

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

Project Title: Lot 5314

DWSP Harvest Permit Number: 5314

DWSP Proposal ID: WA-22-155

DCR Forest Cutting Plan File Number: 282-43670-26

Site Information

Watershed: Wachusett

Town(s): Sterling

Acres: 57.4

Nearest Road: Justice Hill Road

Natural Heritage Atlas overlap?: No

Public Drinking Water Supply Watershed?: Yes

Forest Types: Oak-Hardwoods, Red oak, White pine-hardwoods

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)?: No

Soils: Paxton fine sandy loam and Ridgebury fine sandy loam

Wetland Resources: An intermittent stream is the northwestern boundary of this area.

Vernal Pools: None known,

Harvest Information

Harvest Start Date: 7/25/26

Harvest End Date: 6/29/28

Number of Wetland Crossings: Zero

Number of Stream Crossings: Zero

Best Management Practices Applied

Stream Crossings: There are no stream crossings.

Filter Strips: No trees are being cut within the filter strip.

Wetland Crossings: There are no wetland crossings.

Harvesting in Wetlands: There are no 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 area was purchased by the MDC in 1998. It's made up of two former pastures that are surrounded by stone wall; a 26 acre pasture in the south and a 39 acres pasture formerly known as the "Jones Pasture" to the north. Only the northern 18 acres of the southern pasture are included in this proposed sale area. The old AT&T long-distance phone cable right-of-way was used to divide this area southern area.

The southern pasture is dominated by red oak in the overstory along with red maple, white pine, white oak, black birch, white ash and paper birch. The understory is dominated by witchhazel along with hazelnut and scattered mountain laurel. The advance regeneration is comprised of black birch, red maple, white oak, red oak, white pine, white ash, paper birch and hickory.

The northern pasture is dominated by red oak and white pine along with hickory, black birch, red maple, white oak and white ash. Eastern hophornbeam is found in the far north end of this area. The dominant shrub in the understory is mountain laurel. Witchhazel is more common on the lower slopes to the west. Advance regeneration is comprised of black birch, red oak, white pine, red maple, white ash, hickory and black cherry.

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.

This working unit was selected due both to the lack of age diversity in the forests of this subwatershed and in this working unit itself. The age structure of this area is as follows: 0%, 0-20 years old; 0%, 21-40 years old; 0%, 41-60 years; 15%, 61-80 years; 80%, 81-100 years and 5%, >100 years old. The oldest trees are in the far southwest end of the southern pasture. The red oaks here originated in about 1913 making them about 108 years old. There's an individual very large white oak in the approximate middle of the northern pasture that was present when this was still an actual pasture making it much older than the 85 year old forest that now surrounds it.

Given the lack of young stands in this area and given the presence of good advance regeneration comprised of species well suited to this site, the primary goal will be to increase the proportion of young forest stands in this area.

Silvicultural Objectives

With good advance regeneration present comprised of a diversity of species well suited to this site, the goal will be to make 13 openings that total 16.1 acres. This will result in a new age cohort within the forest that makes up 28% of the area of this working unit. These openings are well distributed throughout the area taking advantage of where the advance regeneration is

best. Given that the majority of the good advance regeneration is found in the north pasture, a disproportionate amount of the acreage of the new age cohort will be here.

Cultural Resources

No cultural resources are known to be in this area except for the stone walls that surround these former pastures. These stone walls will be protected from unnecessary damage.

Rare or Endangered Species

None known.

Figures

- Figure 1. Forest Cutting Plan
- Figure 2. Maps of harvest area showing approximate boundary, proposed openings and other features
- Figure 3. General locus map showing the location of the proposed timber harvest

Figure 1. Forest Cutting Plan

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 2824361026 Case No.
Date Rec'd 03-25-26 Nat. Hert.
Earliest Start 03-12-26 Nat. Hert. Imp.
River Basin NASHUA Pub. Dr. Wat. WACHUSETT
Gen. Obj. LT ACEC

Site Information

Location

Town Sterling Lot 5314
Road Justice Hill Rd.
Acres 57.4 Proposed Start Date 4/2026
Vol. MBF 107.8 Vol. Cds. 208 Vol. Tons 129

Plan Preparer

Name Gregory S. Buzzell
Address 180 Beaman Rd.

