

APPENDIX T

CP-PMOP SFRMP

10-Year Stand Exam List / New Access Needs List Instructions

The Chippewa Plains/Pine Moraines and Outwash Plains SFRMP Team has developed the following directions for Area staff reference while completing the 10-year Stand Exam List and New Access Needs List process for state timberlands.

The goal is to complete the 10 year Stand Exam List and New Access Needs List within 30 days of starting the project. See **Attachment A**, for Estimated Timelines and start and end dates. The project will be completed in 6 steps:

- I. Review Stand Selection background information and participate in one of two Orientation Sessions scheduled as follows:
 - Bemidji: July 25, 2007 9 AM Minnesota Energy Resources Conference Room
 - or
 - Brainerd: July 31, 2007 9AM location TBD
- II. Select stands for the 10-year Stand Exam List Planning period, add Prescriptions, and Management Objectives and comments as appropriate.
- III. Determine those stands to be on the Area's FY 2009 Annual Plan List. Assigning further site visit years is not required.
- IV. Conduct a final review of the 10-year Stand Exam List and field visit year portion of the project.
- V. Complete the New Access Needs List portion of the project.
- VI. Submit completed 10 year Stand Exam List and New Access Needs List project to Mike Locke

I. STAND SELECTION BACKGROUND:

1. Ten year Stand Selection is the critical step in the CP-PMOP SFRMP process. At this stage of the process, the CP-PMOP Preliminary Assessment has been completed and reviewed by the public, GDSs, forest management Strategies and DFFCs have been drafted, conversion acres and harvest level targets have been recommended, all leading to preparing the 10 year Stand Exam Lists and New Access Needs lists.
2. All Forestry Area Supervisors, Area Wildlife Managers, Fisheries Supervisors and Ecological Resources Supervisors have been invited to attend one of the Orientation Sessions.
3. Forestry Areas will need to coordinate stand selection meeting dates with other Divisions (Wildlife, Fisheries and Ecological Services). Staff from these Divisions may or may not choose to attend but they need to be invited. It is likely that Jeff Edmonds, Region Timber Program Coordinator and Erik Thorson or Perry Loegering from Wildlife, will attend the first day of stand selection in each Area. One member of the CP-PMOP Team will be available at each meeting of each Area, during the 10 year Stand Selection process, to answer questions and provide guidance as possible.

Identified below are suggested / target dates for the first meeting for Stand Selection in all Forestry Areas. It is intended that, at the Orientations, the Stand Selection Teams will establish the schedule that works for them.

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|------------------------------|------------|
| • Bemidji/Blackduck | July 26-30 |
| • Brainerd/Little Falls | August 1-3 |
| • Park Rapids/ Detroit Lakes | August 6-8 |
| • Deer River | August 7-9 |

It is requested that each Forestry Area identify a Team “leader” to keep the process moving and a Team “recorder” to keep track of any unique notes, comments and decisions made by the Stand Selection Teams not adequately accounted for in the Timber Planning Extension.

4. The CP-PMOP Team has developed this set of **Instructions** and **Attachments** to aid the Area teams in carrying out this critical step of the SFRMP process. Hardcopies will be provided to all those attending the Stand Selection meetings. See the **List of Attachments** for all information to be supplied by the CP-PMOP Team. The more critical and significant steps and Attachments are described in these Instructions.
5. A dedicated computer and ArcView / GIS operator has been identified and scheduled to assist each Area during stand selection. This individual will run the programs, respond to your queries and generally keep track of the stand selection progress. An accounting format has been developed as part of the SFRMP FIM 2 dataset / ArcView project to serve as a method of keeping track of stands selected by the Area Teams (**See Attachment B**).
6. To assist in moving Stand Selection along, Areas are provided with the following spreadsheets which are a critical component of the CP-PMOP plan and recommendations:
 - a. **Conversion Goals by Cover Type by Forestry Area**
This spreadsheet identifies “target acres” for conversion from one cover type to another consistent with GDSs and Strategies from the draft CP-PMOP Plan.
 - b. **Age Class Targets by Cover Type and Forestry Area**
This spreadsheet identifies “target acres” recommended by the CP-PMOP Team consistent with the stand selection criteria, and harvest levels from the draft CP-PMOP Plan.
 - c. **Uneven-Aged Management and Thinning Pool Acres by Cover Type and Forestry Area**
This spreadsheet identifies “target acres” for uneven aged management and thinning as recommended by the CP-PMOP Team.
7. Each Area Stand Selection Team will have to determine when to complete the New Access Needs portion of the 10 year Stand Selection. Layers of forest access have been included in the stand selection ArcView project. Stand Selection Teams will have to decide if it is more efficient to determine access needs as each stand is selected or to first complete the 10 year Stand Exam List, then go back and determine the New Access Needs portion of the project.

