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

Project Title: Powerline Pine

DWSP Harvest Permit Number: 3171
DWSP Proposal ID: NS-21-17
DCR Forest Cutting Plan File Number: 214-33810-22

### **Site Information**

Watershed: Quabbin	Town(s): New Salem
Acres: 67	Nearest Road: Daniel Shays Highway (Route 202)
Natural Heritage Atlas overlap?: Yes	Public Drinking Water Supply Watershed?: Yes
Forest Types: White Pine/Oak, White Pine, Red Pine	ACEC?:
Soils: Chatfield-Hollis complex, Canton-Chatfield-Hollis	s complex, Canton fine sandy loam, and Montauk fine
sandy loam. All are well drained and either rocky or very s	tony.
Wetland Resources: There western boundary of the lot has	s been drawn to exclude an adjacent stream (Manning
Brook), beaver pond, and bordering vegetated wetlands. He	arvesting has also been excluded from a small unregulated
wetland within the lot boundary.	
Vernal Pools: none	

### **Harvest Information**

Harvest Start Date:	Harvest End Date:
Number of Wetland Crossings:	Number of Stream Crossings:

# **Best Management Practices Applied**

Stream Crossings	none
Filter Strips	Variable width filter strip on the stream to the west of the lot (Manning Brook).
Wetland Crossings	Used when dry and frozen, and armored with corduroy.
Harvesting in Wetlands	none

DWSP Forester supervising this harvest
Name: Helen Johnson   Richard MacLean
Forester License #: 383 (Johnson)   467 (MacLean)
Phone #: 617-733-2937 (Johnson)   857-263-0211 (MacLean)
Email: <u>helen.johnson@mass.gov</u>   <u>richard.maclean@mass.gov</u>

# **NARRATIVE**

### **General Description/Forest Composition/History:**

Lot 3171 is located on western facing slopes to the east of Manning Brook in New Salem, and accessed via Quabbin Gate 29. The lot covers 67 acres on both sides of a high tension power line.

North of the power line there's a 17 acre even aged white pine-oak stand with a heterogenous mix of white pine and oak with standing dead red and white oak from the 2017-2019 spongy moth outbreak. After this area was proposed for harvest and before lot preparation, this area experienced a microburst that blew down ½ acre of forest.

South of the power line there's a 27 acre white pine stand, a 20 acre white pine-oak stand, and a 3 acre red pine stand. The white pine stand covers the lower slopes to the west, near Manning Brook. Eastern white pine is the overwhelming majority of the canopy, with northern red oak a distant second. Red maple, black cherry, and eastern hop hornbeam are also present in small amounts. The white pine-oak stand is on the higher slopes near the power line and has a mix of even aged northern red, black, and white oak. The small red pine stand at the southern tip of the lot is in rapid decline due to red pine scale, with most of the canopy dominant red pine already dead prior to the harvest.

### Site Selection:

The primary goal of harvesting on the watershed is to create and maintain a forest that is resilient to and can quickly recover from small and large scale disturbances, including diseases, insect infestations, ice storms, microbursts, and hurricanes. The ideal way to achieve such resiliency is to foster a forest of diverse species at various stages of development (seedlings through large legacy trees) that are actively growing and regenerating. This combination of structural and species diversity builds resistance and resilience into the forest.

The site for this harvest was chosen because of its even aged structure and large, low diversity eastern white pine stand. Eastern white pine is particularly vulnerable to uprooting or snapping in strong winds, and this stand currently has little advance regeneration to secure the soil in the event of loss of a large portion of the overstory. The other stands have greater species diversity but similarly even-aged structures, and their resiliency will also benefit from fostering a new age class of tree regeneration.

### Silvicultural Objectives:

To help achieve the DWSP goal of promoting forest resiliency, the primary silvicultural goal for this lot is to increase the age and species diversity of the white pine, and oak hardwoods stands. Eastern white pine is dominant through much of the lot, and focusing regeneration openings in these stands will make a large contribution towards diversifying both age classes and species composition. Preferred species for retention on the edges and interior of regeneration openings are northern red oak, black cherry, red maple and large diameter, well-formed white pine. Eastern hop hornbeam stems were evaluated for health and form, and retained if in good health or cut to encourage resprouting if not. In the eastern hardwood stands preferred trees for retention strongly favor oaks and other hardwood species. Existing skid trails were reused as much as possible. Areas that are sensitive due to steep slopes or wetness were avoided.

