Forest Cutting Plan

and Notice of Intent under M.G.L. Chapter 132 – The Forest Cutting Practices Act, 304 CMR 11.00
(Effective Date: 3/15/16)

For DCR Use Only:

File Number	323-3862-27	Case No.	-
Date Rec'd	9/8/16	Nat. Hert.	YES
Earliest Start	9/23/16	Pub. Dr. Wat.	NO
River Basin	CHICOPEE	ACEC	NO
Gen. Obj.	LT		

Site Information

Location

Town: West Brookfield/Brookfield
Road: Long Hill Rd
Acres: 70 Proposed Start Date: ASAP
Vol. MBF: 659 Vol. Cds.: 60 Vol. Tons: 3100

Plan Preparer

Name: Fletcher Clark
Address: 1 Rabbit Hill Rd
Town, State, Zip: Westborough MA 01581
Phone: (578) 389-6300
Type of Preparer: LF
*Mass. Forester License #: 433
*Required for land under Ch61, Ch61A or Forest Stewardship

Landowner

Name: Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Mailing Address: 1 Rabbit Hill Rd
Town, State, Zip: Westborough MA 01581
Phone: 508-369-5300
Ch61☐ 61A☐ 61B☐ Stew☐ *Case # -
FSC☐ CR☐ CR Holder

Licensed Timber Harvester**

Name: TBD
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	CU	BR		
Existing Structure	YES	NO		
Type of Bottom	ST	ST		
Bank Height (ft)	<1'	<1'		
Stabilization	CO	CO		

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%?)				

Wetland Crossings

Indicate location on map	WC-1	WC-2	WC-3	WC-4
Length of Crossing	15	150		
Mitigation	FR/DR	FR/DR		
Stabilization	ST	MU		

Filter Strips

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

Service Forester Comments

Notify Service Forester before start.

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 Products

Products to be Harvested*

Species	Mbf/Cds		Mbf/Cds
White Pine	600.000	Red Maple	9.000
Red Pine		Sugar Maple	
Pitch Pine		Red Oak	
Hemlock	48.000	Black Oak	2.000
Spruce		White Oak	
Other Sftwd.		Other Hdwd.	
White Ash		**Total Mbf**	659.000
Beech		**Cordwood (Cds)**	60.000
White Birch		**SW Pulp (Tons)**	0.000
B & Y Birch		**HW Pulp (Tons)**	0.000
Black Cherry		**Chips (Tons)**	3100.000

*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.

Stand Treatment

Cutting Standards

Indicate location on map	ST-1	ST-2	ST-3	ST-4
Forest Type	WO			
Acres	70.000			
Landowner Objective	LT			
Designation of Trees	SB			
Type of Cut	SH			
Source of Regeneration	AD,SE			

Landowner

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.

Signature of landowner(s) _____ Date 9/1/2026

Service Forester

Determination and Status 323-4386227 Final Report and Comments

	Approved	Disapproved	Expires
Cutting Plan	☑	☐	09/08/2028

Signature of Service Forester/Director's Agent _____ Date 9/24/26

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

	App 1	Dis 1	App 2	Dis 2	
Amendment	☐	☐	☐	☐	

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 _____

Codes

Forest Types
WP White Pine
WK WP/Hem
WH WP/Hdwd
WO WP/Oak
RP Red Pine
SR Red Spruce

Designation of Trees
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

Type of Cut
CT Cut Tree
LT Leave Tree
SB Stand Boundary
OT Other

Landowner Objective
LT Long-term Mgt.
ST Short-term Har.

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

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

Forest Cutting Plan

Narrative Page **(Effective Date: 3/15/16)**

Use this page to provide further explanation or if Other (OT) was used in any category on pages 3 or 4.

Landowner 'isheries and Wildlife M

Town Westborough

File Number 323.43862.27

BMPs

Use this Section to provide further explanation or if Other (OT) was used in any category in the Best Management Practices Section on Page 3.

WC-2 will be a combination of corduroy and timber mats.

Designation of Trees

Use this Section to describe the types of trees to be harvested and/or retained if Other (OT) was used for "Designation of Trees" in the Stand Treatment Section on page 4. Additional narrative description may be added on a separate page.