II. SELECT STANDS FOR THE 10-YEAR STAND EXAM PLANNING PERIOD

Using the resources provided by the CP-PMOP Team (**See Attachment C**) and Area Forestry, Wildlife, Fisheries and Ecological Resources knowledge, background, history and experience, select the 10-year Stand Exam List for your Area.

1. The Stand Selection Teams should use the following spreadsheets as targets during stand selection:
 - **Even Age Class Targets by Cover Type and Forestry Area (Attachment D-1)**
This spreadsheet should be used to select even-aged acres to be treated (excludes thinning acres).
 - **Conversion Goals by Cover Type by Forestry Area (Attachment D-2)**
This spreadsheet should be used to select acres to be converted from one cover type to another.
 - **Uneven-Aged Management and Thinning Pool Acres by Cover Type and Forestry Area (Attachment D-3)**
This should be used to select acres to be managed unevenly and / or to be thinned.
2. As identified in **Attachment E** the CP-PMOP Team developed a **Stand Scoring System** that assigns scores to stands meeting specific stand management Strategies taken from the draft CP-PMOP Plan. Under the Stand Scoring System, any particular stand could receive a score under either of the scoring systems. The CP-PMOP Team suggests that those stands receiving higher scores should receive more consideration by the Areas and be included on the 10 year Stand Exam Lists, provided the Stand Selection Teams find the FIM 2 data is correct and there is no local or site information indicating that the stand should not be on the 10 year list. The CP-PMOP Team suggests higher scored stands should be included on the Stand Exam Lists unless there are identified reasons not to. All stand scores have been entered into the SFRMP FIM 2 dataset and labeled in the SFRMP ArcView project. Areas can “batch select” all stands with higher scores as a starting point for stand selection if you choose.

Separate scoring systems were developed for:

- a. Conversion acres; and,
- b. Even-aged management.

Stands have been tagged (as a pool of stands) that meet the uneven-aged management and thinning criteria as stated in the Cover Type Management Recommendations.

3. Treatment goals have been calculated using FIM2 data as of 2/07. Stands that have been on previous annual stand exam lists, offered, sold or cut have been used in the calculation if the 2/07 inventory still shows standing timber (i.e. not altered following sale or harvest). The stand selection FIM2 dataset has been tagged with prescriptions, treatment acres and stand exam year from FY 2006-2008 Annual Stand Exam Lists.

This overlap of plans will be accounted for in the following way:

- a. Stands that show older standing timber (not altered) will retain the prescription and treatment acres from any previous stand exam list. These acres will be counted in the summary of acres by prescription in the ArcView project and contribute to Area treatment goals. Additional treatment acres can be added if the whole stand was not previously selected. These stands will not be presented as part of the CP_PM SFRMP public review as they have already been reviewed.

- b. Stands tagged with a prescription from a previous plan and have been altered (i.e. stand selection FIM shows A19 or COA, etc.) should have the prescriptions reset to 0. These stands will not contribute to the Area treatment targets as they were not used in calculating the targets.

Forestry Areas are advised to bring their Annual Stand Exam Lists and Annual Plan Additions back to 2005 to the stand selection meetings for reference.

4. In completing the 10 year Stand Exam List, Areas should consider the scores assigned together with a stand by stand evaluation of stand age to select stands and assign Preliminary Prescriptions and Management Objectives where appropriate, to meet GDSs, Strategies and DFFCs identified in the draft CP-PMOP Plan (**see Attachment F**). These GDSs, Strategies and DFFCs have been developed considering the widest range of forest/ wildlife/ fisheries and ecological management factors that could affect stand selection and should be considered by the Areas as the 10 year Stand Exam Lists are completed.
5. If the Area Stand Selection Teams know of stands that are not in the pool but are in need of treatment, these should be discussed during the stand selection process and may be selected, provided all Divisions reach agreement. Examples are: locations for new or expanded gravel pits or I&D problems. It should be noted, however, that the overall CP-PMOP Plan direction, Strategies, DFFCs and resulting cover type treatment levels and conversions have been established through the CP-PMOP planning process.
6. Consult the SMA ArcView layer and take SMAs into consideration as stand selection is implemented. Note that the SMA layer supplied should be supplemented by all local, Area knowledge and experience with SMAs. Do not consider the supplied layer as the only SMA information that should be considered. Corrections to boundaries of SMAs can be discussed and noted during the process to facilitate stand selection. Identification of SMA boundaries or corrections should be noted by the Team Recorder and submitted to Mike Locke. The CP-PMOP Team defers to local knowledge when considering specific SMA boundaries.
7. Keep in mind that with conversion to FIM 2, some inconsistencies or inaccuracies could be found. During the stand selection process, Area Teams should note and record any database corrections or changes so that FIM 2 can be updated.
8. An ArcView operator will be assigned by the CP-PMOP Team to run the SFRMP FIM 2 program, the Timber Planning Extension and the ArcView project, but it is requested that a Team Recorder be assigned to:
 - a. keep track of notes and comments which cannot easily be entered into the Stand Selection dataset;
 - b. try to document why, what may appear to be obvious stands, are not placed on the 10 year list; and,
 - c. record significant, broad issues which affect the Area's stand selection discussions; and,
 - d. If Stand Selection Teams deviate significantly from Area targets, record reasons why the deviation is necessary.

