

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

Project Title: Lot 5285

DWSP Harvest Permit Number: 5285

DWSP Proposal ID: WA-20-53

DCR Forest Cutting Plan File Number: 282-22530-20

Site Information

Watershed: Wachusett

Town(s): Sterling

Acres: 31

Nearest Road: Beaman Road

Natural Heritage Atlas overlap?: No

Public Drinking Water Supply Watershed?: Yes

Forest Types: White pine; Mixed hardwoods

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)?: No

Soils: Excessively drained Hinckley and Merrimac make up 19%, Chatfield-Hollis Rock outcrop on about 17%, about half the working unit is well-drained thick Canton soils, and the remaining 18% is poorly to very poorly drained Whitman and Walpole.

Wetland Resources: No stream or wetland resources will need to be crossed, and no harvesting will take place in wetlands.

Vernal Pools: There is a vernal pool just north of the pond area above the dam on the east side of the intermittent stream (west of Rocky brook).

Harvest Information

Harvest Start Date: 12/4/2019

Harvest End Date: 12/15/2021

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 cutting in the filter strips.

Wetland Crossings: There are no wetland crossings.

Harvesting in Wetlands: There is no harvesting in wetlands.

DWSP Forester supervising this harvest

Name: Greg Buzzell

Forester License number: 025

Phone number: 774-261-1841

Email: greg.buzzell@mass.gov

Narrative

General Description/Forest Composition/History

This forest is distinguishable by its bouldered slope and diverse regeneration. This lot was purchased in 1998 and has had no forestry work done since it was acquired. Although recent harvesting has taken place directly abutting this lot and the recent disturbances suggest hardwoods will come in thick and diverse on this lot. Near Beaman Road, Rocky Brook appears to have been damned previously on this lot and then the damn was taken down at some point. Beaver activity is current with a large beaver dam next to the field and the beaver have flooded a small section of timber in the southern portion of the lot. The field is well maintained and has five crab apple trees in it.

The primary species in the forest overstory is white pine with smaller amounts of red oak, black oak, white oak, pignut hickory, shagbark hickory, sugar maple, bigtooth aspen, trembling aspen, yellow birch, willow, red maple, hemlock, eastern hophornbeam, striped maple, Norway spruce and basswood. The white pine is a range of good to poor vigor. White oak regeneration is strong with some red oak and white pine on the slope and at the top of the hill. The lower and flatter sections are much more diverse in regeneration with black cherry, sugar maple, hickory, white pine and red oak. Shrubs are mostly Ilex and dogwood by the brook, highbush blueberry and hawthorn at the bottom of the slope. Mountain laurel, sheep laurel and maple-leaf viburnum are present throughout the rest of the lot. Maple-leaf viburnum is numerous and of good height, suggesting minimal deer pressure.

Site Selection

The ideal watershed protection forest is one which best serves the function of the land as a producer of high quality drinking water in both short- and long-term. This forest must be vigorous and diverse in tree species and ages, be actively accumulating biomass and actively regenerating. Such a forest will be ideally suited to be resilient to and quickly recover from small- and large-scale disturbances such as diseases, insect infestations, ice storms and hurricanes.

Silvicultural Objectives

Given the excellent understory of diverse regeneration, it was not difficult to place appropriate openings throughout the manageable areas. They will be removed in 6 patches that average about one acre and range in size from 0.27 to 1.9 acres, totaling 5.8 acres. The species composition of this new cohort will be much more diverse than the current overstory as the lot is currently dominated by white pine while the regeneration has a significant amount of hardwoods.

Cultural Resources

There are no known historic and archaeological resources associated with this site. If any features are uncovered before or during the harvest, they will be protected according to guidelines set forth in the Comprehensive Land Management Plan.

Rare or Endangered Species

None known.

