

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

**Project Title:**

<b>DWSP Harvest Permit Number:</b> 5266
<b>DCR Forest Cutting Plan File Number:</b> 321-8692-17

**Site Information**

<b>Watershed:</b> Wachusett	<b>Town(s):</b> West Boylston
<b>Acres:</b> 29	<b>Nearest Road:</b> River Road
<b>Natural Heritage Atlas overlap?:</b> Yes	<b>Public Drinking Water Supply Watershed?:</b> Yes
<b>Forest Types:</b> Northern red oak, white pine/oak	<b>ACEC?:</b> No
<b>Soils:</b> Merrimac fine sandy loam, Canton fine sandy loam	
<b>Wetland Resources:</b> There are no wetlands within the sale area.	
<b>Vernal Pools:</b> There are no vernal pools.	

**Harvest Information**

<b>DWSP Permit Start Date:</b> 04/12/17	<b>DWSP Permit End Date:</b> 06/28/19
<b>Number of Wetland Crossings:</b> 0	<b>Number of Stream Crossings:</b> 0

**Best Management Practices Applied**

<b>Stream Crossings</b>	There are no stream crossing.
<b>Filter Strips</b>	No trees are marked in the filter strip along the stream that forms the southern boundary of this sale area.
<b>Wetland Crossings</b>	There are no wetland crossings.
<b>Harvesting in Wetlands</b>	No harvesting in wetlands will occur.

<b>DWSP Forester supervising this harvest</b>
<b>Name:</b> Greg Buzzell
<b>Forester License #:</b> 025
<b>Phone #:</b> 978-792-7806 x317

## **NARRATIVES**

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

Red oak and white pine are the two dominant species in this working unit along with far less amounts of white oak and red maple. A few hemlock can be found in the far south end on the steep slope near the stream and in the far northwest corner on the steep north-facing slope above River Road. There's a small pocket of very large red oak, sugar maple and white ash in the rather large borrow-pit just inside the Gate WB25 at River Road.

Two prior timber sales have taken place in this working unit. One sale in 1979 took place on just a few acres in the farthest northwest corner of this area. This sale focused on cutting oak with the goal of establishing oak regeneration. Unfortunately, this is now where mountain laurel forms a very thick understory. The vast majority of this area, especially the steeply slope, kettle-hole riddled eastern portion, has received no prior treatment nor suffered significant natural disturbance. The result is a lack of advance regeneration with witch-hazel the primary understory plant. The red oaks in this area are large, single-stemmed and of good quality especially on the lower slopes. The white pines in this section are also of good quality with many reaching 110 feet in height. There's also the scattered beech colony.

The red oak in the northern section of this area, are generally smaller in diameter and are multi-stemmed. Given the long-time presence of an MDC labor yard right across River Road at Shaft 1, it is likely that firewood harvesting occurred in this area throughout the past. The small openings in the overstory in this area are occupied by saplings of black birch and red maple along with eastern hophornbeam and striped maple.

### **Site Selection:**

The ideal watershed protection forest is one which best serves the function of the land as a producer of high quality drinking water in both short- and long-term. This forest must be vigorous and diverse in tree species and ages, be actively accumulating biomass and actively regenerating. Such a forest will be ideally suited to be resilient to and quickly recover from small- and large-scale disturbances such as diseases, insect infestations, ice storms and hurricanes.

This area was selected for management because of the lack of age diversity both in these 29 acres as well as the 2,112 acres that the DCR owns that flows into the Quinapoxet River.

### **Silvicultural Objectives:**

The primary objective of this operation will be to begin the establishment of a young forest beneath this otherwise even-aged forest. Both white pine and red oak do very well on this site and so a mix of oak and pine regeneration will be the goal. Stocking will be reduced to variable levels throughout the area with the greatest decreases needing to occur in the red oak dominated stands in order to get red oak established rather than merely encouraging the further dominance of the witch-hazel understory.

### **Cultural Resources:**

There are no known significant historic or archaeological resources in this sale area. The area around the Myron W. Houghton house, barn and well, on the top of the slope inside Gate WB25 will be flagged in order to prevent damage from logging equipment.

**Wildlife/Rare or Endangered Species:**

A small portion of this area intersects with NHESP Priority Habitat polygon for known wood turtle habitat along the Quinapoxet River. NHESP review of this timber sale has determined that no negative impact to wood turtle habitat or directly to wood turtles themselves will occur.

