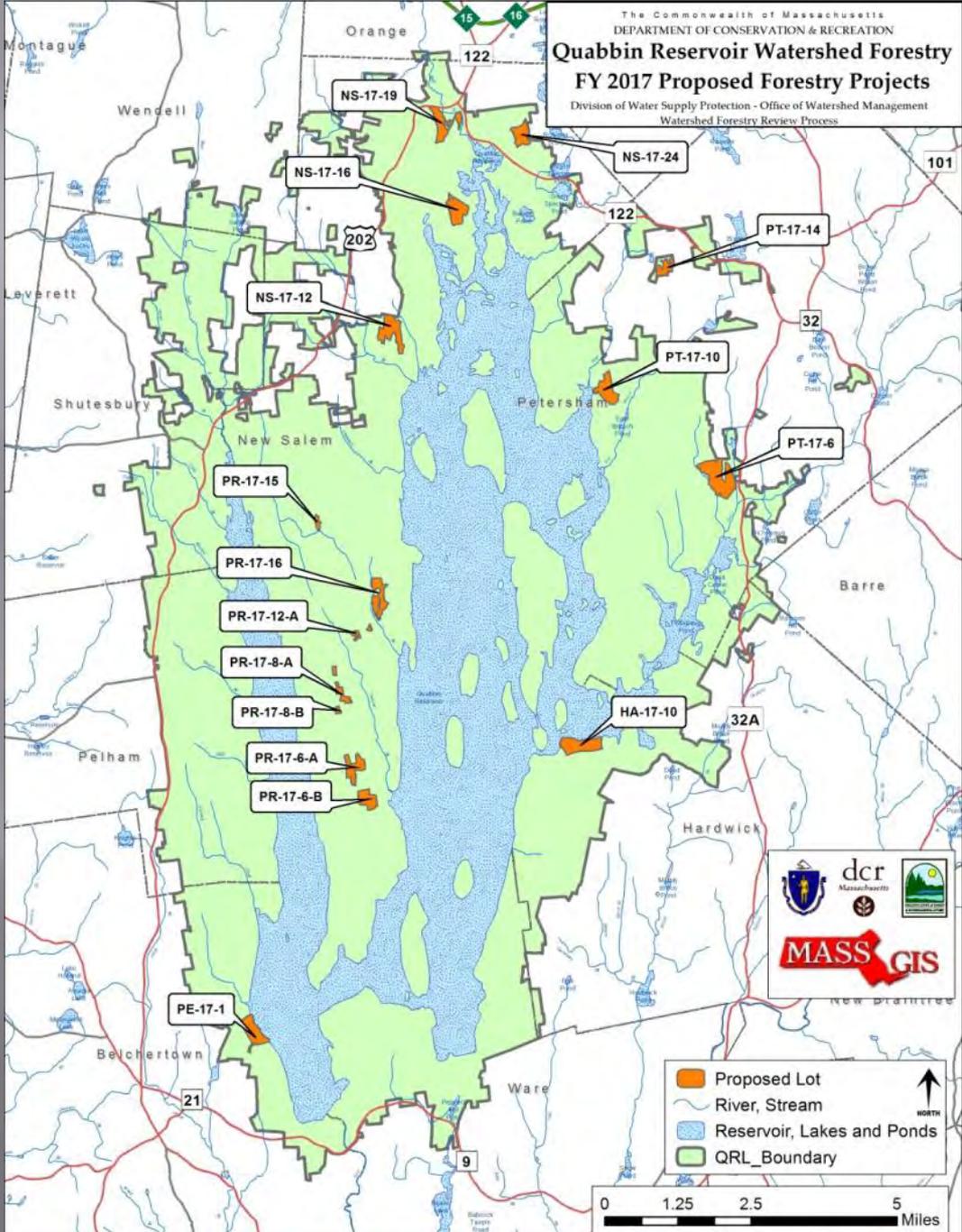


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & RECREATION
Quabbin Reservoir Watershed Forestry
FY 2017 Proposed Forestry Projects
Division of Water Supply Protection - Office of Watershed Management
Watershed Forestry Review Process



