

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

Project Title: Gays Hill Barrens Harvest 3

DWSP Harvest Permit Number: 3179A

DWSP Proposal ID: NS-25-24_BFA3

DCR Forest Cutting Plan File Number: 204-43410-26

Location Information

Watershed: Quabbin

Town(s): New Salem

Acres: 34.4

Nearest Road: Route 122

Natural Heritage Atlas overlap?: yes

Public Drinking Water Supply Watershed?: yes

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)?: no

Site Information

Forest Types: white pine-oak, mixed oak

Soils: Canton fine sandy loam, very stony, 8-25% slopes; Chatfield-Hollis complex, rocky, 3-8% and 25-60% slopes; Sudbury sandy loam, 3-8% slopes; Walpole sandy loam, 0-3% slopes; Windsor loamy sand, 8-15% slopes.

Wetland Resources: Blackington Swamp is outside the harvest to the north, and the stream-wetland complex that drains from Blackington Swamp is outside the harvest to the east.

Vernal Pools: none

Harvest Information

Harvest Start Date: TBD

Harvest End Date: TBD

Number of Wetland Crossings: 0

Number of Stream Crossings: 0

Best Management Practices Applied

Stream Crossings: n/a

Filter Strips: n/a

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 3179 is located on Gays Hill in the town of New Salem, between Route 122 to the south and Blackington Swamp to the north, and west of a stream-wetland complex that drains from Blackington Swamp, under Route 122 into Joseph O'Loughlin Pond. Adjacent to the west there was a prior harvest that removed red and white pine in order to release pitch pine and oaks (Lot 3169, completed in 2022), and to the west of that a prior harvest removed two red pine plantations (Lot 3159, completed in 2019).

The forest on Gays Hill is dominated by mixed oaks, including red, black, scarlet, white and chestnut oaks, with white pine and red maple as common associates, along with lower densities of hemlock and other hardwoods (paper and black birch, black cherry, American beech and aspen). White pine is more common on the lower slopes, along with a similar mix of hardwoods and a few small pockets of red and pitch pines.

The understory is dominated by white pine seedlings and saplings, with scattered young oak and red maple. Blueberries are common, and mostly present in patches. Patches of mountain laurel are also present, but less common. Other understory species include bracken fern, sheep laurel, wintergreen, and clubmoss.

Forest health is mostly good, despite pockets of oak mortality due to spongy moth. The very minor component of red pine is dying from red pine scale, and the also minor component of pitch pine is healthy as of this writing (winter 2025-26) but at risk of dying from southern pine beetle (SPB), a lethal insect that is present in the region but has not yet been found in the immediate area.

Site Selection

This harvest builds on Quabbin Lots 3159 and 3169 to complete the silvicultural portion of pitch pine-oak habitat restoration in the Gays Hill Barrens Focus Area. As described in the [DCR Division of Water Supply Protection 2017 Land Management Plan](#) on pages 121-122 and 128-129, barrens are fire-adapted, disturbance-dependent natural communities that are home to numerous rare and declining species. Many New England barrens have been destroyed by development, and many of those that remain have been degraded by mesification (increasing dominance of non-fire adapted “generalist” species such as white pine and red maple) after a century or more of fire suppression and exclusion.

Although barrens on DCR-DWSP lands are protected from development, they continue to degrade due to the lasting effects of fire suppression. This harvest is the first step in reversing the trend towards ever-increasing habitat degradation by removing white pine and other species that thrive in the absence of fire, thus shifting forest composition of the back to fire-adapted oaks and pitch pine. Thereafter all of Gays Hill Barrens, including previously harvested areas, will be maintained through carefully controlled periodic prescribed fire.

Almost half of the terrestrial species listed in the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act are barrens dependents. This harvest and the prescribed fire to follow will help them to thrive, thus making a crucial contribution to protecting the biodiversity of the Commonwealth.

