

DCR-BOFF Forest Management Proposal

Project Name: Almost Halfway Forestry Project
Property Name: Granville State Forest
Acres: 40
Forestry District: 3
Forester: Tom Ryan and Jeff Martin

Date Proposed: January 28, 2025
Town(s): Granville
Landscape Designation: Woodlands
Rec Complex/District: Tolland Complex/Lakes District
FOTL/F&P Supervisor: Robert Mason

GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Acres	Overstory Forest Type	Understory Forest Type	Stand Description
10	Overstory: White Pine	Understory: scattered beech, birch, maple, pine	White Pine Plantation was planted in 1930's. Plantation is stagnated and failing due to overcrowding and stress. Windthrow is a risk to town road and trails. The understory has scattered northern hardwood regeneration and pine.
26	Overstory: Norway Spruce	Understory: birch, beech, maple, spruce, pine	Norway Spruce Plantation was planted in 1930's. Stand was thinned in 1998. Plantation is stagnated and failing due to overcrowding and stress from Armillaria root rot. Seedling, sapling and pole size tree regeneration is present, consisting of mixed northern hardwood, pine and spruce.

Project Summary, Goals and Objectives:

Summary: This proposal is designed to treat failing softwood plantations of Norway spruce and white pine that were established in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The plantations are stagnated and failing due to overcrowding and stress from pests and pathogens including armillaria root rot. Care will be taken to address hazard trees near roads and trails. This project aims to continue the successes of previous projects on the state forest.

Goals: A primary goal of this project is to mitigate hazard trees, improve forest resiliency, and improve the biological site complexity and diversity in terms of structure and species composition as directed in the State Wildlife Action Plan and Forests as Climate Solutions Initiative.

Objectives: This project aims to pro-actively manage this site to create a resilient climate adapted forest, build community connections to forest management and foster a collaborative spirit with stakeholders and nearby landowners to support landscape scale restoration efforts. In particular, the forester will attempt to make community connections with harvesting activities to mitigate hazard trees along trails and roads and support the use of locally sourced durable wood products. This project aims to honor the legacy of the CCC and foresight of previous generations to responsibly steward this forest resource.

MASSACHUSETTS FOREST ACTION PLAN GOALS

The goals listed below are sourced from DCR (Department of Conservation and Recreation) Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry. 2020. **MASSACHUSETTS STATE FOREST ACTION PLAN 2020**

- **Increase resistance and resilience of trees and forests to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change**
- **Manage forest ecosystem health and biodiversity**
- **Support and enhance forest economy**
- **Enhance the connection between forests and people**
- **Maintain and enhance soil, water, and air resources**

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- Cultivate and support partnerships with forestry and conservation Stakeholders

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES

The strategies and approaches listed below are sourced from the Response to the Report of the Climate Change Committee, 2024 and the Report of the Climate Forestry Committee: Recommendations for Climate-Oriented Forest Management Guidelines, 2024.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Action Type	Identified Issue	Action Description
Resilience	Monocultures (single species) of non-native Norway spruce and white pine plantations	Transition of forest stands from plantations into native forest stands that will provide for a greater diversity across our landscape in terms of forest structure, wildlife habitat and tree species composition

Adaptive Management Strategies: Primary focus will be on plantations removal. Targeted species include non-native Norway Spruce and off-site white pine. A diverse young forest will be created by replacing the failing plantations with vibrant native hardwood stands that are more resilient to projected future climatic conditions. This young forest will provide for a greater diversity of tree species and age classes across the site and create a more climate resilient and biologically diverse forest structure. Native overstory hardwood tree species within the project will be favored for retention.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

The Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of State Parks and Recreation has determined that the decision to implement this project.