Figures

- Figure 1. Maps of harvest area showing approximate boundary, proposed openings and other features
- Figure 2. General locus map showing the location of the proposed timber harvest
- Figure 3. Pre-Harvest Photographs, A-C
- Figure 4. Post-Harvest Photographs, A-B

Figure 1. Maps of harvest area showing approximate boundary, proposed openings and other features

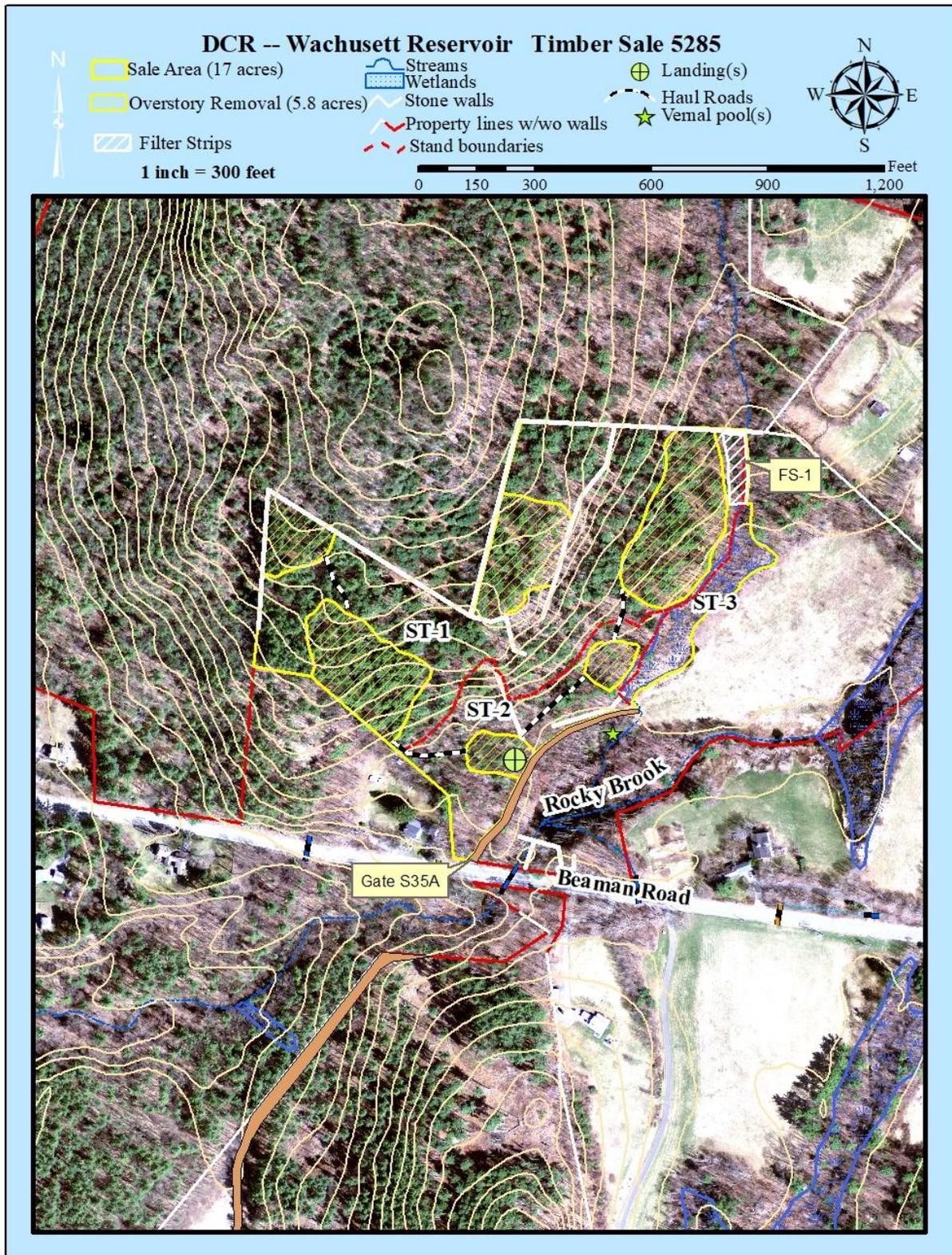


Figure 2. General locus map showing the location of the proposed timber harvest

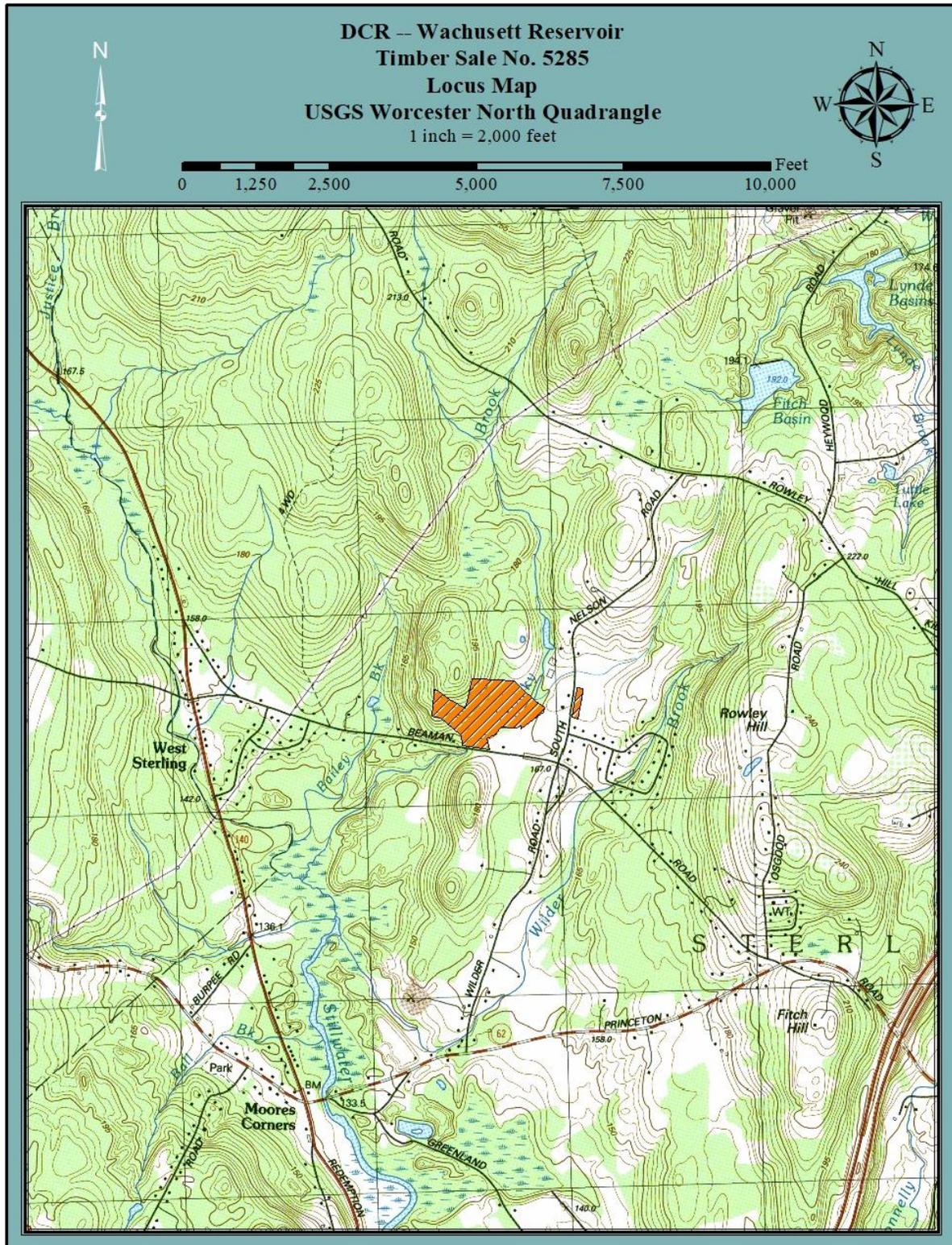


Figure 3. Pre-Harvest Photographs, A-C



A: Landing Location



B: Opening with diverse hardwoods Maple, Cherry, and Oak regeneration to be released.



C: Opening with large diameter pine marked with a diverse mix of hardwoods and pine to be released.

Figure 4. Post-Harvest Photographs, A-B



A. Opening with large white pine retention, snags left for wildlife and diverse hardwood regeneration.



B. Opening with hemlock and black cherry retention and an array of diverse regeneration released.