

# 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 129-43443-26 Case No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Rec'd 9/16/25 Nat. Hert. yes  
Earliest Start 10/1/25 Pub. Dr. Wat. NO  
River Basin Deerfield ACEC NO  
Gen. Obj. LT

Site Information

### Location

Town Hawley  
Road LaBelle Rd  
Acres 130 Proposed Start Date ASAP  
Vol. MBF 137 Vol. Cds. 200 Vol. Tons 230

### Plan Preparer

Name Fletcher Clark  
Address 1 Rabbit Hill Rd  
  
Town, State, Zip Westborough MA 01581  
Phone (508) 389-6300  
Type of Preparer LF  
\*Mass. Forester License # 433  
\*Required for land under Ch61, Ch61A or Forest Stewardship

### Landowner

Name MassWildlife  
Mailing Address 1 Rabbit Hill Rd  
  
Town, State, Zip Westborough MA 01581  
Phone (508) 389-6300 (main)  
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	PO			
Existing Structure	NO			
Type of Bottom	ST			
Bank Height (ft)	<1' <input type="checkbox"/>			
Stabilization	CO			

### Wetland Crossings

Indicate location on map	WC-1	WC-2	WC-3	WC-4
Length of Crossing	15'	15'	15'	
Mitigation	FR/DR	FR/DR	FR/DR	
Stabilization	CO	CO	CO	

### Filter Strips

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

### 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

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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	73Mbf	Red Maple	17.5Mbf
Red Pine		Sugar Maple	
Pitch Pine		Red Oak	
Hemlock	38Mbf	Black Oak	
Spruce		White Oak	
Other Sftwd.		Other Hdwd.	2.2Mbf
White Ash	6.3Mbf	Total Mbf	137
Beech		Cordwood (Cds)	200
White Birch		SW Pulp (Tons)	230
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	HH <input type="checkbox"/>	HH <input type="checkbox"/>	WH <input type="checkbox"/>	WH <input type="checkbox"/>
Acres	35	19	13	68
Landowner Objective	LT	LT	LT	LT
Designation of Trees	CT <input type="checkbox"/>	CT <input type="checkbox"/>	CT <input type="checkbox"/>	CT <input type="checkbox"/>
Type of Cut	SE <input type="checkbox"/>	SE <input type="checkbox"/>	ST <input type="checkbox"/>	SH <input type="checkbox"/>
Source of Regeneration	SE <input type="checkbox"/>	SE <input type="checkbox"/>	SE <input type="checkbox"/>	SE <input type="checkbox"/>

## 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 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)

9/12/2025

Date

## Determination and Status

Approved ☒ Disapproved ☐ Expires 9/16/27

Cutting Plan ☒

Signature of Service Forester/Director's Agent 11/5/25 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				Designation of Trees		Type of Cut		Source of Regeneration						
WP	White Pine	HK	Hemlock	OM	Mixed Oak	CT	Cut Tree	SH	Shelterwood	Intermediate Harvests:	AD	Advanced		
WK	WP/Hem	HH	Hem/Hdwd	RM	Red Maple	LT	Leave Tree	ST	Seed Tree	CT	Commercial Thin	SE	Natural Seed	
WH	WP/Hdwd	BC	Blek Cherry	BE	Beech	SB	Stand Boundary	CC	Clear Cut	NT	Non Com Thin	PL	Plant	
WO	WP/Oak	BB	Bee/Bir/Map	SF	Spruce/Fir	OT	Other	SE	Selection	Non-Standard Systems:*			CO	Coppice
RP	Red Pine	OH	Oak/Hdwd	SM	Sugar Maple	Landowner Objective		SA	Salvage	HG	Highgrade*	DS	Direct Seed	
SR	Red Spruce	OR	N Red Oak	PP	Pitch Pine	LT	Long-term Mgt.	SN	Sanitation	DL	Diameter Limit*	OT	Other	
						ST	Short-term Har.			OT	Other*			

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

## Stream Crossings

Indicate location on map	SC-5	SC-6	SC-7	SC-8	SC-9	SC-10
Type of Crossing						
Existing Structure						
Type of Bottom						
Bank Height (ft)						
Stabilization						

## Wetland Crossings

Indicate location on map	WC-5	WC-6	WC-7	WC-8	WC-9	WC-10
Length						
Mitigation						
Stabilization						

## Filter Strips

Indicate location on map	FS-5	FS-6	FS-7	FS-8	FS-9	FS-10
Width (50',100' or VA)						

