Quabbin Harvest Proposal PE-19-15-02 *****CANCELLED*****

Proposal Update, May 2024:

This forestry proposal was originally approved through the public process in 2018. The project was 'paused' along with most other state lands forestry projects as part of the EEA Forests as Climate Solutions Initiative. Following the close of the work of the Climate Forestry Committee, DWSP determined that this project will not move forward for reasons unrelated to the FACS process. The proposal language and mapping below are preserved unchanged from that presented to the public in 2018 in ArcGIS Online story map format.

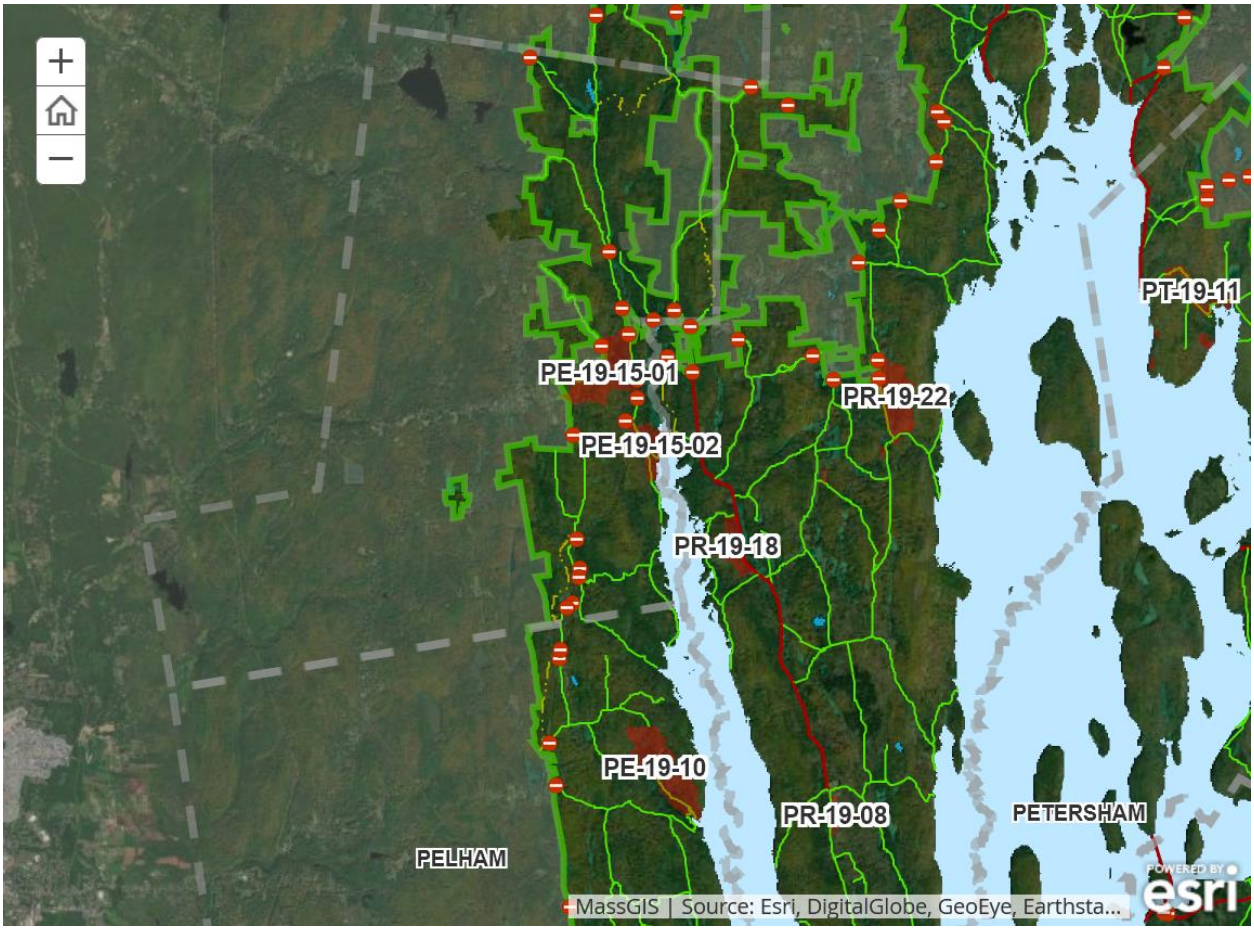
Proposal Goals

This proposal entails forest management work that will be performed as part of a larger water supply protection project. Road work is needed to improve access to the spill control equipment shed for the West Branch of the Swift River necessitating and providing an opportunity for forest management in the area.

Proposal Location

Located inside DCR gate 16A along Enfield Rd. the proposal is focused around the spill control shed road, with some area further north and south along the Enfield road.