Activities proposed	Carbon and climate change considerations
Full overstory removal, complete stand, plantation conversion to native species. a. Including: Silvicultural clearcut with subsequent regeneration by natural seeding from adjacent forests or assisted seeding/planting. b. Removal of plantation overstory to release advanced regeneration of native species. c. Partial plantation removal (strips, patches) to stimulate regeneration, followed by removal of remainder of plantation.	Long considered a critical practice on agency lands to improve biodiversity and forest resilience, the conversion of single-species conifer plantations to more diverse mixes of native species has also been encouraged as a climate-smart practice by NIACS and other climate adaptation experts. Tree monocultures, intensively managed throughout the world to produce much of the wood we all use, are highly vulnerable to the kinds of pest and disease impacts that are likely to worsen as climate changes. Conversion of monoculture plantations aligns with many climate-smart forestry practices highlighted in the CFC report, including but not limited to: • Improving resistance to pests and pathogens. • Increasing resiliency by promoting diversity of plant species. • Providing age class/structural diversity.

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	- Improving conditions for a wide variety of local wildlife through the creation of temporary young forest habitat. - Promoting future-adapted tree species in the regeneration mix.
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SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES

Acres	Soil Type	Drainage Characteristic
35	905C Peru-Marlow association	3 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony, moderately well drained, fine sandy loam
5	923B Ridgebury-Whitman-Natchaug association	0 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony, poorly drained

Average Slope Percent: 6-10%

General Aspect: Varied

Terrain Consistency: Variable

Terrain Position: Upper Slope

Description of Soils and Topographic Features: This site is dominated by gradual slopes with soils that are moderately well drained and extremely stony. Many of the surface stones were utilized for construction of stone walls from past agricultural land use. Precautions to protect soils may include focusing impacts on strategically placed main skid roads, restrictions on type of equipment, timing of operation, and use of materials for site stabilization in accordance with Massachusetts Forestry Best Management Practices.

WETLAND FEATURES

	Present	Crossing	Work within Filter/Buffer
Wetlands:	Yes	Possible	Possible
Regulated Streams:	Yes	Possible	Possible
Non-Regulated Streams:	Possible	Possible	N/A
Vernal Pools:	No	N/A	N/A
Seeps:	Possible	No	N/A

Description of Wetland Features: MassGIS datalayers show this project is within the Farmington River watershed and gains its namesake for being located on unnamed tributary that feeds into Halfway Brook. Greater details of wetland and other regulated water resources will be mapped and protections detailed during the prescription phase and development of the forest cutting plan in accordance with Massachusetts Forestry Best Management Practices.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Present	At Risk	Work Within Buffer
Stone Walls:	Yes	No	N/A
Foundation / Cellar Hole:	Possible	No	N/A
Well:	Possible	No	N/A
Structures:	No	N/A	N/A
Cemetery:	No	N/A	N/A
Other: N/A	Choose an item.	N/A	N/A

Description of Cultural Resources: Stone walls are known to be present within proposal area. Care will be

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taken with project layout to avoid disturbance of stone walls by harvesting operations.

NATURAL HERITAGE / WILDLIFE-HABITAT MANAGEMENT / OTHER RESOURCES

Natural Heritage Polygon: No

Natural Heritage Restrictions: N/A

Restrictions on Harvest Description: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Wildlife Specific Management: Yes

Targeted Species: Young forest SWAP species including New England Cottontail

Goals: This location is within a New England Cottontail (NEC) focal area and will enhance habitat for this species. Forestry projects in this area on public and private land have been completed in the preceding decades; these historic projects have greatly benefited NEC populations. Many of these young forests have since matured to the point of no longer benefiting NEC and the suite of other young forest dependent species as detailed in the State Wildlife Action Plan. This project will continue to provide young forest habitat that is essential to supporting the many species listed in the State Wildlife Action Plan, including New England Cottontail.

Additional Habitat Management: [Choose an item.](#)

Habitat Type: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Goals: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

State Forest Action Plan: Yes

ACEC: No

BIO Map2: Yes

State Wildlife Action Plan: Yes

Public Water Supply: Yes CT MDC

Current Resource Management Plan: No

Additional Detail: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

FOREST HEALTH / INVASIVE SPECIES

Forest Health Concern: Yes

Species Affected: White Pine and Norway Spruce

Management Considerations: Monitor site for white pine needle cast and Armillaria root rot

Plant Invasive Species Present: Yes

Species Present: Scattered Barberry and bittersweet observed along edge of roads and trails

Management Considerations: Treat invasive plants present to prevent expansion into harvest area.

