

DCR-BOFF Forest Management Proposal

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

- * 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

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.

Description of Project Area: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES

Acres	Soil Type	Drainage Characteristic
<u>99.7</u>	<u>BmE</u>	<u>This map unit consist of very deep, well drained Berkshire and Marlow Soils</u>
<u>95.7</u>	<u>LtE</u>	<u>This map unit consist of shallow, somewhat excessively drained Lyman soils and somewhat moderately deep, well drained Tunbridge soils.</u>
<u>145.4</u>	<u>PmC</u>	<u>This map unit consists of very deep, moderately well drained Peru Soils and very deep, well drained Marlow soils.</u>
<u>4.04</u>	<u>PoB</u>	<u>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.</u>

DCR-BOFF Forest Management Proposal

4.4	TuC	<u>This map unit consists of moderately deep, well drained Tunbridge soils and shallow, somewhat excessively drained Lyman soils.</u>
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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

	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

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

CULTURAL RESOURCES

	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

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

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

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.	

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.	

State Forest Action Plan: Yes	State Wildlife Action Plan: Yes
ACEC: No	Public Water Supply: Yes

DCR-BOFF Forest Management Proposal

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

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.	

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.	

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 a greater diversity of northern hardwood and associate species.	

CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND CARBON CONSIDERATIONS

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.

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.

INFRASTRUCTURE / RECREATION/ AESTHETICS

DCR-BOFF Forest Management Proposal

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.	

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.	

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.	

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

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.

DCR-BOFF Forest Management Proposal

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

	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

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

October Mountain State Forest Ant Lot - Locus Map



