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| Project Name:Settler’s Green Fuels Reduction Buffer | Date Proposed: 1/31/2022 |
| Property Name: Myles Standish State Forest | Town(s): Carver |
| Acres: 17 | Landscape Designation: Reserve |
| Forestry District: Southeast | Rec Complex/District: Myles Standish / Cape Cod |
| Forester: Gregory | FOTL/F&P Supervisor: John Roberts (both) |

MASSACHUSETTS FOREST ACTION PLAN GOALS

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| \* Increase resistance and resilience of trees and forests to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change |
| \* Manage forest ecosystem health and biodiversity |
| \* Support the role and use of prescribed fire in the landscape |
| \* Cultivate and support partnerships with forestry and conservation Stakeholders |

GENERAL LOT DESCRIPTION

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| **Acres** | **Forest Type** | | **Stand Description** |
| 17 | Overstory: Pitch pine -oak; Eastern white pine | Understory: Ranging from dense white pine saplings to more open areas of scrub oak and heath species. | Consists mainly of pole-sized pitch pine, Eastern white pine, white oak, black oak, red maple, Norway spruce, and sapling sized gray birch. Scattered sawlog sized pitch pine, white pine and Norway spruce are also present. A portion of the white pine are over 20” diameter at breast height (dbh) with the pitch pine and Norway spruce of smaller dbh. |

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| Description of Project Area: The project is a 100-foot-wide strip to the east of West Line Road and to the north of Halfway Pond Road and a 6-foot-wide strip to the west of West Line Road and to the south of Halfway Pond. Portions of the project area were burned in wildfires in 1957 and in 1975. |

# SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES

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| Acres | Soil Type | Drainage Characteristic |
| 5 | 252 | Excessively drained Carver coarse sand. |
| 2 | 254 | Somewhat excessively drained Merrimac fine sandy loam. |
| 2 | 256 | Moderately well drained Deerfield loamy fine sand. |
| 3 | 259 | Excessively drained Carver loamy coarse sand. |
| 4 | 481 | Excessively drained Plymouth bouldery coarse sand and excessively drained Carver bouldery coarse sand. |
| 1 | 483 | Well drained Barnstable very bouldery sandy loam and excessively drained Plymouth very bouldery coarse sand. |

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| Average Slope Percent:Variable | Terrain Consistency: Variable |
| General Aspect:Varied | Terrain Position: Multiple |
| Description of Soils and Topographic Features: The project area is comprised of rolling terrain with a bend in the fuel break along West Line Road. The soils are derived from glacial outwash. | |

# WETLAND FEATURES

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|  | Present | Crossing | Work within Filter/Buffer |
| Wetlands: | No | No | No |
| Regulated Streams: | No | No | No |
| Non-Regulated Streams: | No | No | No |
| Vernal Pools: | No | No | No |
| Seeps: | No | No | No |

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| Description of Wetland Features: No wetland features are in project area. |

CULTURAL RESOURCES

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|  | Present | At Risk | Work Within Buffer |
| Stone Walls: | No | No | No |
| Foundation / Cellar Hole: | No | No | No |
| Well: | No | No | No |
| Structures: | No | No | No |
| Cemetery: | No | No | No |
| Other: Charcoal pit | Yes | No | Yes |

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| Description of Cultural Resources: A charcoal pit exists within the project area. The project will have an archeological review and evaluation by DCR’s archeologist. Any recommendations will be incorporated into the final scope of work. |

NATURAL HERITAGE / WILDLIFE-HABITAT MANAGEMENT / OTHER RESOURCES

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| Natural Heritage Polygon: Yes | Natural Heritage Restrictions: Possible |
| Restrictions on Harvest Description: Will adjust management to NHESP recommendations. | |

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| Wildlife Specific Management: Yes | Targeted Species: State-listed moths and butterflies. |
| Goals: To maintain and restore pine barrens habitat. | |

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| Additional Habitat Management: Yes | Habitat Type: An open vegetation structure consisting of scrub oak shrublands and heathlands. |
| Goals: To sustain disturbance-dependent natural communities. | |

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| State Forest Action Plan: Yes | State Wildlife Action Plan: Yes |
| ACEC: No | Public Water Supply: Yes |
| BIO Map2: Yes | Current Resource Management Plan: Yes |
| Additional Detail: A portion of the project area is within a DEP Approved Wellhead Protection Area Zone II. | |