Town, State, Zip West Boylston, MA, 01583
Phone 774-261-1841
Type of Preparer Mass. Licensed Forester
*Mass. Forester License # 25
*Required for land under Ch61, Ch61A or Forest Stewardship

Landowner

Name DCR/DWSP/OWM Wachusett/Sudbury
Mailing Address 180 Beaman St.

Town, State, Zip West Boylston, MA 01583
Phone 608-792-7806
Ch61 ☐ Ch61A ☐ Stew ☐ *Case #
Est. Stumpage Value

Licensed Timber Harvester**

Name To be supplied when known.
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)	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

* NOTIFY DCR SERVICE FORESTER
AT START OF HARVEST

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. 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 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			

Products to be Harvested*

Species	Mbf/Cds		Mbf/Cds
White Pine	64.6	Red Maple	4.4
Red Pine		Sugar Maple	
Pitch Pine		Red Oak	24.5
Hemlock		Black Oak	6.7
Spruce		White Oak	
Other Sftwd.		Other Hdwd.	
White Ash		Total Mbf	107.8
Beech		Cordwood (Cds)	208
White Birch		SW Pulp (Tons)	129
B & Y Birch	7.5	HW Pulp (Tons)	
Black Cherry		Chips (Tons)	

*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.

Cutting Standards

Indicate location on map	ST-1	ST-2	ST-3	ST-4
Forest Type	OH	OR	WH	MH
Acres	19.3	16.9	12.6	8.6
Landowner Objective	LT	LT	LT	LT
Designation of Trees	CT	CT	CT	CT
Type of Cut	SH	SH	SH	SH
Source of Regeneration	AD	AD	AD	AD

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.

Kelly Frede

Signature of Landowner(s)

1/27/2026

Date

Determination and Status 282.43670.26

Approved ☒ Disapproved ☐ Expires *02-25-28*

[Signature] *3/9/26*

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

Forest Types				Designation of Trees	Type of Cut	Intermediate Harvests:	Source of Regeneration
WP White Pine	HK Hemlock	OM Mixed Oak	CT Cut Tree	SH Shelterwood	CT Commercial Thin	AD Advanced	
WK WP/Hem	HH Hem/Hdwd	RM Red Maple	LT Leave Tree	ST Seed Tree	NT Non Com Thin	SE Natural Seed	
WH WP/Hdwd	BC Black Cherry	BE Beech	SB Stand Boundary	CC Clear Cut	SE Selection	PL Plant	
WO WP/Oak	BB Bee/Bir/Map	SF Spruce/Fir	OT Other	SA Salvage	DL Diameter Limit*	CO Coppice	
RP Red Pine	OH Oak/Hdwd	SM Sugar Maple	Landowner Objective	SN Sanitation		DS Direct Seed	
SR Red Spruce	OR N Red Oak	PP Pitch Pine	LT Long-term Mgt.			OT Other	

Forest Cutting Plan

Narrative Page

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

Landowner: DCR/Dusplown
Wachusett/Sudbury
Town: Sterling
File Number: 282.43670.26

BMPs	<u>No trees are being cut in FS-1.</u>
Silviculture	<u>In order to release advance regeneration, 13 openings in the overstory are being created, covering 16.1 acres. These openings range from 0.5 acres to 2.1 acres in size with an average of 1.2 acres. They are as well distributed throughout the area as they can be taking advantage of the advance regeneration.</u> <u>An additional 3.7 acre area, in both the white pine/hardwood and oak/hardwood stands, is being thinned. The goal is to daylight the good number of hickory by removing adjacent trees.</u>
Object	<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. The current age structure is limited with an insufficient component of young forest.</u>
Other	<u>Haul roads have been flagged between the openings, many of which are old skid trails.</u> <u>The main haul road that connects the sale area to the landing on Justice Hill Road is an old cart path/skid trail that has been used for several timber sales since DCR acquired this property. It has not been flagged.</u> <u>Trees are only being cut within the 13 overstory removal patches, the 3.7 acre partial-cut area and, of course, as needed along haul roads.</u>

dc



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

FILE #

28243670.26



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/DWS/Plowm 186 Beaman St.
Wachusett Sudbury W. Baylston in accordance with the
(Name of Owner) (Address)

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

Justice Hill, Lot 5314.