Silvicultural Objectives

The primary silvicultural objectives for this harvest are to remove white pine, red maple, and other species associated with mesification in order to reverse the degradation of barrens habitat, and to manage the post-harvest fuel load in order to prepare for future habitat maintenance with prescribed fire. An additional benefit of the harvest will be to reduce the risk of SPB infestation by increasing air flow within the canopy, which will prevent build-up of concentrations of pheromones that attract southern pine beetles.

Cultural Resources

A pair of short stone walls meet in a near-right angle in the southeast corner of the harvest, just north of a pair of cellar holes that are outside the proposal area. These will be flagged, protected, and avoided. No other cultural features have been found in the harvest area.

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. This harvest has been designed in consultation with NHESP in order to enhance habitat for state listed species, as well as to ensure their protection. In order to prevent a Take, NHESP-issued restrictions on this project have been implemented from its earliest planning stages.

Forest Cutting Plan

Forest Cutting Plan page 1 of 8

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Forest Cutting Plan

and Notice of Intent under M.G.L.
Chapter 132 – The Forest Cutting
Practices Act, 304 CMR 11.00
(Effective Date: 3/15/16)

For DCR Use Only:

File Number 2024-43410-26 Case No. —
Date Rec'd 8/14/25 Nat. Hert. Y/Y
Earliest Start 8/29/25 Pub. Dr. Wat. Quabbin
River Basin Chicopee ACEC n/a
Gen. Obj. LT

Site Information

Location

Town New Salem QUABBIN LOT 3179
Road Route 122
Acres 34.4 Proposed Start Date _____
Vol. MBF 80.5 Vol. Cds. 277 Vol. Tons 97

Plan Preparer

Name Helen Johnson
Address DCR-DWSP, Quabbin Section
485 Ware Road
Town, State, Zip Belchertown, MA 01007
Phone (617) 733-2937
Type of Preparer LF
*Mass. Forester License # 383
*Required for land under Ch61, Ch61A or Forest Stewardship

Landowner

Name DCR-DWSP Quabbin Section, ATTN: Forestry
Mailing Address 485 Ware Road
Town, State, Zip Belchertown, MA 01007
Phone (617) 733-2937
Ch61 61A 61B Stew *Case # _____
FSC 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

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)				

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

Heritage: Impact to old landing in gravel pit addressed in narrative and shall be followed through work.

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

Forest Products

Products to be Harvested*

Species	Mbf/Cds		Mbf/Cds
White Pine	72.8	Red Maple	
Red Pine		Sugar Maple	
Pitch Pine		Red Oak	
Hemlock	6.8	Black Oak	
Spruce		White Oak	
Other Sftwd.		Other Hdwd.	0.9
White Ash		Total Mbf	80.5
Beech		Cordwood (Cds)	277
White Birch		SW Pulp (Tons)	97
B & Y Birch		HW Pulp (Tons)	
Black Cherry		Chips (Tons)	

*Note: Volumes 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.

Stand Treatment

Cutting Standards

Indicate location on map	ST-1	ST-2	ST-3	ST-4
Forest Type	OM <input type="checkbox"/>	WO <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acres	23.8	10.6		
Landowner Objective	LT	LT		
Designation of Trees	OT <input type="checkbox"/>	OT <input type="checkbox"/>		
Type of Cut	OT	OT		
Source of Regeneration	OT <input type="checkbox"/>	OT <input type="checkbox"/>		

Landowner

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 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)

8/14/2025
Date

Service Forester

Determination and Status

Approved Disapproved Expires _____
Cutting Plan

Signature of Service Forester/Director's Agent _____ Date _____

Extension 1 2 Expires / / Ser. For. Ints. / /

Amendment 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 _____ Date _____

Codes

Forest Types				Designation of Trees		Type of Cut		Source of Regeneration	
WP	White Pine	HK	Hemlock	OM	Mixed Oak	SH	Shelterwood	Intermediate Harvester:	
WK	WP/Hem	HH	Hem/Hdwd	RM	Red Maple	ST	Seed Tree	CT	Commercial Thin
WH	WP/Hdwd	BC	Bkck Cherry	BE	Beech	CC	Clear Cut	NT	Non Com Thin
WO	WP/Oak	BB	Bee/Bir/Map	SF	Spruce/Fir	SE	Selection	Non-Standard Systems:*	
RP	Red Pine	OH	Oak/Hdwd	SM	Sugar Maple	SA	Salvage	HG	Highgrade*
SR	Red Spruce	OR	N Red Oak	PP	Pitch Pine	SN	Sanitation	DL	Diameter Limit*
								OT	Other*

*If Other (OT) or a non-standard system is used an explanation must be given on attached narrative page pg 4 of 5

Forest Cutting Plan

Narrative Page (Effective Date: 3/15/16)

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 _____

BMPs

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.

