

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

**Project Title: Lot 5274**

DWSP Harvest Permit Number: 5274

DWSP Proposal ID: WA-18-323

DCR Forest Cutting Plan File Number: 134-9072-18

***Site Information***

Watershed: Wachusett

Town(s): Princeton

Acres: 65

Nearest Road: Coal Kiln Road

Natural Heritage Atlas overlap?: No

Public Drinking Water Supply Watershed?: Yes

Forest Types: White pine//hardwood, white pine/oak

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)?: No

Soils: Moderately well drained Woodbridge-Paxton soils make up 89% of this working unit.

Poorly drained Ridgebury-Whitman makes up 10%, with Well drained thick Montauk-Scituate-Canton at 2%.

Wetland Resources: There is a stream that originates from a wetland under the power lines in the northern corner of the working unit and bisects the middle of the working unit until it meets another wetland towards the southern corner of the working unit.

Vernal Pools: There is a beautiful little isolated vernal pool with high bush blueberry and surrounded by mountain laurel in the eastern corner of the working unit.

***Harvest Information***

Harvest Start Date: 6/12/2018

Harvest End Date: 5/25/2020

Number of Wetland Crossings: None

Number of Stream Crossings: One

***Best Management Practices Applied***

Stream Crossings: The stream will be bridged.

Filter Strips: No trees are marked in the filter strips.

Wetland Crossings: There are no wetland crossings.

Harvesting in Wetlands: There is no harvesting in wetlands.

***DWSP Forester supervising this harvest***

Name: Greg Buzzell

Forester License number: 025

Phone number: 774-261-1841

Email: greg.buzzell@mass.gov

## **Narrative**

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

This working unit is dominated by white pine and red oak. In smaller quantities red maple, black birch, black oak, sassafras, American chestnut and white oak exist. The "Israel" parcel was acquired in 2010 and was previously cut around 2000. The past cutting practices created very small openings and thinned areas which now have interfering levels of mountain laurel on the western half and a good amount of white pine and black birch regeneration in the eastern half. Regeneration sampling shows that adequate regeneration is present on 41% of 131 plots taken and are mainly distributed in the eastern half of the unit. Marginal advance regeneration was found on 5% of the plots, while oak regeneration is present on 19% of the plots. Mountain Laurel and some witch-hazel are interfering with regeneration on 53% of the plots.

Regeneration is made up of white pine, red oak, white oak, sassafras, red maple, black birch, American chestnut and black oak.

## ***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 chosen due to the lack of age diversity both in these 65 acres as well as the 2,400 acres of DCR-owned land that flows into both Trout Brook and Wachusett Brook.

## ***Silvicultural Objectives***

The working unit can be divided in half when it comes to advance regeneration. The eastern half has good advance regeneration spread throughout, including oak in a decent (19%) amount of the plots. The western half of the working unit is mostly covered in interfering levels of mt. laurel. Both areas are the result of past cutting practices, which for the most part have left a lower stocking throughout. Even though the western half has interfering mt. laurel, the stocking is low enough at this point where a site preparation and prep cut are not practical. As a result, in the western half defined openings should be made with the goal of damaging mt. laurel as much as possible to encourage regeneration. The eastern half will have openings made that target the good advance regeneration that is present.

## ***Cultural Resources***

There are no known historic and archaeological resources associated with the Israel site. If any features are uncovered before or during the harvest they will be protected according to guidelines set forth in the Comprehensive Land Management Plan.

## ***Rare or Endangered Species***

None known.

## **Figures**

- Figure 1. Forest Cutting Plan
- Figure 2. Maps 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-C
- Figure 5. Post-Harvest Photographs, A-C

**Figure 1. Forest Cutting Plan**

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## Products to be Harvested\*

Species	Mbf/Cds		Mbf/Cds
White Pine	106.5	Red Maple	
Red Pine		Sugar Maple	
Pitch Pine		Red Oak	9.2
Hemlock		Black Oak	6.1
Spruce		White Oak	7.8
Other Sftwd.		Other Hdwd.	
White Ash		Total Mbf	129.5
Beech		Cordwood (Cds)	208
White Birch		SW Pulp (Tons)	105
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.

## Stand Treatment

## Cutting Standards

Indicate location on map	ST-1	ST-2	ST-3	ST-4
Forest Type	WH	WP	WO	
Acres	41	9	19	
Landowner Objective	LT	LT	LT	
Designation of Trees	CT	CT	CT	
Type of Cut	SH	SH	SH	
Source of Regeneration	AD/SE	AD/SE	AD/SE	

## 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.

*Patricia E. Austin*

Signature of landowner(s)

*5-22-18*

Date

Determination and Status *241-9484-18*

## Final Report and Comments

	Approved	Disapproved	Expires
Cutting Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>5-25-2020</i>
Signature of Service Forester/Director's Agent	<i>W. D. O. C. M.</i>		
	<i>6-1-2018</i>		
	Date		
Extension	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Expires / /
Amendment	App 1 <input type="checkbox"/>	Dis 1 <input type="checkbox"/>	App 2 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Dis 2 <input type="checkbox"/>		

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	HH		RM	Red Maple	CT Cut Tree	SH Shelterwood	AD Advanced	
WK WP/Hem	HH	Hem/Hdwd	RM	Red Maple	LT Leave Tree	ST Seed Tree	SE Natural Seed	
WH WP/Hdwd	BC	Blck 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

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.

