

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

Project Title: Hale Fire Rd

DWSP Harvest Permit Number: 4415

DWSP Proposal ID: WR-23-23-02

DCR Forest Cutting Plan File Number: 140.43479.26

Site Information

Watershed: Ware River Watershed

Town(s): Hubbardston

Acres: 41

Nearest Road: Hale Rd

Natural Heritage Atlas overlap?: Yes

Public Drinking Water Supply Watershed?: Yes

Forest Types: WP/HK, WP/Hardwoods, WP

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)?: No

Soils: Well drained thick Montauk-Canton association, Montauk-Scituate-Canton and Charlton-Chatfield association- 68%; Well drained thin Charlton-Chatfield-Hollis association- 18%; Poorly to very poorly drained Ridgebury-Whitman and Bucksport-Wonsqueak- 13% and will be avoided.

Wetland Resources: There is a vernal/small wetland that drains into Natty Pond Brook.

Vernal Pools: There are three verified vernal pools within the proposal area, two of which are also NHESP Certified (another mapped pool is not verified/certified but will be treated as if it is).

Harvest Information

Harvest Start Date: TBD

Harvest End Date: TBD

Number of Wetland Crossings: None

Number of Stream Crossings: None

Best Management Practices Applied

Stream Crossings: There are no stream crossings.

Filter Strips: There is no harvesting in filter strips. Variable width filter strips on all resource areas.

Wetland Crossings: There are no wetland crossings.

Harvesting in Wetlands: There is no harvesting in wetlands.

DWSP Forester supervising this harvest

Name: Russ Wilmot

Forester License number: 426

Phone number: 857 262 3809

Email: Russell.Wilmot@mass.gov

Narrative

Site Description

Lot 4415 is located on the South side of Hale Rd in Hubbardston.

The site is mostly a white pine – hardwoods stand with White pine – hemlock sections along Natty Pond brook and Canesto Brook. The white pine - hardwoods stand is located in the eastern and central part of the lot. Red maple, white oak, black cherry and black birch are also present in this overstory. The white pine – hemlock stand is a variable mix of white pine and hemlock with hardwoods such as Red and white oak, red maple, black cherry, paper birch, and yellow birch. There are a couple small pockets of red oak interspersed.

Glossy buckthorn is present throughout the lot, but particularly heavy in old field areas adjacent to Hale Fire Road and areas adjacent to Natty Pond Brook and Canesto Brook that are not dominated by hemlock. Multiflora rose and bittersweet are also present in the old field area adjacent to Hale Fire Road and will be avoided during the harvest.

Site Selection

A main goal of harvesting on watershed land is to create and maintain a forest that is both diverse (in species and ages) and vigorously growing. A diverse vigorously growing forest is more resilient and is more capable to quickly recover from disturbances, including diseases, insect infestations, ice storms, tornados and hurricanes.

This site was selected because of its degrading pasture white pine stands, white pine oak stands and lack of young forest. Harvesting on this lot will help create a forest with more species and age class diversity than it currently has. The increase in sunlight after the harvest will invigorate the growth of the retained trees impacted by the harvest as well as the advanced regeneration and the new seedlings yet to arrive. This combination of structural and species diversity builds resistance and resilience in the forest.

The goal for this proposal is to make the forest more diverse and resilient. It will reduce the amount of mature, low vigor white pine and replace it with patches of young forest of diverse species.

Silvicultural Objectives

The intent of this harvest is to increase vertical structure and species diversity by establishing patches of young forest. Seven openings of .92, .99, 4.99, 1.24, 0.53, 1.01, 1.42, 1.0, 1.7 acres totaling 13.8 acres will be established.

The patches are located in areas with advance regeneration comprised of oaks and other hardwoods, areas with overstory white pine of low quality/vigor, and some are adjacent to a previous harvest expanding upon those gaps.

Cultural Resources

There are cultural sites that will be buffered. There are stone walls present throughout the lot that will be crossed to access the lot. Care will be taken to use pre-existing crossings where possible.

Rare or Endangered Species

NHESP has determined that certain state-listed sensitive species or habitats may exist within 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 activity.

Figures

- Figure 1. Final Forest Cutting Plan
- Figure 2. Preharvest Photo

Figure 1. Final Forest Cutting Plan

OCT 06 2025

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)

For DCR Use Only:	
File Number	14043492a
Date Rec'd	10-06-25
Earliest Start	10-23-25
River Basin	CHICOPEE
Gen. Obj.	LT
Case No.	—
Nat. Hert.	1 Y
Nat. Hert. Imp.	N
Pub. Dr. Wat.	WARE RIVER
ACEC	N