This barrens restoration harvest retains pitch pine and oaks, and removes "generalist" species such as white pine, red maple and black birch of all sizes. Hemlock other non-generalist species will be retained on steep slopes to prevent erosion. Oak regeneration and blueberries will be protected as much as possible; mountain laurel will be cut. Retention trees are marked with orange paint. Trees to be cut are either unmarked or marked with blue paint.

See Narrative Addendum for Mass DOT requirements for use of the east landing on the north side of Route 122 (new), and for NHESP requirements for use of the west landing in the old gravel pit (existing, used previously for Quabbin Lots 3159 and 3169).

Designation of Trees

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. Additional narrative description may be added on a separate page.

Stand No.	Describe Trees to be Cut			Describe Trees to be Left			% BA/AC	
	Species	Size	Quality	Species	Size	Quality	Cut	Left
all	WHITE PINE	all	all	WHITE PINE	none	none	100	0
all	PITCH PINE	all	poor	PITCH PINE	all	fair to excellent	1	99
all	OAKS	all	poor to fair	OAKS	all	fair to excellent	10	90
all	RED MAPLE, BLACK BIRCH	all	all	RED MAPLE, BLACK BIRCH	none	none	100	0
all	hemlock (moderate slopes)	all	all	hemlock (steep slopes)	all	fair to excellent	90	10
all	other hardwoods (moderate slopes)	all	all	other hardwoods (steep slopes)	all	fair to excellent	90	10

Regeneration & Future Condition

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	Abundant, vigorous oak regeneration is present in some areas and will be protected as much as possible, and when not possible, cut at the base to encourage sprouting.
all	SE	Scarification during the harvest will expose mineral soil for pitch pine and oak seeds from mature trees within and around the harvest. Prescribed fire within 5 yrs will open serotinous pitch pine cones.
all	CO	Pitch pines, oaks, and other hardwoods of all sizes that are cut will resprout. Periodic prescribed fire at 5-7 year intervals will continue to encourage oak and pitch pine sprouting.
all	---	White pine and red maple regeneration is present but not desired, and will either be cut or killed by prescribed fire.

Stand No.	Desired Future Condition
ALL	Describe what the stand is expected to look like five years from the harvest, including the condition of the overstory & understory Variable density mixed oak forest with scattered pitch pine and more diverse species on steep slopes, with BA/acre ranging from 60 to 120 square feet/acre, over a dense carpet of blueberries and herbaceous barrens species.



Lot 3179
Forest Cutting Plan Narrative Addendum
Requirements for Landings
Route 122, New Salem, MA
August 13, 2025

West landing (old gravel pit) – likely NHESP requirements:

- ~ only the south portion of the pit may be used (the portion with solid soils), and
- ~ at the end of the harvest all debris must be removed from the gravel pit, including chips, slash, and other woody material resulting from the operation, and
- ~ after debris is removed, landing must be raked down to mineral soil.

These requirements are from Quabbin Lot 3169, cutting plan #204-33653-22, and may be revised or updated for Quabbin Lot 3179 (this cutting plan).

East landing (Route 122 roadside) – Mass DOT requirements:

- ~ Mass DOT requires a permit for construction of a new access. The application process will commence if and when desired by the contractor for this harvest.

