

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Forest Cutting Plan Summary

DCR File Number	228-2418-6
Natural Heritage Atlas	No overlap with Priority or Estimated habitats for rare species
Public Drinking Water Supply	No
ACEC	No

Site Information:

Property: Moose Hill WMA	Town(s): Paxton
Acres: 23	Road: Laurel Street
Forest Management Zone: Worcester Plateau	Wildlife District: Central
Ecoregion: Lower Worcester Plateau	Watershed: Chicopee River
Stands Treated: CE6275	

Harvest Information:

Objectives: To (1) convert this mature primarily old-field white pine stand to a mixed species stand, (2) establish patches of young mixed hardwood softwood forest habitat while retaining clusters and individual mature white pine, black cherry and oak(s) throughout the harvest area that will continue to provide structural diversity, species diversity, mast, and other habitat features and (3) re-establish the field/forest edge in an attempt to increase the amount of sunlight that reaches the adjacent DFW fields.

Harvest Start Date: March 5, 2007	Harvest End Date: March 30, 2007
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Forest Products to be Harvested

Species	Board Foot Volume	Cords Firewood	Tons Pulpwood
White Pine	90 Mbf	-	220
Black Cherry	5.7	-	-
Red Maple	5.3	-	-
Red Oak	7.0	-	-
Mixed Hardwood	-	66	-
Total	108 Mbf	66	220

Site Selection: The old-field white pine in ST-1 was identified during a requested field reconnaissance site visit and identified as a potential priority site for treatment (i.e. potential stands that, for a variety of reasons, represent (A) high risk for storm (wind) damage or (B) high priority for conversion to less common habitat types). Mature, predominantly single species, old-field softwood stands fit these criteria. Hardwood trees in ST-3 were shading substantial portions of several fields; this situation was brought to DFW's attention by a local farmer who leases the DFW agricultural fields shown on the harvest map. These trees and were selected to be harvested in an attempt to re-establish the original field edge). Aspen and apple trees in ST-2 were identified during a site visit to ST-1 and ST-3.

Silviculture: The seed tree harvest was designed to convert this primarily old-field white pine forest to a mixed species forest in order to create patches of young forest habitat and to thin hardwoods that grow adjacent to agricultural fields in order to re-establish the field/forest edge and allow more light to reach the

fields and enhance growing conditions; the fields are leased by DFW to a local farmer. As a small aspect of the operation, apple trees will be released and aspen clones will be regenerated in ST-2. The seed tree regeneration harvest (ST-1) was designed to establish a diverse mixed stand of native hardwood and softwood trees. Regeneration sources include seed occurring in the soil, seed from retained trees and the adjacent untreated forest including white pine, red oak, black cherry and other hardwoods, as well as white pine and oak advance regeneration and some aspen coppice. Retained seed trees include individual and clustered white pine, red oak, white oak, apple, black cherry and pitch pine. Snag and den trees were also retained throughout.

Rare Species Considerations: No Priority or Estimated rare species habitat occurs within the harvest area. One vernal pool occurs north of ST-1 (see harvest map). The vernal pool value and function will be protected by an irregular area of surrounding unthinned, mature, forest canopy.

Plan Preparer:

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 MA Licensed Forester No. 126

Licensed Timber Harvester:

Sawyer’s Trucking and Logging
 38 Root Road
 Hubbardston, MA 01452
 MA Licensed Harvester No. 2007-065

Best Management Practices:

Stream Crossings: None
Filter Strips: None

Wetland Crossings: None
Harvesting in Wetlands: None

Cutting Standards:

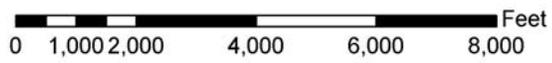
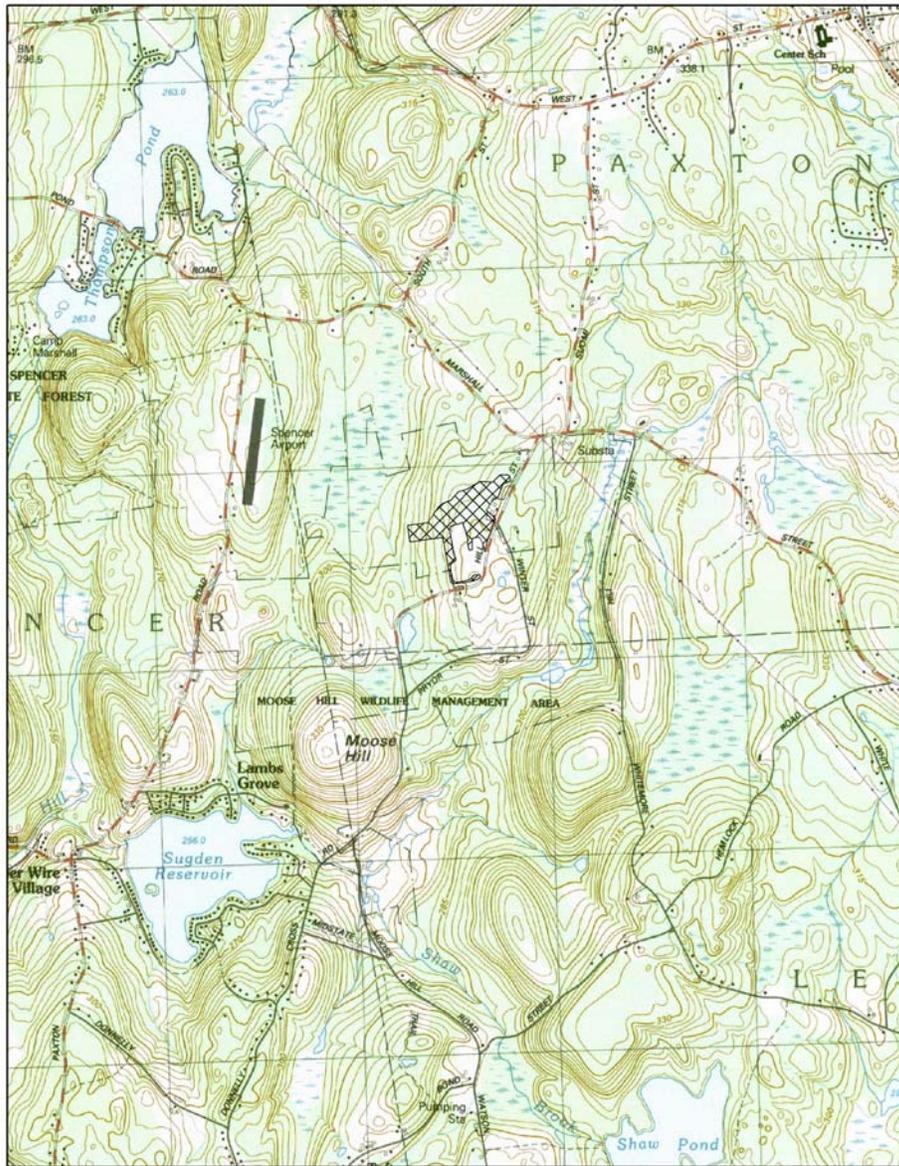
Feature (see map)	Stand 1	Stand 2	Stand 3
Forest Type	White Pine	Oak-Hardwood	Oak-Hardwood
Acres	17.4	1.6	4
Landowner Objective	Long Term	Long Term	Long Term
Designation of Trees	Cut	Cut	Cut
Type of Cut	Seed Tree	Other*	Other*
Source of Regeneration	Advanced/Seed	Advanced/Seed	Advanced/Seed/Coppice