# **Cultural Resources:**

South of the power line this lot contains several stone walls, as well as a foundation and well in the southernmost tip of the lot. All known cultural resources have been flagged and protected. Any unmapped or currently unknown cultural resources found during the harvest will be flagged and protected, and the DCR archaeologist will be notified.

# **Rare or Endangered Species:**

NHESP has determined that certain state-listed sensitive species or habitats may exist within the harvest area. To protect them from unnecessary disturbance, detailed information regarding affected species and their locations is not included here. DWSP has coordinated with NHESP to gather recommendations to protect these species during the harvest. NHESP has reviewed the Forest Cutting Plan for this lot and determine that "based on details in the Plan and information in our database, the Division [of Fisheries and Wildlife] does not expect activities proposed in the Plan to negatively impact Estimated Habitat or result in Take (as defined in 321 CMR 10.02) of plant or animal species protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act".

# **FIGURES**

# Figure 1. Forest Cutting Plan

Road       Millington Rd (via Quabbin Gate 29)         Acres       67         Vol. MBF       120.4         Vol. MBF       120.4         Vol. MBF       120.4         Vol. Cds.       48         Vol. MBF       120.4         Vol. Cds.       48         Vol. MBF       120.4         Vol. Cds.       48         Vol. Cds.       61         Classing Correst Core Core Core Core Core Core Core Core	Town <u>New Salem</u> Road <u>Millington Rd</u>	QUABE	1000			and the second second second second	<u>3/25/22</u> Xicopee	Case No Nat. He Pub. Dr ACEC		25	
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Vol. MBF       120.4       Vol. Cds. 48       Vol. Tons 156         Plan Preparer       Town, State, Zip       Belchertown, MA 01007         Phone       617-733-2937         Ch61       61A       61B       Stew() *Case #         Address       DCR DWSP Quabbin Forestry       Address       CR Holder         485 Ware Road       Name       TBD       Address       Mass. Lic. Ravester**         Ype of Preparer LF       Names. Forester License # 383 (HJ)       Nass. Lic. Harvester #       Mass. Lic. Harvester #         **Required for land under Ch61, Ch61A or Forest Stewardship       Mass. Lic. Harvester #       ***This information may be supplied after the plan is approved, work begins         Stream Crossings       Harvesting in Wetlands         Indicate location on map       SC-1       SC-2       SC-3       SC-4         Type of Bottom       Stating Structure       Acres to be Harvested       Acres to be Harvested       Acres to be Harvested         Resid. Basal Area (>50%?)       Service Forester Comments       Service Forester Comments	67	bin Gate	29)								
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Species	Mbf/Cds		Mbf/Cds
White Pine	116.300	Red Maple	
Red Pine		Sugar Maple	
Pitch Pine		Red Oak	
Hemlock		Black Oak	3.000
Spruce		White Oak	
Other Sftwd.	1	Other Hdwd.	1.000
White Ash		Total Mbf	120.300
Beech		Cordwood (Cds)	48.000
White Birch		SW Pulp (Tons)	156.000
B & Y Birch		HW Pulp (Tons)	
Black Cherry		Chips (Tons)	0.000

\*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.

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Indicate location on map	ST-1	ST-2	ST-3	ST-4
Forest Type	WP	WO	WO	RP
Acres	27.000	20.000	17.000	3.000
Landowner Objective	LT	LT	LT	LT
Designation of Trees	CT	CT	CT	CT
Type of Cut	SE	SE	SE	SA
Source of Regeneration	SE	SE	SE	SE

#### **Landowner Signature**

andowner

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.

...

X 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.



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.

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		App 1	Dis 1	App 2	Dis 2	Ser. For. Ints. /	Cut			Source of Rego	eneration	
Ame WP	endment <u>Forest Ty</u> White Pine	App 1	Dis 1	App 2	Dis 2	/	SH	Shelterwood		rmediate Harvests:	AD Advanced	
Ame WP WK	endment <u>Forest Ty</u>	App 1	Dis 1 Designatic Hemlock Hem/Hdwd	App 2	Dis 2	/		Shelterwood Seed Tree Clear Cut	Inte CT NT			
Ame WP WK WH WO	endment Forest Ty White Pine WP/Hem	Арр 1	Dis 1	App 2 App 2 On of Trees OM Mi RM Re BE Be SF Spi	Dis 2	/	SH ST	Seed Tree	CT NT	rmediate Harvests: Commercial Thin	AD Advanced SE Natural Seed	

Figure 1b: Forest Cutting Plan (continued).

