

North Grafton Fish, Game and Bird Club

Proposed Timber Harvest

Estimated Harvest Area: 7.5 acres (block to the right of the driveway and range)
Estimated Volume of White Pine: 5 MBF per acre (thousand board feet)
Estimated Total Volume: 37.5 MBF
Estimated Value: \$100/MBF
Estimated Timber Sale Value: \$3,750
Estimated Forestry Fees: \$750
Estimated Club Net: \$3,000

Forest Stewardship Plan: \$910 (reimbursed by DCR)
Advertised as a potential spring harvest given upland site with no wetlands issues.

Discussion: The Club is enrolled in Chapter 61 as recreational open space. As such the Club would be required to create a Forest Stewardship Plan in advance of any timber harvest. A Forest Cutting Plan is also required and is filed with the DCR Service Forester with a copy going to the Grafton Conservation Commission. Both the Stewardship and Cutting Plans would be done by the Consulting Forester with the Stewardship Plan being reimbursed by a DCR grant and the Cutting Plan covered by the Forestry Fees.

About 50% of the current mature white pines would be cut with high quality white pine trees retained for seed production. An incidental number of hardwood trees would be removed to allow for access by the logging equipment. Those trees could be retained by the Club for future use as cordwood. The highest quality hardwood trees would be retained for their forestry and habitat value (eg white oak). The crowns and branches of the trees taken would be left on site and cut or crushed to less than 2' in height in accordance with the State's Slash Law. The parking lot or access road to the archery range could be used as a log landing. A buffer of vegetation would be left along the side of the parking lot and range so the appearance of the forest, when looking from the range, would not change drastically. Depending on the logger selected to do the work, the harvest would take about 3 - 4 weeks (+/-) to complete.

In addition to writing the Plans, the Consulting Forester would mark the trees to be cut with blue tree paint (trunks and bases), mark the boundary of the harvest with a generous buffer, contact the abutting landowners to make them aware of the harvest and to agree upon the boundary, advertise the harvest and select an appropriate logger based on ability and reputation, be available to answer questions during the harvest and inspect the harvest upon completion to make sure all regulations and conditions are met. He would also hold a \$500 Performance Bond for the Club to make sure our driveway, parking lot and property are restored to their original condition.

In addition to an estimated \$3,000 of income and modest amount of cordwood for the Club, a timber harvest would open up the forest canopy and allow additional sunlight to reach the ground, improving regeneration of the forest, particularly white pine. The slash left on the ground would provide cover for wildlife and nutrients for future forest growth. Regeneration would likely result in a dense stand of young white pine, which may complement the topography and contribute to noise suppression from range activities. Doing absolutely nothing is also a viable option.

Proposal prepared by Kevin Scherer, MA Forester License #362 and
Bill Davis, NGFG&B Delegate to the Worcester County League