Location	Landowner
Town <u>Hubbardston</u> Lot <u>4415</u>	Name <u>DCR/DWSP/OWM Quabbin/Ware River</u>
Road <u>Hale Rd</u>	Mailing Address <u>485 Ware Rd.</u>
Acres <u>41</u> Proposed Start Date <u>11/01/25</u>	Town, State, Zip <u>Belchertown, MA 01007</u>
Vol. MBF <u>127.1</u> Vol. Cds. <u>166</u> Vol. Tons <u>496</u>	Phone <u>413-323-7221</u>
Plan Preparer	Ch61 <input type="checkbox"/> Ch61A <input type="checkbox"/> Stew <input type="checkbox"/> *Case # _____
Name <u>Russell Wilmot</u>	Est. Stumpage Value _____
Address <u>578 Old Turnpike Rd</u>	Licensed Timber Harvester**
Town, State, Zip <u>Oakham, MA, 01068</u>	Name <u>Will be provided when known</u>
Phone <u>1-857-262-3809</u>	Address _____
Type of Preparer <u>Mass. Licensed Forester</u>	Town, State, Zip _____
*Mass. Forester License # <u>426</u>	Phone _____
*Required for land under Ch61, Ch61A or Forest Stewardship	Mass. Lic. Harvester # _____
	**This information may be supplied after the plan is approved, but before work begins.

Stream Crossings	Harvesting in Wetlands
Indicate location on map	Indicate location on map
Type of Crossing	Forest Type (see pg 2)
Existing Structure	Acres to be Harvested
Type of Bottom	Resid. Basal Area (>50%?)
Bank Height (ft)	
Stabilization	
Wetland Crossings	Service Forester Comments
Indicate location on map	<u>* NOTIFY DCR SERVICE FORESTER</u>
Length of Crossing	<u>AT START</u>
Mitigation	<u>- NHSP DETERMINATION ATTACHED</u>
Stabilization	_____
Filter Strips	_____
Indicate location on map	_____
Width (50', 100', or VA)	_____

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. Some forestry activities, such as prescribed burning and pesticide or fertilizer application may require additional permits. Consult MA Forestry BMP Manual for further information.
TH Lic. Tim. Har.	BR Bridge	MU Mulch	DR Dry	ST Stony	
TB Timber Buyer	FO Food	CO Corduroy	OT Other	MU Mud	
LO Landowner	PO Piled	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

Forest Products

Products to be Harvested*

Species	Mbf/Cds		Mbf/Cds
White Pine	80.9	Red Maple	
Red Pine		Sugar Maple	
Pitch Pine		Red Oak	34.6
Hemlock		Black Oak	4.8
Spruce		White Oak	6.8
Other Hdw.		Other Hdw.	
White Ash	Total Mbf		127.1
Beech	Cordwood (Cds)		166
White Birch	SW Pulp (Tons)		
B & Y Birch	HW Pulp (Tons)		
Black Cherry	Chips (Tons)		496

*Note: Volumes and values 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	WO	WP	RO	HK
Acre	23	8	4	6
Landowner Objective	LT	LT	LT	LT
Designation of Trees	CT	CT	CT	N/A
Type of Cut	SE/CC	SE	SE	N/A
Source of Regeneration	AD/SE	AD/SE	AD/SE	N/A

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 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.



9/24/2025

Signature of landowner(s)


Date

Service Forester

Determination and Status 140.42479.26

Approved Disapproved Expires 10-1-27

Cutting Plan

 10/20/25

Signature of Service Forester/Director's Agent Date

Extension 1 2 Expires / /

Sec. 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	CT Cut Tree	SH Shelterwood	AD Advanced
WK WP/Hem	LT Leave Tree	ST Seed Tree	SE Natural Seed
WH WP/Hdw	SB Stand Boundary	CC Clear Cut	PL Plant
WO WP/Oak	OT Other	SE Selection	CO Coppice
RP Red Pine	Landowner Objective	SA Salvage	HG Highgrade*
SR Red Spruce	LT Long-term Mgt.	SN Sanitation	DL Diameter Limit*
	ST Short-term Har.		OT Other*
		Intermediate Harvests:	
		CT Commercial Thin	
		NT Non Com Thin	
		Non-Standard Systems*:	
		HG Highgrade*	
		DL Diameter Limit*	
		OT Other*	