Total Acres: 84



General Description

	Overstory Type(s)	Acres
Dominant	White pine/hardwood	56
Secondary	White pine	27

	Understory Type(s)
Dominant	Tree seedlings/saplings dominate site

Description of forest composition/condition:

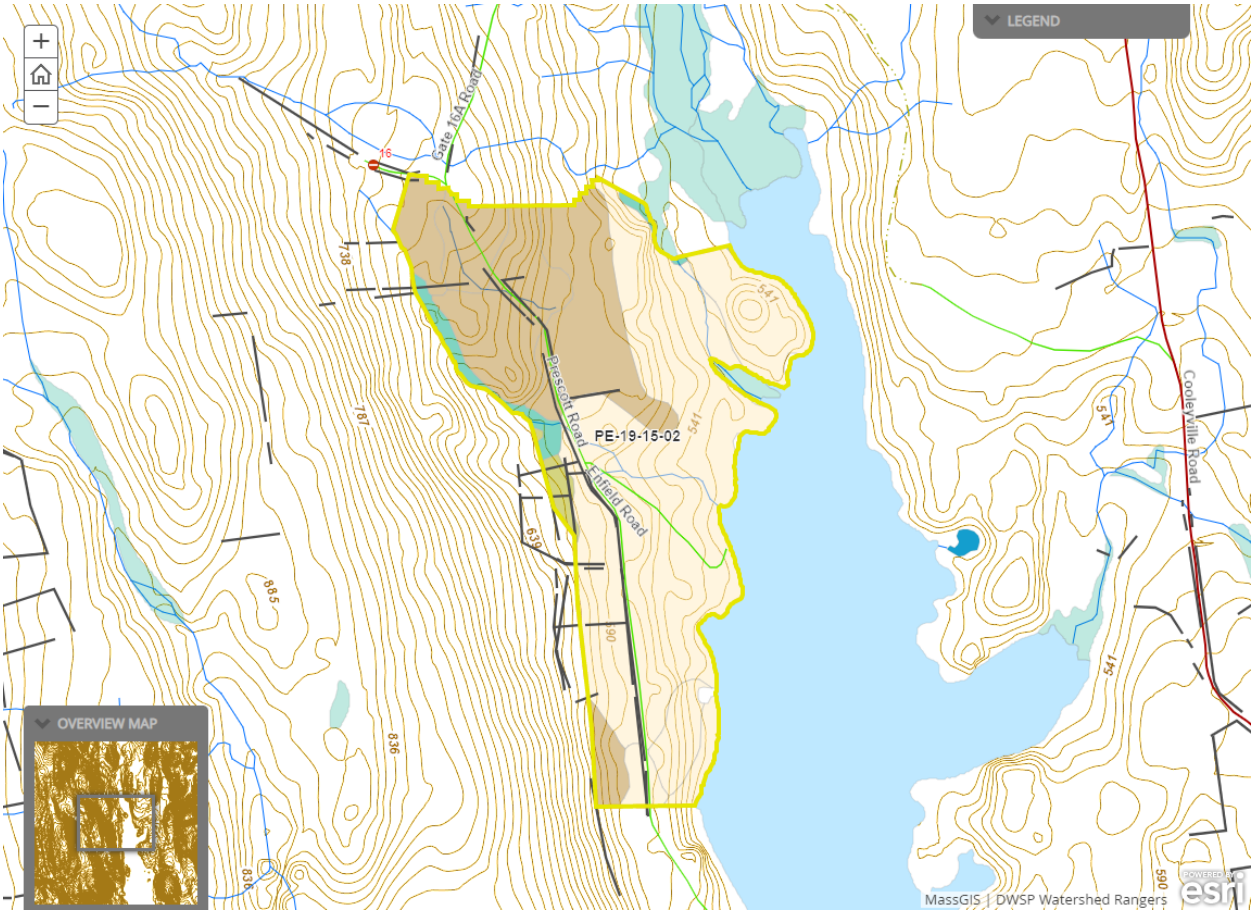
The proposed lot was recently treated in 2009 with small group openings up to 0.5 acre (lot 2035), leading the white pine/hardwood cover to be more of a mixed hardwood stand. Scattered throughout is remnant white pine of varying quality and susceptibility to wind disturbance. There is also an approximately 4 acre patch of pole sized white pine regeneration near the proposed landing that has scattered weevil damage and has reached stem exclusion. Between the 'Y' formed by Enfield and Prescott Rds., there is some scattered remnant red pine left (remaining from harvest with lot 2035) mixed with mature white pine and scattered hardwood. Overstory hardwoods include red maple, red oak, and black birch, with some white oak, paper birch, and roadside sugar maple. On the western shore of the reservoir the cover transitions to a white pine to white pine/hemlock stand.

Soils

Drainage Class	%

Excessively Drained	63
Well Drained Thin	0
Well Drained Thick	33
Moderately Well Drained	1
Poorly to Very Poorly Drained	3

Soils are primarily Hinckley sandy loam, and Canton or Chatfield canton complex loams.