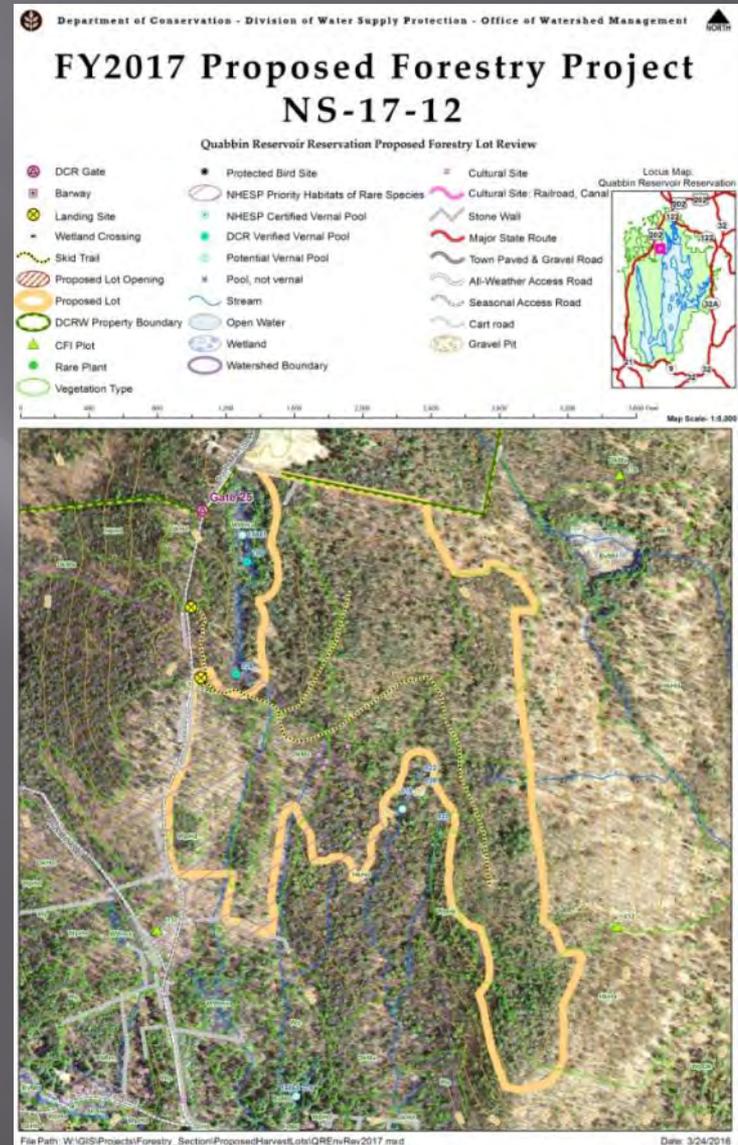
Shaft 12 lot

- 97 acres
- Red Pine, Oak\pine, oak hardwood types.
- 0.3 – 3.5 acre openings
- Harvest primarily red pine and poorly formed white pine
- Vernal pools
- Partially constructed railroad bed



Gate 25 lot

- 94 acres
- Hemlock/ Hardwood forest type
- Harvest primarily declining hemlock, trees with poor stem structure and areas with advance regeneration
- Cultural resources
- vernal pools
- Unusual species (spleenwort)



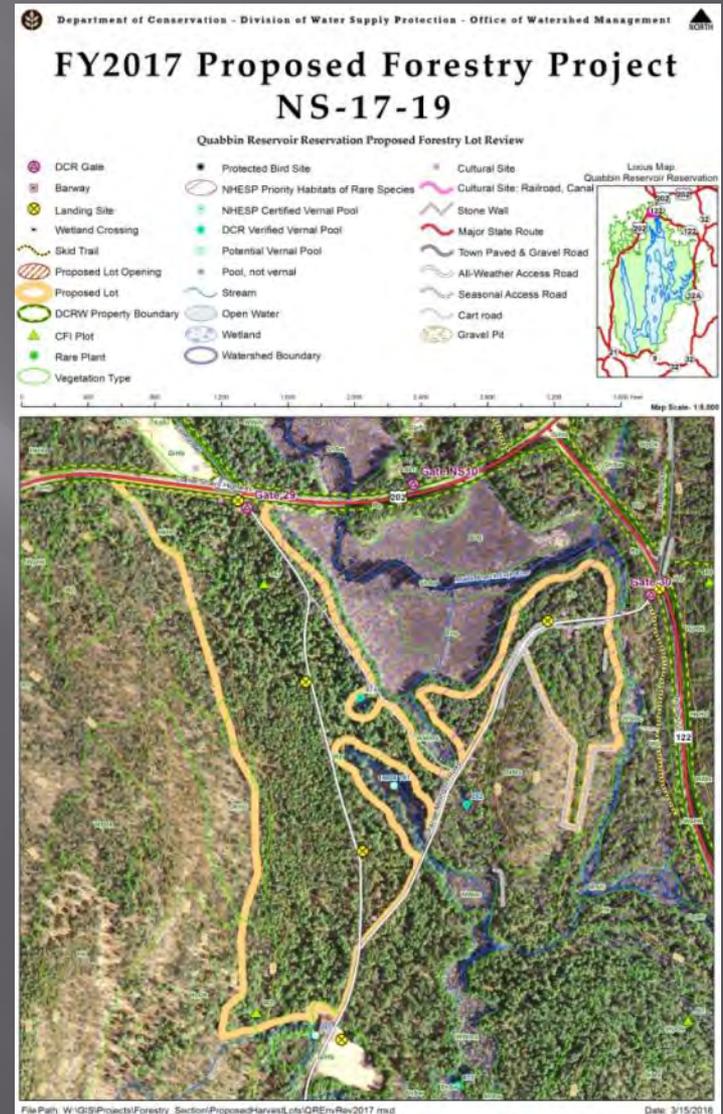
Rattlesnake Hill lot

- 76 acres
- Red pine, white pine / hemlock, and red oak forest types
- Harvest most of the red pine plantation. In other forest types openings up to 2 acres in size will be located in declining hemlock, groups of poorly formed stems or areas with advance regeneration. No treatment in areas dominated by healthy well formed oaks.
- Acidic rocky outcrop natural community on top of hill will be enhanced by the reduction of the white pine component.