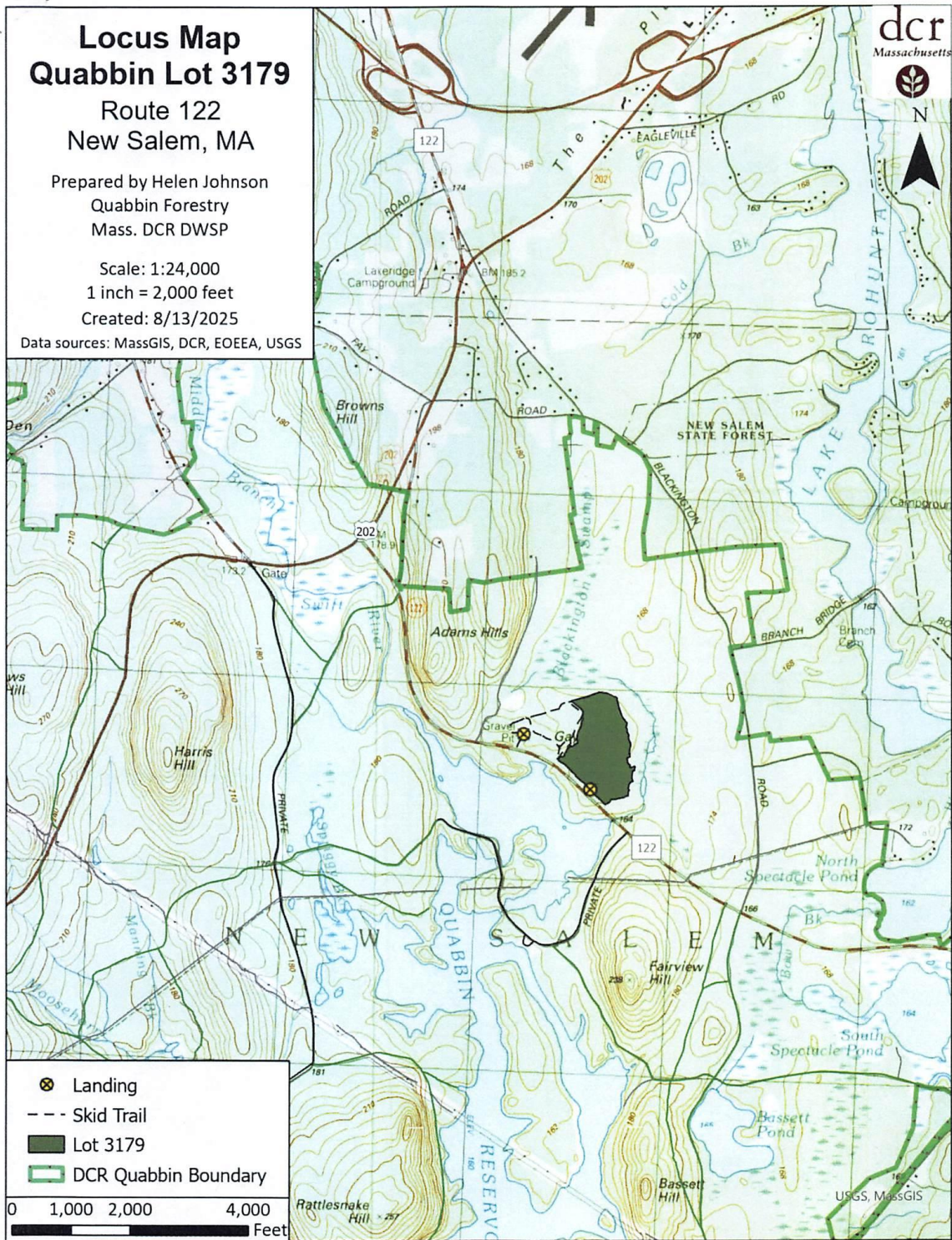
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