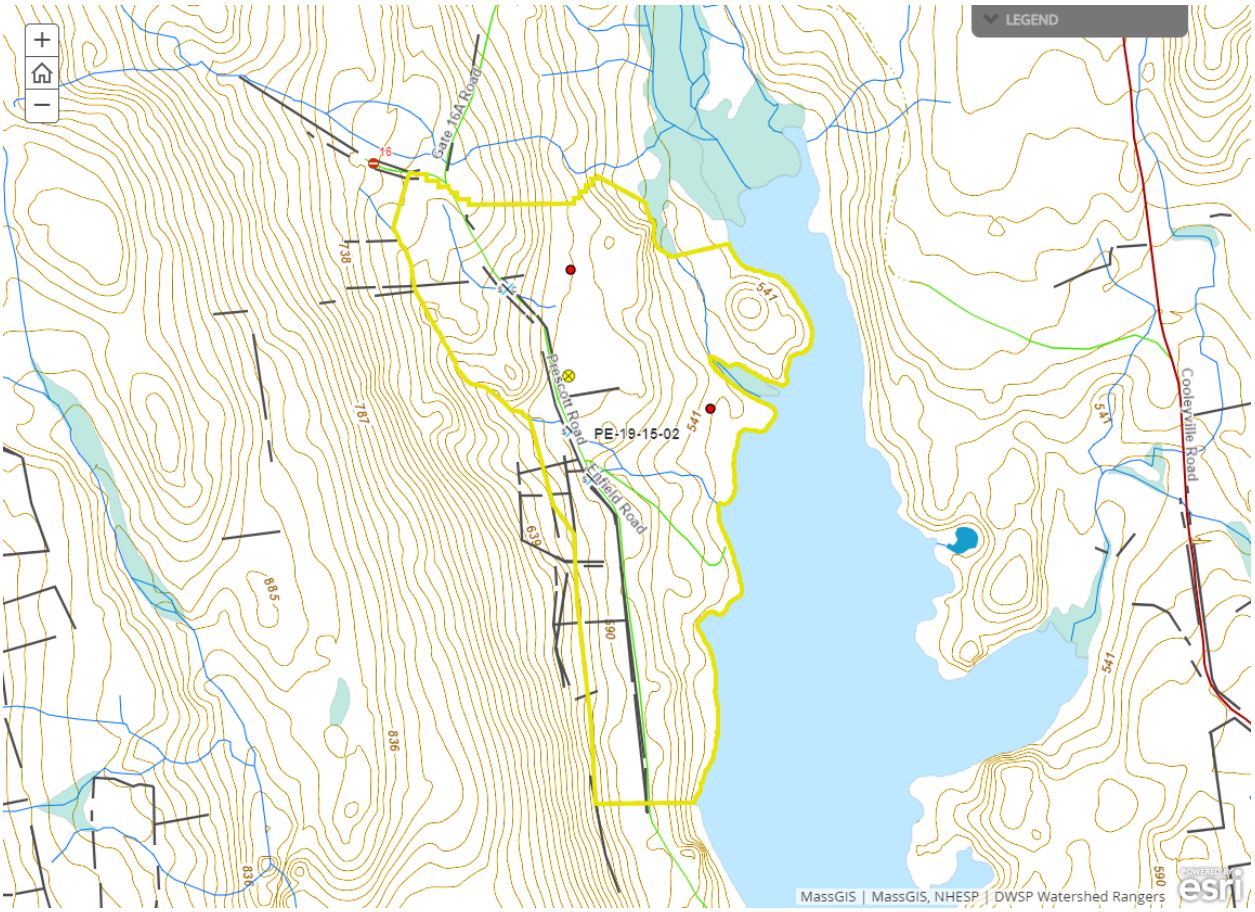


Wetlands

- Wetlands present? - **No**

- Streams present? - **Yes**
- Vernal pools present? - **Yes**
- Seeps present? - **Yes**
- Are stream crossings required? - **Yes**
- Are wetland crossings required? - **No**
- Is logging in filter strips planned? - **Yes**
- Is logging in wetlands planned? - **No**

The DCR verified vernal pools will be appropriately buffered according to DWSP policy and MA Forestry Best Management Practices. Stream crossings will be limited to existing road/culvert crossings.



Silviculture

Acres in Intermediate cuts: **20**

Acres in prep/establishment cuts: **0**

Acres in Regeneration cuts: **7**

Average regen opening size: **.75**

Maximum regen opening size: **2**

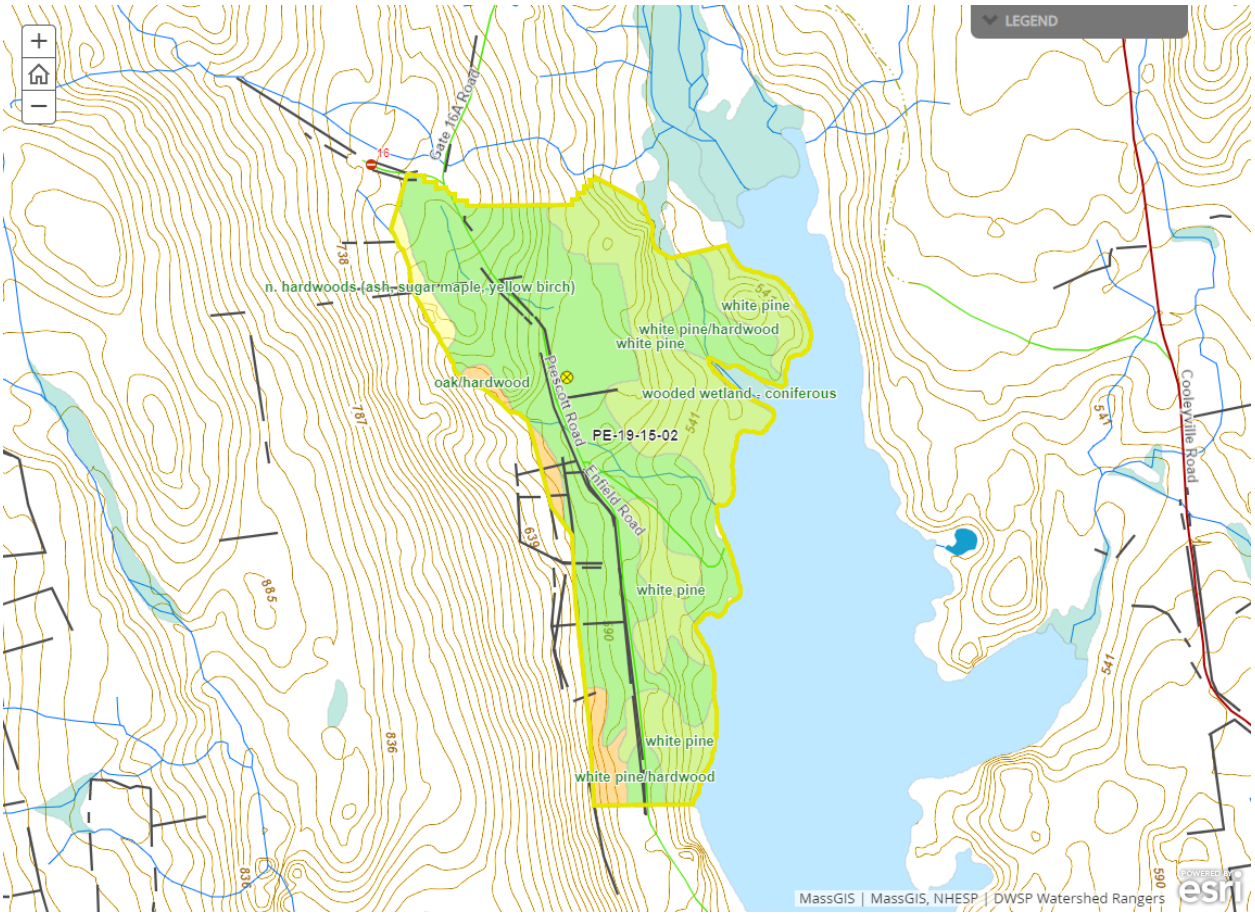
Description of advance regeneration in proposal area:

