

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

Project Title:

DWSP Harvest Permit Number: 5277
DCR Forest Cutting Plan File Number:134-9055-18

Site Information

Watershed: Wachusett	Town(s): Holden
Acres: 66	Nearest Road: Sterling Road
Natural Heritage Atlas overlap?:No	Public Drinking Water Supply Watershed?: Yes
Forest Types: White pine-oak/White pine-hardwood	ACEC?: No
Soils: Merrimac and Hinckley outwash soils and Canton well-drained till	
Wetland Resources: A couple of small tributaries and associated bordering vegetated wetlands come together to form Ball Brook.	
Vernal Pools: There are two vernal pools; one near Pikes Hill Road and the other about 600' to the south, both in the far eastern side of the sale area.	

Harvest Information

DWSP Permit Start Date: 11/28/18	DWSP Permit End Date:12/4/20
Number of Wetland Crossings: 3	Number of Stream Crossings: 1

Best Management Practices Applied

Stream Crossings	The very small intermittent brook will be crossed using the existing cart path. Depending on conditions at the time, bridging, pole ford or corduroy will be used. Tops may be used to armor the approaches.
Filter Strips	No trees are marked in the filter strips.
Wetland Crossings	These very narrow wetland crossings will ideally occur when conditions are dry or frozen or they will be protected with adequate tree tops or corduroy.
Harvesting in Wetlands	No harvesting in wetlands will occur.

DWSP Forester supervising this harvest
Name: Greg Buzzell
Forester License #: 25
Phone #: 774-261-1841

NARRATIVES

General Description/Forest Composition/History:

This area is located in Holden on the Holden/Sterling town line. A cart path from a small parking area on Sterling Road forms the western edge of the sale area along with the Poutwater Pond Nature Preserve. Purchased by the state in 1994, this property had been logged several times prior to state ownership. Nearly 16 acres of now 35 year old white pine-oak and oak-hardwood stands resulted from heavy logging followed by the blow-down and salvage of about 3 additional acres following the tornado of 1989. Most of remaining forest originated from 1930 through the 1950's as various parts of this former pasture were abandoned. There is good advance regeneration comprised of white pine, oaks, red maple, yellow birch, black birch, hickory and hemlock.

The soils in nearly half of this area are excessively drained outwash soils. The Canton soil, which is of till origin, dominates the far western end of the sale area and poorly drained soils dominate the central part of the area where narrow wetlands and streams are present.

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.

One result of the past harvesting activities is that there is more of a diversity of age classes than many other parts of the watershed forest possess. However, there is still a lack in the youngest age classes. Given the goal to have at least 3 age classes on every area, this forest's lack of any stands younger than 35 years requires that regeneration cutting needs to begin. We can capitalize on good amounts of advance regeneration (62% of sampled plots had adequate seedlings and saplings).

Sampled plots also revealed that invasive plants are absent from the lot although a careful eye has been kept particularly on the areas immediately adjacent to the abutting homes on Pikes Hill Road. It is very common for invasive species to become established in the habitually disturbed habitat of residential neighborhoods which then invade uninfested forests when the opportunity presents itself.

Silvicultural Objectives:

There is enough advance regeneration of a species mix appropriate to the site (a mix similar to the overstory) to warrant release of a new age cohort by the removal of the overstory in patches. In this area, 14 openings have been marked totaling 9.4 acres. These range in size from 0.25 to 1.5 acres in size with an average of 0.7 acres. These openings are primarily distributed in the northern half of the area with a few openings in the far south end. They have been arranged with adequate spacing between the patches to allow for future patches of a similar range of sizes. Standards regarding green retention (live trees left within patches for structure and seed) have been followed.

Cultural Resources:

This lot was reviewed by the DCR archaeologist and all recommendations will be followed. There is no known cultural significance to this area, either historically or pre-European contact. There is a stone foundation in the far northeast corner of the area, which an 1870 Worcester County atlas indicates may have belonged to a J. Reed Jr. The area directly around this foundation will be avoided. All stone walls on DCR property are valued as a cultural resource, so the stone walls on this property will be protected from damage to the extent possible.

Wildlife/Rare or Endangered Species:

DWSP's Conservation Management Practices regarding vernal pools are being followed. Otherwise, there are no critical habitats or known rare or endangered plants or wildlife.

