

**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: 5311

DWSP Proposal ID: WA-25-329

DCR Forest Cutting Plan File Number: 282-43261-25

Site Information

Watershed: Wachusett

Town(s): Sterling

Acres: 26

Nearest Road: Manning St.

Natural Heritage Atlas overlap?: No

Public Drinking Water Supply Watershed?: Yes

Forest Types: White Pine/Oak, Mixed Hardwood, White Pine/Hardwood

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)?: No

Soils: Chatfield-Hollis-Rock Outcrop complex, Paxton fine sandy loam, Whitman loam

Wetland Resources: There is a small unmapped wetland in the far western corner of this area near Justice Hill road.

Vernal Pools: There is a verified vernal pool just to the east of the powerlines.

Harvest Information

Harvest Start Date: 6/25/25

Harvest End Date: 6/28/27

Number of Wetland Crossings: None

Number of Stream Crossings: None

Best Management Practices Applied

Stream Crossings: There are no stream crossings.

Filter Strips: No trees will be cut in the filter strip.

Wetland Crossings: There are no wetland crossings.

Harvesting in Wetlands: There is no harvesting in the wetland.

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

In the larger portion of this area, to the northwest of the powerline, the overstory is primarily red oak and white pine with lesser amounts of red maple, white oak, paper birch, black oak, pitch pine and hickory. This is a dry hillside with a significant area of exposed ledge near the top of the hill. A logging operation in about 1987, long before DCR acquisition, resulted in good regeneration in most areas. The logging was particularly heavy in three areas resulting in about 2.5 acres of now 37-year-old hardwood stands. Much of the west-facing hillside has dense mountain laurel thickets.

In the smaller area to the southeast of the powerline that was not harvested in 1987, the overstory is dominated by a diverse mix of hardwoods including white ash, red oak, red maple, black birch, white oak, hickory and black cherry.

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 #18 (Middle Stillwater/Rocky Bk./Wilder Bk). Only 13% of the forest stands within this subwatershed are 20 years old or less. 60% of the stands are more than 80 years old. Within the 29 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; 10%, 21-40 years; 0%, 41-60 years; 0%, 61-80 years; 55%, 81-100 years and 35%, greater than 100 years old. 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 the goal of regenerating up to a third of this working unit, the older overstory will be removed in patches focusing on areas with the best regeneration. These five (5) patches total 5.3 acres and range in size from 0.2 to 1.9 acres. The patches of young forest will be similar in species diversity to the older forest.

Cultural Resources

There are none known other than stone walls. Any cultural features that are located before or during the harvest will be mapped, photographed, flagged, avoided and protected, consistent with the guidelines set forth in the 2017 DWSP Land Management Plan.

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)

For DCR Use Only:

File Number 2824321135 Case No.
Date Rec'd 05-07-25 Nat. Hert. 1 N
Earliest Start 05-22-25 Nat. Hert. Imp. N
River Basin NASHUA Pub. Dr. Wat. WACHUSETT
Gen. Obj. LT ACEC N

Site Information

Location

Town Sterling Lot 5311
Road Justice Hill Road
Acres 26 Proposed Start Date 6/25
Vol. MBF 34.6 Vol. Cds. 48 Vol. Tons 53

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 # 1
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 OPERATION

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

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

Town: Starling

File Number: 282.43261.25

BMPs	<p><u>No trees are marked in the filter strip or the 100' roadside buffer strip which is not shown on the map.</u></p> <p><u>It is preferred to keep main haul roads more than 100' from the vernal pool. However, due to topography, the haul road is about 75' from the vernal pool.</u></p>
Silviculture	<p><u>In order to release advance regeneration, 5 openings in the overstory are being created, covering 5.3 acres. These openings range from 0.2 acre to 1.9 acres in size with an average of 1.1 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>Trees are only being cut within these 5 openings.</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 except for the portion that follows the road under the powerline.</u></p> <p><u>Trees are only being cut within the 5 overstory removal patches and, of course, as needed at the landing and along haul roads.</u></p>

Products to be Harvested*

Species	Mbf/Cds		Mbf/Cds
White Pine	27.6	Red Maple	
Red Pine		Sugar Maple	
Pitch Pine		Red Oak	3.8
Hemlock		Black Oak	2.5
Spruce		White Oak	0.6
Other Sftwd.		Other Hdwd.	
White Ash		Total Mbf	34.6
Beech		Cordwood (Cds)	48
White Birch		SW Pulp (Tons)	53
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	MH	WH	
Acres	16.8	8.5	0.6	
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 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 Freder

Signature of landowner(s)

5/7/2025

Date

Determination and Status

282,43261.25

Final Report and Comments

Approved ☒ Disapproved ☐ Expires *05-07-27*

Cutting Plan

Chick

Signature of Service Forester/Director's Agent

Date

5/13/25

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

Extension 1 ☐ 2 ☐ Expires */* Ser. For. Ints. */*

Amendment App 1 ☐ Dis 1 ☐ App 2 ☐ Dis 2 ☐ */*

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 Black 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

dcf



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

FILE #

282.4326125

W

FOREST CUTTING PLAN CERTIFICATE

Post this in a conspicuous place within the area in which the harvesting operation is to take place.