Insect Invasive Species Present: Possible

Species Present: TBD

Management Considerations: TBD

INFRASTRUCTURE / RECREATION/ AESTHETICS

Access Road: West Hartland Road

Condition: Paved

Existing Landing: Possible

Project Access and Landing Site: Site access will be from West Hartland Road. Coordination will occur with the Town of Granville and DCR park staff to minimize impacts of forestry project. Site access and

Ownership: Town

Road Repair/Upgrade: No

Landing Repair/Upgrade: Possible

This DCR-BOFF Forest Management Project Proposal is intended for public review

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landings will consider the use of a previous landing site within the project area as well as alternative locations in effort to minimize aesthetic, recreational and environmental impacts.

Existing Skid Trail Network: Yes

Pre-Harvest Repair/Upgrade: Possible

Skid Trail Network Description: TBD

Shared Infrastructure: No

Road/Trail Names: N/A

Management Considerations: TBD

Infrastructure Present

Infrastructure	Present	Condition
Official Trail	Yes	Good
Illegal Trail	No	N/A
Existing Trail Head	Yes	Good, small parking area on road pull off of Hartland Road
Recreation Facility	Yes	N/A

Recreation and Aesthetic Concerns/Opportunities: This forestry project will be highly visible from West Hartland Road. Waiver of the 50% roadside aesthetic buffer may be necessary to avoid risk of windthrow into West Hartland Road. Recreational trails are in proximity to project site and include halfway brook trail, bahre pond trail and sattler trail.

SILVICULTURE

Acres	Silviculture Type	Silviculture Description
26	Overstory Removal	Norway Spruce plantation overstory removal with native hardwood reserves.
10	Shelterwood	1st stage shelterwood of roadside white pine plantation with attention to hazard tree removal along town road. 2nd stage overstory removal to occur within 5-10 years after documentation of successful regeneration.

General Comments on Silviculture Proposed: The harvest of the Norway Spruce plantation will target removal of the majority of the overstory trees to release mixed native species of sapling to pole size trees from previous treatments. The white pine plantation will retain healthy wind firm pine. Waiver of 50% retention in roadside buffer will be needed for hazard tree purposes reducing risk of windthrow into West Hartland Road. Coordination with DCR park operations staff and Town of Granville will be necessary.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS / OPPORTUNITIES

Restrictions	Description
Seasonal Restrictions: Possible	TBD
Equipment Restrictions: Possible	TBD
Recreation Restrictions: Possible	Coordination to occur with DCR park operations to minimize impacts on recreation
Green Docket: No	N/A
In-kind Services: Possible	Hazard tree removal along West Hartland Road and trails, improvements to recreational access

Potential Local Economic Benefits: The project will manage this forest resource in a fiscally responsible manner and aims to aid the local community by improving public safety along West Hartland Road and hiking trails through removing hazard trees. This will reduce the cost of hazard tree removal on Town of Granville and DCR and improve access for hunting and wildlife viewing. The project will also make community connections with this forest resource by producing payment from the Forest Products Trust Fund and

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providing work opportunities for MA licensed timber harvesters. This project aims to honor the legacy of the CCC and their foresight for future generations by looking for ways to support local affordable housing efforts when harvesting plantations and when possible, supporting local wood banks.

