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

**Project Title:** 

DWSP Harvest Permit Number: 5302
DCR Forest Cutting Plan File Number: 134-34023-23

#### **Site Information**

Watershed: Wachusett	Town(s): Holden
Acres: 40	Nearest Road: Dorothy Ave.
Natural Heritage Atlas overlap?: None	Public Drinking Water Supply Watershed?: Yes
Forest Types: White pine/oak, Mixed oak, White pine	ACEC?: No
Soils: Windsor, Hinckley and Merrimac loamy sands an	d Sudbury fine sandy loam
Wetland Resources: Warren Tannery Brook and its ass	ociated wetlands form the western boundary of this
sale area.	
Vernal Pools: None	

#### **Harvest Information**

DWSP Permit Start Date: 9/6/2022	DWSP Permit End Date: 12/12/2024
Number of Wetland Crossings: None	Number of Stream Crossings: None

#### **Best Management Practices Applied**

Stream Crossings	There are no stream crossings.
Filter Strips	There are no filter strips.
Wetland Crossings	There are no wetland crossings.
Harvesting in Wetlands	There is no harvesting in wetlands.

DWSP Forester supervising this harvest
Name: Greg Buzzell
Forester License #: 025
Phone #: 774-261-1841

### **NARRATIVES**

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

The forest overstory in this area is dominated by red oak, white pine, black oak, white oak and red maple. In the southern part of the area there is some black cherry and hemlock as well. In the northern end there are paper birch mixed into the overstory. Most of this property was logged about 30 years ago prior to DCR acquisition. The result has been the establishment of an excellent understory of regeneration. This regeneration is primarily hardwoods in the southern end made up of red maple, red oak, black cherry, bigtooth aspen and some white pine. There is also quite a lot of shadbush. In the northwestern corner of the area where many of the overstory trees have fire scars from a wildfire several decades in the past, there's significantly more oak in the understory. The central and northeastern parts of this area on the hill, along with having much shorter overstory trees also have a far larger component of white pine in the understory. The shrub layer in this area is made up of mt. laurel and huckleberry. In the lower areas in the south end of this working unit there is highbush blueberry along with the ubiquitous mountain laurel while sheep laurel is present with the mountain laurel in the previously burned northwest corner.

The age structure of this area is as follows; 0%, 0-20 years old; 0%, 21-40 years; 0%, 41-60 years; 13%, 61-80 years; 41%, 81-100 years and 46%, >100 years old. The oldest stands date to about 1900 making them just over 120 years old.

#### 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:

With good advance regeneration present comprised of a diversity of species well suited to this site, the goal is to make openings in the overstory, giving the young trees the space and light they need to continue to thrive. To that end, 10 openings are being made totaling 9.3 acres. These range in size from 0.4 to 1.77 acres. These openings are well distributed throughout the area taking advantage of where the advance regeneration is best. Large trees are being retained in most of these openings that are larger than ½ acre both singly and in small clusters. These trees provide valuable structural diversity to these openings and it is expected that most of these retained trees will be allowed to grow indefinitely into the future.

#### **Cultural Resources:**

This lot was reviewed by the DCR archaeologist and all recommendations will be followed. There is no known cultural significance to this area, either historically or pre-European contact.

#### Wildlife/Rare or Endangered Species:

Stick nests were noted and although they appeared to be inactive, care will be taken to protect any that are found prior to or during the harvest operation.

#### **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-C

# 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)

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For DCR Use Only:

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"H Other (OT) or a new standard system is used an explanation must be given on ultrached narradyo page pg4 of 5

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## **Forest Cutting Plan**

Narrative Page

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

Landowner:	DOR	LOWSP
Town:	Hold	len
File Number:	134-8	34023:23

	There are no stream crossings or wetland crossings planned.
BMPs	
Silviculture	In order to release advance regeneration, 10 openings in the overstory are being created, covering 9.3 acres. These openings range from 0.38 acro to 1.77 acres in size with an average of 0.93 acres. They are well distributed throughout the area taking advantage of the advance regeneration comprised of white pine, taks, and other hardwoods. No cutting will occur between any of these patches.
Object	The objective af this operation is to diversify the age structure of the forest by removing the overstory in paiches thereby releasing the advance regeneration. The current age structure is limited with an insufficient component of young forest.
Other	All haul roads as shown on the map have been flagged.

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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. Looking easterly into a 1.5-acre opening. There is good hardwood and pine regeneration present. Note the white pine in the right foreground which is being retained to provide valuable structural complexity.



B. Looking southwesterly from within a 1.2 acre opening along the west side of a well used walking path.



C. Looking northeasterly from within the 1.77 acre opening in the far north end of the sale area. This is the area where a fire decades ago left many of the overstory trees with fire scars but there is also more oak in the understory.

Figure 5. Post-Harvest Photographs, A-C



A. The landing immediately after the last off the piled wood was removed.



B. The 1.77-acre opening were the fire occurred decades ago. There is good white pine and hardwood regeneration that is now free to grow. There is a white pine and several white oaks that are retained.



C. A good amount of the larger white pine and hardwood saplings were undamaged during the operation. The large white pine in the left of the picture was retained and will provide a long-term source of seed as well as structural diversity of decades to come.