## DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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## Forest Cutting Plan Review 304 CMR 11.04(6)

James Rassman DCR Service Forestry East: District 1

Forest Cutting Plan No.:	089.43304.25
NHESP Tracking No.:	24-11032 (CMP 01-012.DFW Amendment)
Town:	Edgartown
Road:	Manuel F. Correllus State Forest
	Edgartown – West Tisbury Road
	ST-1 Fire Road D, ST-2 off Fire Road 12/Bike Path
Landowner:	MA Department of Conservation & Recreation
Preparer:	Paul Gregory (South Carver, MA)
Date:	July 1, 2025

Dear Jim,

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)).

The Forest Cutting Plan proposes the removal of all Plantation white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), while retaining oak species (*Quercus spp.*) and pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*). This cutting activity is consistent with CMP 01-012.DFW Amendment ("Permit") and is intended to implement Special Condition #4 of the Permit. This condition requires the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to restore native oak woodlands and sandplain heathlands to support state-listed species and contribute to the Long-term Net Benefit outlined in the Permit.

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) of state-listed species 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.

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.

## $\mathsf{MASSWILDLIFE}$

- 1. Access to management areas shall be limited to existing fire roads and/or paved roads. Care shall be used when traveling on existing fire roads or paved roads all tires shall remain on the existing travel corridor except for direct access to the proposed management areas.
- 2. Any vehicles or equipment brought in from other sites should be visually inspected and washed in a gravel yard or other controlled space prior to entering the site. Care should be taken to look at undercarriages, in the treads of track or tires, bumpers, around and behind grills, and other less accessible areas.
- 3. Equipment shall be staged within existing paved surfaces or the existing travel corridor. Any vehicle not in use during the management activities shall be parked entirely on existing paved surfaces or the existing fire road travel corridor. Parking on fire breaks shall be avoided.
- 4. Coarse woody debris left in pre-existing open sandy areas, specifically along the edges of existing trails and access roads, must be raked up and removed from the site.

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 Misty-Anne R. Marold, Senior Endangered Species Review Biologist, at (508) 389-6356 (misty-anne.marold@mass.gov).

Sincerely,

Jesse Leddick Assistant Director