>
<b>Number of Wetland Crossings: 0</b>	<b>Number of Stream Crossings: 0</b>

**Best Management Practices Applied**

<b>Stream Crossings</b>	None
<b>Filter Strips</b>	No harvesting is planned.
<b>Wetland Crossings</b>	None
<b>Harvesting in Wetlands</b>	No harvesting in wetlands will occur.

<b>DWSP Forester supervising this harvest</b>
<b>Name: Russ Wilmot</b>
<b>Forester License #: 426</b>
<b>Phone #: 774-261-1840</b>

## **NARRATIVES**

### **General Description/Forest Composition/History:**

The overstory is a fairly standard dry-site mix of black, red and white oaks along with white pine and the occasional hickory and red maple. There is more white pine in the lower elevations, especially in the southwestern quadrant of this area. A fire several decades ago, probably caused by a fisherman on the Stillwater Basin shoreline, spread most of the way up this west-facing slope. There are many trees with fire-scars that persist to the present day. There is decent advance regeneration especially in the southern half of the area. The regeneration is comprised of white pine, red oak, white oak, black oak, red maple, hickory and eastern hophornbeam. The understory also has native shrubs such as maple-leaved viburnum (showing signs of deer browse), huckleberry, lowbush blueberry and mountain laurel. There is also witch-hazel at lower elevations. The mountain laurel is scattered in much of the area but reaches interfering levels in the northwest quadrant from about mid-slope down to the bottom of the hill as the Stillwater Basin.

### **Site Selection:**

The ideal watershed protection forest is one which best serves the function of the land as a producer of high-quality drinking water in both short- and long-term. This forest must be vigorous and diverse in tree species and ages, be actively accumulating biomass and actively regenerating. Such a forest will be ideally suited to be resilient to and quickly recover from small- and large-scale disturbances such as diseases, insect infestations, ice storms and hurricanes.

### **Silvicultural Objectives:**

The goal will be to establish a new age class on 1/3rd (10 acres) of this working unit by the removal of the overstory in patches. These will be as well distributed throughout the area as possible taking advantage of the advance regeneration. Some thinning may occur between the openings primarily aimed at removing the trees of poorest health. These are likely to be some of the badly fire-scarred trees.

### **Cultural Resources:**

None known.

### **Wildlife/Rare or Endangered Species:**

NHESP has determined that certain state-listed sensitive species or habitats may exist within the lot proposal area. To protect them from unnecessary disturbance, detailed information regarding affected species and their locations is not included in this report. DWSP will coordinate with NHESP and follow recommendations to protect these species during the proposed activity.

## **FIGURES**

**Figure 1. Forest Cutting Plan**

**Figure 2. Map of harvest area showing approximate boundary, proposed openings and other features**

**Figure 3. General locus map showing the location of the proposed timber harvest**

**Figure 4. Pre-Harvest Photographs, A-C**

**Figure 5. Post-Harvest Photographs, A-B**

Figure 1. Forest Cutting Plan

# 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)

MAR 05 2019

## For DCR Use Only:

File Number 282-9797-19 Case No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Rec'd 3-5-19 Nat. Hert. YES /  
Earliest Start 3-30-19 Nat. Hert. Imp. YES  
River Basin NASHUA Pub. Dr. Wat. WACHUSETT  
Gen. Obj. LT ACEC NO

Site Information

## Location

Town Sterling Lot 5280  
Road Prescott Street/Bean Road  
Acres 30 Proposed Start Date 03/12/19  
Vol. MBF 13.2 Vol. Cds. 135 Vol. Tons \_\_\_\_\_

## Plan Preparer

Name Russell Wilmot  
Address 180 Beaman St.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Town, State, Zip West Boylston, MA, 01583  
Phone 774-261-1840  
Type of Preparer Mass. Licensed Forester  
\*Mass. Forester License # 426  
\*Required for land under Ch61, Ch61A or Forest Stewardship

## Landowner

Name DCR/DWSP/OWM Wachusett/Sudbury  
Mailing Address 180 Beaman St.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Town, State, Zip West Boylston, MA 01583  
Phone 774-261-1840  
Ch61 ☐ Ch61A ☐ Stew ☐ \*Case # \_\_\_\_\_  
Est. Stumpage Value \_\_\_\_\_

## Licensed Timber Harvester\*\*

Name Will be provided when known  
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