Regeneration is predominately mixed hardwood primarily composed of black birch and red maple. Adjacent to the proposed landing is an approximately 4 acre patch of dense pole size white pine regeneration. The pine has scattered weevil damage and has reached stem exclusion.

General comments on silviculture proposed:

The proposed lot encircles the spill response equipment shed for containing any spill that occurs upstream on the West Branch of the Swift River, particularly where it is crossed by State Highway 202. The road out to the spill response shed is unsuitable for spill response trucks (such as oil recovery trucks) to reach it and requires extensive work. This water supply protection project requires and allows the opportunity for further stand management. In addition to clearing some timber for the required road work, the proposed harvest will allow for some follow up management to a 2009 group selection harvest of the area (lot 2035). Harvesting will target poor form and wind susceptible white pine scattered throughout the oak hardwood cover. Care will be taken to avoid regeneration in the recently cut openings and opportunities to release openings from shading white pine will be taken. Remnant red pine will be harvested before red pine scale has an opportunity to kill the trees. Along the existing road to the spill response shed areas where the road will be rerouted will be cleared, and areas where the road is to be abandoned will be left to revegetate. Well formed white pine regeneration will be preserved and released. Any cutting adjacent to existing openings will be considered an expansion of the existing opening. The largest opening will be created near the spill response shed to allow for a tractor trailer turn around to be established. Areas that will not be left to forest regeneration near the spill response shed will be cut under the appropriate permitting for a long term change in use, and not a MA Forest Cutting Plan.

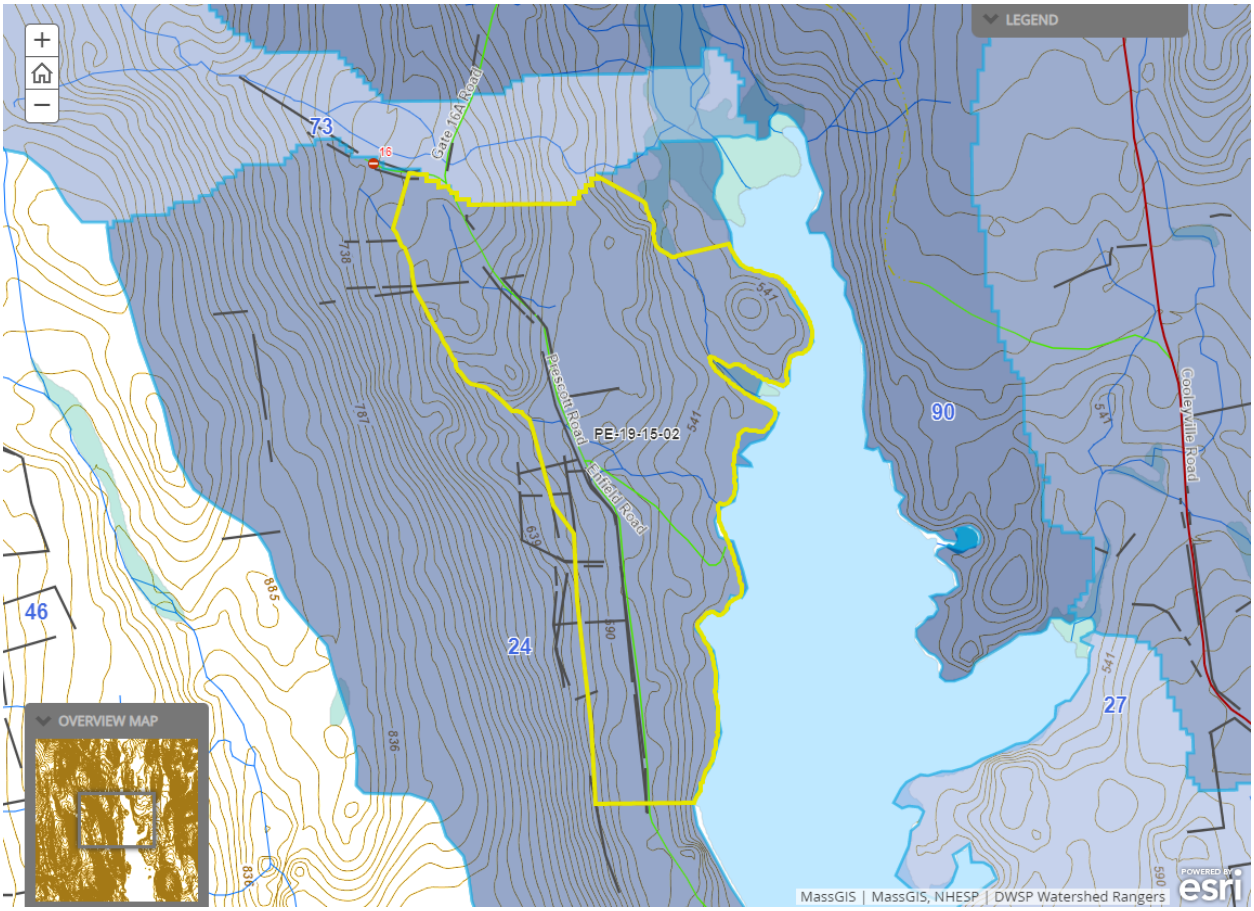
Along the road to the boom shack all stems will be cut to allow for road work, afterword along the road there should be near zero net loss of forest. The largest opening will be placed near the boom shack where space will be created and maintained to allow trucks to turn around and exit after responding to a spill.



