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| Project Name:Ant Lot | Date Proposed: 01-31-2022 |
| Property Name: October Mountain SF | Town(s): Washington |
| Acres: 447 | Landscape Designation: Woodland |
| Forestry District: Central Berkshire | Rec Complex/District: Pittsfield/Lakes |
| Forester: Kristopher Massini | FOTL/F&P Supervisor: Chris Hajar/Matt Roche |

MASSACHUSETTS FOREST ACTION PLAN GOALS

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| \* Increase resistance and resilience of trees and forests to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change |
| \* Cultivate and support partnerships with forestry and conservation Stakeholders |
| \* Manage forest ecosystem health and biodiversity |

GENERAL LOT DESCRIPTION

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| **Acres** | **Forest Type** | | **Stand Description** |
| 242 | Overstory: Northern Hardwood | Understory: Beech | Species composition, tree health, and stand structure vary based on elevation and slope. Large areas of predominately white ash or beech are common with sugar maple, yellow birch and black cherry associates. Dense beech understory throughout with some sugar maple and birch. |
| 99 | Overstory: Mixed Wood | Understory: Beech | These stands are prominent at the lower elevations of the project area adjacent to wetlands. Species include northern hardwoods with a mix of hemlock, white pine and red spruce. |
| 46 | Overstory: Variable / Roadside | Understory: Variable | Roadside buffer where ash will be removed for safety and maintenance concerns. Located on opposite side of West Branch Road and Lenox Whitney Road from the main project area. |

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| Description of Project Area: Click or tap here to enter text. |

# SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES

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| Acres | Soil Type | Drainage Characteristic |
| 99.7 | BmE | This map unit consist of very deep, well drained Berkshire and Marlow Soils |
| 95.7 | LtE | This map unit consist of shallow, somewhat excessively drained Lyman soils and somewhat moderately deep, well drained Tunbridge soils. |
| 145.4 | PmC | This map unit consists of very deep, moderately well drained Peru Soils and very deep, well drained Marlow soils. |
| 4.04 | PoB | This is nearly level to gently sloping, very deep, poorly drained soil on foot slopes of drainageways and in slightly concave areas of glacial till uplands. |
| 4.4 | TuC | This map unit consists of moderately deep, well drained Tunbridge soils and shallow, somewhat excessively drained Lyman soils. |

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| Average Slope Percent:6-10% | Terrain Consistency: Variable |
| General Aspect:Varied | Terrain Position: Multiple |
| Description of Soils and Topographic Features: Portions of the project area may be inoperable due to stone / boulder conditions. | |

# WETLAND FEATURES

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|  | Present | Crossing | Work within Filter/Buffer |
| Wetlands: | Yes | Possible | No |
| Regulated Streams: | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Non-Regulated Streams: | Yes | Possible | Yes |
| Vernal Pools: | Possible | N/A | No |
| Seeps: | Possible | N/A | No |

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| Description of Wetland Features: White ash will be harvested within the filter stripes. |

CULTURAL RESOURCES

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|  | Present | At Risk | Work Within Buffer |
| Stone Walls: | Yes | No | Yes |
| Foundation / Cellar Hole: | Yes | No | Yes |
| Well: | Possible | No | Yes |
| Structures: | No | N/A | N/A |
| Cemetery: | No | N/A | N/A |
| Other: Historic Roadbed | Yes | No | Yes |

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| Description of Cultural Resources: There are two known roadside foundations and several small stone wall segments. Lenox-Whitney Road had been moved; an 1,100' portion of the original roadbed is within the project area. Trees that can negatively affect historic resources from windthrow will be removed. |

NATURAL HERITAGE / WILDLIFE-HABITAT MANAGEMENT / OTHER RESOURCES

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| Natural Heritage Polygon: Yes | Natural Heritage Restrictions: Possible |
| Restrictions on Harvest Description: Will adjust management to NHESP recommendations. | |

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| Wildlife Specific Management: Yes | Targeted Species: Young Forest Species |
| Goals: Create upland patch clearcut openings to replace openings created by previous plantation harvests in early 2000’s. | |

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| Additional Habitat Management: Yes | Habitat Type: Field |
| Goals: Repair damage caused by illegal ATV and OHV use to fields at intersection of West Branch and Lenox-Whitney Roads. Potentially block access from vehicles to field through in-kind services. | |

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| State Forest Action Plan: Yes | State Wildlife Action Plan: Yes |
| ACEC: No | Public Water Supply: Yes |
| BIO Map2: Yes | Current Resource Management Plan: No |
| Additional Detail: The 17,000-acre October Mountain which includes this project area falls within BIOMAP2 – CNL zone, the wetland bordering the project area fall under the Wetland Core zone. Portions of the project also fall within the watersheds of the Farnham Reservoir and Sandwash Reservoir. | |