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

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

## Filter Strips

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

## Harvesting in Wetlands

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

\* OPERATION OF motorized vehicles within 300' OF Stillwater Basin => only during NOVEMBER 15 TO MARCH 15.  
\* SEE ATTACHED NHESP LETTER FOR DETAILS

Codes

Type of Preparer	Type of Crossing	Stabilization	Mitigation	Type of Bottom
LF Mass. Lic. For.	CU Culvert	SE Seed	FR Frozen	LE Ledge
TH Lic. Tim. Har	BR Bridge	MU Mulch	DR Dry	ST Stony
TB Timber Buyer	FO Ford	CO Corduroy	OT Other	MU Mud
LO Landowner	PO Poled	ST Stone		GR Gravel
OT Other	OT Other	HB Hay Bales		OT Other
		OT Other		

Note:  
Applicant must provide DCR with all relevant information before plan may be approved and cutting may begin.  
Some forestry activities, such as prescribed burning and pesticide or fertilizer application may require additional permits.  
Consult MA Forestry BMP Manual for further information.

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

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## Products to be Harvested\*

Species	Mbf/Cds		Mbf/Cds
White Pine		Red Maple	
Red Pine		Sugar Maple	
Pitch Pine		Red Oak	3.8
Hemlock		Black Oak	7.9
Spruce		White Oak	1.5
Other Sftwd.		Other Hdwd.	
White Ash		<b>Total Mbf</b>	13.2
Beech		<b>Cordwood (Cds)</b>	135
White Birch		<b>SW Pulp (Tons)</b>	
B & Y Birch		<b>HW Pulp (Tons)</b>	
Black Cherry		<b>Chips (Tons)</b>	

\*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	MO	OH	WO	RO
Acres	15	6	5	4
Landowner Objective	LT	LT	LT	LT
Designation of Trees	CT	CT	CT	CT
Type of Cut	SH	SH	SH	SH
Source of Regeneration	AD/SE	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)

Date

## Determination and Status

282-9797-19

## Final Report and Comments

Approved Disapproved Expires

Cutting Plan



3-5-2021

Signature of Service Forester/Director's Agent

Date

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

Extension



Expires

Ser. For. Ints.

Amendment



Forest Types  
WP White Pine  
WK WP/Hem  
WH WP/Hdwd  
WO WP/Oak  
RP Red Pine  
SR Red Spruce

HK Hemlock  
HI Hem/Hdwd  
BC Black Cherry  
BB Bee/Bir/Map  
OH Oak/Hdwd  
OR N Red Oak  
OM Mixed Oak  
RM Red Maple  
BE Beech  
SF Spruce/Fir  
SM Sugar Maple  
PP Pitch Pine

Designation of Trees  
CT Cut Tree  
LT Leave Tree  
SB Stand Boundary  
OT Other  
Landowner Objective  
LT Long-term Mgt.  
ST Short-term Har.

Type of Cut  
SH Shelterwood  
ST Seed Tree  
CC Clear Cut  
SE Selection  
SA Salvage  
SN Sanitation

Intermediate Harvester:  
CT Commercial Thin  
NT Non Com Thin  
**Non-Standard Systems:**  
HG Highgrade\*  
DL Diameter Limit\*  
OT Other\*

Source of Regeneration  
AD Advanced  
SE Natural Seed  
PL Plant  
CO Coppice  
DS Direct Seed  
OT Other

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

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# Forest Cutting Plan

## Narrative Page

Use only if further explanation is required of information on pages one or two or if "other" was used in any category.

Landowner: DCE-DWSP

Town: Sterling

File Number: 282-9797-19

BMPs	<p><u>There are no stream or wetland crossings. The landing will be accessed off of Griffin Rd. There is a 2,500' forest road that leads into the sale. Some gravel will be brought in near Griffin Rd and some small tree cutting to improve access. There is a shore maintenance road along Stillwater basin that forms the western boundary of the sale area and has a filter strip.</u></p>
Silviculture	<p><u>In order to release advance regeneration 5 openings in the overstory are being created, covering 6.6 acres. These openings range from less than a 0.7 acre to 2.2 acres in size with an average of 1.3 acres. They are well distributed throughout the area taking advantage of the advance regeneration comprised of white pine, hickory, oaks, and other hardwoods. No thinning will occur between any of these openings.</u></p> <p><u>There are a couple seeps towards the southern end of the sale where two large oaks are marked for removal in order to enhance the seep habitat. Releasing shrubs, regeneration and encouraging herbaceous vegetation.</u></p>
Objectives	<p><u>The objective of this operation is to diversify the age structure of the forest by removing the overstory in patches thereby releasing the advance regeneration. The current age structure is limited with an insufficient component of young forest.</u></p>
Other	<p><u>The Natural Heritage GIS layer comes into the sale area (Priority Habitat # 1543) on the western edge. One opening will have cutting and hauling in that specific area.</u></p>