## Harvesting in Wetlands

Indicate location on map	HW-5	HW-6	HW-7	HW-8	HW-9	HW-10
Forest Type (see pg 2)						
Acres to be Harvested						
Resid. Basal Area (>50%)						

## Cutting Standards

Indicate location on map	ST-5	ST-6	ST-7	ST-8	ST-9	ST-10
Forest Type	BB	WP				
Acres	6	13				
Landowner Objective	LT	LT				
Designation of Trees	CT	CT				
Type of Cut	SE	SE				
Source of Regeneration	SE	SE				

Type of Crossing	Stabilization	Mitigation	Type of Bottom
CU Culvert	SE Seed	FR Frozen	LE Ledge
BR Bridge	MU Mulch	DR Dry	ST Stony
FO Ford	CO Corduroy	OT Other	MU Mud
PO Poled	ST Stone		GR Gravel
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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

File Number \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Vernal pool buffers are marked with triple red dots

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.

Stand No.	Describe Trees to be Cut			Describe Trees to be Left			% BA/AC	
	Species	Size	Quality	Species	Size	Quality	Cut	Left
1	HK,WP,RM	all	poor to fair	SM,BB,YB,RM,HK,WP,BC	all	fair to good	60	40
2	HK,WP,RM	all	poor to fair	SM,BB,YB,RM,HM,WP,BC	all	fair to good	60	40
3	HK,WP,RM,BE	all	poor to fair	BB,RM,YB,HM,WP,BC	all	fair to good	50	50
4	WP,RM,BE	all	poor to good	BB,RM,YB,SM,WP,BC	all	fair to good	50	50
5	WP,RM	all	fair to good	WP,BC,SM	all	fair to good	50	50

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
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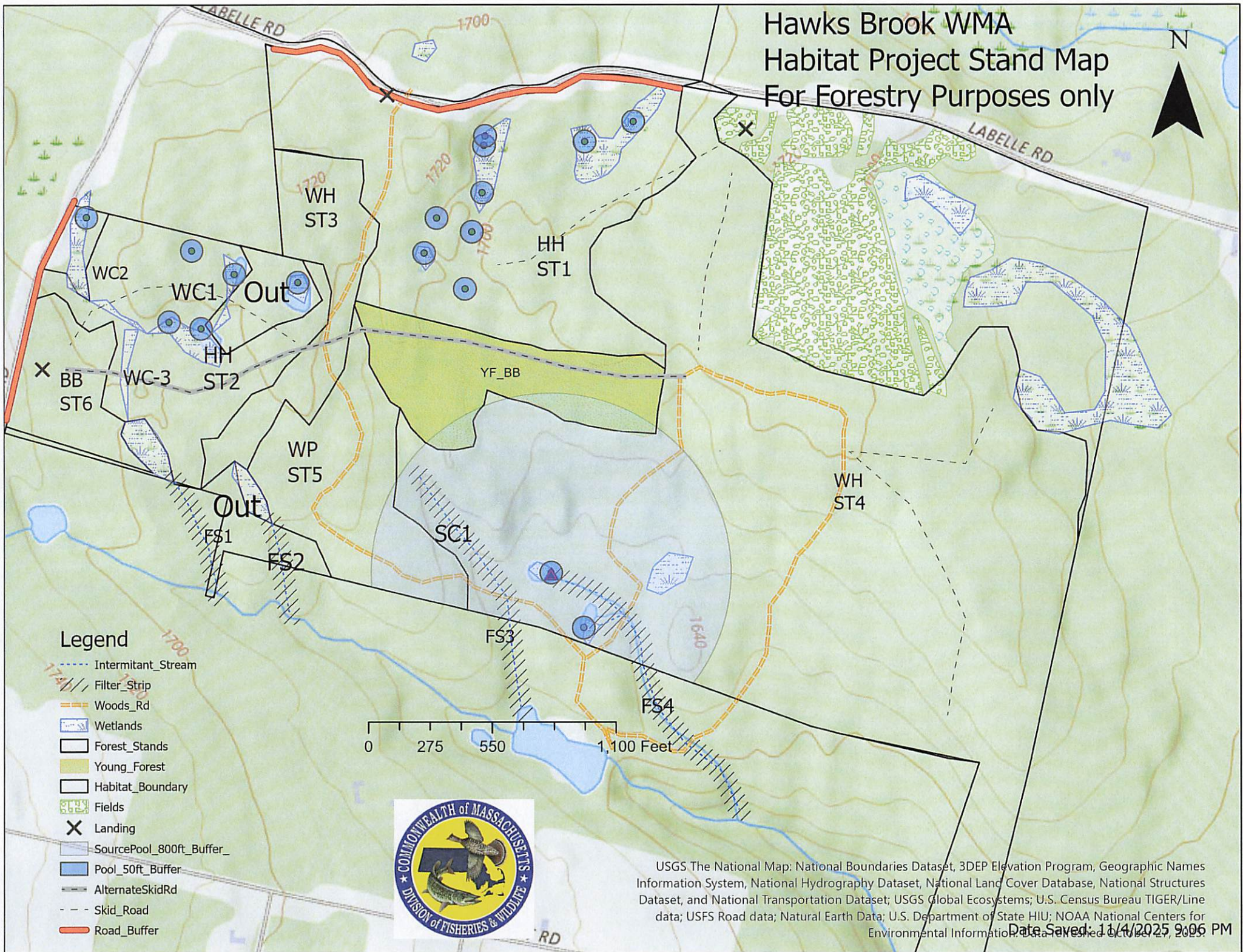