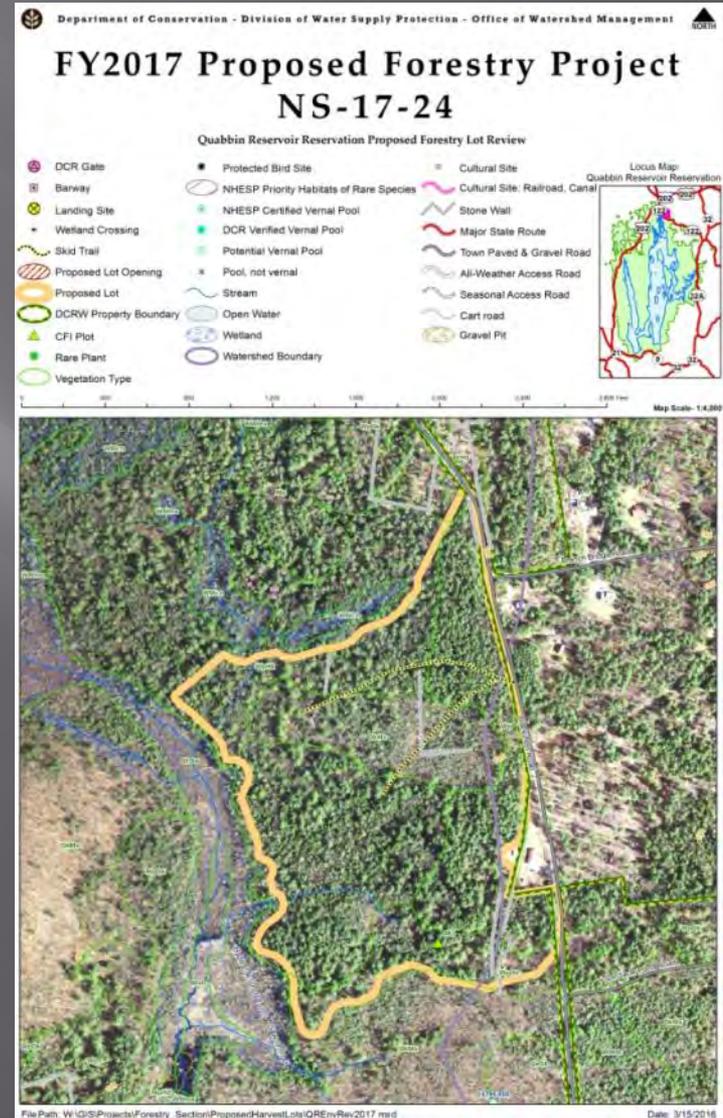
Harris Hill lot

- 80 acres
- White pine and red pine forest types.
- Red pine and low quality white pine will be harvested in groups up to 2 acres in size releasing advance regeneration
- NHESP habitat
- Area heavily used by walkers and road bicyclists.



Blackington Road lot

- ▣ 57 acres
- ▣ White pine / hemlock and white pine / hardwood forest types.
- ▣ Forest openings up to 2 acres in size will be created in areas poorly formed white pine, declining hemlock and areas with advance regeneration.



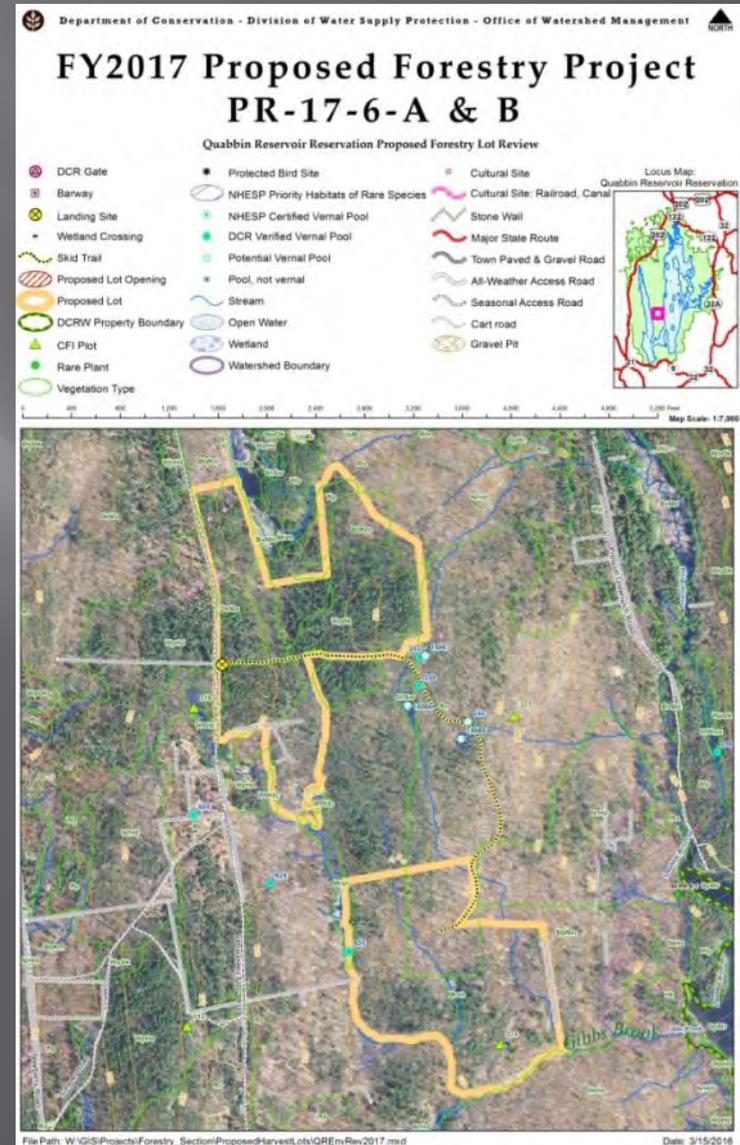
Gate 4 lot

- 80 acres
- White pine / hardwood, oak / hardwood and red maple forest types.
- Openings up to 2 acres in size will be created in areas dominated by poorly formed stems or advance regeneration.
- Vernal pool
- Cellar holes