Figure 2. Map of harvest area showing approximate boundary, proposed openings and other features

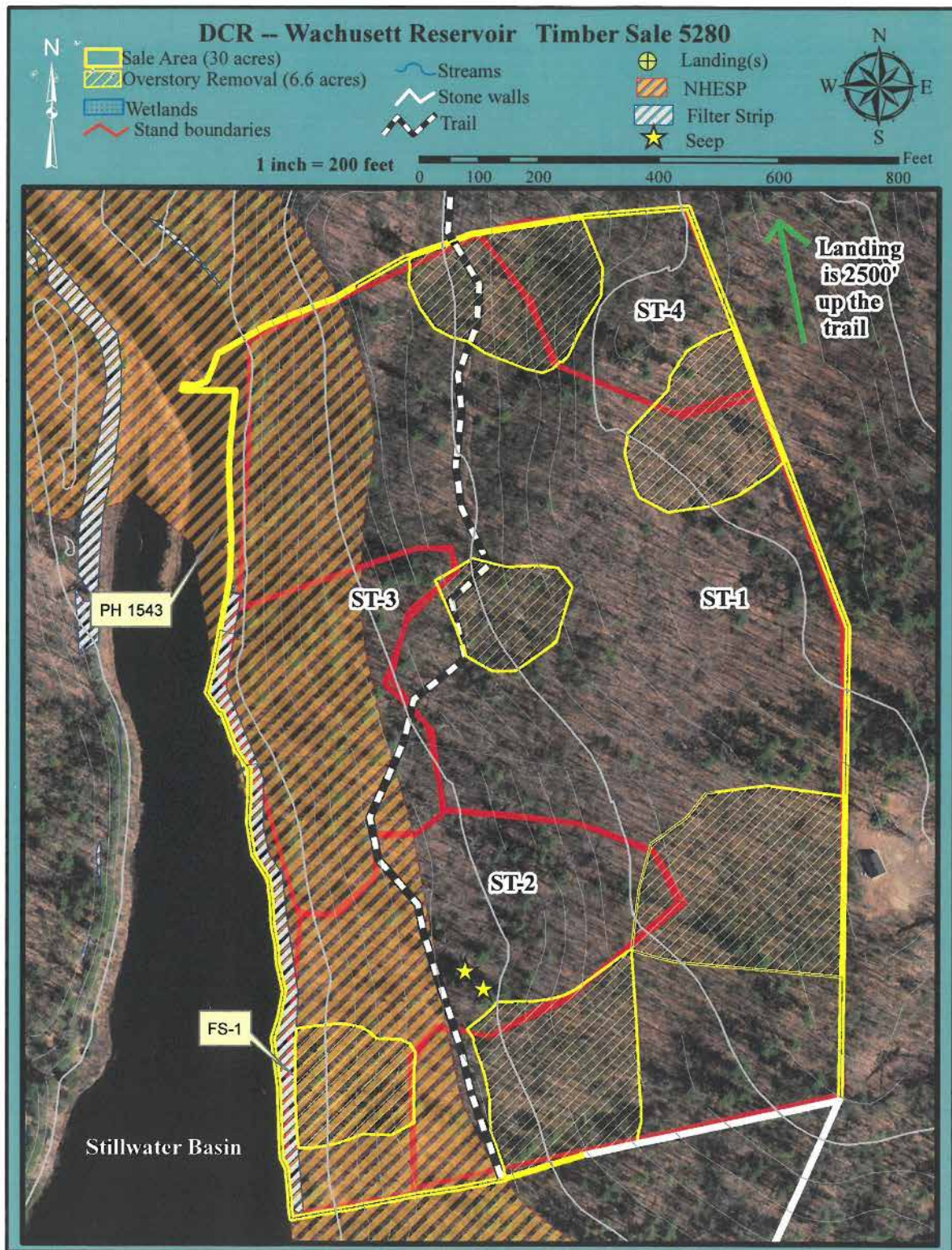
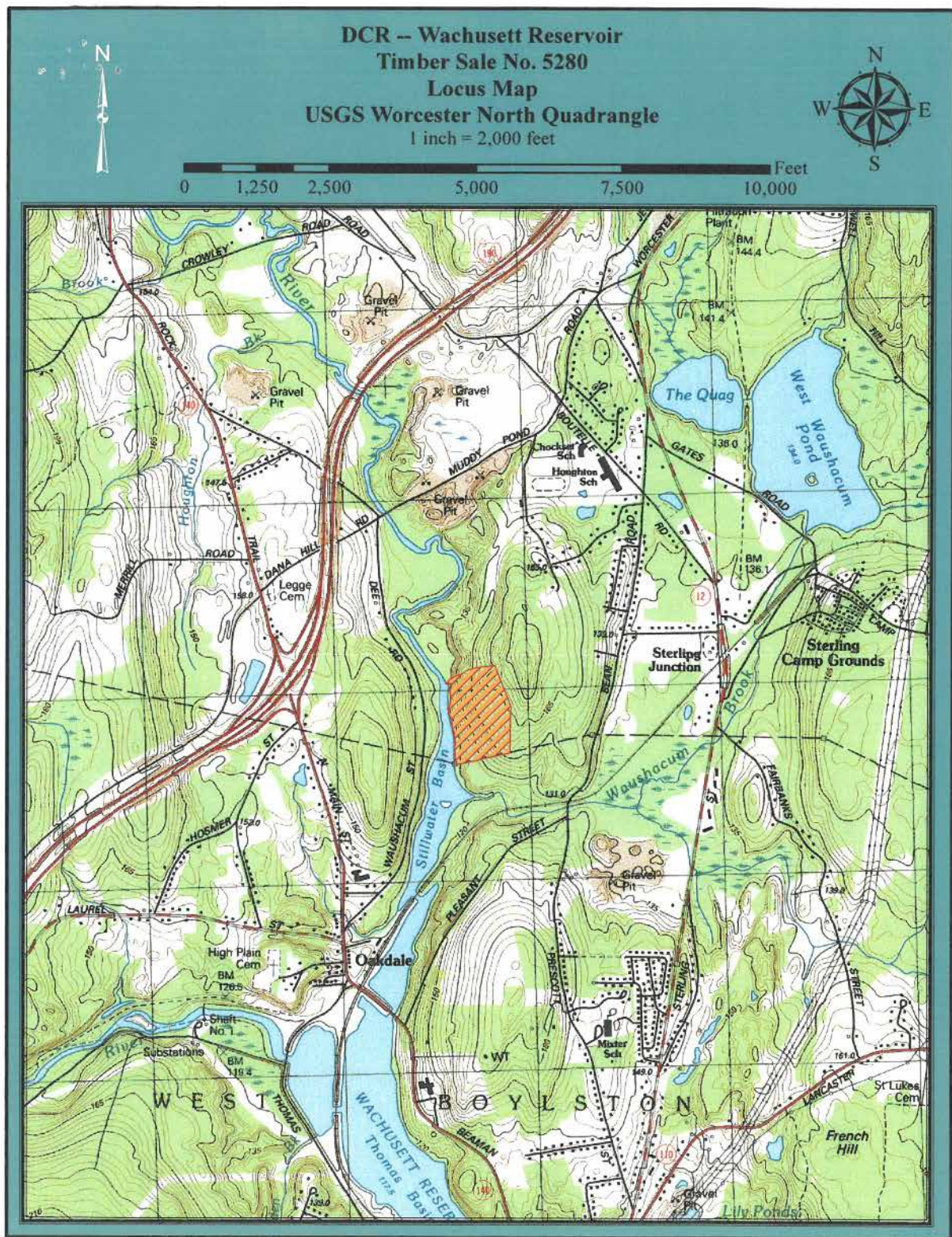




Figure 3. General locus map showing the location of the proposed timber harvest





**Figure 4. Pre-Harvest Photographs, A-C**

**A. Gate S20 Access.**



**B. Landing**





C. Opening with white pine and hardwood regeneration.





**Figure 5. Post-Harvest Photographs, A-B**



A. The larger white pines were retained in this opening in order to provide important structural diversity.



B. These young white pines and hardwoods were released by the removal of most of the older forest overstory.