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July 2023

## York Water District Notice: Scheduling a Selective Timber Harvest

York Water District is notifying our watershed neighbors and town officials of a selective timber harvesting project planned for approximately 100 acres at the north side of Chase's Pond. This area is identified on the YWD Forestry Management Plan as compartment 16. This compartment was previously harvested in the late 1990's or early 2000's. The harvest is planned for August of this year to take advantage of the hopefully dry conditions. If it is determined to be too wet, we will reschedule the harvest. The District has actively managed the Chase's Pond watershed forest in a sustainable manner since the 1970's. Periodic timber harvesting produces relatively small amounts of timber with added benefits of improved forest health, habitat, and improvements in water quality.

The District's Forester, Brian Reader of Reader Forest Management Services (RFMS) 55 Oak Street, North Waterboro, Maine 04061, has pre-marked the trees to be removed, skid trails to be used, and setbacks from wetlands, streams, historic sites, etc. As in past practice, we have contracted with Spear Stream Consulting of Topsham, Maine to complete a third-party review and report of the proposed harvest area to ensure Best Management Practices will be met or exceeded.

The logging contractor, Mark Cressey Logging of 797 Spec Pond Road Porter, Maine 04068, will utilize the Red Management Road off of Gertrude Lane to access this project. Compartment 16 lies directly inside YWD gate 4-Y (please see attached map). The proposed harvest landing site will be located a short distance from the gate. Timber harvesting and processing equipment will be set up at the landing, all harvested trees will be brought or skidded to the processing equipment where, after processing, the logs & woodchips will be loaded on trailer trucks and transported to the nearest markets.

All 36 YWD forestry compartments have been previously harvested at least once over the years. This compartment will yield some nice quality logs as well as thin out some diseased and deformed trees that may exist here, making room for young healthy trees to grow among the mature trees. All management roads and trails including Gertrude Lane that may be damaged during the harvest will be repaired by YWD at the end of the project. Skid trails will recover in a short time, filling in with a new crop of young trees, thus continuing the cycle of a healthy uneven aged forest. Uneven aged forests are less prone to disease, pest infestation and wildfire.

KEY POINTS;

- RFMS will apply to the department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for a Forest Operations Notification Number.
- RFMS has completed marking and Spear Stream Consulting has completed a site visit. We are waiting for the pre-harvest evaluation report. This report is meant to double check sensitive habitats and ensure all setbacks are correct.
- Timber harvesting will begin soon after YWD receives the Spear Stream report in early August.
- The harvest should take approximately four to six weeks to complete.
- **Trails and Management roads in this area will be closed to the public during this harvest.**
- “TRUCKS ENTERING” signs will be installed on Chase’s Pond Road for the duration of the harvest.
- YWD will ensure Best Management Practices will be met or exceeded.
- YWD is notifying immediate abutters.
- YWD will repair any trail and management road damage or damage to Gertrude lane during the harvest.

If you’re interested in viewing the project area either before or after the harvest, you can make arrangements with YWD Resource Protection Manager Zach Mein at (207)-630-4554 or email him at [zmein@yorkwaterdistrict.org](mailto:zmein@yorkwaterdistrict.org).

Thank you.



Donald D. Neumann Jr.  
Superintendent  
York Water District

cc: YWD Board of Trustees  
York Board of Selectmen  
York Planning Board  
York CEO  
York Conservation Commission  
York Police Department  
York Village Fire Department  
York Beach Fire Department

