

**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: 5309

DWSP Proposal ID: WA-24-195

DCR Forest Cutting Plan File Number: 282-3102-25

Site Information

Watershed: Wachusett

Town(s): West Boylston

Acres: 44

Nearest Road: Prescott Street

Natural Heritage Atlas overlap?: Yes

Public Drinking Water Supply Watershed?: Yes

Forest Types: Oak-Hardwoods, White pine-Oak

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)?: No

Soils: Hinckley fine sandy loam and Paxton fine sandy loam

Wetland Resources: Yes

Vernal Pools: No

Harvest Information

Harvest Start Date: 3/26/2025

Harvest End Date: 6/28/2027

Number of Wetland Crossings: None

Number of Stream Crossings: 2

Best Management Practices Applied

Stream Crossings: The small intermittent stream will be crossed when dry and will be protected with corduroy. The other stream crossing is at an existing culverted crossing on a forest road.

Filter Strips: There is no harvesting in the filter strips.

Wetland Crossings: Not applicable

Harvesting in Wetlands: Not applicable

DWSP Forester supervising this harvest

Name: Greg Buzzell

Forester License number: 025

Phone number: 77-261-1841

Email: greg.buzzell@mass.gov

Narrative

General Description/Forest Composition/History

Nearly all of the oak-hardwood stands originate from the severe thunderstorms on July 10th, 1989 and the subsequent salvage operation in the months after. These now 34-year-old stands in the eastern end of this area are comprised of red maple, black oak, white oak, black birch, bigtooth aspen, gray birch, hickory, white pine and sugar maple. The gray birch is dying, having completed its life cycle as a pioneer species. The 34-year old stand south of Waushacum Brook on the flat area near Stillwater Basin is comprised of red maple, sugar maple, black cherry and red oak.

The older stands originated in either 1915 following the taking by the Commonwealth at the time of the construction of the Wachusett Reservoir or in 1938 when 4-year old white pines were planted. The overstory in these stands are comprised primarily of white pine, black oak and white oak. Paper birch, black birch, red maple, hickory, sugar maple, yellow birch and bigtooth aspen are also present. In the eastern part of this area near Prescott Street there also a significant component of pitch pine in the overstory. On the flat area south of Waushacum Brook there are also red oak, sugar maple, hickory and black cherry in the overstory. Hemlock infested with hemlock wooly adelgid is present on the short steep slope along Waushacum Brook.

Adequate advance regeneration was found in 49% of the plots taken. These plots are well distributed throughout the proposed sale area. This regeneration is comprised primarily of red maple, white pine, white oak, red oak and black birch. Also present are hickory, white ash, black cherry, hemlock and sugar maple.

Site Selection

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. Most of this area is within subwatershed #4 (Thomas/Quinapoxet/Stillwater Basins). Only 10% of the forest stands within this subwatershed are 20 years old or less. 42% of the stands are more than 100 years old.

Within the 54 manageable acres of this working unit, there are no stands that are 20 years old or less. The full age structure is as follows: 0%, 0-20 years old; 18%, 21-40 years; 3%, 41-60 years; 5%, 61-80 years; 28%, 81-100 years and 46%, greater than 100 years old.

Silvicultural Objectives

With the overall goal of having a forest with a diverse age structure with at least 3 age-classes distributed throughout both the subwatershed and the 54 acres within this specific area, the older overstory is being removed in patches. These patches total 6.2 acres which is 20% of the 30.6 manageable acres in this area. They range in size from 0.25 to 1.8 acres. They are as well distributed throughout the working unit as possible, taking advantage of where the advance regeneration is present. In an additional 4.7 acres, there is a significant component of pitch pine. Much of the white pine is being selectively removed in order to give these pitch pine more space and light.