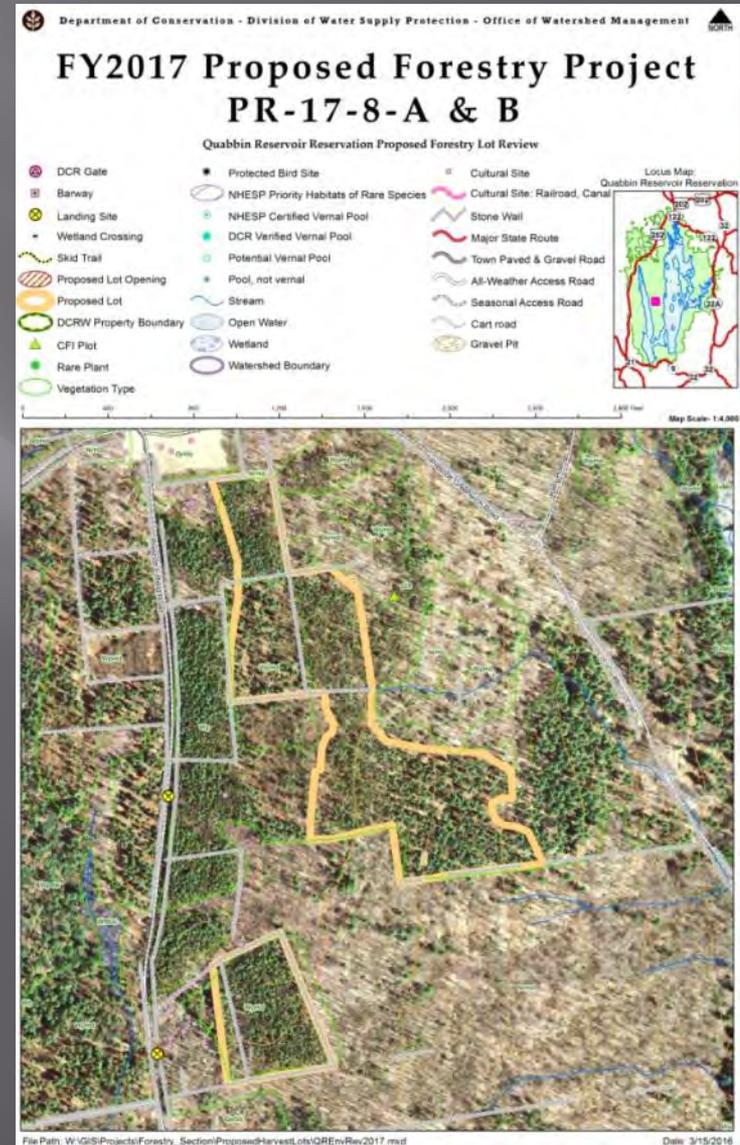
Griswold Brook lot

- 113 acres
- Red pine, white pine and oak/ hardwood forest types.
- Removal of the 10 acre declining red pine plantation is planned, pending approval of the DCR Commissioner.
- Releasing advance regeneration in openings up to 2 acres is also planned



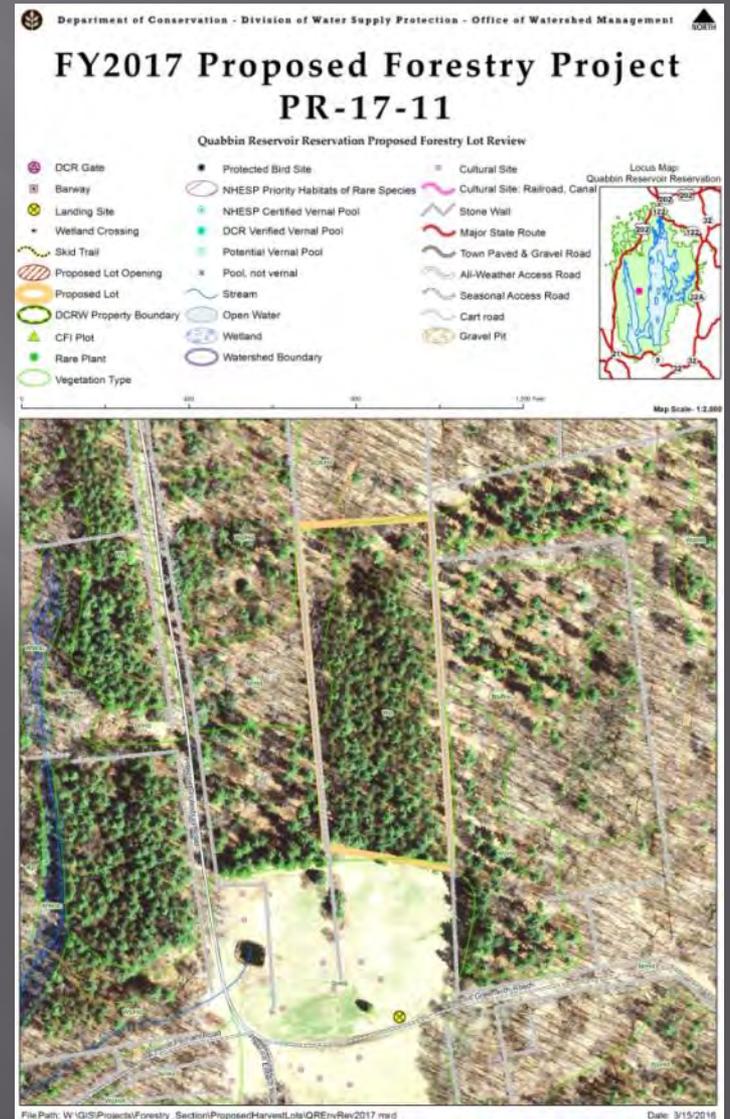
Observatory – South lot

- 29 acres
- Red pine/ white pine plantation forest type.
- Declining red pine will be harvested in openings up to 15 acres pending approval of DCR Commissioner.



