Harold Parker State Forest Project Proposal

The Friends of Harold Parker (FOHP) and the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) propose teaming up to replace and supplement bog bridges in the section of Harold Parker State Forest South of Marblehead Street and North of Darrell Drive in North Reading. There are three sections of the trail that need bog bridges to replace and extend inadequate planking. These three sections span seasonal streams or Spring run-off. Due to the extreme drought this year, these sections are currently dry. The bog bridges will enhance recreational usage and will keep users on the designated trails.

Parcel Id 213/050.0-0000-0005.0  
Owner's Name 1 COMMONWEALTH OF MASS  
Owner's Name 2 MASS H PARKER STATE FOREST  
Owner's Address 1 OFF MARBLEHEAD ST

Resource areas: BVW, no mapped habitat, no proximity to vernal pools

Impacts: Permanent impacts are limited to the coverage of bog bridges. The structures will offer increased protection to wetland resources from existing trail use and reduce disturbance from user created alternate routes. Any temporary impacts from construction will be returned as close to pre-project condition as possible and natural regrowth is expected to occur quickly.

Project Support:  
This project is supported by the NSNEMBA and the Friends of Harold Parker State Forest. The DCR Harold Parker Supervisor has reviewed and approved the project provided we get North Reading Conservation Commission approvals.
1) 35 foot Bog Bridge to follow the original trail. This length will ensure that users can stay on the trail and not create spurs or off-shoots to the trail.

2) 80 ft Bog Bridge to follow the original trail. This length will ensure that users can stay on the trail and not create spurs or off-shoots to the trail.
3) 20 ft Bog Bridge. A stream flows though this location in wet conditions.
Construction: FOHP/NEMBA propose simple Bog Bridge construction using 2x12 Stringers and 6x6 Sills (blocking), similar to the picture below.

- No cutting trees or other vegetation required.
- No excavation or permanent ground disturbance other than setting/leveling blocking supports where needed and moving of obstacles.
- Blocking to be pinned with rebar as needed.
- Work done by trained volunteers with hand carried tools.
- Wood cut offsite or on tarp to collect sawdust, etc.
- Construction sequence as follows:
  - Deliver materials to access point (Darrell Drive).
  - Hand carry materials to sites
  - Establish support locations
  - Build should take 1-2 days
  - Final finish and haul away excess materials and debris.
  - Agreeable to pre and post inspection or any other conditions required by the North Reading Conservation Commission