**FIGURES**

**Figure 1. Forest Cutting Plan**

**Figure 2. Map 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-B**

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)

MAR 03 2017

## For DCR Use Only:

File Number 321-8692-17 Case No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Rec'd 3/28/17 Nat. Hert. YES 1  
Earliest Start 3/28/17 Nat. Hert. Imp. NO  
River Basin NASHUA Pub. Dr. Wat. YES-WACHUSETT  
Gen. Obj. LT ACEC NO

Site Information

### Location

Town West Boylston Lot 5266  
Road River Road  
Acres 29 Proposed Start Date 4/17  
Vol. MBF 62.1 Vol. Cds. 149 Vol. Tons 39

### Plan Preparer

Name Gregory S. Buzzell  
Address 180 Beaman Rd.  
Town, State, Zip West Boylston, MA, 01583  
Phone 508-792-7806 Ext 317  
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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
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

\*ALL SKID ROADS/TRAILS ARE EXISTING  
\*PLEASE SEE ATTACHED MHESP LETTER (NO IMPACT)  
\*PLAN REVIEWED UNDER PRACTICAL SNOOW CONDITIONS  
  
\*ATTACHMENT -> LANDING ADDED

Codes

Type of Preparer	Type of Crossing	Stabilization	Mitigation	Type of Bottom	Note:
LP Mass. Lic. For.	CU Culvert	SE Seed	FR Frozen	LE Ledge	Applicant must provide DCR with all relevant information before plan may be approved and cutting may begin.
TH Lic. Tim. Har	BR Bridge	MU Mulch	DR Dry	ST Stony	Some forestry activities, such as prescribed burning and pesticide or fertilizer application may require additional permits.
TB Timber Buyer	FO Ford	CO Corduroy	OT Other	MU Mud	Consult MA Forestry BMP Manual for further information.
LO Landowner	PO Piled	ST Stone		GR Gravel	
OT Other	OT Other	HB Hay Bales		OT Other	
		OT Other			

## Products to be Harvested\*

Species	Mbf/Cds		Mbf/Cds
White Pine	28.0	Red Maple	
Red Pine		Sugar Maple	
Pitch Pine		Red Oak	27.0
Hemlock		Black Oak	5.7
Spruce		White Oak	1.3
Other Sftwd.		Other Hdwd.	
White Ash		Total Mbf	61.1
Beech		Cordwood (Cds)	149
White Birch		SW Pulp (Tons)	39
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	OR	WO		
Acres	18	11		
Landowner Objective	LT	LT		
Designation of Trees	CT	CT		
Type of Cut	SH	SH		
Source of Regeneration	na	na		

## 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

## Determination and Status

Approved Disapproved Expires

Cutting Plan ☒ ☐ 3-3-2019

Signature of Service Forester/Director's Agent

Date

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

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

WDD / /

4-3-17

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

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

pg 4 of 5

# 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: Dr. Dwyer/OWM

Town: West Boylston

File Number: 321-8692-17

BMPs	<u>There are no stream or wetland crossings in this lot.</u>
Silviculture	
Objectives	<u>The main objective of this operation is to begin the establishment of a new cohort in this even-aged forest by encouraging the establishment of an understory of seedlings. In the long run, this will allow us to diversify the age structure of the forest by one day removing portions of the overstory.</u>
Other	<u>The haul trail has not been flagged. As this lot will be open to both skidders and forwarders, adjustments to the road may occur after the bid is awarded.</u>



MASSWILDLIFE

**DIVISION OF  
FISHERIES & WILDLIFE**

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

Jack Buckley, Director

Michael Downey - Department of Conservation and Recreation  
355 West Boylston Street  
Clinton, MA 01510

Cutting Plan No. 321-8692-17  
NHESP Tracking No. 17-36616  
Town West Boylston  
Road Off River Road  
Landowner DWSP  
Preparer Gregory Buzzell  
Date April 3, 2017

Dear Michael,

The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program ("the 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 the NHESP 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 Brent Powers at (508) 389-6354 or [brent.powers@state.ma.us](mailto:brent.powers@state.ma.us).