Products	to be H	arvested*		
Species	Mbf/Cds		Mbf/Cds	
White Pine	116.3	Red Maple		
Red Pine		Sugar Maple		
Pitch Pine		Red Oak		
Hemlock	1	Black Oak	3	
Spruce		White Oak		
Other Sflwd.		Other Hdwd.	1	
White Ash		Total Mbf	120.4	
Beech	T	Cordwood (Cds)	48	
White Birch		SW Pulp (Tons)	156	
B & Y Birch		HW Pulp (Tons)		
Black Cherry		Chips (Tons)		

\*Note: Volumes 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	WP	WO	WO	RP
Acres	27	20	17	3
Landowner Objective	LT	LT	LT	
Designation of Trees	CT	CT	CT	CT
Type of Cut	SE	SE	SE	SA
Source of Regeneration	SE	SE	SE	SE

#### Landowner Signature

-andowner

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	- S	hor	t-ter	m H	larv	est

3/10/2022

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 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.

Dan Clark Clark Date: 2022.03.10 12:13:24

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### Figure 1c: Forest Cutting Plan (continued).



# DIVISION OF

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581 p: (508) 389-6300 | f: (508) 389-7890 M A S S . G O V / M A S S W I L D L I F E

Andrew Rawcliffe Department of Conservation and Recreation P. O. Box 484 40 Cold Storage Drive Amherst, MA 01004

204.33810.22	
22-40922	
New Salem	
Millington	
DCR DWSP	
Helen Johnson	
March 24, 2022	
	22-40922 New Salem Millington DCR DWSP Helen Johnson

Dear Andrew,

The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife ("the Division") has reviewed the above-referenced Forest Cutting Plan ("the Plan") pursuant to the special approval procedures of the Forest Cutting Practices Regulations (304 CMR 11.04(6)). Based on details of the Plan and information in our database, the Division does not expect activities proposed in the Plan to negatively impact Estimated Habitat or result in Take (as defined in 321 CMR 10.02) of plant or animal species protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) (M.G.L. c. 131A) and its implementing regulations (321 CMR 10.00). Therefore, the Division does not require that the Plan be modified at this time.

Please copy the Division on any proposed amendment, extension and on the approved Plan for the site. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact David Paulson at (508) 389-6366 or David.Paulson@mass.gov.

Sincerely,

(vase

Everose Schlüter, Ph.D. Assistant Director

Cc: New Salem Conservation Commission

#### MASSWILDLIFE

Figure 1d: Forest Cutting Plan (continued).

