

**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, entry 1

DWSP Harvest Permit Number: 3163A

DWSP Proposal ID: NS-19-24-YFFA

DCR Forest Cutting Plan File Number: 204-25744-20

Location 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

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)?: No

Site Information

Forest Types: mixed oak, white pine-oak, white pine

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: September 28, 2021

Harvest End Date: April 27, 2022

Number of Wetland Crossings: none

Number of Stream Crossings: none

Best Management Practices Applied

Stream Crossings: n/a

Filter Strips: The state mandated 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: n/a

Harvesting in Wetlands: n/a

DWSP Forester supervising this harvest

Name: Helen Johnson

Forester License number: 383

Phone number: (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. 121-126) 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 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.

Forest Cutting Plan

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02-27-20P03:07 RCV

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)

FINAL (5/25)

For DCR Use Only:

File Number	204-25744-20	Case No.	1
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

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

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	
		OT Other			

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	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)		

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.

Landowner

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

Service Forester

Determination and Status

Approved	Disapproved	Expires		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>2-27-28</u>		
Cutting Plan		<u>3-12-20</u>		
Signature of Service Forester/Director's Agent				
		Date		
Extension	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Expires	Ser. For.
Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	App 1	Dis 1	App 2	Dis 2

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

5.7.25 Date

Codes

Forest Types				Designation of Trees		Type of Cut		Source of Regeneration	
WP	White Pine	HK	Hemlock	OM	Mixed Oak	CT	Cut Tree	SH	Shelterwood
WK	WP/Hem	HH	Hem/Hdwd	RM	Red Maple	LT	Leave Tree	ST	Seed Tree
WH	WP/Hdwd	BC	Blek Cherry	BE	Beech	SB	Stand Boundary	CC	Clear Cut
WO	WP/Oak	BB	Bee/Bir/Map	SF	Spruce/Fir	OT	Other	SE	Selection
RP	Red Pine	OH	Oak/Hdwd	SM	Sugar Maple	Landowner Objective		SA	Salvage
SR	Red Spruce	OR	N Red Oak	PP	Pitch Pine	LT	Long-term Mgt.	HG	Highgrade*
						ST	Short term Use	SN	Sanitation
								DL	Diameter Limit*
								OT	Other*
								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 (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

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).

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

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.

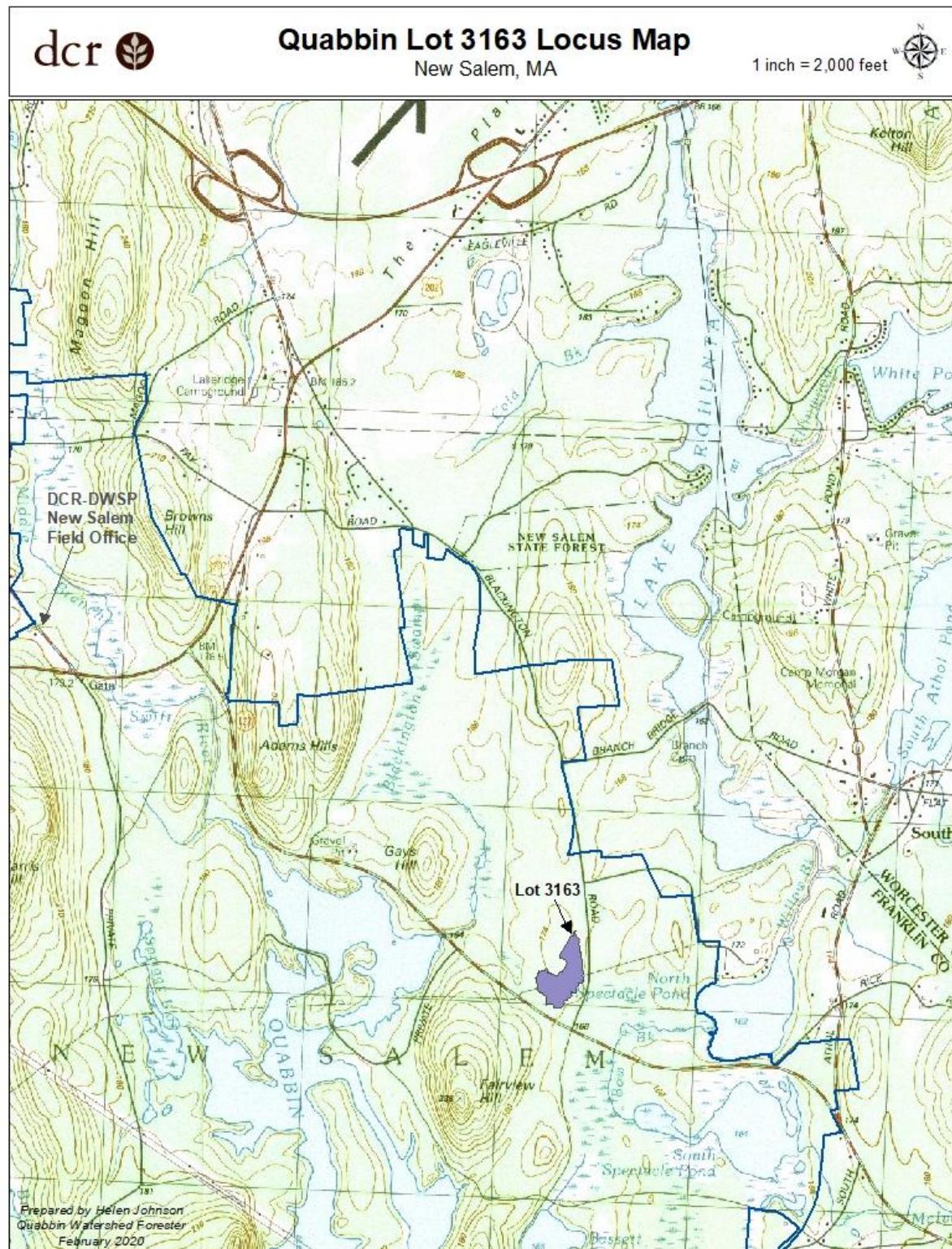
Stand No.