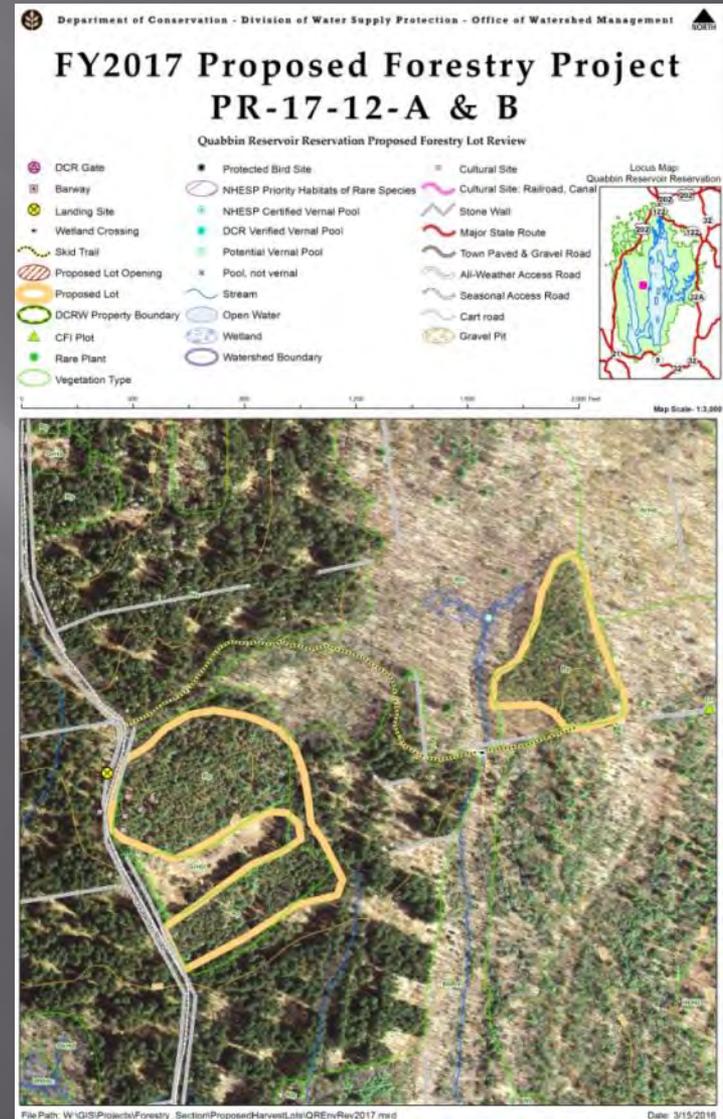
Observatory lot

- 6 acres
- Red pine/ white pine plantation
- One 5 acre opening is planned to salvage declining red pine.



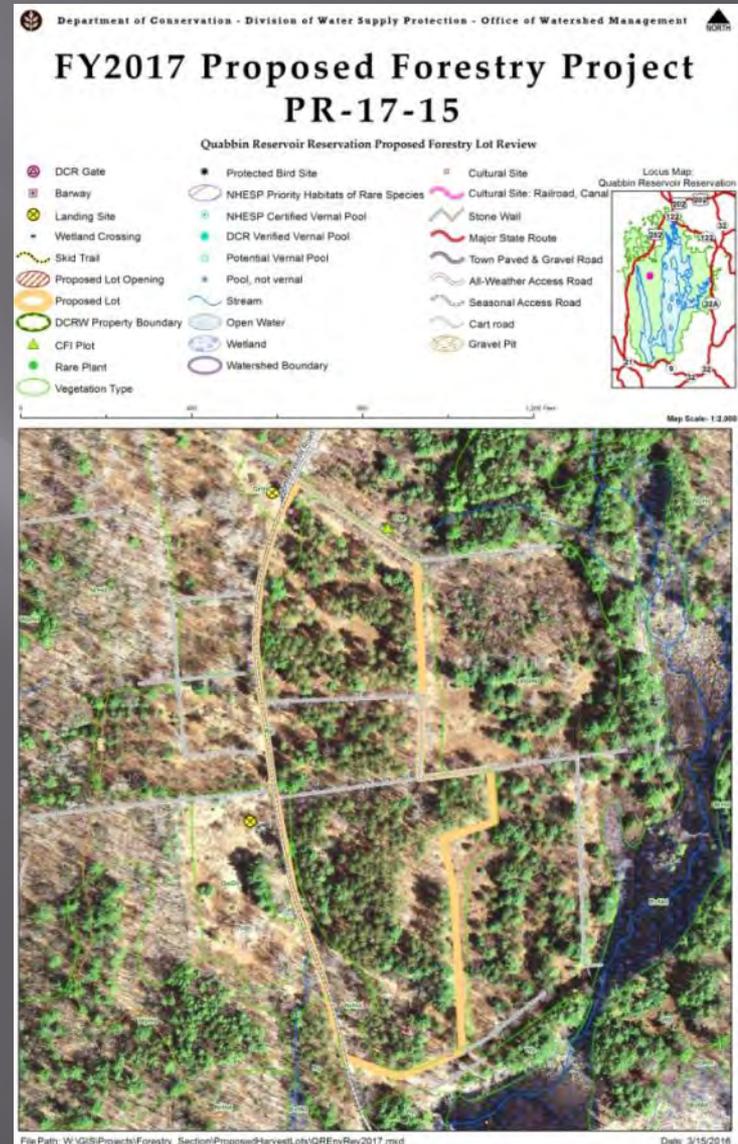
Mount Pleasant Road lot

- ▣ 13 acres
- ▣ Red pine plantation
- ▣ Openings up to 5 acres are planned to salvage declining red pine.
- ▣ Black bear rub trees in section B