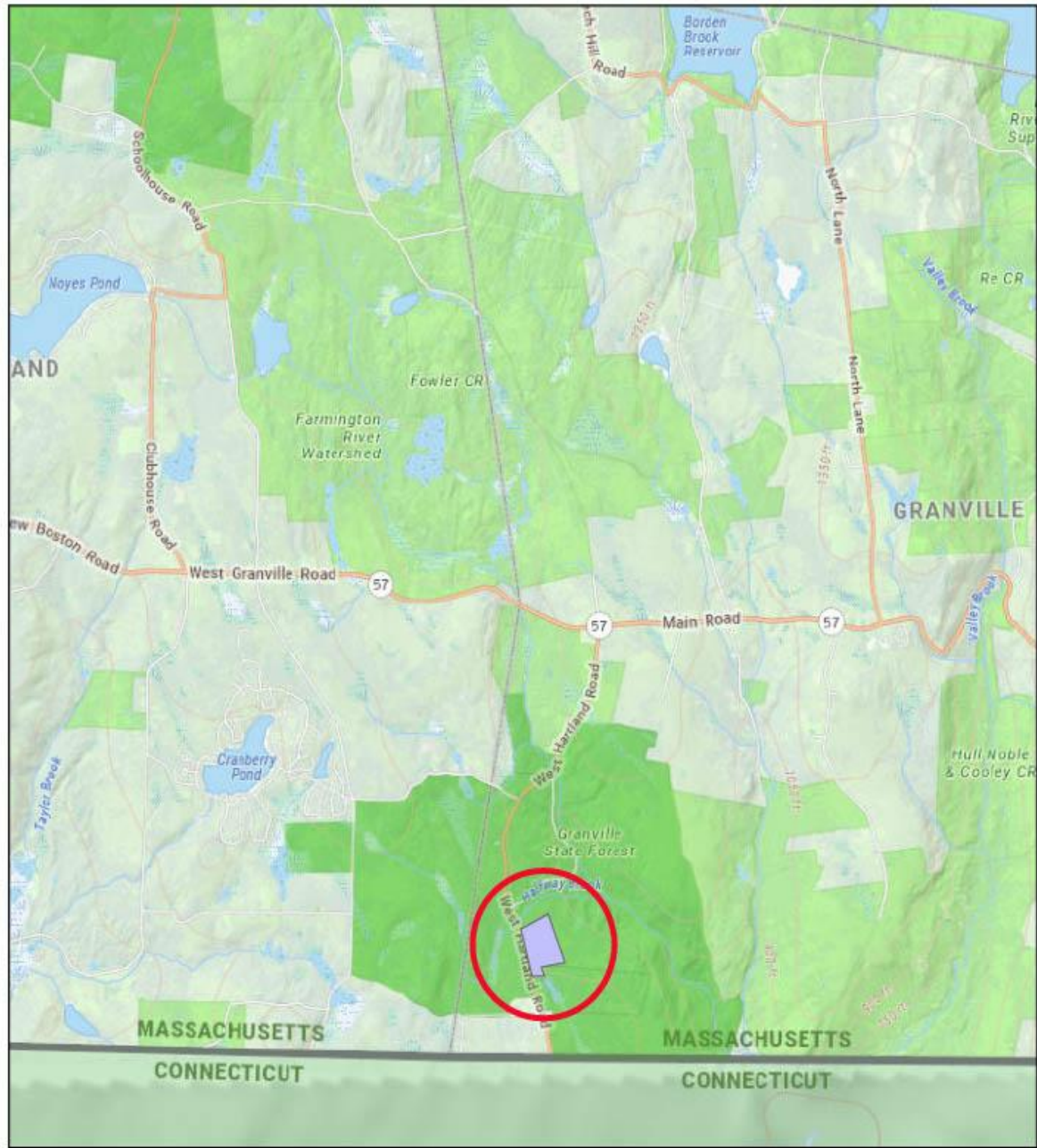
Attachments:

Locus Map

Project Map

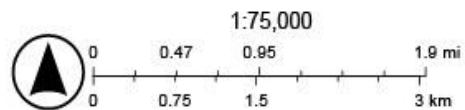
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Locus Map Almost Halfway Forestry Project