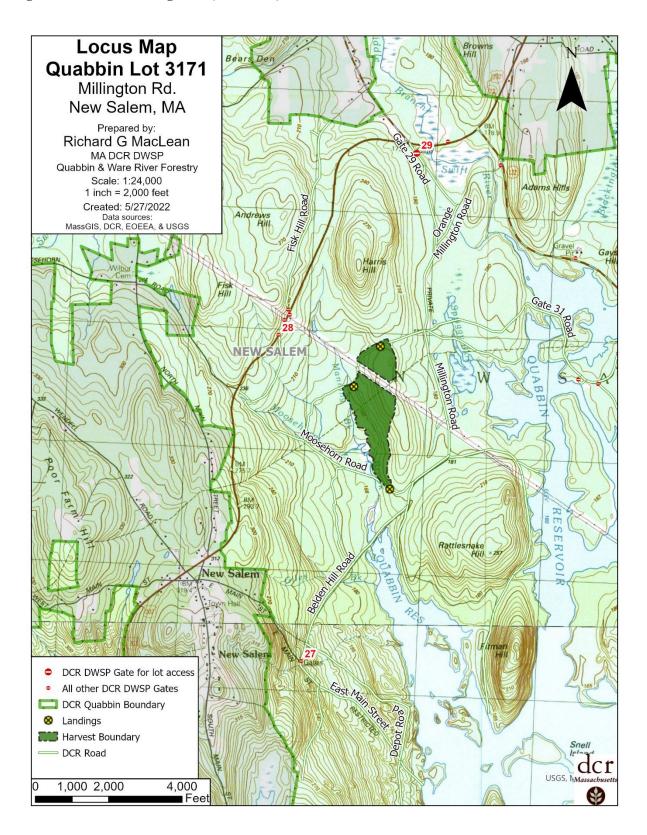
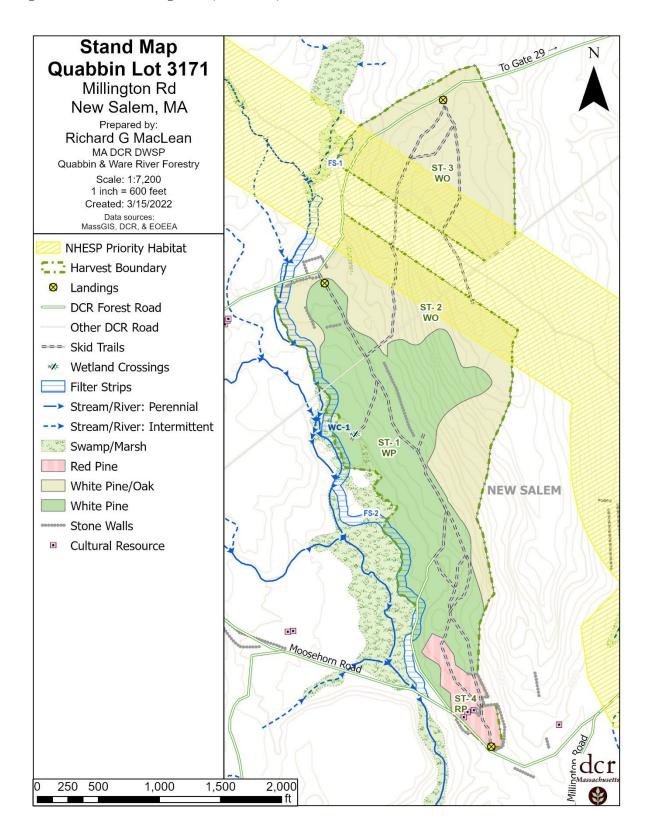


Figure 1e: Forest Cutting Plan (continued).



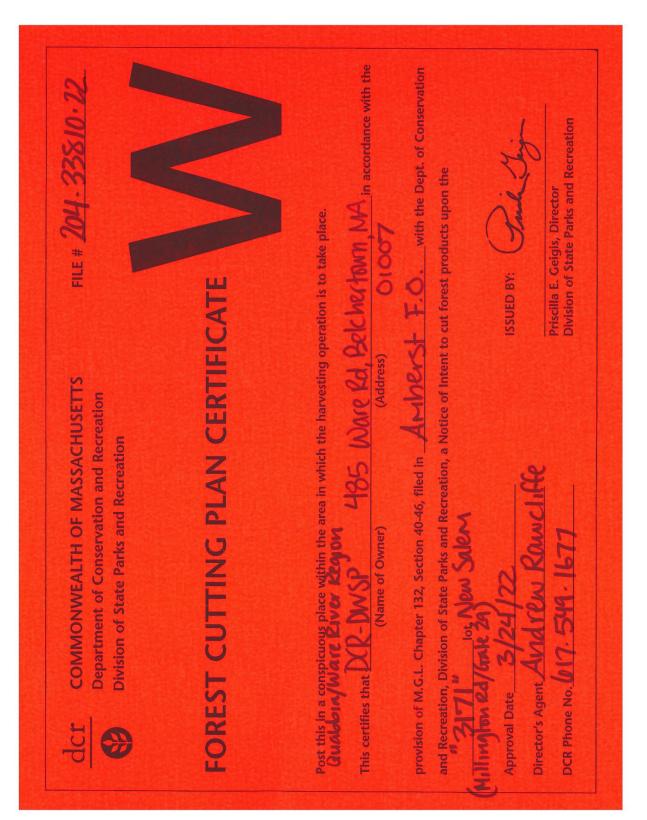


Figure 1f: Forest Cutting Plan (continued).

# Figure 2: Photo Point 1, immediately before and after harvest



Before harvest (November 2022)

Immediately after-harvest (December 2022)



# Figure 3: Photo Point 2, immediately before and after harvest



Before harvest (November 2022)

Immediately after-harvest (December 2022)



# Figure 4: Photo Point 3, immediately before and after harvest



Before harvest (November 2022)

Immediately after-harvest (December 2022)