FOREST HEALTH / INVASIVE SPECIES

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| Forest Health Concern: Yes | Species Affected: All – Ice Storm 2008 |
| Management Considerations: This area of the forest is still feeling the effects of the December 2008 ice storm. Extensive crown damage continues to degrade existing trees, has provided partial light conditions to facilitate a beech understory, and created gaps aiding the spread of invasive species. | |

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| Plant Invasive Species Present: Yes | Species Present: Japanese Bar Berry, Bittersweet, Honeysuckle, Garlic Mustard |
| Management Considerations: Invasive species are concentrated along the roadsides. Chemical treatment (cut stump and foliar) will be completed as an in-kind service for this project along West Branch Road and Lenox-Whitney Road. Spot checks for reoccurring invasives where treatment occurred 2020 along West Branch Road Extension will be attempted as well. | |

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| Insect Invasive Species Present: Yes | Species Present: Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and Beech Bark Disease (BBD) |
| Management Considerations: Reducing the density of white ash can reduce the amount of available food for the EAB causing a slowdown in its spread. Salvaging the ash while still economically viable will provide funding to treat the invasive species present to prepare these stands for a native tree and plant regeneration. Removal/treatment of the beech understory will be needed to break the cycle of beech bark disease and to regenerate agreater diversity of northern hardwood and associate species. | |

CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND CARBON CONSIDERATIONS

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| **Action Type** | **Identified Issue** | **Action Description** |
| Resistance | Retaining and promoting climate affected species such as red spruce, hemlock, and sugar maple in the mixed wood stands. | Silvicultural treatments will provide softwood species with the strongest preference for retention and propagation. |
| Facilitated | Difficult regeneration of red oak due to dense beech understory | Apply silvicultural treatments to provide growing conditions favorable to oak in portions of project area suited for the species. Where existing seed trees are not available look into planting. |
| Resistance | Retaining and promoting the next generation of white ash | Silvicultural treatments in areas of existing ash regeneration can foster the growth and development of these young trees in hope that a control for EAB becomes available. |

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| Adaptive Management Strategies: Changes in traditional seasonal conditions make planning harvests in this area challenging. Timing of operations will have to be more fluid to achieve stewardship goals. Road and trail improvements will be designed for larger more intense storm events. |

**INFRASTRUCUTRE / RECREATION/ AESTHETICS**

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| Access Road: West Branch & Lenox Whitney Road | Ownership: Town of Washington |
| Condition: Fair to Good | Road Repair/Upgrade: Yes |
| Existing Landing: Yes | Landing Repair/Upgrade: Possible |
| Project Access and Landing Site: West Branch Road is currently in good condition and will be the primary truck road utilized for this project. Lenox-Whitney Road is fair to poor condition and will require repairs for both this operation of to continue recreational use of the forest. Coordination with the Town of Washington Highway Dept will be sought to make the necessary repairs cooperatively though in-kind services. There are several historic landing sites within the project area, these may be expanded and used during this project. | |

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| Existing Skid Trail Network: Yes | Pre-Harvest Repair/Upgrade: Yes |
| Skid Trail Network Description: Portions of skid trail networks from prior harvests will be utilized where possible, new trails will be laid out per BMP standards. | |

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| Shared Infrastructure: Yes | Road/Trail Names: West Branch Road, Lenox Whitney Road, & Ashley Reservoir Road |
| Management Considerations: All three roads are used seasonally for snowmobiling. Current plans are to conduct these harvests during spring/summer/fall months outside of snowmobile season. Ashley Reservoir Road (town owned) is used for ATV riding as well, however due to the current condition sees infrequent traffic. | |

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| Official Trail Present: Yes | Condition: Poor |
| Illegal Trail Present: Possible | Condition: Unknown |
| Existing Trail Head: No | Condition: None |
| Recreation Facility: No | Condition: None |
| Recreation and Aesthetic Concerns/Opportunities: This project will utilize the same access roads as the Day Use Area, past harvests have resulted in complaints due to trucks driving slowly. This project will afford the opportunity to improve the access roads making it easier to travel to the Day Use Area. Coordination with the Town and OHV program to address poor conditions of Asley Reservoir Trail will occur. | |