FIGURES

Figure 1. Forest Cutting Plan

Figure 2. Map 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 4. Pre-Harvest Photographs, A-C

Figure 5. Post-Harvest Photographs, A-B

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 134-9155-18 Case No. _____
Date Rec'd 10/13/18 Nat. Hist. NO
Earliest Start 10/30/18 Nat. Hist. Insp. NO
River Basin Nashua Pub. Dr. Wat. Yes-Watch
Gen. Obj. LT ACEC NO

* AMENDMENT * 10-23-18 Rec'd

Site Information

Location

Town Holden / Sterling Lot 5243B
Road Sterling Road
Acres 66.3 Proposed Start Date 11/01/18
Vol. MBF 92.6 Vol. Cds. 114 Vol. Tons 55

Plan Preparer

Name Russell Wilcox
Address 180 Boaman St.
Town, State, Zip West Boylston, MA, 01583
Phone 508-792-7846 Ext 318
Type of Preparer Mass. Licensed Forester
*Mass. Forester License # 426
*Required for land under Ch61, Ch61A or Forest Stewardship

Landowner

Name DCR/DWSP/OWM Wachusett/Sudbury
Mailing Address 180 Boaman St.
Town, State, Zip West Boylston, MA 01583
Phone 508-792-7846
Ch61 ☐ Ch61A ☐ Stew ☐ *Case # _____
Est. Stumpage Value _____

Licensed Timber Harvester**

Name Will be provided 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	BR/PO			
Existing Structure	No			
Type of Bottom	GR			
Bank Height (ft)	<1'			
Stabilization	CO			

Wetland Crossings

Indicate location on map	WC-1	WC-2	WC-3	WC-4
Length of Crossing	20'	20'	45'	
Migration	IR/DR	FR/DR	FR/DR	
Stabilization	CO	CO	CO	

Filter Strips

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

* AMENDMENT - LANDING Added OFF
PIVES WILL Rd.

Codes

Type of Preparer	Type of Crossing	Stabilization	Migration	Type of Bottom
CP Mass. Lic. For.	CU Culvert	St Seed	FR Freely	LT Ledge
FR Lic. Tim. Har.	BR Bridge	ML Mulch	DR Dry	ST Stony
LB Timber Buyer	FO Fnd	CO Checkered	OT Other	ML Mud
LO Landowner	PO Piled	St Stone		CR Gravel
OT Other	OT Other	EB Hay Bales		OT Other
		UJ Other		

Note:
Applicant must provide DCR with all relevant information.
Before plan may be approved and cutting may begin,
three forestry activities, such as prescribed burning and
pesticide or fertilizer application may require additional permits.
Consult MA Forestry RMP Manual for further information.

If Other (O1) 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	75.7	Red Maple	1.2
Red Pine		Sugar Maple	
Pitch Pine		Red Oak	11.4
Hemlock		Black Oak	5.1
Spruce		White Oak	0.2
Other Soft		Other Hard	
White Ash		Total Mbf	92.6
Beech		Cardboard (Cds)	114
White Birch		SW Pulp (Tons)	5.5
R & Y Birch		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	WO	WH	
Acres	22.2	24.6	18.5	
Landowner Objective	LT	LT	LT	
Designation of Trees	CT	CT	CT	
Type of Cut	SH	SH	SH	
Source of Regeneration	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 maximum 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 (C&B 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 higher agent if the final figures differ from those reported.

Patricia E. Austin

Signature of landowner(s)

10-22-18
Date

Determination and Status 10-13-2017

Approved ☒ Disapproved ☐ Expires 10-13-2017
Signature of Service Forester/Director's Agent
Date 10-19-2017

Final Report and Comments

I hereby certify that the above described Forest Cutting Plan and all relevant statutes have been substantially complied with.

Signature of Service Forester/Director's Agent

Date

Extension 1 ☐ 2 ☐ Expires
Amendment App 1 ☒ Dis 1 ☐ App 2 ☐ Dis 2 ☐ 10-19-2017

Forest Type	Designation of Trees	Type of Cut	Source of Regeneration
W* White Pine	CT C&B Tree	ST Shelterwood	AD Advanced
WR White Pine	LT Leave Tree	ST Seed Tree	SE Natural Seed
WH White Pine	SB Stand Boundary	CT Clear Cut	PL Plant
WO White Oak	OT Other	SE Selection	CO Coppice
RP Red Pine	Landowner Objective	SA Salvage	LS Other Seed
SR Red Spruce	LT Long-term Mgt.	SN Sanitation	OT Other
	ST Short-term Har.		