	Describe Trees to be Cut			Describe Trees to be Left			% BA/AC	
Stand No.	Species	Size	Quality	Species	Size	Quality	Cut	Left
ST-1	WP/HM/OM/RM	ALL	Poor to Good	OM	12-28"	GOOD	65	35

Regeneration & Future Condition

Use this Section to describe how Chapter 132 requirements will be met if a non standard system (HG, DL, or OT) was used for the "Type of Cut" in the Cutting Standards Section on page 4.

Stand No.	Source of Regeneration (ex. AD, SE)	How will Regeneration be obtained/protected? If using AD - Describe the species present and how the regeneration will be protected If using SE - Describe the source of the seed and the number of seed trees/acre

Stand No. **Desired Future Condition**

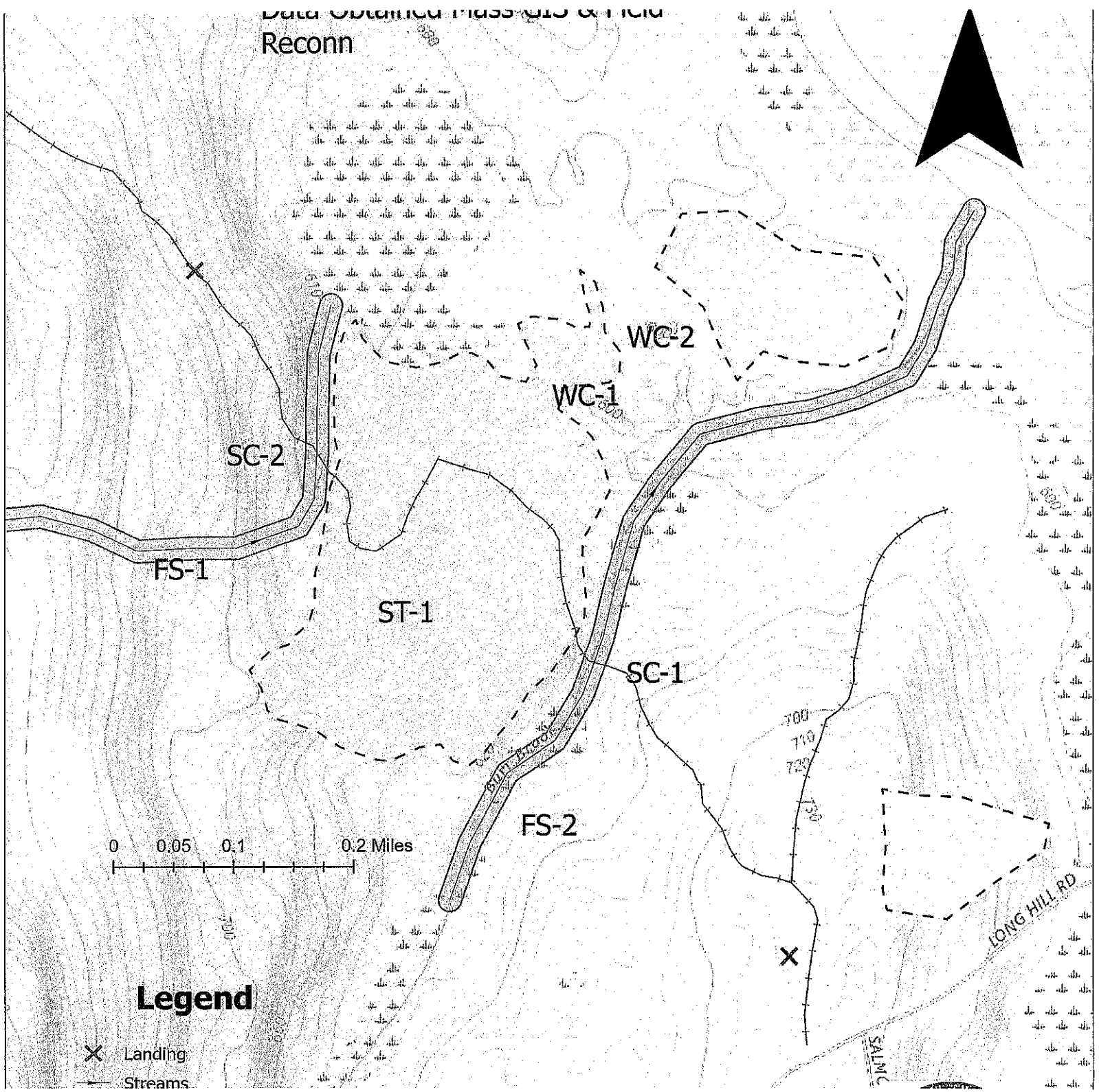
Describe what the stand is expected to look like five years from the harvest, including the condition of the overstory & understory