DCR/DWSP/OWM 180 Beaman St.

This certifies that

Wachusett Subbury

(Name of Owner)

W. Boylston

(Address)

in accordance with the

provision of M.G.L. Chapter 132, Section 40-46, filed in

Director

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 Rd lot.

Approval Date

5/13/25

Director's Agent

Chris Chapone

DCR Phone No.

857-406-0175

ISSUED BY:

Paul Gign

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

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

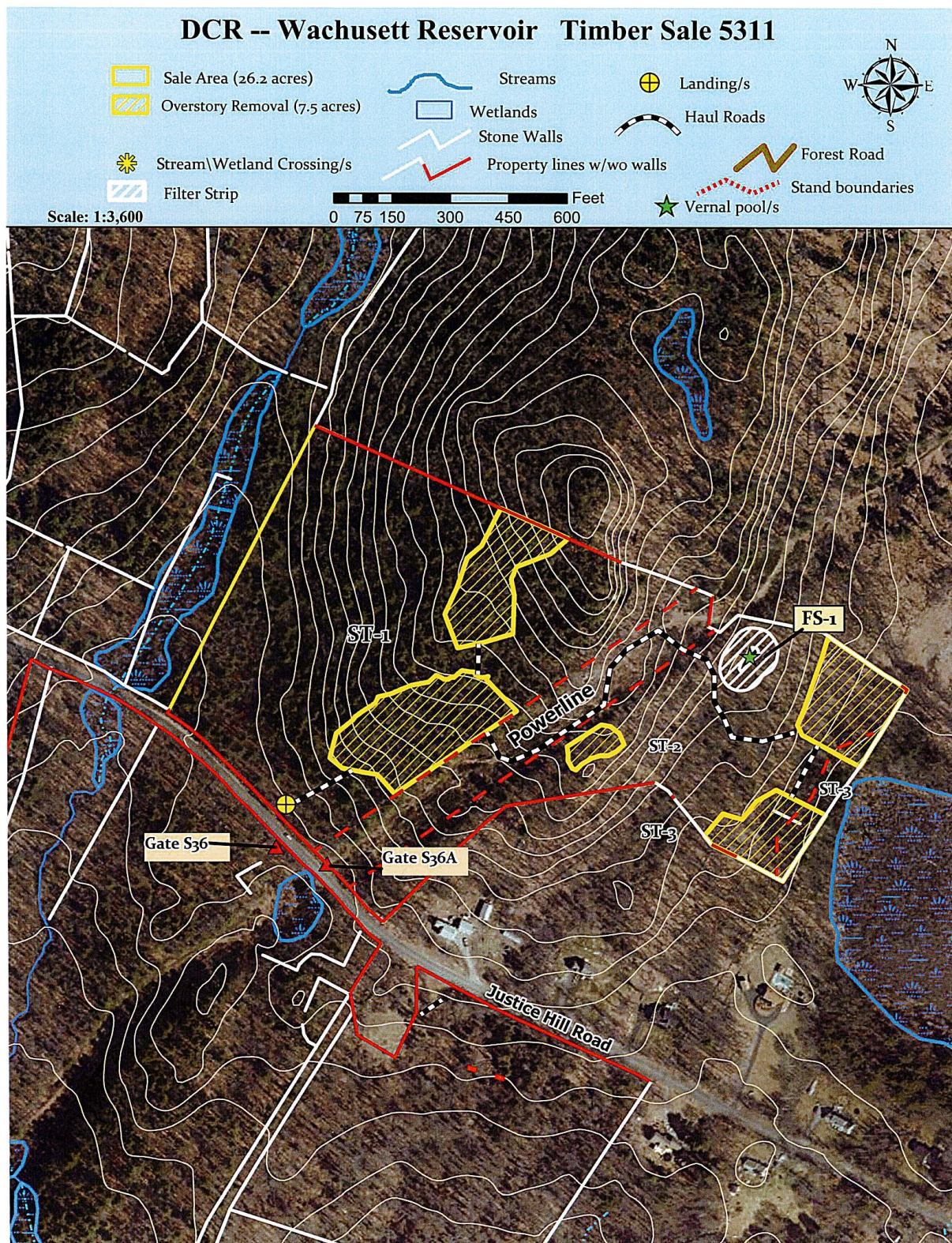