Approval Date 3/9/26

Director's Agent Chris Capone

DCR Phone No. 857-406-0175

ISSUED BY:

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

Figure 2. Maps of harvest area showing approximate boundary, proposed openings and other features

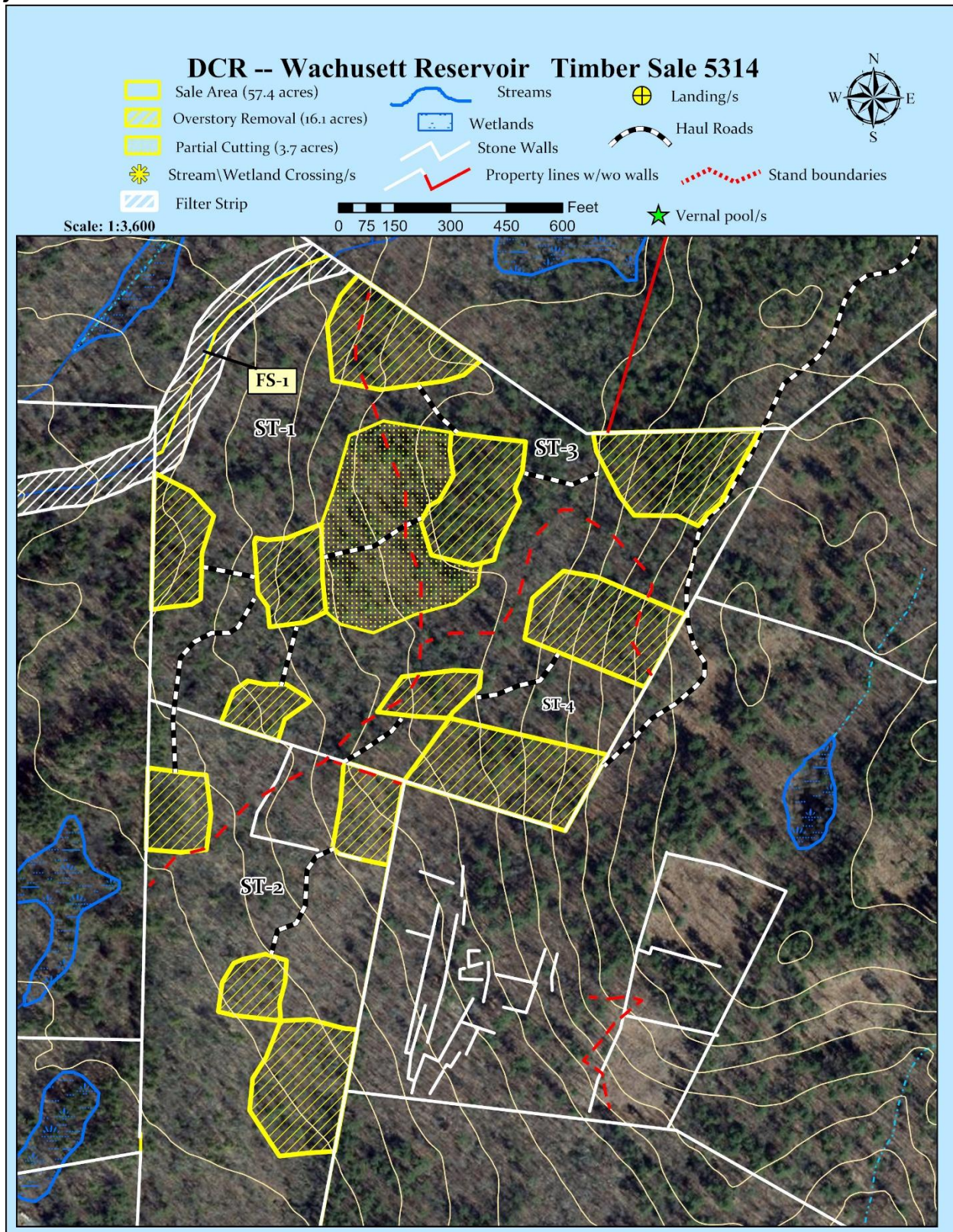


Figure 3. General locus map showing the location of the proposed timber harvest