Sincerely,

Thomas W. French, Ph.D.  
Assistant Director

Cc: West Boylston Conservation Commission

**MASSWILDLIFE**



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

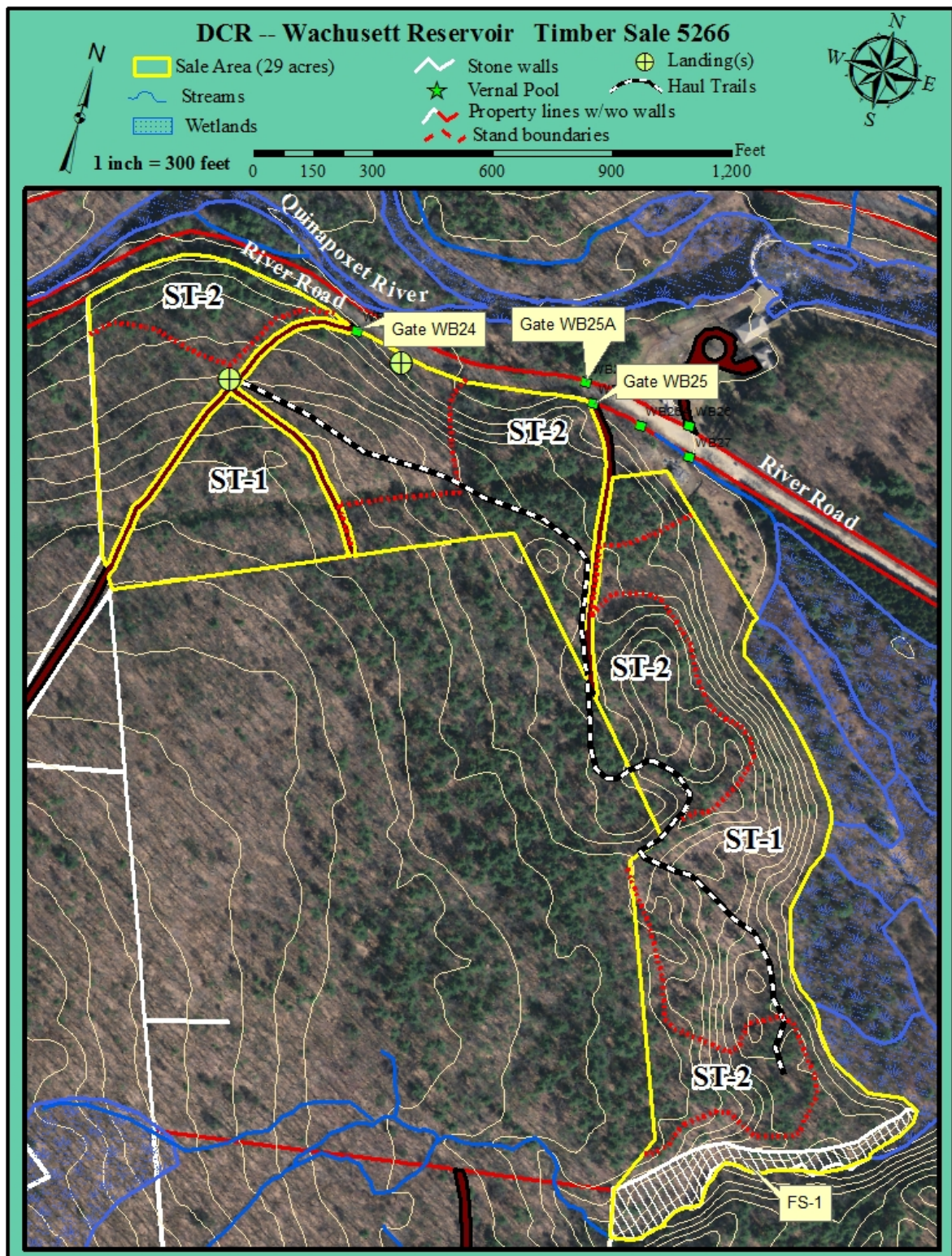




Figure 3. General locus map showing the location of the proposed timber harvest





**Figure 4. Pre-Harvest Photographs, A-B**



A. The landing on River Road. Gate WB24 can be seen to the right.



B. Removing a portion of the overstory and damaging this mountain laurel and witchhazel understory should allow oak and pine regeneration to become established.