Figure 3. General locus map showing the location of the proposed timber harvest

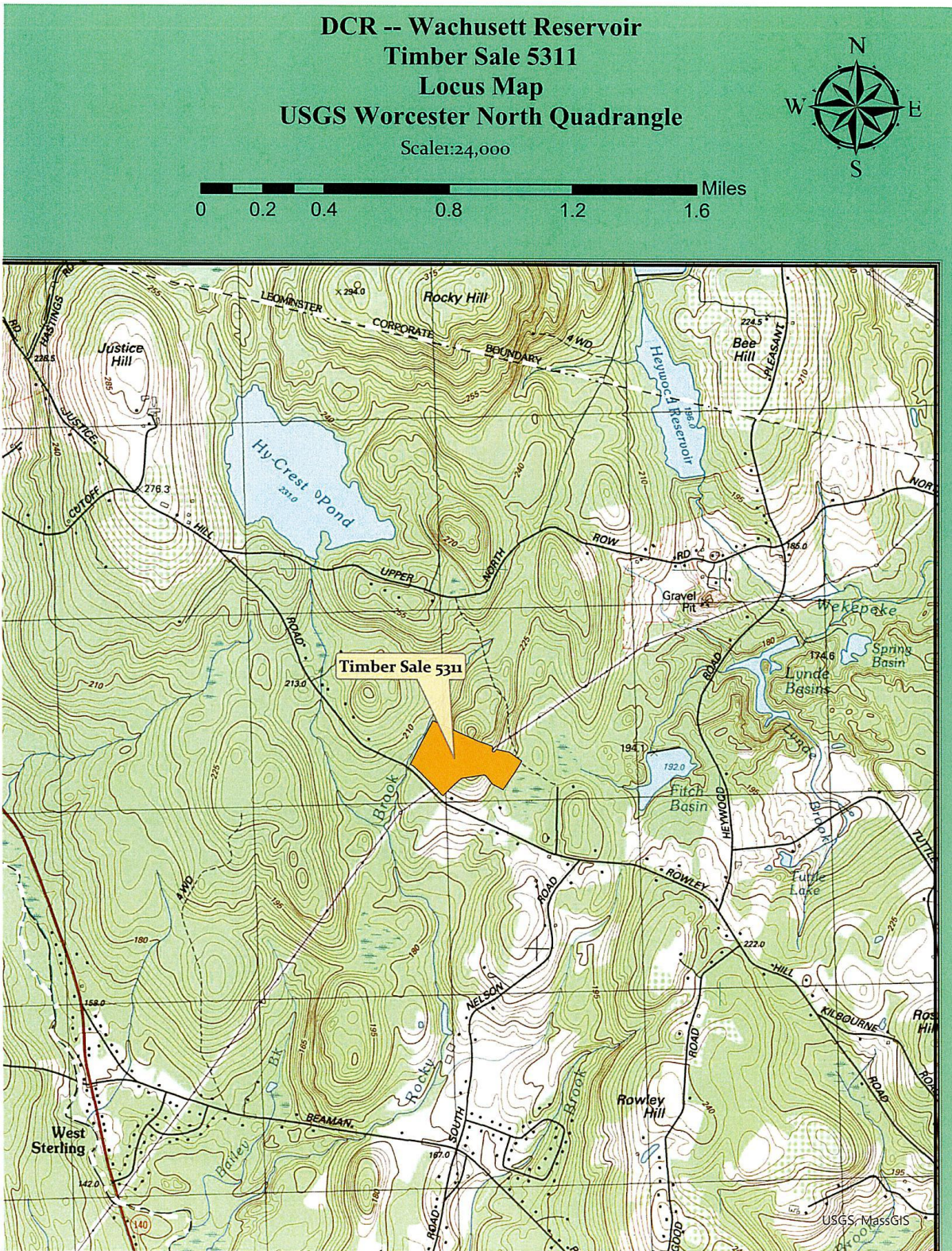


Figure 4. Pre-Harvest Photographs, A-C



A. The landing location on Justice Hill Road just to the west of the power lines.



B. There is good regeneration of white pine and hardwoods in this area where the overstory is being removed. The small diameter hickories are being retained.



C. Some of the regeneration in this area of overstory removal are these white pine and oak seedlings that have become established in the past few years following excellent pine and oak seed-years.