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

Forest Cutting Plan

Narrative Page

Landowner: DCR DWSP

Town: Hubbardston

File Number: _____

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

BMPs	<p><u>No stream or wetland crossings.</u></p> <p><u>There are five variable width filter strips with no cutting. FS-1 has a vernal pool behind the landing. FS-2 is another vernal pool. FS-3 is an intermittent stream flowing out of a wetland. FS-4 has two vernal pools. FS-5 is where Natty Pond Brook and Canesto Brook meet.</u></p>
Silviculture	<p><u>The intent of this harvest is to increase vertical structure and species diversity by establishing patches of young forest. Seven openings of .92, .99, 4.99, 1.24, 0.53, 1.01, 1.42, 1.0, 1.7 acres totaling 13.8 acres will be established. All openings 1.0 acres and less are considered patch cuts or group selection openings. Openings over 1.0 acres in size are considered clearcuts.</u></p> <p><u>The patches are located in areas with advance regeneration comprised of oaks and other hardwoods, areas with white pine of low quality/vigor and some are adjacent to a previous harvest expanding upon those gaps.</u></p>
Objectives	<p><u>The objective of this operation is to diversify the age structure of the forest by removing the overstory in patches thereby releasing the advance regeneration in some instances and allowing natural seed germination in others. The current age structure is limited with an insufficient component of young forest.</u></p>
Other	<p><u>The landing of this project will be on Hale Fire Road, located in the field by a circle with a cross painted in blue.</u></p> <p><u>Truck access will be from Hale Rd. Some trees along Hale Fire Rd (Marked in blue) outside the sale area will need to be cut for trailer access.</u></p> <p><u>All skid trails have been marked in vertical blue paint.</u></p> <p><u>Boundary trees of each opening will be retained and are orange ringed with a dot facing inside the opening. Retained trees in the openings/along skid trails are single orange ringed and are to be protected by timber harvester.</u></p>



DCR -- Ware River Watershed Locus Map 4415



0 1,100 2,200 3,300 4,400 Feet



Sale area (41 Acres)

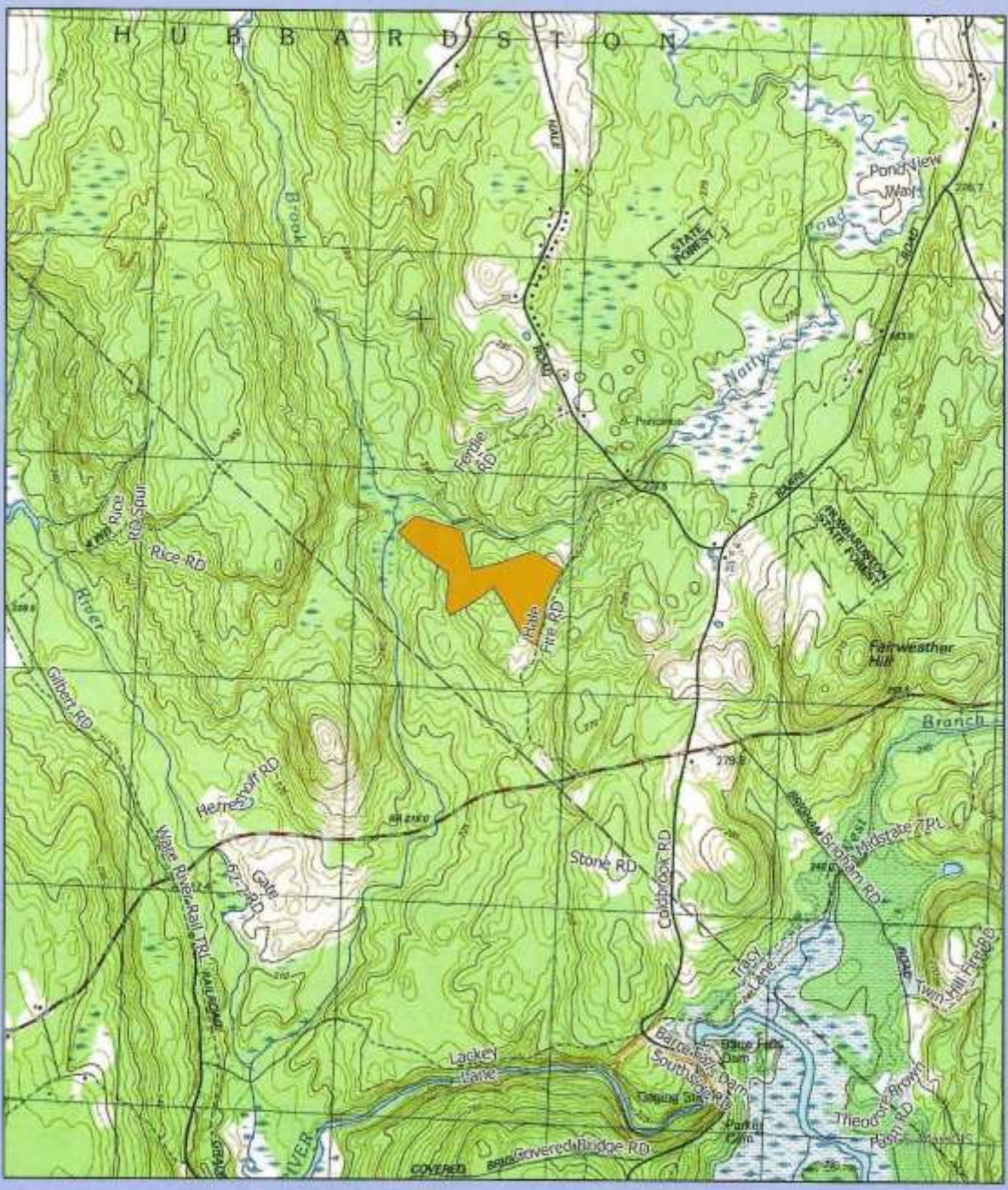


Figure 2: Preharvest photo October 2025