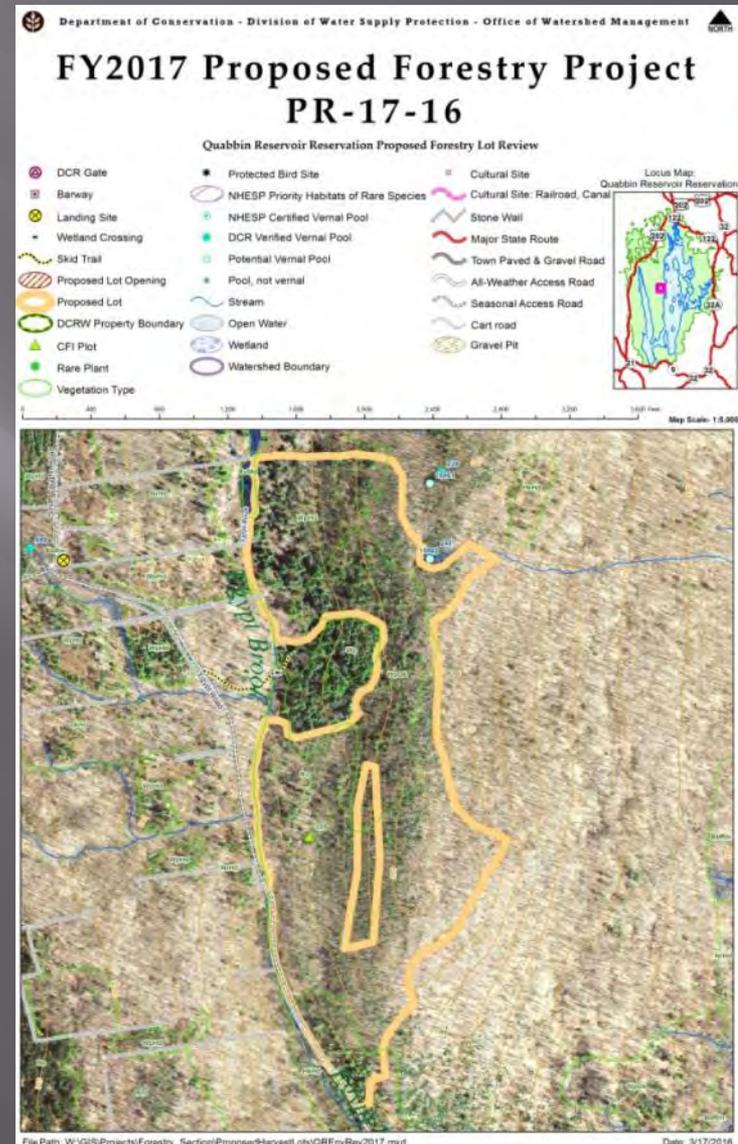
Gate 20 lot

- 11 acres
- Red pine plantation
- Openings up to 5 acres are planned to salvage declining red pine.
- Cellar hole