Stand No.	Desired Future Condition
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Describe what the stand is expected to look like five years from the harvest, including the condition of the overstory & understory

ALL	aims to create a mosaic of forest structure and composition. White Pine stands will receive a shelter wood cut while the majority of the site will have an irregular shelterwood conducted.
	Furthermore, stands 1 and 2 will have the majority of softwoods removed outside the vernal pool buffers. The intention is to regenerate hardwood in these areas for MESA listed species.



# Hawks Brook WMA Habitat Project Stand Map For Forestry Purposes only



## Legend

- Interim\_Stream
- Filter\_Strip
- Woods\_Rd
- Wetlands
- Forest\_Stands
- Young\_Forest
- Habitat\_Boundary
- Fields
- Landing
- SourcePool\_800ft\_Buffer\_
- Pool\_50ft\_Buffer
- AlternateSkidRd
- Skid\_Road
- Road\_Buffer

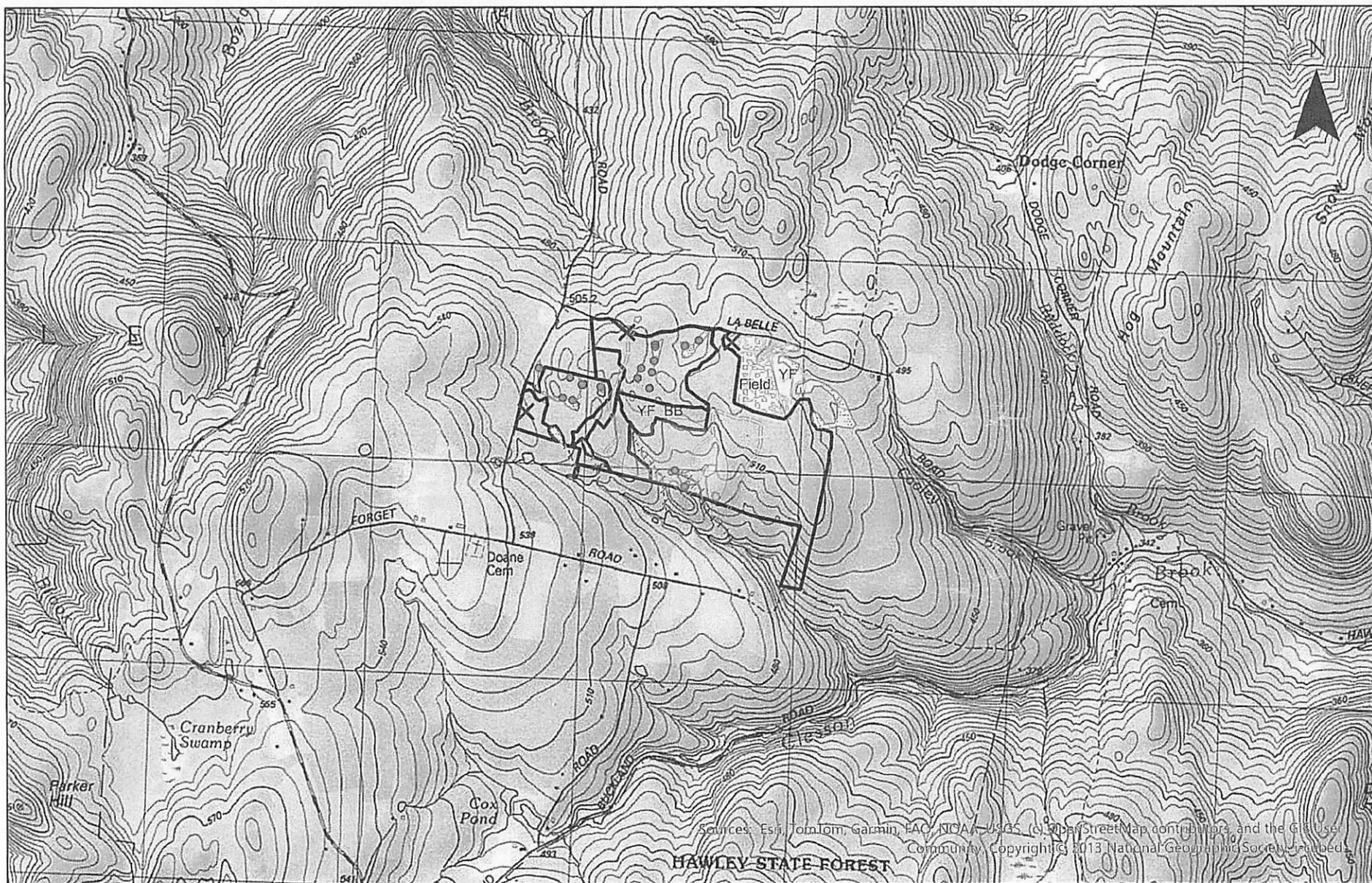
0 275 550 1,100 Feet



USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department of State HIU; NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information. Data collected October 27, 2023.

Date Saved: 11/4/2025 9:06 PM





Hawks Brook Locus Map  
Prepared by Fletcher Clark LF#433  
For Forestry Purposes Only



MASSWILDLIFE

## DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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

Alison Wright  
DCR Service Forestry  
West: District 8

Forest Cutting Plan No.:	129.43443.26
NHESP Tracking No.:	25-19842
Town:	Hawley
Road:	LaBelle Road (Hawks Brook WMA)
Landowner:	DFW MassWildlife
Preparer:	Fletcher Clark (Westborough, MA; MA Lic. #433)
Date:	October 8, 2025

Dear Alison,

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 FCP includes a system of limited patch cuts within primarily softwood-dominated stands for the targeted removal of softwoods. This project is part of a broader effort to improve habitat for state-listed species while maintaining the integrity of existing populations within portions of the Hawks Brook WMA.

