

**STAND DESCRIPTIONS**

OBJ	STD NO	TYPE	AC	MSD OR SIZE-CLASS	BA/AC	VOL/AC	SITE INDEX
STEW	1	WH	8.0±	13"	141sqft	13.7 MBF+ 20 cords	75(WP)

The overstory of this maturing white pine-hardwoods forest contains mainly white pine (roughly 40% of the overstory basal area), red maple (about 20%), and black birch (about 15%). White ash and red oak are minor components of the stand, and there are very sparse yellow birch, white birch, hemlock, slippery elm, black cherry and bigtooth aspen present. Trees in the main canopy range from 6" to 36" in diameter at breast height (dbh), though most fall within the 8-24" dbh range. Nearly all of the sparse trees that are larger than 24" dbh are white pines. Timber quality is generally fair to good, though some trees exhibit crooked trunks or large, branching crowns typical of a forest that originated (as this did) on former pasture land.

Within 200 feet of West Road, white pines ranging 12-20 inches in diameter at breast height (dbh), and only of fair quality, comprise about 80% of the canopy, as this area was more recently abandoned as pasture, and then cleared of brush and young trees around 1970. (The writer recalls burning brush on this site.) The larger, remaining part of the stand is generally even-aged, though past logging of scattered trees, probably in the 1960s (judging from the advanced decay of cut stumps) created small gaps in the canopy, allowing younger hardwoods to develop.

The growing site for timber is reasonably good; the terrain is nearly flat, with parts of the stand sloping gently (1-8%) to the east. The soils, as mapped in the Soil Survey of Berkshire County, Massachusetts, by the USDA Soil Conservation Service, February, 1988, are mainly KvA, "Kendaia silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, extremely stony." This is a very deep, poorly drained soil with surface stones typically 3 to 20 feet apart, and a seasonal high water table (especially in winter and spring) 6 to 18 inches below the surface. The high water table restricts the rooting depth of trees, so an occasional windthrow (uprooting of a tree) is to be expected. The Soil Survey shows a small zone, roughly within 150 feet of West Road, of AmA soil - "Amenia silt loam," a prime agricultural soil with a seasonal high water table at about 24 inches below the surface. The west end of the property - an area within roughly 200 feet of the west boundary, rises very slightly (still with gentle easterly slope), as the terrain approaches the steep uphill mountain slope just west of the property. This area is relatively firm and dry, and is shown as having FcC soil, or "Farmington-Rock outcrop complex," a fairly productive forest soil, but typically with a shallow (e.g. 15-20") depth to limestone bedrock.

Forest health issues are minor and typical of the region. A few white ash trees are declining or dead, and several scattered white pines (mainly within 200 feet of West Road) are infected with or dead due to white pine blister rust disease. The seasonal high water table in much of the stand stresses the health of trees in general, and restricts rooting depth. Over the past 20 or 30 years, numerous trees have died from natural competition for sunlight and fallen to the ground, providing coarse woody material that is important habitat for amphibians, and for insects that various birds and mammals feed on.

OBJECTIVE CODE: CH61 = stands classified under CH61/61A/61B      STEW= stands not classified under CH61/61A/61B  
 STD= stand    AC= acre    MSD= mean stand diameter    MBF= thousand board feet    BA= basal area    VOL= volume

Owner(s) Alford LandTrust "Schiffman Lot"

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The understory (woody vegetation up to 30 feet tall) has a light (though variable) stocking of seedling and sapling white ash, red maple, sugar maple, hemlock, and white pine. (White pine seedlings require much sunlight to thrive, so these are expected to die in the shade of the overstory trees.) Sparse witch-hazel and mountain laurel shrubs also occur in spots.

Ground level vegetation (mainly herbaceous plants, 0-5 feet tall) is quite diverse and abundant, appearing to give foliar cover to 80-90% of the ground. It includes woodfern (abundant), Christmas fern, interrupted fern, New York fern, trout lily, Canada Mayflower, partridgeberry, dewberry, goldthread, dwarf ginseng, and two or more species of club moss. There is a patch of common periwinkle, an introduced plant often cultivated as a landscape ground cover, in and around the old cellar.