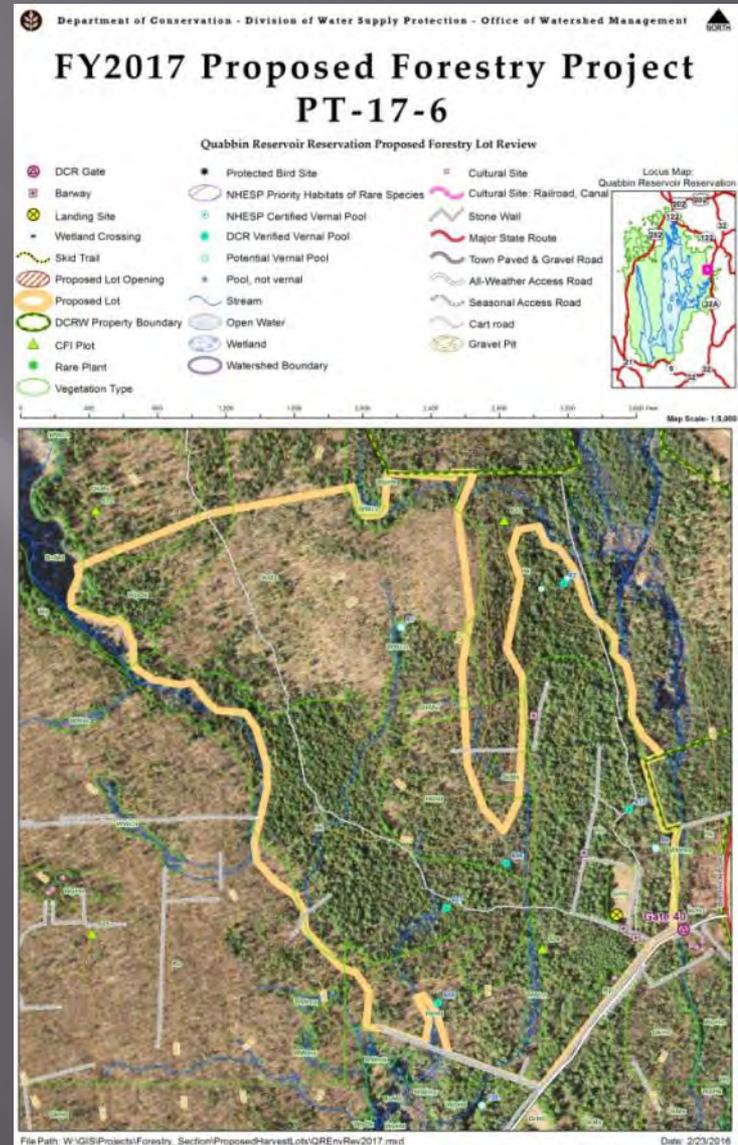
Egypt Brook lot

- 73 acres
- Mixed oak, red oak and oak/ pine forest types.
- This project proposes about 10 acres of thinning (primarily in the red oak type) as well as openings up to 2 acres (primarily in the mixed oak and oak/ pine types).
- Openings will be placed in areas with poorly formed stems and/or advance regeneration.
- Stream crossing



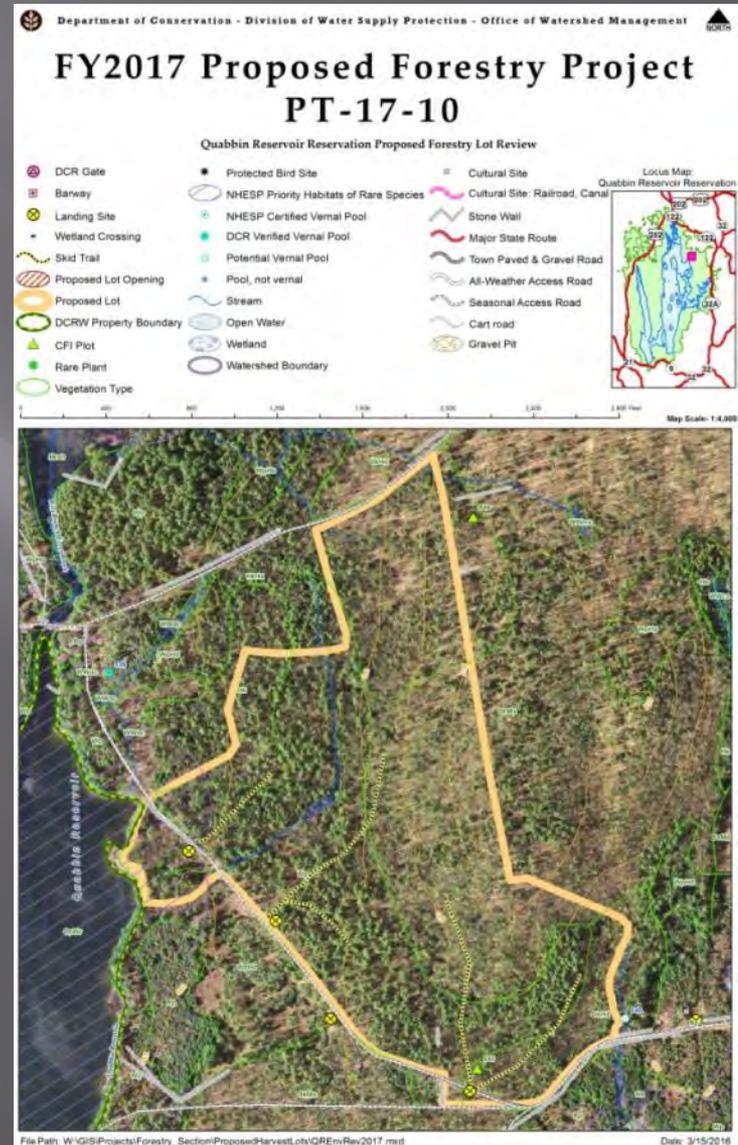
Gate 40 lot

- 158 acres
- Hemlock, mixed oak and white pine forest types.
- Openings up to 2 acre are proposed in areas with declining hemlock and/or poorly formed stems of oak and pine.
- Some thinning between openings is also proposed.
- Vernal pools