Please note that ST-5 is and ST-6 appear to be reversed between the Cutting Standards table on Page 4 of the Plan and the harvest map. The harvest map, including the revised edition dated 10/3/2025 and attached here, shows the correct forest types with ST-5 being a "WP" stand and ST-6 being a "BB" stand.

### **State-Listed Species**

Jefferson salamander is a member of the mole salamander family. Upland habitat requirements of this species include predominantly closed-canopy forest with abundant leaf litter and coarse woody debris. Individuals spend the majority of the year in sub-surface retreats, but they also occur at the ground surface during breeding migrations, juvenile dispersal, and favorable foraging conditions. Jefferson salamander breeding migrations occur during late winter-spring, and juvenile dispersal from natal wetlands occurs during mid-summer through fall. Availability of cool, moist microhabitats with abundant small-mammal tunnels and burrows is critical to the survival of Jefferson salamanders during their times of above-ground movement.

### **Division Comments**

Based on details of the Plan and information in our database, the Division has determined there is potential for activities proposed in the Plan to result in "Take" (as defined in 321 CMR 10.02) Jefferson

MASSWILDLIFE

Salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*), listed as Special Concern pursuant to the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (M.G.L. c. 131A, MESA) and its implementing regulations (321 CMR 10.00) for the work proposed within Priority Habitat.

Portions of the harvest site coincide with an area of Priority Habitat delineated for Jefferson Salamander. The Division is concerned that harvesting activities conducted in upland areas during late winter–spring will cause direct mortality of individual salamanders (e.g., as a result of crushing by motorized vehicles). A second concern is that excessive canopy removal and soil compaction at the site will negatively alter the upland habitat and hydrology of vernal pools utilized by these salamander species.

Pursuant to 304 CMR 11.04(6), inclusion of the following condition to the Plan and implementation by the Landowner will avoid a Take of state-listed species.