FOREST HEALTH / INVASIVE SPECIES

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| Forest Health Concern: No | Species Affected: Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Management Considerations: Click or tap here to enter text. | |

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| Plant Invasive Species Present: Possible | Species Present: Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Management Considerations: Project will be checked for invasive plants and will be revised if necessary. | |

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| Insect Invasive Species Present: Possible | Species Present: Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Management Considerations: Forest Health trapping program may result in invasive insect being present. Will revise project if necessary. | |

CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND CARBON CONSIDERATIONS

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| **Action Type** | **Identified Issue** | **Action Description** |
| Resilience | The 100-home subdivision is closely interfaced with pitch pine-scrub oak fuels, and a wildfire near the subdivision has the potential to overwhelm the area rather quickly as many of these homes directly border the State Forest. Climate change presents new challenges for managing wildland fires in fire-adapted ecosystems and near the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Warmer annual and seasonal temperatures, increases in drought and heat-induced tree mortality, decreases in relative humidity, and increases in fire season length are all affecting how we manage and plan for fire. | Silvicultural treatments will reduce high fuel hazards to protect subdivision, increase public safety, provide safe access for firefighters and fire apparatus, and will promote and enhance diverse regeneration of native species. |

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| Adaptive Management Strategies:  • Increase fuel reduction treatments in the WUI. • Restore fire-adapted ecosystems using fire-tolerant and drought-adapted native species that are expected to be resilient to future climate and fire regimes. • Alter the forest structure and composition to reduce the risk of wildfire. • Create fuel breaks to protect infrastructure. |

**INFRASTRUCUTRE / RECREATION/ AESTHETICS**

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| Access Road: West Line Rd and Halfway Pond Rd | Ownership: DCR |
| Condition: Good, some soft sandy areas | Road Repair/Upgrade: No |
| Existing Landing: Yes | Landing Repair/Upgrade: No |
| Project Access and Landing Site: Either road is compatible for access. Depending on funding, a landing may be utilized to remove large diameter trees (mainly white pine) at intersection of said roads. Landing was used in 2015 to remove dead red pine. | |

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| Existing Skid Trail Network: No | Pre-Harvest Repair/Upgrade: No |
| Skid Trail Network Description: New skid trails will be laid out per BMP standards. | |

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| Shared Infrastructure: No | Road/Trail Names: Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Management Considerations: Click or tap here to enter text. | |

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| Official Trail Present: Yes | Condition: Good |
| Illegal Trail Present: Possible | Condition: Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Existing Trail Head: Yes | Condition: Good |
| Recreation Facility: No | Condition: Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Recreation and Aesthetic Concerns/Opportunities: Several forest roads and trails intersect with West Line Road and Halfway Pond Road within the project area. These roads and trails will be closed during mechanical operations. | |

SILVICULTURE

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| **Acres** | **Silviculture Type** | **Silviculture Description** |
| 17 | Other | The primary goal is to reduce the fuel load to protect an abutting 100 home subdivision, increase public safety, and to provide safe access for firefighters and fire apparatus in the event of a wildfire. The secondary goal is to restore and maintain native pitch pine and scrub oak natural communities with a focus on individual, larger diameter, full-crowned pitch pine trees in the overstory with an understory of scrub oak and other native shrubs. |

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| General Comments on Silviculture Proposed: Reducing the canopy cover will result in an open habitat benefiting a variety of rare, declining, and common species. Overstory tree density will be reduced/thinned by mowing or mulching in place using a forestry mulching head. The largest diameter, most full-crowned pitch pines will be retained. If funding is available, large white pine will be removed to further increase public safety and access. |

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS / OPPORTUNITIES

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|  | Description |
| Seasonal Restrictions: Possible | A Natural Heritage time of year restriction is possible. |
| Equipment Restrictions: Yes | Equipment will be restricted to its ability to mow and mulch pole sized trees in place. If large white pines are able to be removed, timber harvesting equipment will be restricted to its ability to process large diameter trees. |
| Recreation Restrictions: Yes | Roads and trails will be closed during mechanical operations. |
| Green Docket: Possible | Depending on Natural Heritage review. |
| In-kind Services: No | Click or tap here to enter text. |

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| Potential Local Economic Benefits: Minimally if large white pines are harvested. |

**Attachments:**

**Locus Map**

**Proposal Map**

**Map

Description automatically generated**

**Map

Description automatically generated**