Subwatershed Analysis

Sub-watershed number	Total DCR-owned Acres	Acres Regenerated on DCR Land in the last 10 years	Acres Remaining for Regenerating Up to the 25% / 10 Year	Acres part of this proposal
24	302.3	36.7	38.9	83

Total acreage included for consideration exceeds the acreage remaining for the 25 % / 10 year limit. However, the total acreage proposed for treatment, 27 acres, is well below the limit, and acreage treated in the last 10 years was all completed in February of 2009 and will no longer apply towards the 10 year regeneration limit as of next February.



Harvesting Limitations

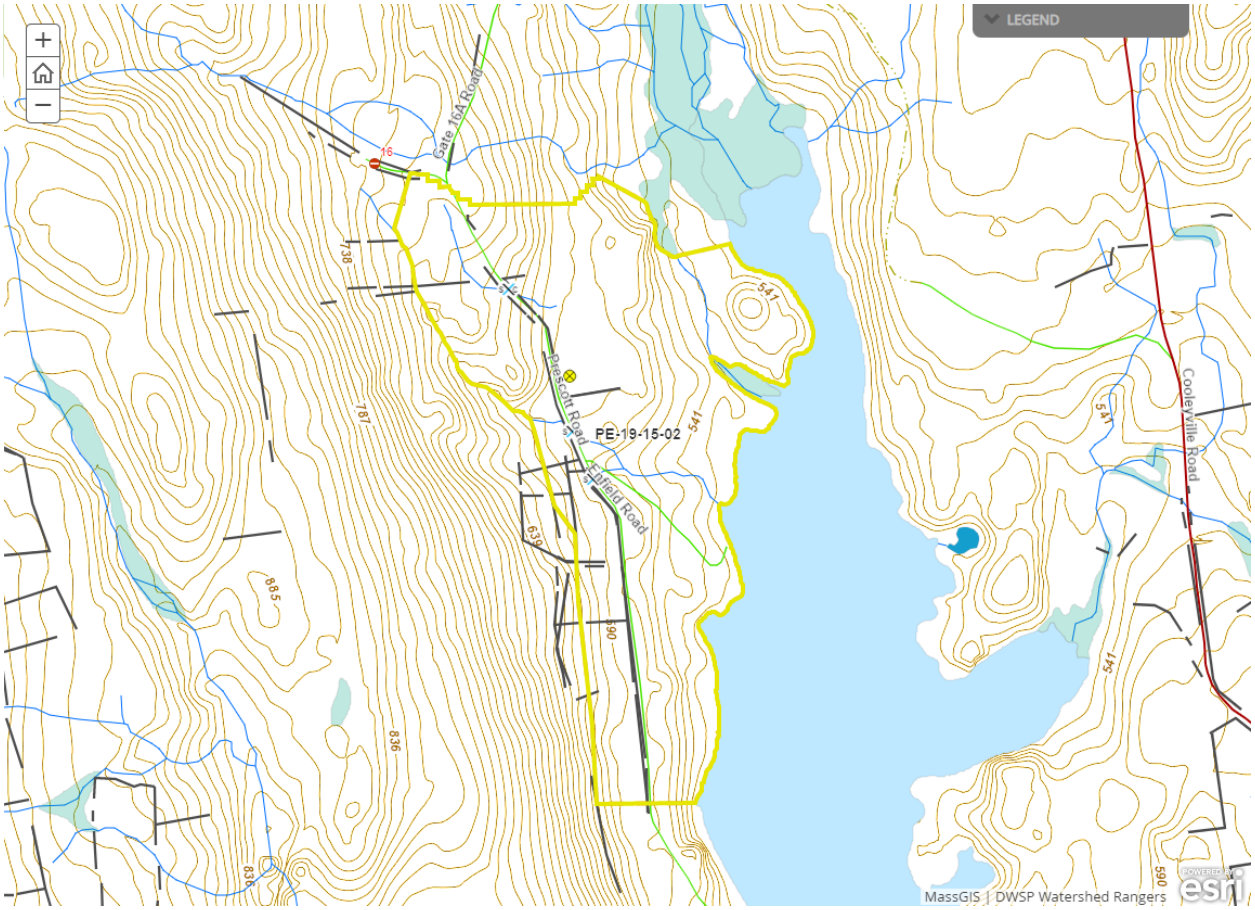
Forwarder required: **No**

Feller/processor required: **No**

Steep slopes present: **No**

Comments on harvesting limitations:

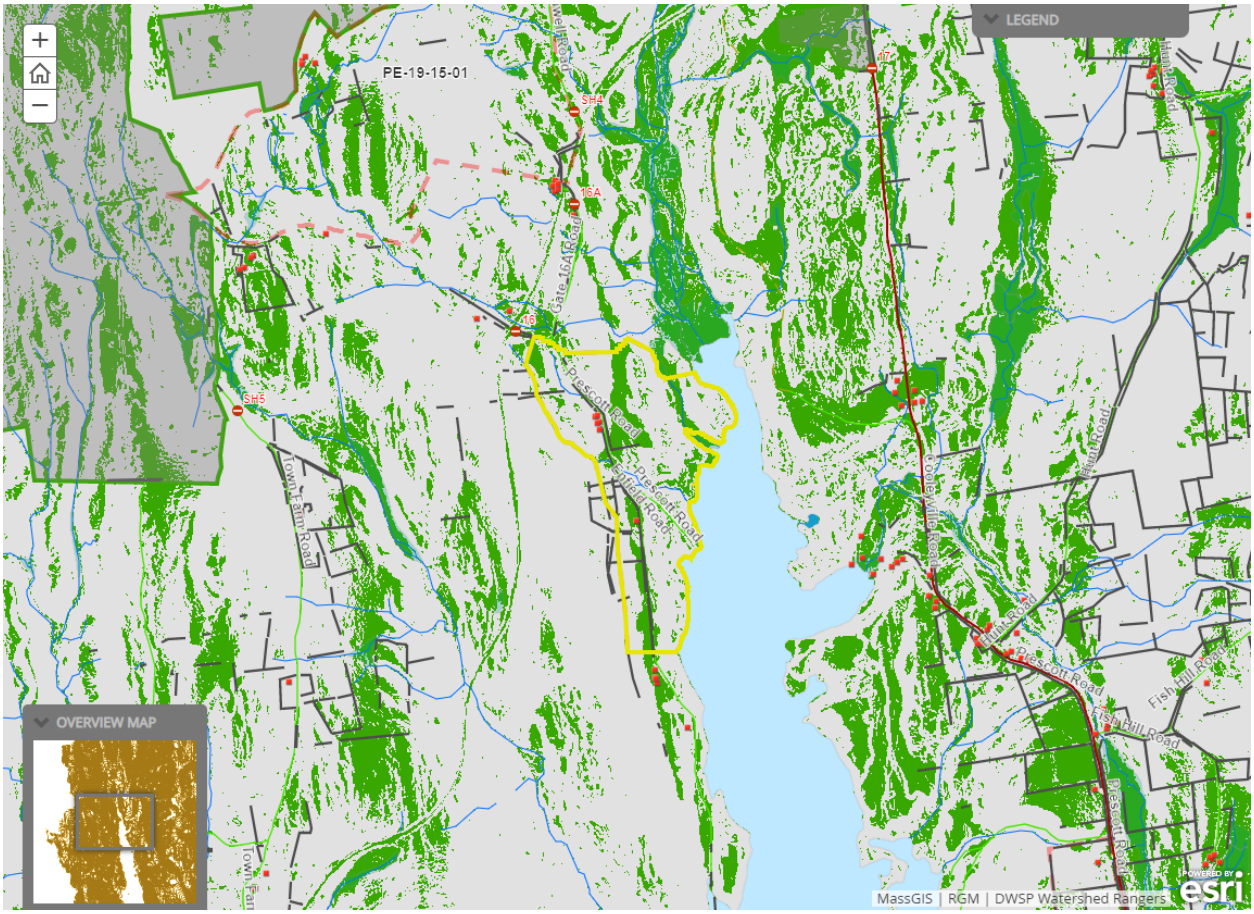
No limitations.



Cultural Resources

Comments on Cultural Resources:

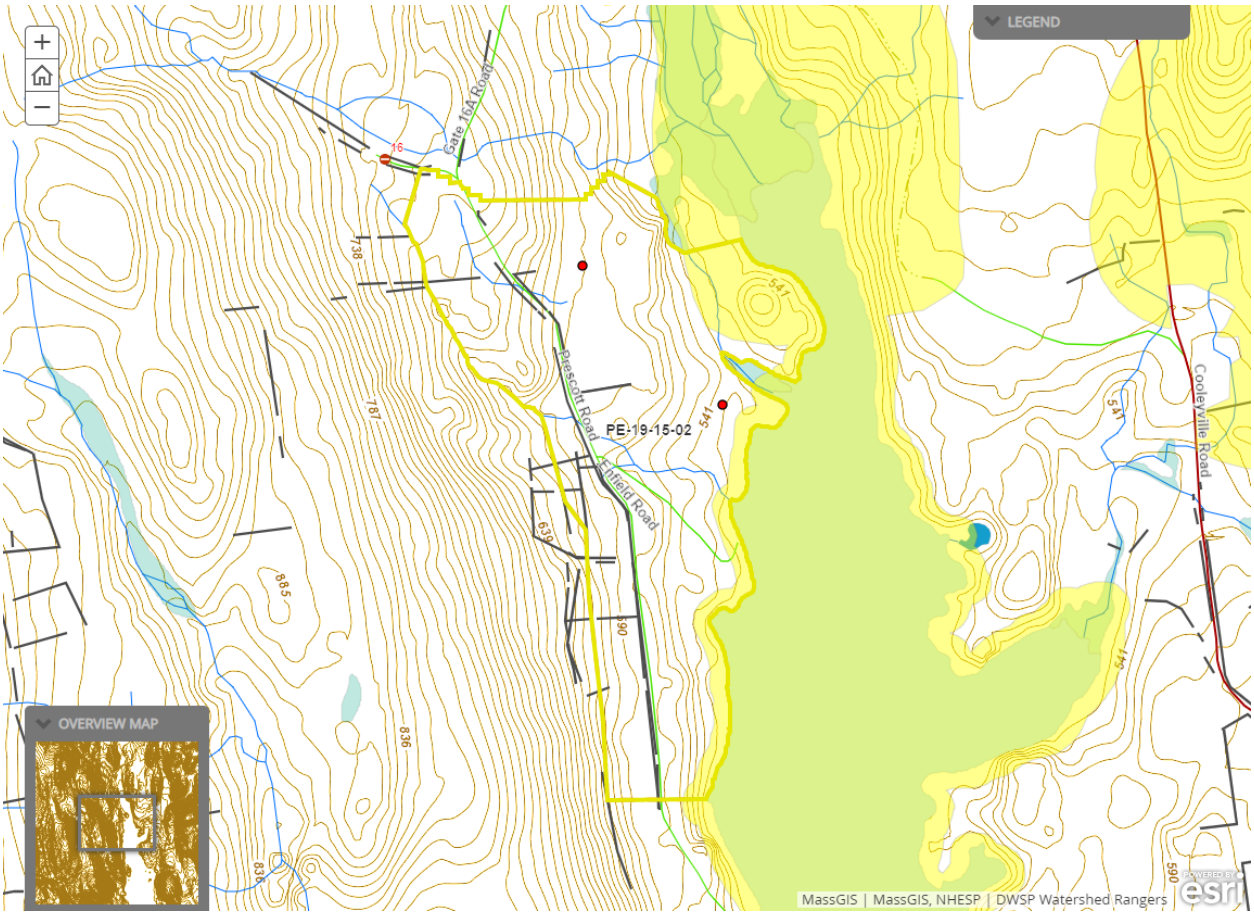
This lot contains the foundations of the homes of Orman C Marvell (14.11) and Charles Cornwell (14.1), as well as the foundations of the home, barn and outbuildings of Harry Kurwacz (4.04). All foundations located near harvest operations will be flagged and protected. Stone walls will be flagged and avoided as much as possible. Existing barways will be used where feasible and harvest layout will protect walls as much as possible. If applicable DWSP will follow any additional recommendations from DCR's Archeologist regarding protection of sensitive sites.



Wildlife Resources & Rare and Endangered Species

Comments on Rare Species/Habitats:

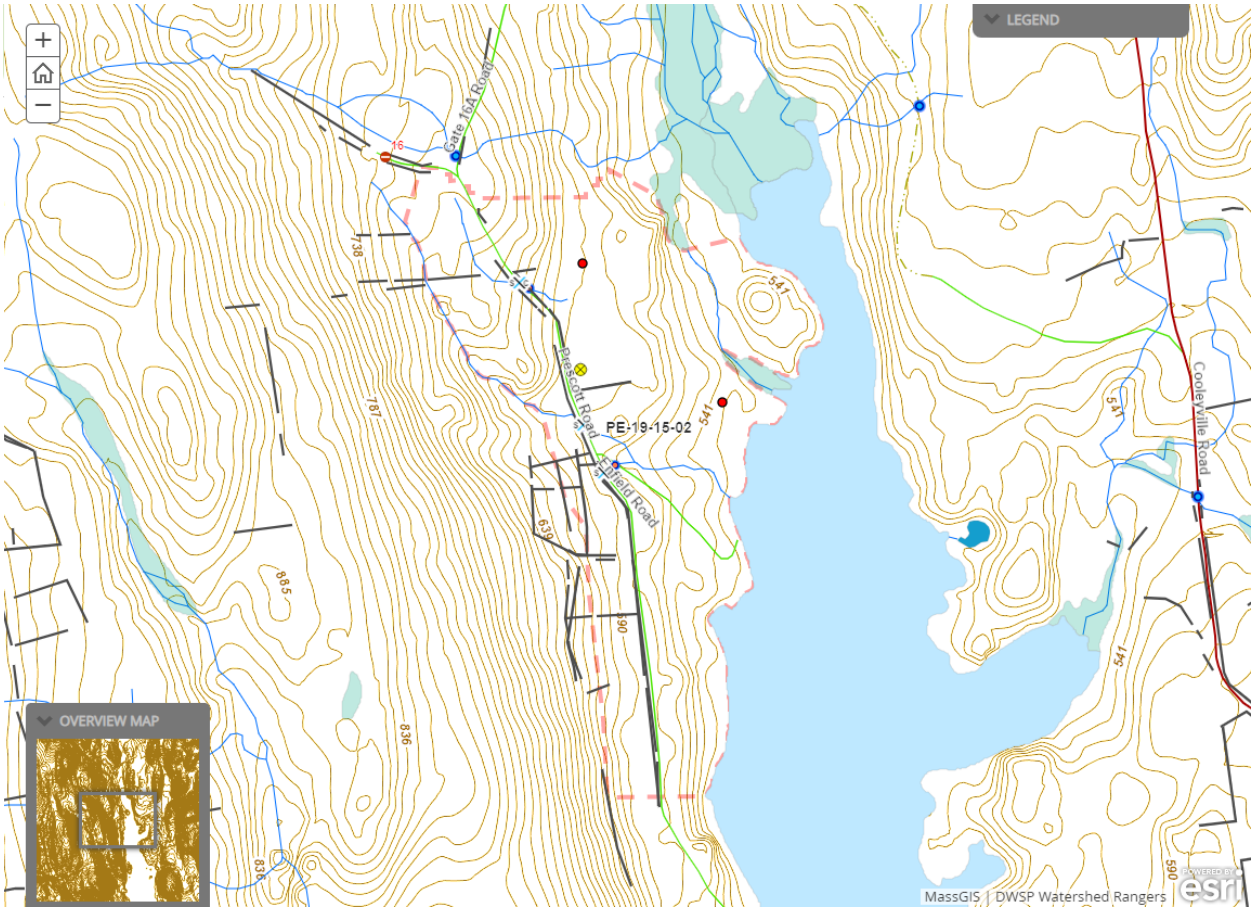
Cavity trees and potential/existing nest trees will be retained if possible. NHESP has determined that certain state-listed sensitive species or habitats may exist within the northern section of the lot proposal area. To protect them from unnecessary disturbance, detailed information regarding affected 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 harvest and subsequent water supply protection project.