Cultural Resources

The numerous stone walls in this area 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 4. Pre-Harvest Photographs, A-C

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)

DEC 08 2024

For DCR Use Only:

File Number 321.43102.25 Case No.
Date Rec'd 12-06-25 Nat. Hert. 1 Y
Earliest Start 12-23-25 Nat. Hert. Imp. Y
River Basin NASHUA Pub. Dr. Wat. WACHUSETT
Gen. Obj. LT ACEC N

Site Information

Location

Town WEST BOYLSTON Lot 5309
Road PRESCOTT RD
Acres 30.6 Proposed Start Date
Vol. MBF 64.9 Vol. Cds. 92 Vol. Tons 45

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	BR	CU		
Existing Structure	No	Yes		
Type of Bottom	MU	MU		
Bank Height (ft)	1'	2'		
Stabilization	CO	OT		

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	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 OPERATION
- SEE ATTACHED NHESP DETERMINATION LETTER
- NHESP BUFFER LINES FLAGGED

Codes

Type of Preparer	Type of Crossing	Stabilization	Mitigation	Type of Bottom
LF Mass. Lic. For.	CU Culvert	SE Seed	FR Frozen	LE Ledge
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		

Note:
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.

If Other (OT) is used in any category an explanation must be given on an attached narrative page

Products to be Harvested*

Species	Mbf/Cds		Mbf/Cds
White Pine	46.1	Red Maple	
Red Pine		Sugar Maple	
Pitch Pine		Red Oak	4.3
Hemlock		Black Oak	12.9
Spruce		White Oak	1.6
Other Sftwd.		Other Hdwd.	
White Ash		Total Mbf	64.9
Beech		Cordwood (Cds)	92
White Birch		SW Pulp (Tons)	45
B & 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	WO	OM		
Acres	24.0	6.6		
Landowner Objective	LT	LT		
Designation of Trees	CT	CT		
Type of Cut	SH/CT	SH		
Source of Regeneration	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.

Kelley Fieda

Signature of landowner(s)

12/5/24
Date

Determination and Status 321.43102.25

Approved Disapproved Expires

Cutting Plan



12-6-26

Mark Gye

Signature of Service Forester/Director's Agent

1/27/25
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
WP White Pine
WK WP/Hem
WH WP/Hdwd
WO WP/Oak
RP Red Pine
SR Red Spruce

HK Hemlock
HH Hem/Hdwd
BC Blck Cherry
BB Bee/Bir/Map
OH Oak/Hdwd
OR N Red Oak
OM Mixed Oak
RM Red Maple
BE Beech
SF Spruce/Fir
SM Sugar Maple
PP Pitch Pine

Designation of Trees
CT Cut Tree
LT Leave Tree
SB Stand Boundary
OT Other
Landowner Objective
LT Long-term Mgt.
ST Short-term Har.

Type of Cut
SH Shelterwood
ST Seed Tree
CC Clear Cut
SE Selection
SA Salvage
SN Sanitation

Intermediate Harvests:
CT Commercial Thin
NT Non Com Thin
Non-Standard Systems:
HG Highgrade*
DL Diameter Limit*
OT Other*

Source of Regeneration
AD Advanced
SE Natural Seed
PL Plant
CO Coppice
DS Direct Seed
OT Other

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

pg 4 of 5

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/OWN Wachuse# / Sudbur

Town: West Boylston

File Number: 321.43102.25

BMPs	<p><u>SC-2 is an existing culverted crossing on the forest road.</u></p> <p><u>No trees are marked in the filter strips or roadside buffer strip which is not shown on the map.</u></p>
Silviculture	<p><u>In order to release advance regeneration, 6 openings in the overstory are being created, covering 6.2 acres. These openings range from 0.25 acre to 1.8 acres in size with an average of 1.0 acres. They are well distributed throughout the area taking advantage of the advance regeneration comprised of white pine, oaks, and other hardwoods.</u></p> <p><u>Partial cutting will occur in 4.7 acres in two areas. These are focused where pitch pine is present in the overstory. Much of the overstory which is not pitch pine will be removed in order to preserve the pitch pine.</u></p>
Object	<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>Haul roads have been flagged.</u></p> <p><u>No trees are being cut in ST-3. This is a now 35-year-old stand that originated following a severe thunderstorm in 1989.</u></p> <p><u>Trees are only being cut within the 6 overstory removal patches, the two partial cutting areas and of course, as needed at the landing and along haul roads.</u></p> <p><u>Portions of the sale area are within NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species polygon PH 1501.</u></p>



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

FILE # 32143102.25

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/DSP/DOWN
Wachusett Sudbury (Name of Owner) 180 Beaman St.
(Address) in accordance with the

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

Approval Date 11/21/25

Director's Agent

Chris Capone

DCR Phone No.