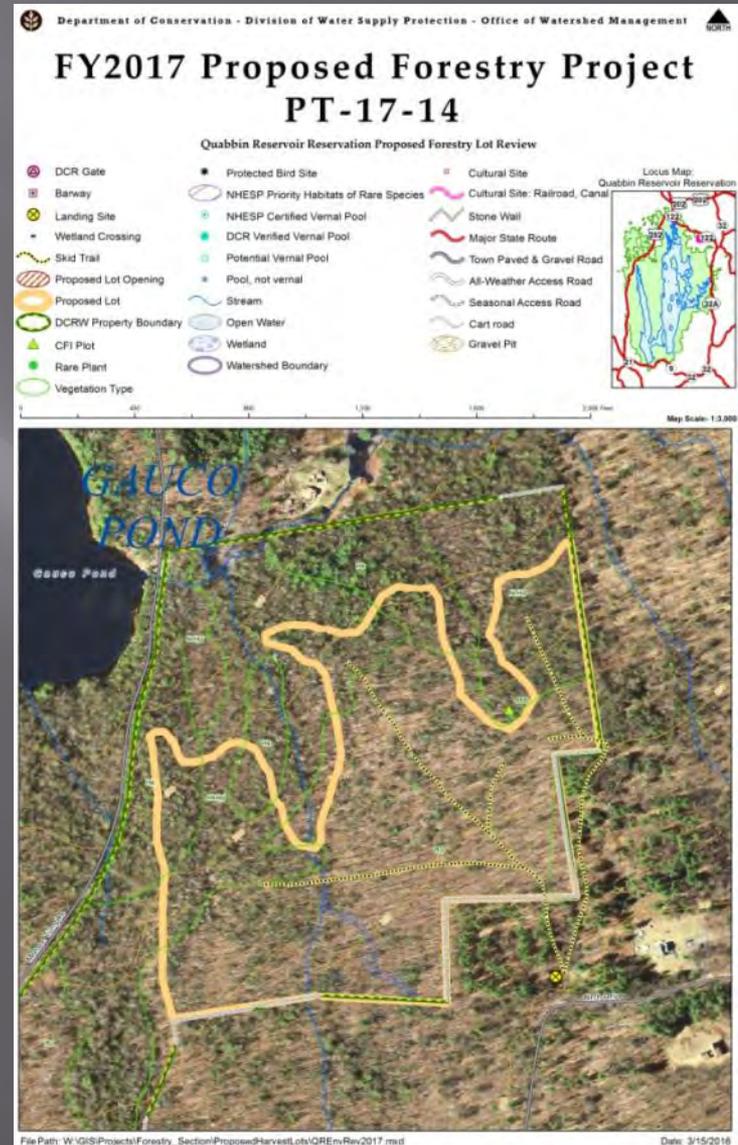
Gate 37 lot

- 76 acres
- White pine, oak / hardwood, hemlock/ hardwood and red pine forest types.
- Openings up to 2 acres are proposed for areas with declining red pine and hemlock and white pine / oak areas with poor form/ vigor or advance regeneration
- Stream/ wetland complex functioning as vernal pool.



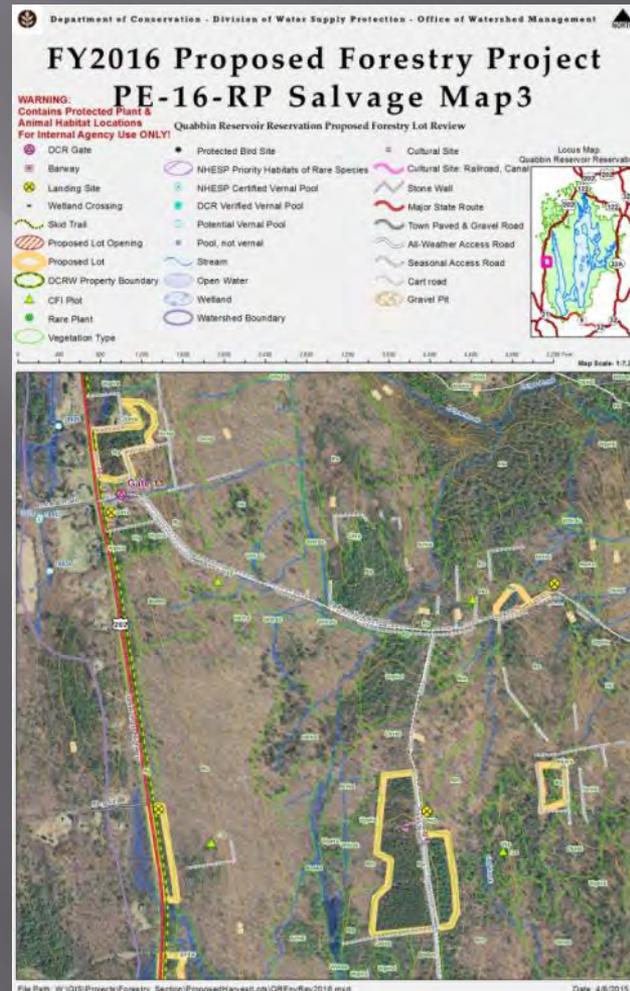
Birch Drive lot

- 35 acres
- Oak/ hardwood and hemlock/ hardwood forest types.
- Forest health concerns include, hemlock wooly adelgid, hemlock elongate scale, necrotic canker, beech bark disease and ash decline.
- Openings up to 2 acres are proposed for areas with forest health issues and/ advance regeneration.



Pelham Red Pine Salvage Lot 3

- FY-16 proposal
- Originally proposed as openings up to 5 acres
- Now proposed as openings up to 16 acres pending DCR Commissioner approval



STAC recommendations

1. Produce illustrated plain-language summaries of Land Management Plans to increase their accessibility to the general public
2. Explore new approaches and continue to enhance source water protection on the Wachusett Reservoir watershed
3. Re-start active forest management using methods that eliminate the geometric patch cut approach in favor of irregular-shaped regeneration openings and specialized thinning techniques. Consider creating both Early Successional and Old Growth conditions on limited areas.
4. Monitor the effectiveness of Best Management Practices using established protocols and post time-sequence photography online
5. Monitor hydrologic and water quality effects of forest management above and below, and before and after harvesting operations

From Here Forward: DWSP responses to STAC report

The DCR Division of Water Supply Protection, Office of Watershed Management

- Will produce accessible LMP summaries, per recommendations
- Is continuing to build watershed protection for Wachusett Reservoir
- Is continuing to refine lot review process and public awareness, via public meetings, online postings, and on-site tours and signage
- Plans to restart forest management primarily using small, irregularly shaped regeneration openings, with green retention in larger openings
- Is working to implement USDA FS Best Mgt Practices monitoring protocol and will establish photo points on some harvest lots, and post images online
- Is committed to a greater level of routine water quality monitoring within harvest areas, and is refining both short and long-term monitoring programs
- Has released Terrestrial Invasive Plants Management Strategy, online @ <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/water-res-protection/watershed-mgmt/plans.html>