*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

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

Landowner: DCR-DWSP

Town: Holden/Sterling

File Number: 134-9055-18

Reg P.	<p><u>All stream and wetland crossings are on an old cart path that has preexisting gravel. SC-1/WC-3 is regularly wet and will require bridging or corduroy. The approaches to the stream will be protected with logs unless the ground is adequately frozen or snow-covered. WC-1.2 will be used when the crossings are dry or frozen. Both will be protected with wood (corduroy and/or logs) as needed depending on conditions.</u></p> <p><u>*A second landing has been added on Pikes Hill Road frontage.</u></p>
Silviculture	<p><u>In order to release advance regeneration, 14 openings in the overstory are being created, covering 9.4 acres. These openings range from less than a 1/4 acre to 1.5 acres in size with an average of 0.67 acres. They are well distributed throughout the area taking advantage of the advance regeneration comprised of white pine, oaks and other hardwoods. No thinning will occur between any of these patches.</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. The current age structure is limited with an insufficient component of young forest.</u></p>
Other	<p><u>The Natural Heritage GIS layer comes into the sale area (Priority Habitat # 1332) on the far western edge. No cutting or hauling will occur in that specific area.</u></p>

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

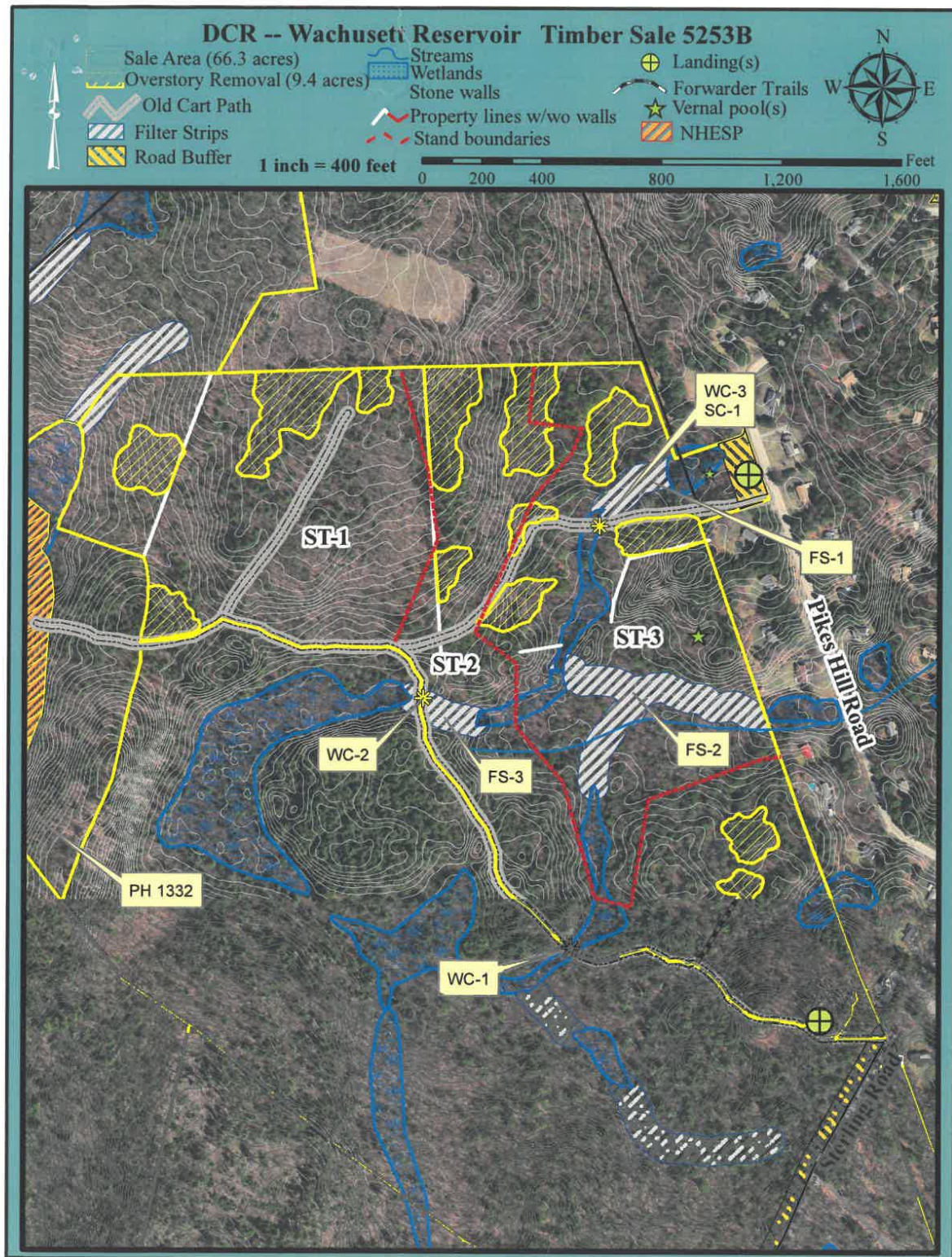


Figure 3. General locus map showing the location of the proposed timber harvest

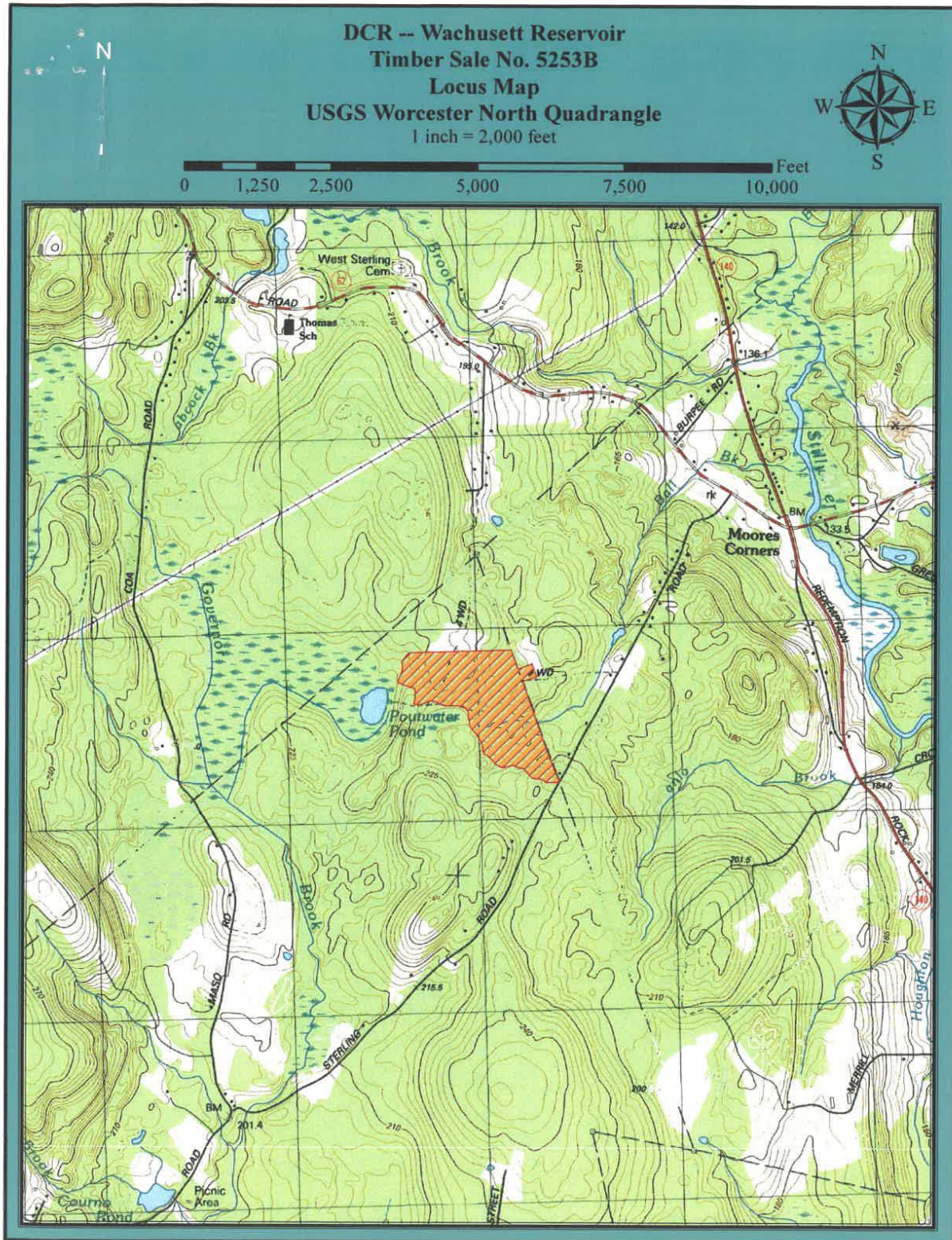


Figure 4. Pre-Harvest Photographs, A-C



A. The landing location at Gate H23 on Sterling Road in Holden.



B. The white oak in the foreground is being retained while most of the rest of the overstory is being removed to release the excellent understory of young white pine and mixed hardwood seedlings and saplings.



C. Another opening where most of the overstory is being removed in order to free the young trees in the understory from the shade of the larger older trees. Note the white pine to the center-right of the photo which is being retained within this opening. Such trees provide valuable structural diversity within these young patches and are expected to be allowed to live out the typical lifespan for this species which can be 200 to 300 years or more.

Figure 5. Post-Harvest Photographs, A-B



A. Looking northeasterly into the 0.7-acre overstory removal opening just west of the landing off of Pikes Hill Road.



B. Looking northeasterly into a 0.5-acre opening with good hardwood regeneration.