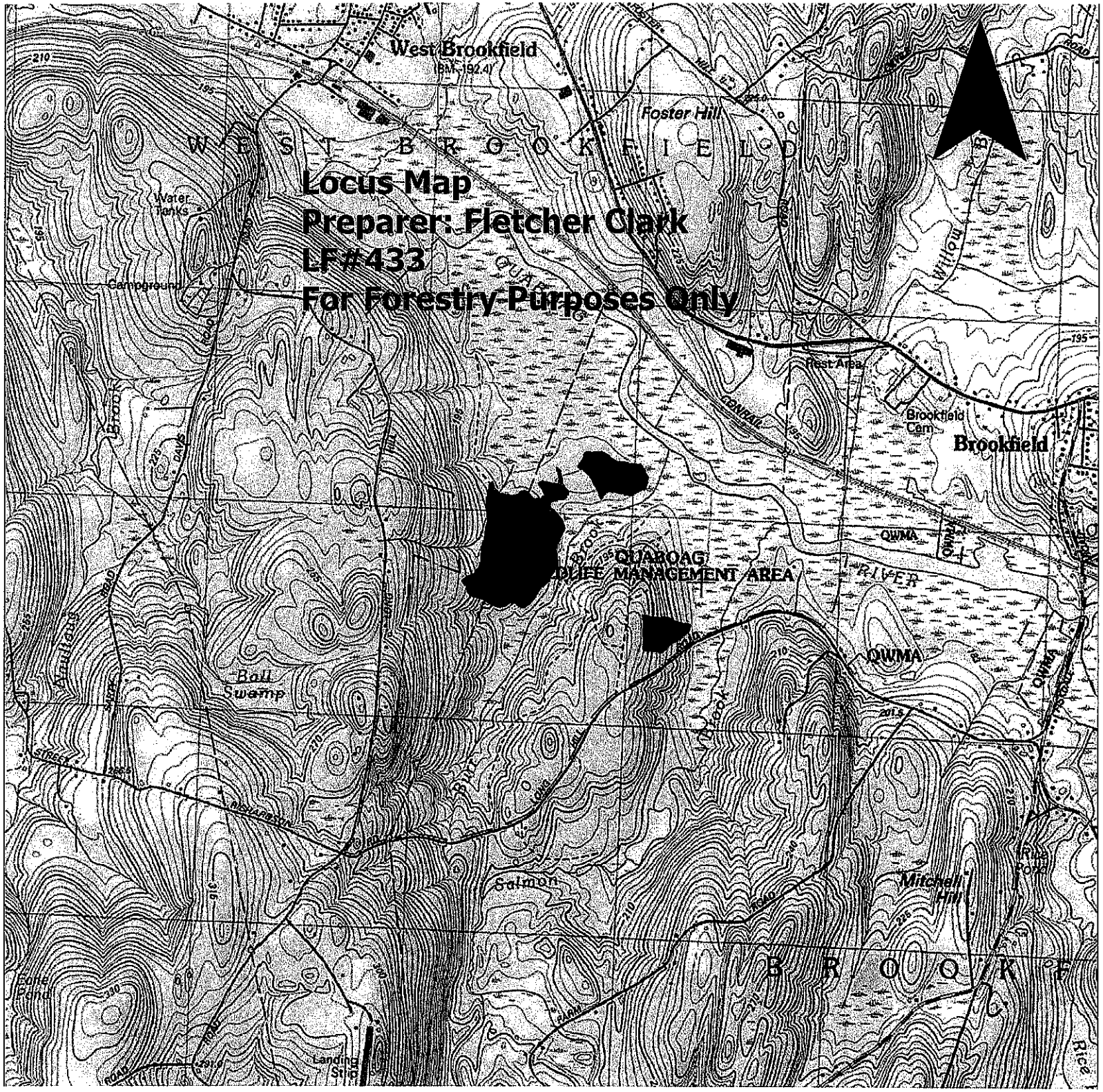
ST-1	Desired future condition of an Oak Woodland with an understory of blueberry, native grasses, and oak regeneration. Prescribed fire will be used in the future to maintain this oak woodland community type.