Environmental Quality Engineering

Comments on EQ Issues:

Stream crossings of perennial streams will be limited to existing roads and culverts.



Forest Access Engineering

Gravel needed: No

Landing work needed: No

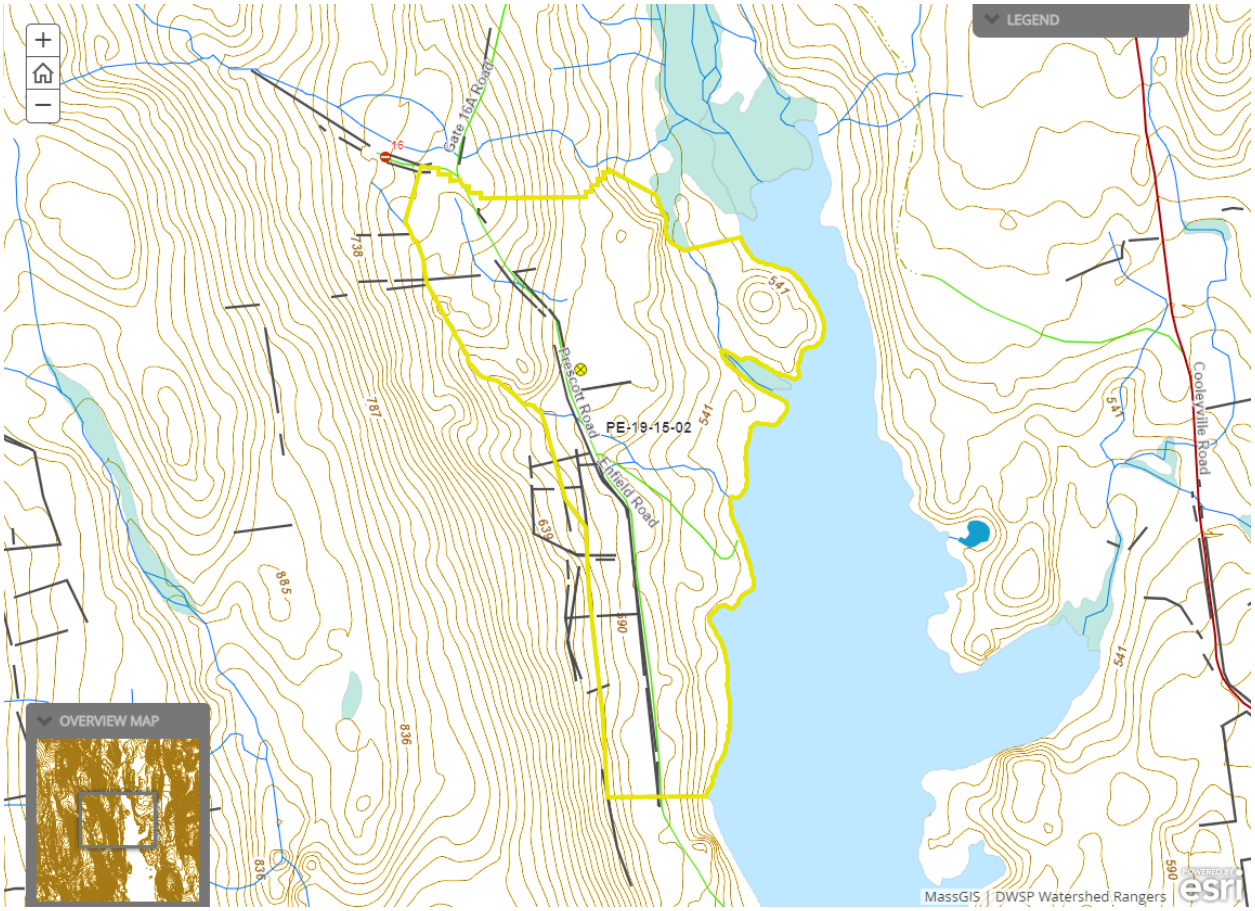
Culverts needed: No

Work needed on permanent bridges: Yes

Beaver issue: No

Further comment on access needs:

No engineering work will be needed prior to the harvest.


LEGEND
OVERVIEW MAP
Gate 164 Road
Prescott Road
Enfield Road
Cooleyville Road
PE-19-15-02
738
167
885
836
835
638
390
541
590
MassGIS | DWSP Watershed Rangers
esri

DWSP FY 2019 Quabbin and Ware River Forestry Proposals – Master Legend for story maps