Non-native invasive plants are present in low density (probably no more than 5% canopy cover) primarily in the easterly half of the property (including Stand 2a). Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, and honeysuckle, all of which are shrubs, are scattered throughout this area. Garlic mustard, an herbaceous invasive plant, was observed at one spot about 50 feet south of the cellar (see Forest Map) and 50 feet west of West Road.

The desired future condition is an uneven-aged stand of good quality white pine and hardwoods, free or nearly free of non-native invasive plants. Relatively high tree density and crown closure should be maintained to inhibit the spread and growth of invasive plants. Beyond the 10-year planning period, uneven-aged management could be implemented with some group selection cutting to develop some hardwood regeneration and small pockets of blackberry and dense seedling/sapling habitat that is sought by songbirds and a large variety of other wildlife.

CH61A	2	RM	2.0±	10"	105	4 MBF+	55(RM)
	(2a & 2b)					14cords	

Stand 2 is a typical wooded swamp of mixed hardwoods and softwoods, with a water table near the ground surface during prolonged wet periods, but seldom any standing water except for infrequent puddling. The terrain slopes very slightly to the east (or northeast, within 300 feet of West Road), and three small drainage channels carry outflow intermittently toward the perennial stream at the north boundary, or less frequently toward West Road, during very wet conditions. Yellow birch comprises roughly half of the basal area of the overstory, and red maple, white pine, and hemlock are common species; red oak and slippery elm are minor components. Dominant trees range 6 to 14" dbh, with just a few trees as large as 22" dbh. Both timber quality and growing site are only fair to poor; the Soil Survey shows Kva, "Kendaia silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, extremely stony." Though this is wetland, old stumps indicate that this was logged years ago, possibly during winter.

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The understory has a light stocking of sapling size red maple and scattered shrubs of spicebush, maleberry, and mountain laurel. There also are some non-native invasive shrubs of Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, and honeysuckle – these mainly occur at light density (with a few concentrated clusters) in the easterly half of stand 2a, though there are a few scattered in the west part as well.

As with stand 1, ground level vegetation (mainly herbaceous plants, 0-5 feet tall) is quite diverse and abundant, appearing to give nearly full foliar cover to the ground. It includes woodfern (abundant), cinnamon fern, sedges, foamflower, goldthread, blue violet, Canada Mayflower, dewdrop, golden ragwort, and skunk cabbage.

The desired future condition of this stand is an even-aged wooded swamp with no invasive plants. A few merchantable trees could be harvested whenever stand 1 has harvesting performed, making use of a small number of trees with desirable wood products while creating small canopy gaps to promote denser shrub and seedling growth for wildlife habitat improvement.

**ABBREVIATIONS:**

dbh	diameter at breast height	RM	Red Maple (wooded swamp)
M	thousand board feet	WH	White Pine-Hardwoods
cd	cord		

**DEFINITIONS:**

- Basal Area - The cross-sectional area, measured 4.5 feet above ground, of all trees in the main overstory canopy, expressed in square feet per acre.
- Commercial thinning - A cutting of merchantable trees with the purpose of removing over-crowded trees and leaving the better quality trees with more growing space.
- Improvement cut - A cutting aimed mainly at removing poor quality trees, which may or may not have a usable product (and value).
- Shelterwood - A method of harvesting where the overstory trees are removed in perhaps 2 or 3 cuttings spread over several years. The residual trees provide a seed source and shelter (shade) for the next generation of trees until it is well established, then the last remaining overstory trees are harvested.
- Site index - The height (in feet) of dominant trees at age 50 (age 50 at breast height). The higher the site index, the better the growing site.
- Stand - A group of trees (at least 3 acres in size for this plan) having similar species composition and size distribution.

**NOTE REGARDING GROWTH RATE:** No specific growth rate measurement or analysis was done for this property. Massachusetts, for its Chapter 61 forest tax law calculations, uses a forest growth rate of 162 board feet per acre per year, based on state Forest Inventory Analysis.

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SITE INDEX was estimated for all forest stands using information from the Soil Survey of Berkshire County, Massachusetts (USDA Soil Conservation Service, February 1988), along with the forester's visual assessment within each stand.

An average amount of coarse woody material is present on the ground throughout the property. The property was logged around the 1960s, and some rotted stumps and larger pieces of slash are still evident. Natural mortality of competing trees and shade intolerant trees such as pine, aspen, and white birch has contributed the greatest amount of woody debris.

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