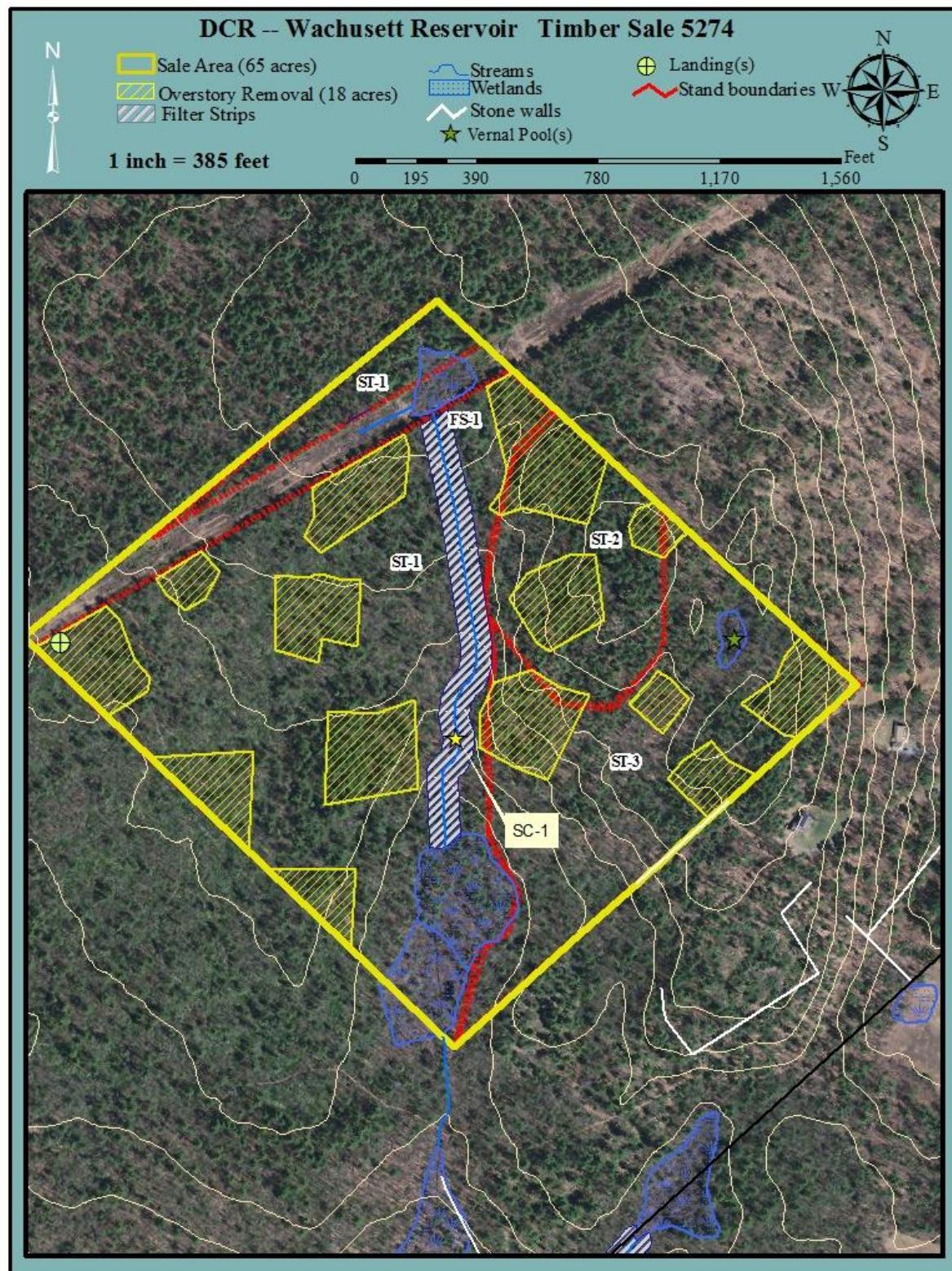
Landowner: John D. ...