2/26/2025

- Proj Area
- Proj Stands

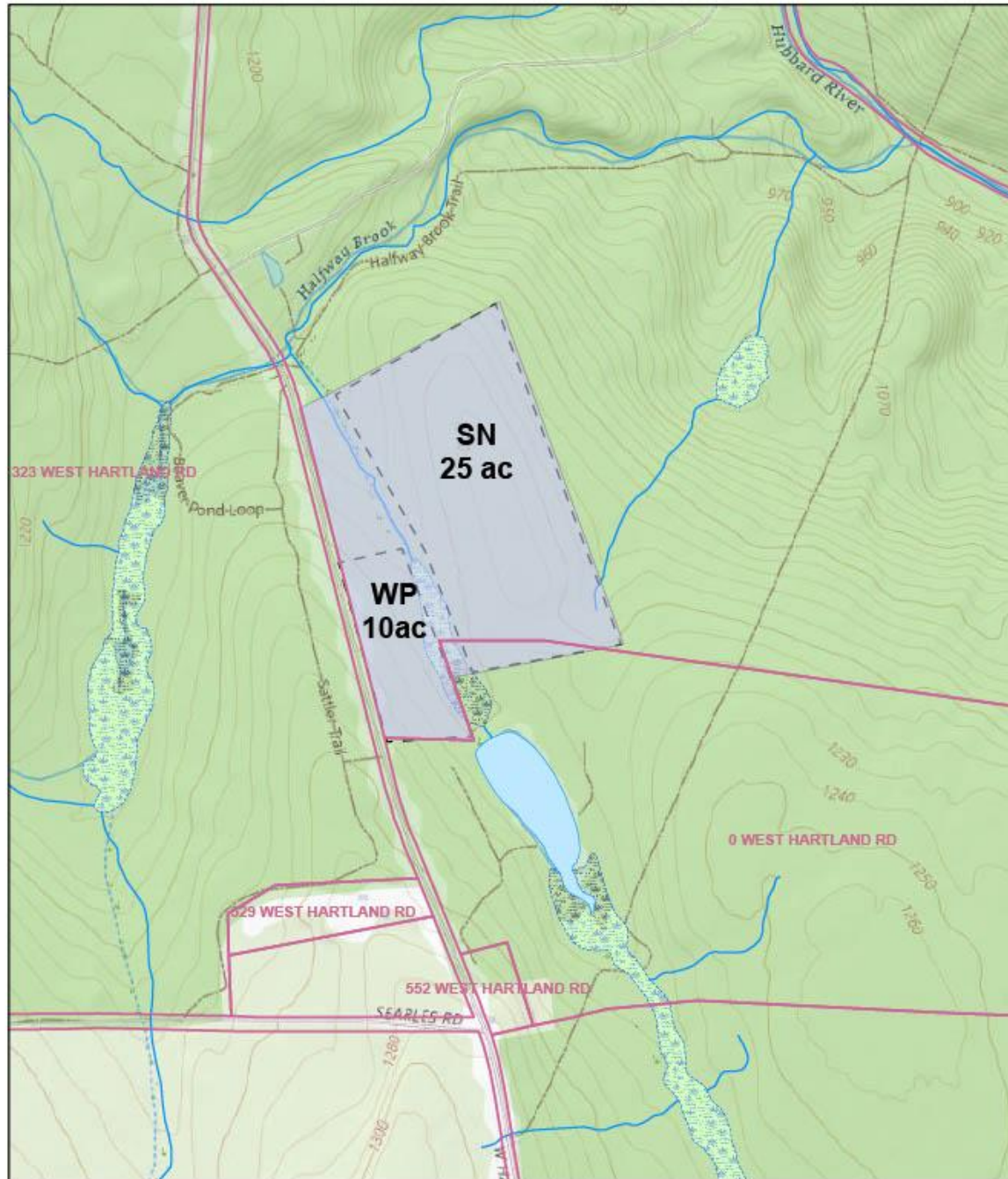


MassGIS

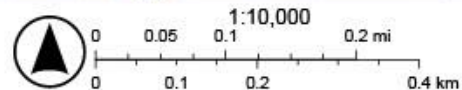
Tom Ryan, SBK MGT MLF #365

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2025 SBK_Mgt_Forestry Almost Halfway Proposal



1/28/2025



USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road data; Natural Earth Data; U.S.