857-460-0175

ISSUED BY:

Paula Lynn

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

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

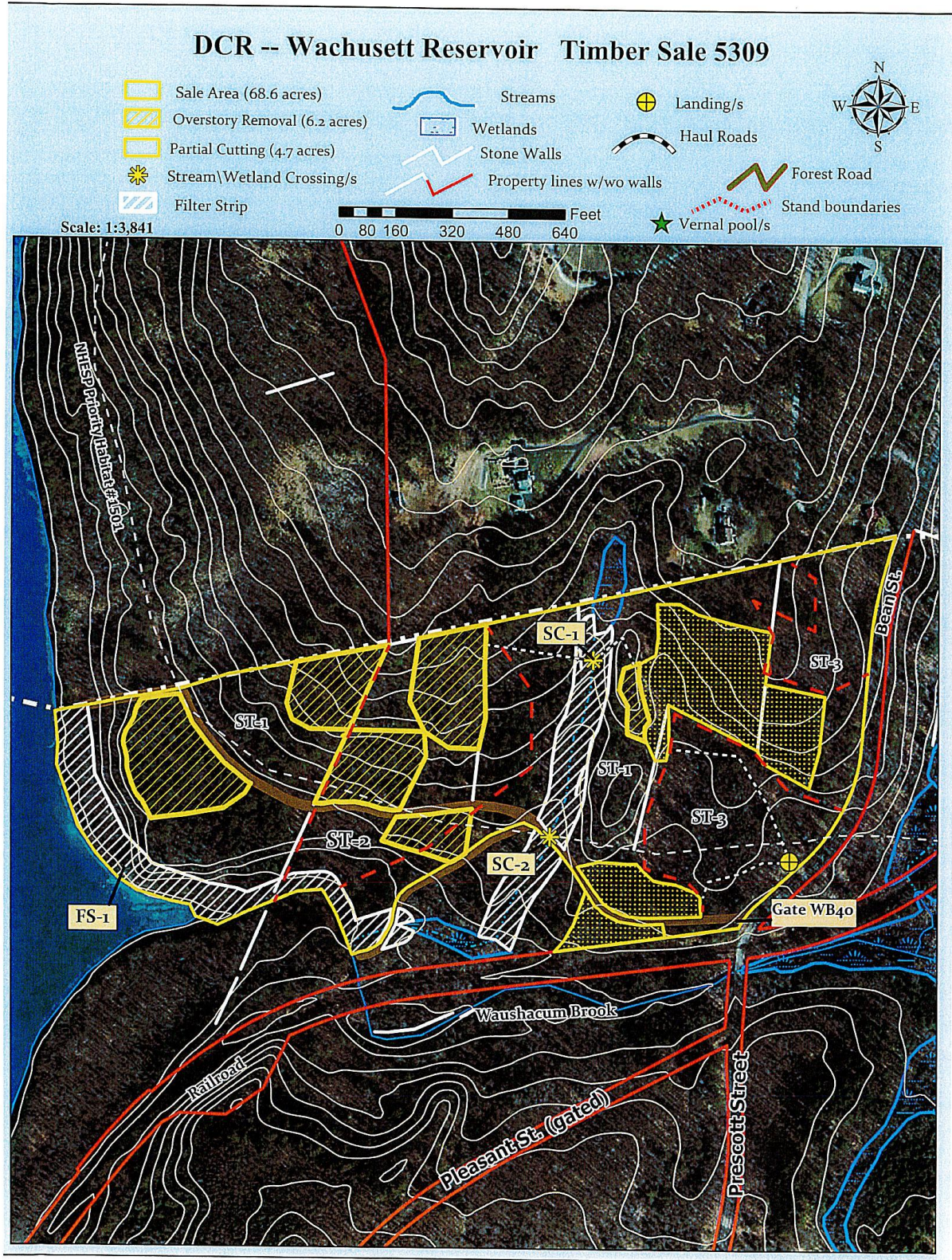


Figure 3. General locus map showing the location of the proposed timber harvest

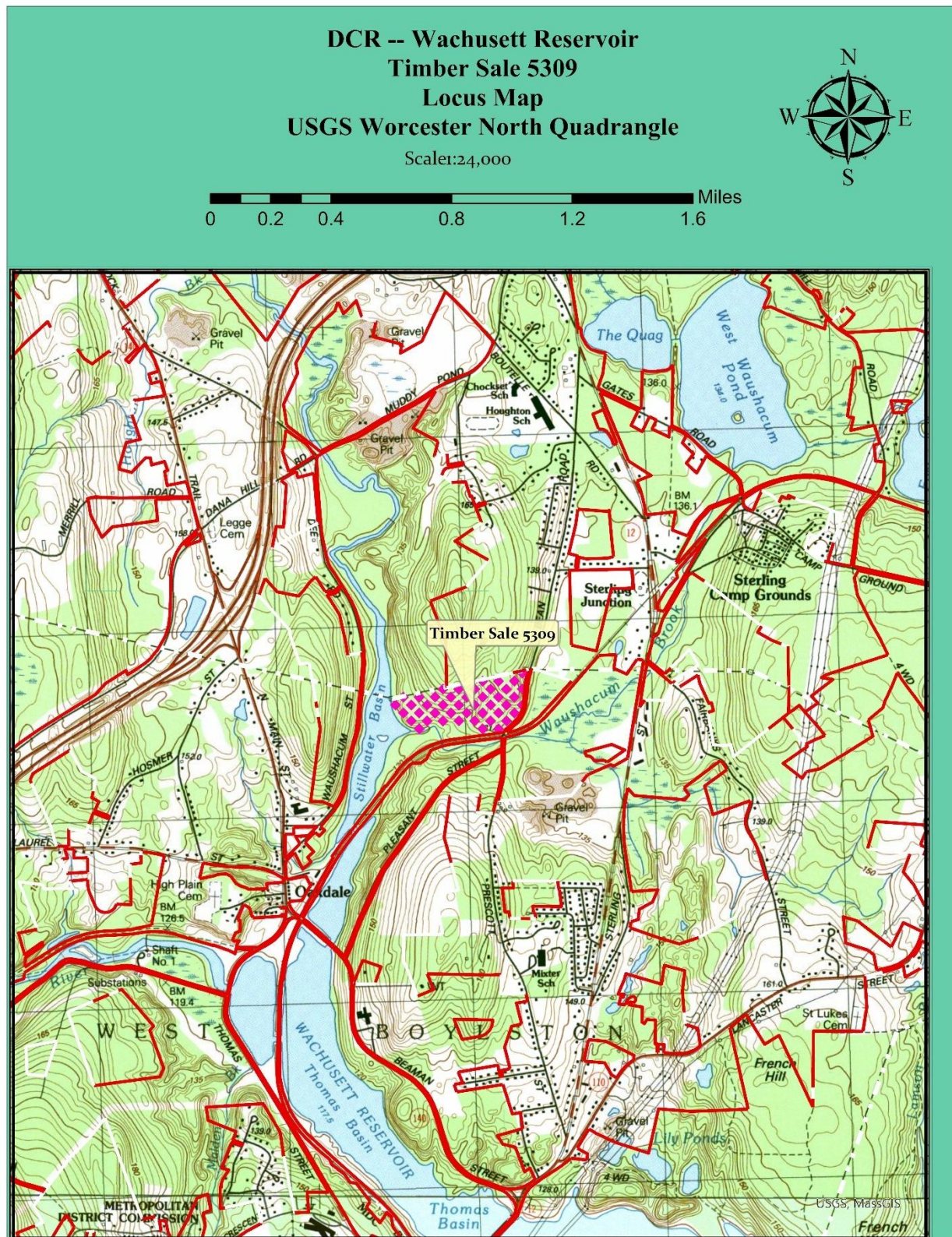


Figure 4. Pre-Harvest Photographs, A-C



- A. The large white pine and white oak to the left are being retained in the area where the overstory is being removed to make room for the seedlings and saplings in the understory.



- B. The white pines in this area are being removed to give the pitch pine more light.



C. This is the landing area on Prescott Street.