Additional Comments

Use this Section to provide additional comments.

Stand boundary is marked with 3 red dots. Red paint on trees are to be retained. Blue paint on trees (Black Oak) are to be cut. Otherwise all generalist species of white pine, hemlock, and red maple is planned to be cut.


Data Obtained Mass GIS & Field Reconn
WC-2
WC-1
SC-2
FS-1
ST-1
SC-1
FS-2
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles
Legend
Landing
Streams
LONG HILL RD


Locus Map
Preparer: Fletcher Clark
LF#433
For Forestry Purposes Only
West Brookfield
Foster Hill
WEST BROOKFIELD
Water Tanks
Campground
Rest Area
Brookfield Cem
Brookfield
QUABOAG WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
QUABOAG RIVER
QWMA
Ball Swamp
Salmon
Mitchell Hill
BROOKFIELD
Eore Pond
Landing Strip

MASSWILDLIFE

DIVISION OF
FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581
p: (508) 389-6300 | f: (508) 389-7890
MASS.GOV/MASSWILDLIFE

Forest Cutting Plan Review
304 CMR 11.04(6)

Jacob Seidel
DCR Service Forestry
District 5

Forest Cutting Plan No.:	323.43862.27
NHESP Tracking No.:	**23-10859**
Town:	Brookfield, West Brookfield
Road:	Long Hill Road
Landowner:	DFW MassWildlife
Preparer:	Fletcher Clark (Westborough, MA), License #433
Date:	September 24, 2026

Dear Jacob,

The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program 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)).

Description

The Plan proposes a shelterwood harvest of approximately 70 acres within a single forest stand (ST-1). The harvest is intended to reduce white pine and other generalist tree species and promote a future oak woodland community characterized by an open understory, shrub cover, and oak regeneration. Harvest operations will utilize two stream crossings, two wetland crossings, and two filter strips. The Plan also identifies prescribed fire as a future management tool to maintain the oak woodland community. The Division previously reviewed and approved this activity in a letter dated November 27, 2023.

State-Listed Species

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*; Endangered) is a secretive marsh bird that inhabits large, open freshwater marshes, meadows, fens, and bogs dominated by emergent vegetation such as cattails, bulrushes, sedges, and grasses. The species is area-sensitive and generally avoids wooded edges, requiring large, open wetlands for breeding. Wetland degradation, including conversion of cattail and sedge marshes to wooded swamp, is a primary threat in Massachusetts; however, forest thinning along wetland edges may improve habitat by increasing the size and openness of suitable marshes. American Bitterns are also sensitive to disturbance, and machinery use should be avoided around breeding sites during the breeding season.

Division Comments

Based on details of the Plan, and information in the NHESP database, the Division does not expect activities proposed in the Plan to negatively impact Priority Habitat or result in a **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.

However, portions of the harvest are adjacent to deep marsh/marsh wetland habitat used by nesting marsh birds. Therefore, to reduce the potential for noise disturbance to breeding marsh birds, the Division recommends avoiding the use of heavy machinery within 100 yards (300 feet) of the edge of the marsh in the portion of Stand 1 (ST-1) located north of Burr Brook, west of the Quaboag River, and east of Wetland Crossings 1 and 2 (WC-1 and WC-2) between March 15 and August 15 of any year.

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 Nikolis Gualco, Endangered Species Review Biologist at nikolis.a.gualco@mass.gov OR (508) 389-6375.

Sincerely,

Jesse Leddick
Assistant Director

dcr

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

FILE # 323.4386a.27

FOREST CUTTING PLAN CERTIFICATE

W

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

This certifies that DFW (Name of Owner) 1 Rabbit Hill Rd Westboro MA 01581 (Address) in accordance with the provision of M.G.L. Chapter 132, Section 40-46, filed in Clinton with the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, Division of State Parks and Recreation, a Notice of Intent to cut forest products upon the Long Hill Rd lot.

Approval Date 9.24.26

Director's Agent Jacob Seidel

DCR Phone No. 857-345-2535

ISSUED BY:

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