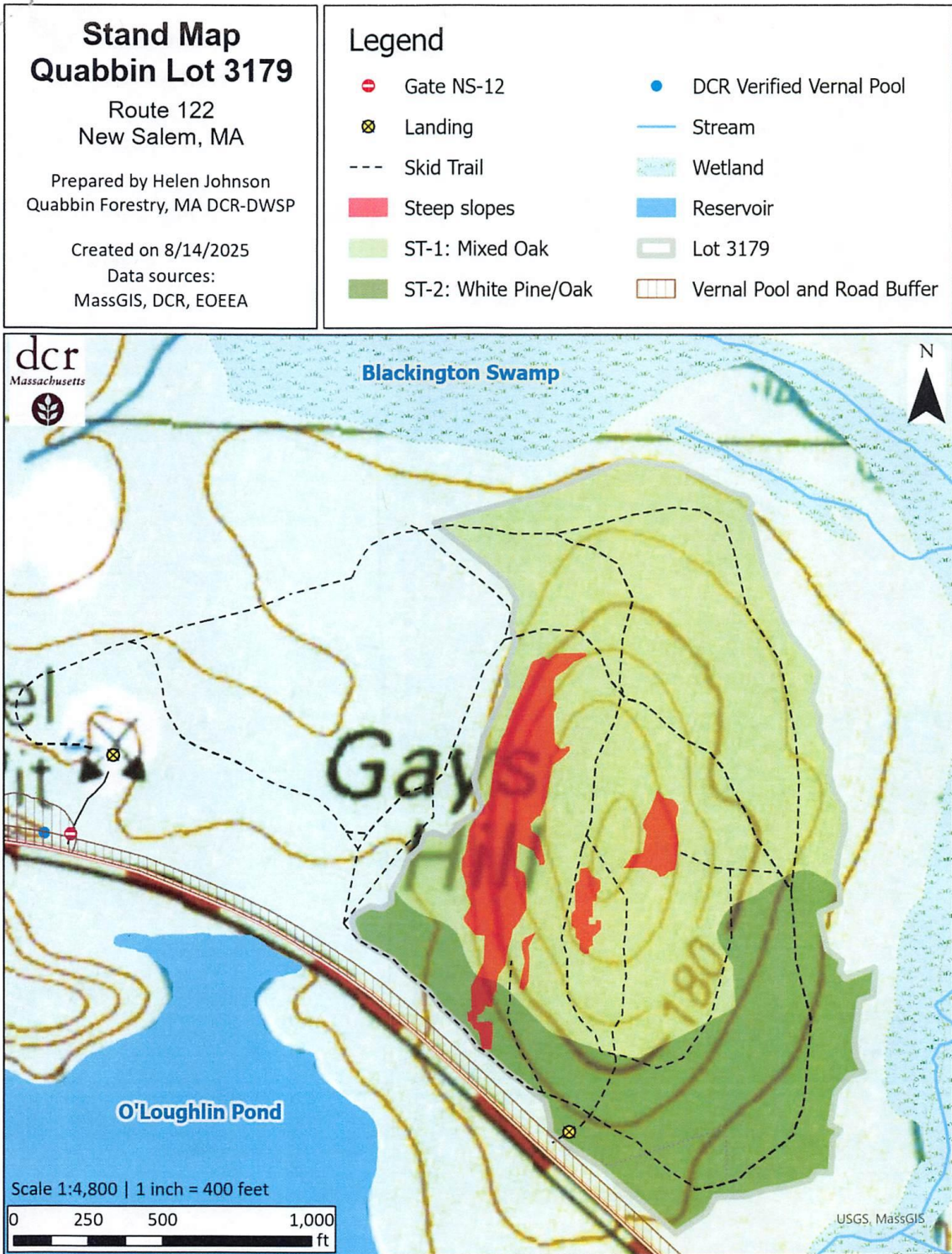
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Rebecca L. Tepper, Secretary
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Nicole LaChapelle, Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation





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

FILE #

204-43410-26

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 DCR-DWSP Quabbin 485 Ware Rd Belchertown, MA 01007 in accordance with the

(Name of Owner)

(Address)

provision of M.G.L. Chapter 132, Section 40-46, filed in Amherst F.G. with the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, Division of State Parks and Recreation, a Notice of Intent to cut forest products upon the

3179 lot.
(ret 122, New Salem)

Approval Date

9/15/25

Director's Agent

Andrew Rawcliffe

DCR Phone No. (617) 549-1677

ISSUED BY:

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