

Tree Cutting Ends in Bass River State Forest

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STUMPED: The area around the Bass River State Forest fire tower has been cleared of tall white pines.

Tree cutting around the Bass River State Forest fire tower is finished although the contractor is continuing to load the white pines on trucks. The site that Bass River Township called the gateway to the township, a forest of towering white pines, is now a slashed clearcut.

The N.J. Department of Environmental Protection is proposing to leave it that way, allowing nature to slowly reclaim the site.

On March 20, the DEP did a final inspection of the second phase of the cutting. The contractor, Advanced Forestry Solutions of Elmer, has completed all cutting operations and is in the final stages of removing the logs.

The state paid \$17,160 to have the 16.4 acres logged; the contractor has retained the logs as part of the payment.

According to a DEP spokeswoman, the preparation of the logged area will be minimal.

“Site preparation activities that were outlined for this project include prescribed burning, disking and drum-chopping as needed. Stump removal was not outlined as a treatment associated with this project and is not necessary because stumps will slowly decompose, returning nutrients to the site,” said Caryn Shinske.

Any site preparation activities will be performed by the DEP’s forestry units and will not be put out to bid unless needed, as they were not part of the original cutting contract, she added.

“Monitoring for natural regeneration will be performed during the first two growing seasons for the sites. If it’s determined that natural regeneration is not adequate, site preparation activities may be implemented in addition to planting as needed.” —P.J.

Source: <https://www.thesandpaper.net/articles/tree-cutting-ends-in-bass-river-state-forest/>