**Plan Activities Within Priority Habitat**

**1. Skid Roads and Landing Locations**

- a. New forestry roads and log landings shall be located at least 100' away from any vernal pool or wetland.
- b. Use of the "Alternate Skid Road" as shown on the revised Project Stand Map (dated 10/3/25; see attached) for the purpose of hauling logs from ST-4 to the landing located off East Road (in ST-6) shall be permitted year-round.

**2. Motorized Equipment**

- a. Operation of motorized equipment shall be avoided within 50' of any vernal pool
- b. Operation of motorized equipment off established roads within the 800-foot Buffer Zone (portions of ST-4 and ST-5, as shown on the revised Project Stand Map, dated 10/2/25) shall only occur during periods of frozen or snow-covered ground except never between March 1 and May 14, unless otherwise approved by the Division.
- c. Operation of motorized equipment off established roads beyond the 800-foot Buffer Zone but within Priority Habitat (ST-1, ST-2, ST-3, portions of ST-4 and ST-5, and ST-6) shall only occur during the time period beginning Nov 1 and ending February 28, of any year.

**3. No Cut Zone**

- a. No harvesting shall occur within 50' of any vernal pool.
- b. No harvesting shall occur within the 800-foot Buffer Zone, except for the removal of Eastern White Pine within ST-5 and along the existing Woods Road where equipment can remain on the roadbed, and the removal of White Ash within ST-4 along the eastern Buffer boundary.
- c. Labeled as "Out" on the revised Project Stand Map (dated 10/3/2025; see attached), a No Cut Zone will be maintained between the two vernal pools located in ST-2, north of the "Alternative Skid Road".

**4. Canopy Retention Zone and Requirements**

- a. Timber harvesting within areas dominated by softwoods (ST-1, ST-2, ST-5) shall consist of patch cuts no greater than 1 acre in size, applied across 35–50% of the area, with an emphasis on the removal of softwoods, particularly Eastern White Pine.



- b. Limited timber harvesting within areas not dominated by softwoods (ST-3, ST-4, ST-6) shall focus on the removal of non-native invasive species and Eastern White Pine. Limited hardwood removal may also be conducted where necessary to facilitate softwood removal and to promote hardwood regeneration.
  - c. All trees to be harvested shall be marked prior to the start of tree harvesting operations.
5. **Boundary Marking** – Within the harvesting area, the boundary of the 50 foot no cut, the No Cut Zone located in ST-2 (see 3.c.) and the 800-foot Buffer Zone canopy retention zone shall be clearly identified by flagging or marking prior to the cutting plan approval and harvesting. Boundaries shall be inspected by DCR Service Forestry or the Division prior to the start of tree harvesting operations.

Plan Activities Outside of Priority Habitat:

- 6) Timber harvesting in areas outside of Priority Habitat of Rare Species may proceed with no conditions provided all skid paths, with the exception of the Alternative Skid Road (see 1.b.), and access routes remain outside of Priority Habitat.

This determination addresses only the matter of state-listed species and their habitats. For permitting information and requirements under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), we recommend that you use the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Conservation website (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac>).

Please copy the Division on any proposed amendment, extension, and on the approved Plan for the site. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Nikolis Gualco, Endangered Species Review Biologist, at [nikolis.a.gualco@mass.gov](mailto:nikolis.a.gualco@mass.gov) OR (508) 389-6375.

Sincerely,



Jesse Leddick  
Assistant Director

Enclosures – *Hawks Brook WMA Habitat Project Stand Map, dated 10/3/2025*  
*Sketch – Priority Habitat overlaid on Stand Map*

Hawks Brook WMA  
Habitat Project Stand Map  
For Forestry Purposes only

Labelle Rd

Forget Road

Legend

- Intermittent Stream
- Filter Strip
- Woods Rd
- Wetlands
- Forest Stands
- Young Forest
- Habitat Boundary
- Fields
- Landing
- SourcePool\_800ft\_Buffer
- Pool\_50ft\_Buffer
- AlternateSkidRd

0 275 550 1,100 Feet

10/3/20

Date Saved: 10/3/20



dcr



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Division of State Parks and Recreation

FILE # 129-43443-26

W

# 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 MassWildlife 1 Rabbit Hill Rd  
(Name of Owner) Westborough, MA 01581 (Address) in accordance with the

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

Hawks Brook lot, Hawley  
(Labelle Rd)

Approval Date 11/5/25

Director's Agent Alison Wright-Hunter

DCR Phone No. (413) 262-2370

ISSUED BY:

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