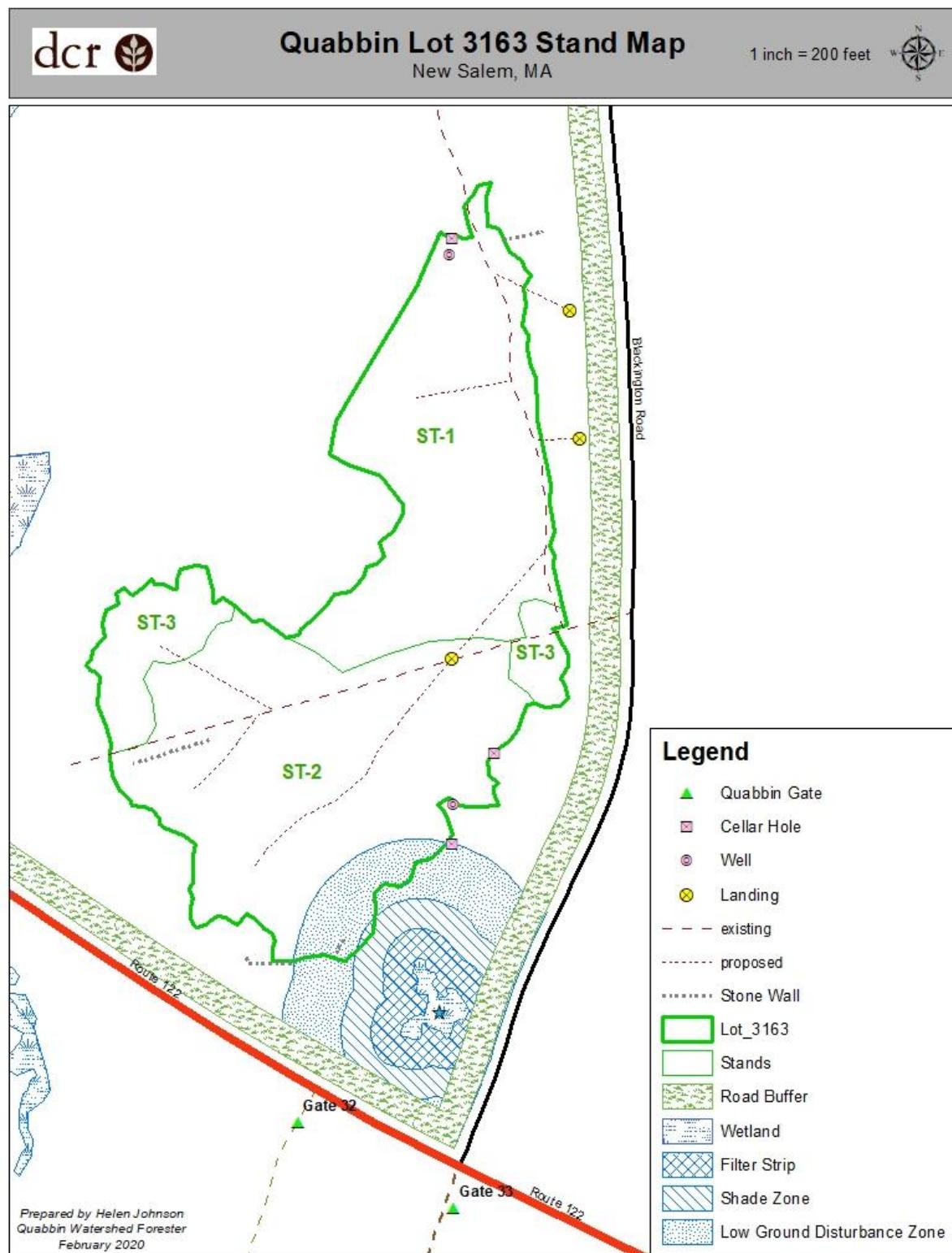
Desired Future Condition

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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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Everose Schlüter".

Everose Schlüter, Ph.D.
Assistant Director

Cc: New Salem Conservation Commission

MASSWILDLIFE

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

FILE # **204-25744-20**

WW

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 **DR-DWSP 485 Ward, Belcherham, MA** (Address) **01007** (Name of Owner)

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**

Priscilla E. Geigis

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

Photo Series

Photo Point A

Before harvest (October 2021)



Immediately after harvest (June 2022)



After one growing season (September 2022)



After three growing seasons (August 2024)



Photo Point B

Before harvest (October 2021)



Immediately after harvest (June 2022)



After one growing season (September 2022)



After three growing seasons (August 2024)