*See ‘Silviculture’ section, above.

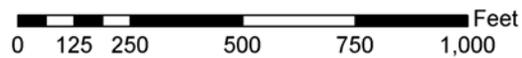
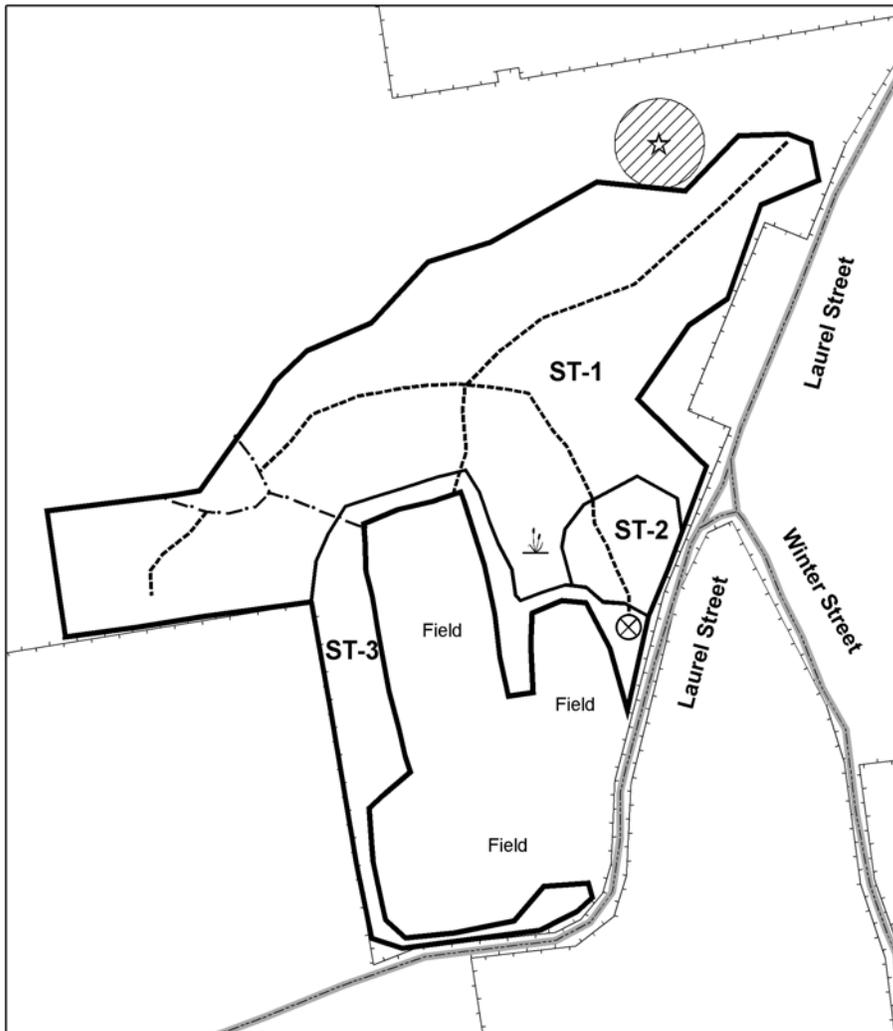
Determination of Status:

This Forest Cutting Plan was approved by DCR on April, 19, 2006. Harvesting activities were completed during late March, 2007. A final inspection by the DCR Service Forester is pending.

Moose Hill Locus Map



Moose Hill Timber Harvest



Legend

☆ Vernal Pool	⊗ Landing	--- WMA Boundary
▭ Moose Hill Timber Harvest	- - - Existing ATV trail	▨ VP 100' Buffer
- - - Skid road	== Paxton streets	🌿 HW Wetland





MassWildlife Photo by Anne Marie Kittredge

May 2007 – A newly created patch of young forest habitat following harvest of old-field white pine in stand 1 (ST-1) at the Moose Hill WMA. Note retention of oak seed trees and snag to provide food, cover, and structural diversity.