



SILVICULTURE FIELD TIP

Field tested ideas.
Contact the author for further information.



PLANTING SITE VIDEOS

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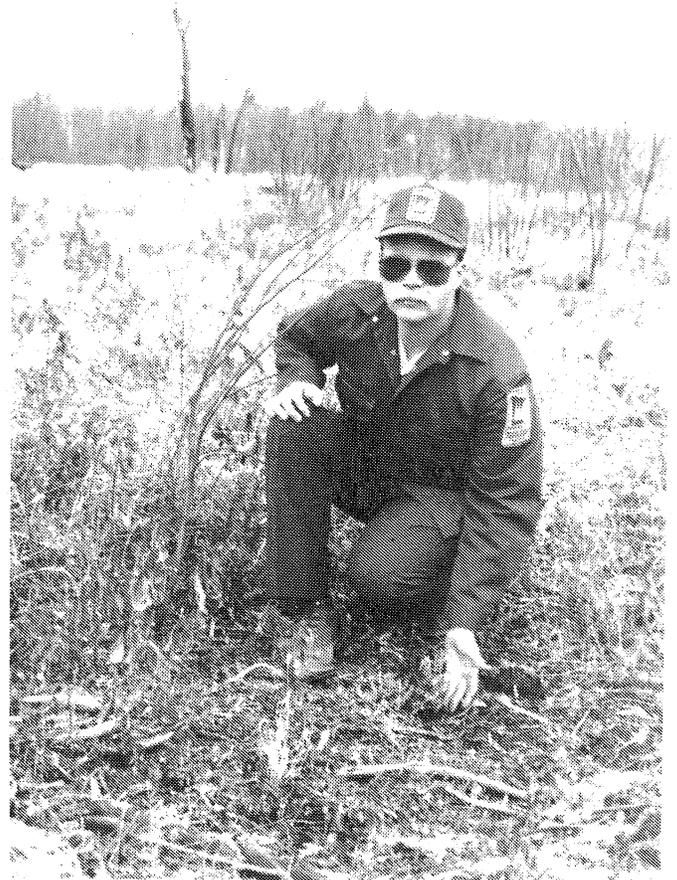
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Ever wondered how tree planting bidders are suppose to look at the sites they are thinking about bidding on when there is 3 feet of snow on the ground? Well, as they say in Hollywood, have your people call my people and we'll do lunch. We can dialogue on producing and directing a really radical planting video.

With most of the planting contracts going out for bids in the heart of winter, it is almost impossible for potential bidders to see the planting sites in a snow free condition.

In an attempt to solve this problem, we video taped some of the planting sites in the Deer River Area in the fall of 1989, after the site preparation was done, but before snow cover. We offered to send a copy of the video tape to potential bidders. I had 10 copies made and plan to reuse the tapes. The videos were sent in padded envelopes, which could be reused for returning the video. Along with the tape I sent a short questionnaire and a return address label.

In the beginning of November, 1989, (we would have done it



Gene Mannelin points out typical ground cover on a planting site.

earlier if I had come up with the idea sooner), we borrowed the Region II video camcorder. I, along with the forester from the field station in which each site was located, went to as many sites as possible in the 1 1/2 days we could use the camera. In this time, we video taped 11 planting sites scattered throughout the 3 field station work areas. We were able to cover a variety of sites which represented many of our sites.

(Over)

Although only a couple of bidders looked at the video, they commented that it did help them in bidding. I think that if we provided the videos more often, the bidders would use them.

TECHNICAL TIPS

- * Practice with the video camera before trying to make the final product.
- * Use as high of a grade of video tape as you can find. It will improve the quality of the copies.
- * Use a tripod.
- * Try to record on a bright day. Even though the camcorders work well in low light, the contrast should be better with bright light.
- * Have a script in an outline form so that the information given on each site is complete, concise and given in a uniform format.
- * Use the Project Proposal (F-80) to show map details of the site. It shows up well on the video and it will help the bidder relate the site to the Project Proposal.
- * Fall is probably the best season to do the video taping. The site will look basically the same as during the planting season.
- * Camcorders can be rented for about \$ 20 per day from some video rental stores.
- * Be sure the battery packs are full charged and you have an extra one with you.



The video camera can be used to give an overall look at the site and terrain.
(Subtitle - Gene Out Standing in his Field.)