Town: Clayton

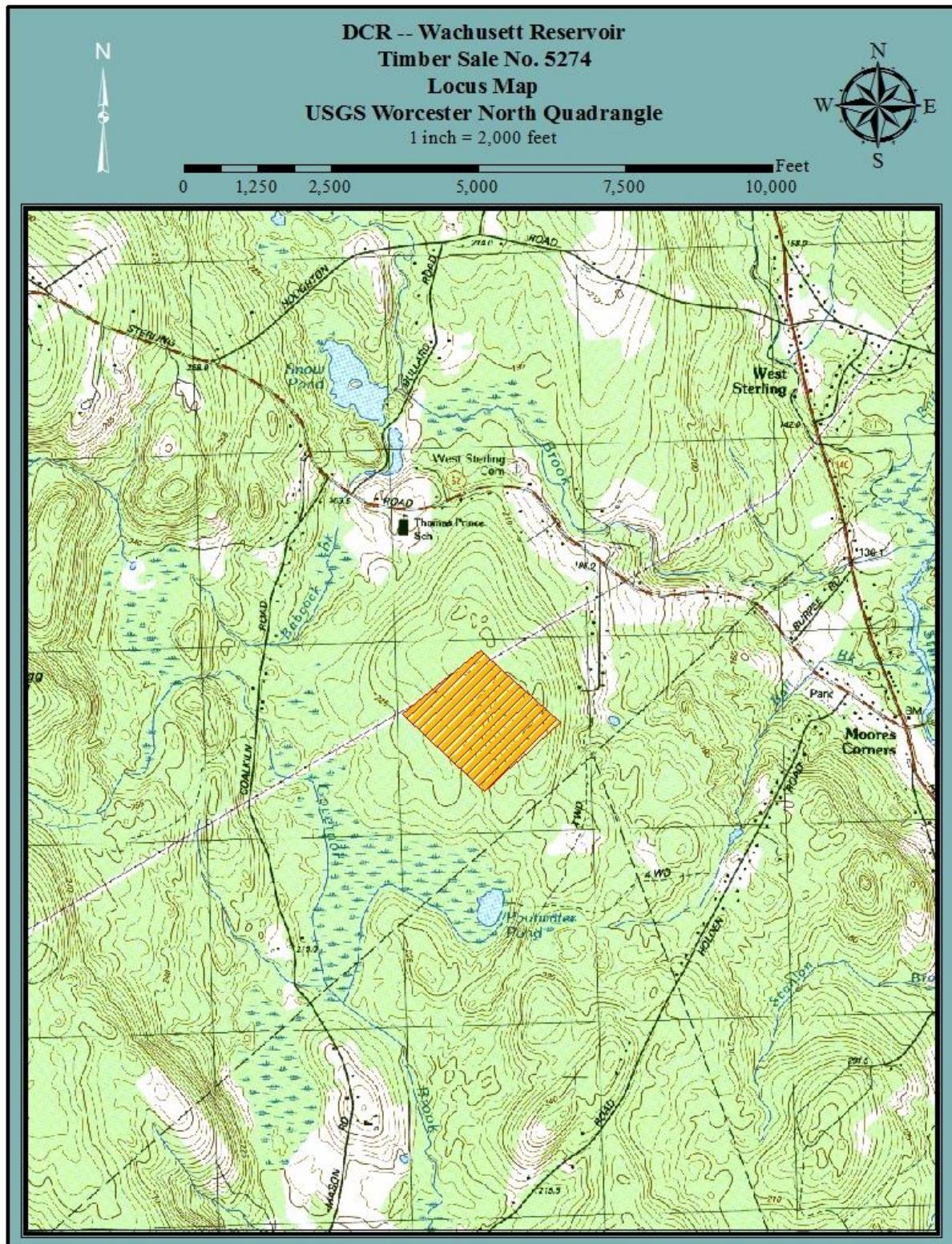
File Number: 341-040018

BMPs	<p><u>FS-1 stream flows southerly and connects to a large wetland system.</u> <u>One stream crossing will be needed on this site. The stream in this area is perfect for a crossing with high banks and big stone present.</u> <u>The landing will be accessed from the power line road off of Coal kiln road.</u></p>
Silviculture	<p><u>The primary operation will be to establish openings in a sale area that was cut by previous owners. The previous cut responded with great white pine and hardwood regeneration on the eastern half of the lot and perhaps the thickest mountain laurel you can imagine on the western half of the lot. Because of the lower stocking in the mountain laurel area openings will be made to define new age classes with the goal of destroying the thick mountain laurel areas while retaining the veins of regeneration where they occur. On the eastern half openings will be made to release the great regeneration that exists. Openings will total about 18 acres.</u></p>
Objectives	<p><u>To create defined openings and take another step in the process of creating three age classes overall. The current age structure is limited with an insufficient component of young forest.</u></p>
Other	

**Figure 2. Maps 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-C**



A. There will be a landing at the same location as a previous sale.



B. One of the areas where the overstory trees are being removed in order to release this excellent understory of diverse hardwood and softwood species.



C. The oak tree in the foreground is being cut in this overstory removal area to provide sunlight and the removal process will provide disturbance to the mountain laurel.

**Figure 5. Post-Harvest Photographs, A-C**



A. The overstory was removed in this area giving the predominantly white pine understory the light and space it needs to continue to grow.



B. Another area where the overstory was removed. Note the large white pines that were retained within this area in order to provide valuable structure and diversity.



C. The understory in this area was dominated by very thick mountain laurel and lacked young trees. Now, with the level of damage that was intentionally done during the harvest process, a young forest can become established.