SILVICULTURE

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| **Acres** | **Silviculture Type** | **Silviculture Description** |
| 120 | Seed Tree | This will occur in stands of dense ash where appropriate residual amounts of seed trees can be achieved. Yellow birch and paper birch will be the preferred species. This method will promote the regeneration of shade intolerant species and curtail the desired conditions for the beech understory. |
| 80 | Patch Clearcut with Reserves | This treatment will occur in portions of the project area where there is extensive infected beech overstory or where aspen is present. Patch clearcut areas will be variable in size based on terrain positions and species composition, they will not exceed 5 acres. Multiple patches will occur on approximalty 50% of this forest type as determined through the stand exam. Thinning between patches may occur as well. |
| 99 | Irregular Shelterwood | Generally, between 20 and 80% of the volume within each stand will be harvested based on species composition, with lower volume removal generally occurring in portions of the treatment dominated by shade-tolerant trees and higher volume removal generally occurring in portions of the treatment dominated by shade-intolerant. A primary goal will be maintaining predominately softwood species in the overstory to promote their retention and regeneration. |
| 44 | Salvage | Removal of ash within 200 feet of road. Trees of other species to be retained unless they pose a hazard. |

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| General Comments on Silviculture Proposed: The stand types are fluid though out the project area and acreage of each silvicultural system may and will most likely change as the stand inventory is completed. |

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS / OPPORTUNITIES

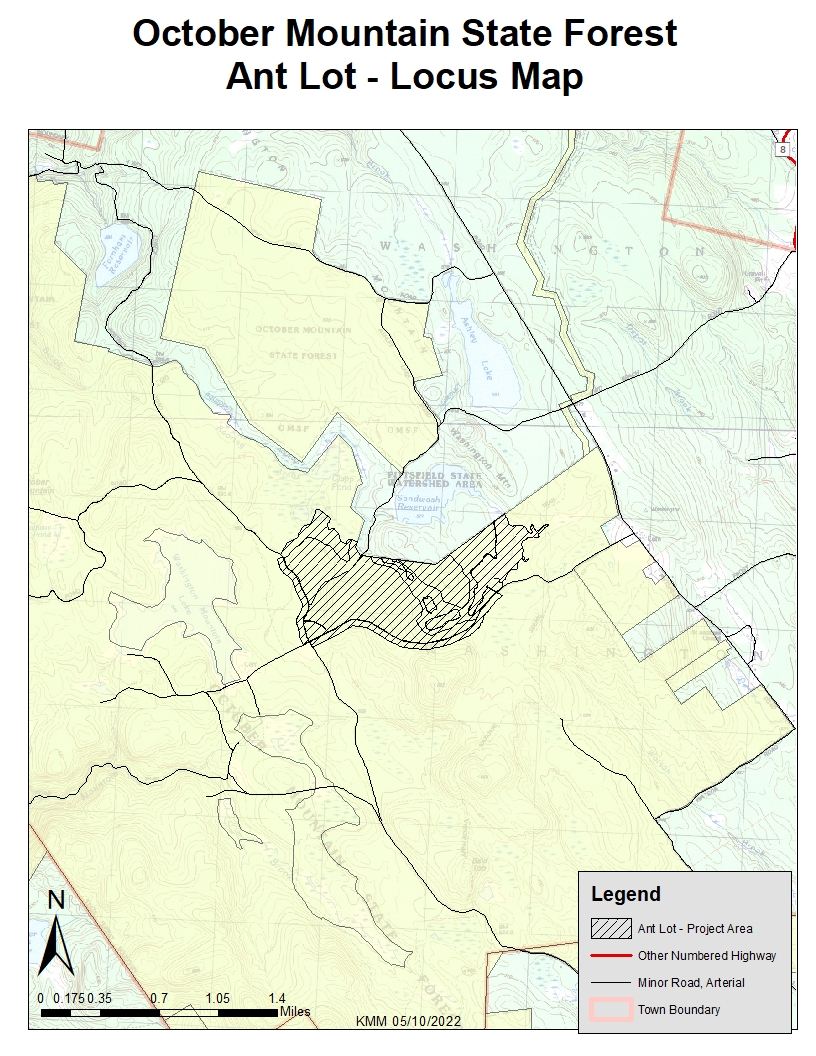
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|  | Description |
| Seasonal Restrictions: Yes | Due to desired ground disturbance, location within the forest, and lack of winter access this project will be restricted to non-winter conditions. |
| Equipment Restrictions: No | There are no anticipated restrictions |
| Recreation Restrictions: No | There are no anticipated restrictions |
| Green Docket: No | There are not anticipated permitting requirements beyond the Forest Cutting Plan |
| In-kind Services: Yes | In-kind services may include invasive control, beech understory control, field repair & protection, and road materials |

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| Potential Local Economic Benefits: This project will aid the local community with road repairs, hazard tree removal, and payment from the Forest Products Trust Fund. The harvesting of wood products also provides opportunity for many of the trees harvested to be utilized locally for home heating fuel, reducing the burden on fossil fuels. Benefits for the visiting public include better access to recreational facilities, improved hunting opportunities, and improved birding and wildlife viewing. |

**Attachments:**

**Locus Map**

**Proposal Map**

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**Map

Description automatically generated**