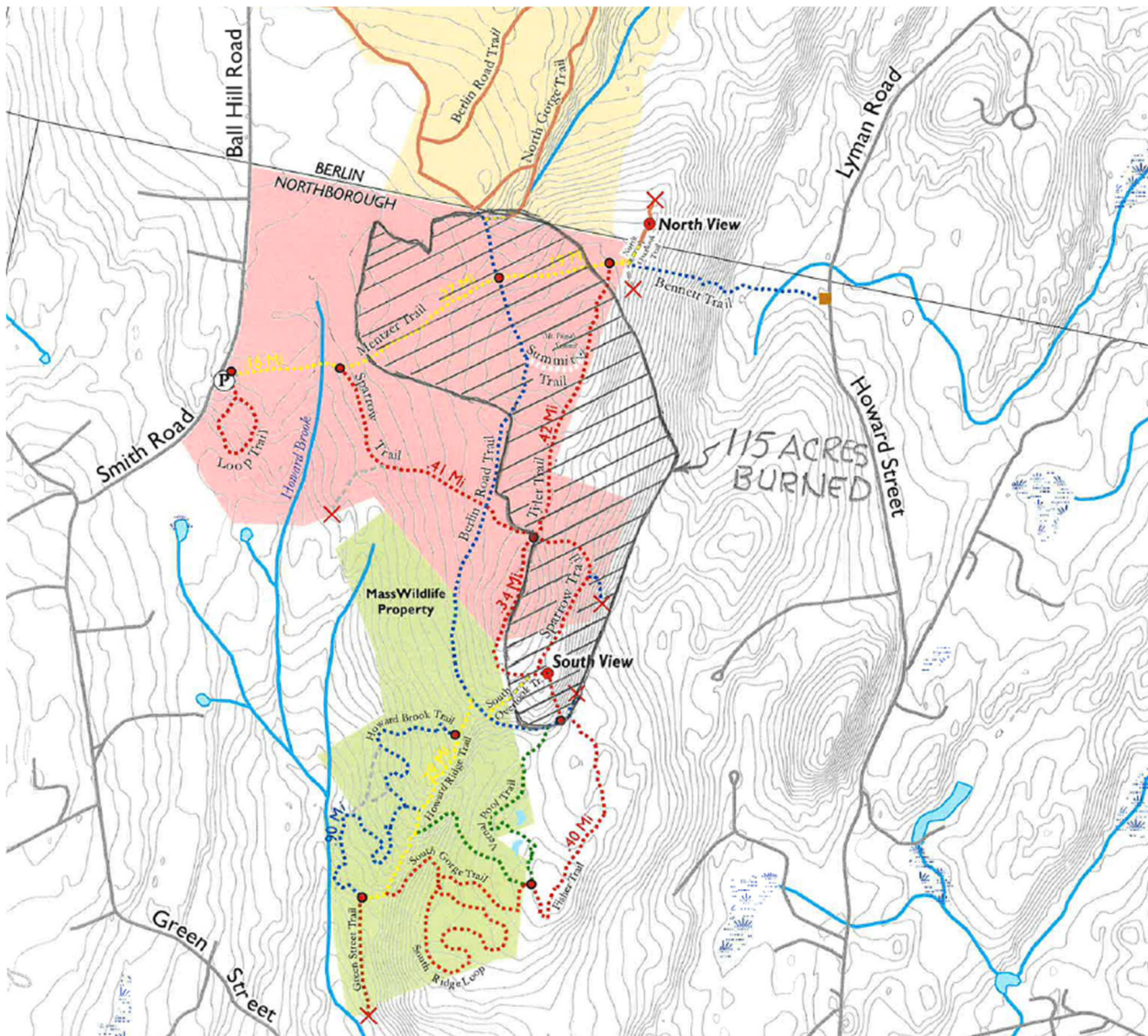


The wildfire at Mount Pisgah Conservation Area in Northborough, MA on April 14-15, 2023, burned approximately 115 acres. When responders arrived on the scene there appeared to be two separate fires both moving rapidly on either side of Mentzer Trail. The attached map shows the extent of the burned area.

The cause could not be determined. A Class 5 Red Flag warning (extremely dry, warm, and windy conditions) was issued on that day, indicating that any spark, either natural or human-caused could have ignited the fire. The emergency response involved nearly 150 people, using more than 45 pieces of apparatus and equipment.

A wildlife restoration ecologist from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife suggested that impacts to the forest from the fire will likely be some short-term benefit to the integrity of this fire-influenced natural community, but over the long-term, a single fire in isolation won't have much of an impact. Regular prescribed fires will encourage growth of native pitch pine, oak, hickory, chestnut, blueberry, etc. In the absence of regular fires white pine and black birch, as well as many invasives, dominate these communities.



Mt. Pisgah trails are open to be enjoyed. To help the forest recover, all activity should be kept to the normal paths, and not go into the damaged areas until they fully recover. Some work has been done already to trim damaged trees near the marked paths. As always, anyone in the forest should be aware of the dangers of falling branches or trees. Any maintenance items or concerns can be posted to the Northboro Trail Travelers Facebook page.