This information will be helpful to the CP-PMOP Planning Team in completing the CP-PMOP Plan.

9. It is recommended that the Stand Selection Teams proceed in the following order to complete the overall 10 year Stand Exam Lists:
 - a. Conversion acre targets;
 - b. Even-aged acre targets; followed by,
 - c. Uneven-aged / thinning acres.
10. Stand Selection Teams must enter appropriate codes into the required Fields as listed below. Each Team will need to determine if codes should be entered into these Fields as stands or groups of stands are selected or if the needed data can be entered more efficiently after the entire stand selection process is completed.
 - a. **PRESCRIP Field:** Assign only a general preliminary Prescription to all stands selected for the 10-year Stand Exam List. Preliminary Prescription choices come from the list of options in the Timber Planning Extension (**See Attachment G**):
 - When determining a preliminary Prescription, be sure to consider the preliminary Management Objectives, if any have been assigned.
 - Refer to previous decisions concerning stand management relating to SMAs / SMZs and OFMCs
 - b. **OBJECTIVE Field:** Assigning a preliminary Management Objective is not required but can be assigned provided there is agreement among all Divisions. Assign a preliminary Management Objective Code(s) to all stands selected in MCBS Sites ranked outstanding, high or high prime (Mahnomen and Morrison counties) that do not have a code assigned to it already. (**See Attachment G**)
 - c. **JT VISIT Field:** The joint field visit field may be filled in during stand selection, if the Division representative has enough information at the time to suggest a joint visit will be necessary. Otherwise, this Field will be filled in during annual plan review.
 - FSH = All stands on Fisheries lands will receive a site visit designation of FSH. Other stands Fisheries staff wants to field visit will be tagged during the 10-year selection or at annual reviews.
 - ECO = Ecological Resources staff will tag stands with ECO when they want to do a joint site visit, either during the 10-year selection process or at annual review of stands.
 - WLD = Wildlife staff will tag stands with WLD when they want to do a joint site visit on that site.

III. ASSIGN A FIELD VISIT YEAR FOR FY 2009

1. In the **SE_YEAR Field**, enter as 2009 only those stands identified for examination during FY 2009. Enter the FY for other stands only if agreement can be reached easily or if the stand is part of a group of stands that should be examined sequentially.
2. Thinning criteria has been recommended in the Cover Type Management Recommendations. All stands meeting the thinning criteria have been tagged in the SFRMP FIM 2 dataset. Treatment levels for thinning should be consistent with the **Uneven-Aged Management and Thinning Pool Acres by Cover Type and Forestry Area** identified in **Attachment D**.

IV. FINAL REVIEW OF THE 10 YEAR STAND EXAM LIST / FIELD VISIT PORTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Ensure that each stand selected has a preliminary Prescription Code assigned to it (PRESCRIP Field) and all stands selected for FY 2009 are so identified. Any stand tagged for potential conversion should have the management cover type changed to reflect the conversion.

Check to ensure that each stand selected in an MCBS outstanding or high Site has a preliminary Management Objective assigned to it (Mahnomen and Morrison counties) and that the preliminary management objective and the preliminary prescription code assigned are consistent with each other.

2. After having completed the New Access Needs list, check to see if any isolated stands have been selected that might likely not be treated over the next ten years due to access issues. If any such stands have been selected it may be advantageous to select different stands that will most likely be treated. Coordinate changes with other Divisions.

V. COMPLETE THE NEW ACCESS NEEDS PLAN PORTION OF PROJECT

The New Access Needs Plan will be completed concurrently with the 10-year Stand Exam Lists or as a separate process, following selection of the 10 year Stand Exam Lists. The Area Stand Selection Teams must determine which method is most efficient. See **Attachment H** for instructions on how to proceed with completing the New Access Needs List task.

VI. SEND THE FINAL STAND SELECTION AND NEW ACCESS PLAN PROJECT TO Mike Locke.