

**North Shore Subsections SFRMP Meeting Notes**  
**Two Harbors Area Office**  
**February 22, 2005**

**Team Approved 3-7-05**

**Present:** Craig Sterle, Martha Minchak, Lawson Gerdes, Doug Tillma, Tim Quincer, Bob Kirsch, Doug Rowlett,

1. **Agenda:** Agreed on the agenda for the day.
2. **Meeting Notes:** Approved the draft February 1 and 2 meeting notes without revision.
3. **FIMIC:** Some wildlife comments still do not show up in the wildlife comments field. Bob Kirsch will send the data to Paul Olson to be added to the next version Paul sends out to the team. Wildlife will then need to review and edit these as needed to ensure all comments are consistent with other information that may be in the field already.
4. **FIM data:** Doug Tillma will check with Paul Olson to determine if the action items listed in item number 8 of the February 1 and 2 meetings notes have been taken.
5. **Stand Selection Summary:** Doug Tillma reviewed the results of all stand selection work completed by Area Teams to date. For all even aged managed species the total acres selected is about 680 acres short of targets. Team agreed that targets should be adjusted to get as close as possible to the targets established for each species. Try not to reselect stands that were previously deselected based on team agreement. However it is acceptable if some species are slightly higher or lower. The team agreed to take the following actions related to stand selection:
  - a. Discussed stands tagged for re-inventory (9110) and agreed that these would not be counted towards the targets since this is an inventory workload and not a timber treatment workload. Also reviewed that timber treatments apply to stands that are actually on the 10 year treatment list. A stand visited that is listed on the 10 year treatment list that simply needed an inventory alteration would be counted as a timber treatment and recorded as part of the Areas timber treatment accomplishments as an alteration.
  - b. Doug Tillma will make a summary reports showing treatment acres by cover type for each subsection as well as the total for all subsections.
  - c. Aspen Normal Rotation (includes Balm of Gilead acres too): Short -250 acres mostly in the 61-70 and 71-80 age class. Hibbing is 200 acres short

and Two Harbors was about 50 acres short. Doug Tillma will work with Hibbing to see if they can select another 200 acres and Doug Rowlett will work with Two Harbors staff to see if they can select another 50 acres.

- d. Aspen ERF: Doug Tillma will talk with Hibbing about the number of acres picked in the 61-70 age classes. If possible team would like to see more acres picked in older age class - but a change will not be required.
- e. Birch Normal Rotation: Over +70 acres. Doug T., will contact Hibbing to see if they can deselect approximately 40 acres from what they have selected since they were over by 40 acres. If this does not fit well with what was selected Doug T., will contact another area for possible reductions.
- f. Jack Pine Normal Rotation: Short -164 acres. Cloquet has some acres they would like to select to help make up the shortage and they should let Doug Tillma know which stands and how many acres. Doug Tillma will contact Hibbing to see if they can find about 50 additional acres. Will evaluate this cover type again after the latter two actions are taking.
- g. White Spruce: There are 83 acres of white spruce ERF selected by the Two Harbors area but no targets for the age class they were selected in. Doug Rowlett will talk with staff about this and determine if adjustments need to be made.
- h. Balsam Fir Normal: Short -161 acres. Doug Tillma will evaluate cover type goals for this cover type and let Areas know if additional acres still need to be selected. Cloquet (short 100) and Two Harbors (short 50) think there are no acres left in the harvest pool to select.
- i. Balsam Fir ERF: Over +83 acres. Two Harbors should consider deselecting about 40 acres in the 61-70 age class if this make sense. If de-selection does not make sense other adjustment may be needed.
- j. BSL High Normal: Short -67 acres. Two Harbors should attempt to select more acres in the 81-90 age class or try to find acres in other age classes with targets if possible.
- k. BSL High ERF: Short -58 acres. Two Harbors area to try to find these additional acres
- l. BSL Medium ERF: Short -147 acres: Two Harbors short 50, Hibbing Short 60, Tower Short 40. Doug Tillma will talk to Tower and Hibbing about finding additional acres and Doug Rowlett will work with the Two Harbors staff to look for any additional acres that could be selected.
- m. BSL Low Normal Rotation: Short -73 acres. Two Harbors to try to find additional acres in the 121-130 age class. Does not seem to be acres left in the pool to select and Doug Tillma will check to see if the EILC selections are having an impact on available acres in the pool to select from to meet targets.
- n. Tamarack High Norma: Short -52 acres. Two Harbors Area to try to find an additional 52 acres to select.

6. **Unplanned Stand Additions:** Someone (Core Team ???) needs to decide when evaluations will be done that compare the acres of unplanned treatments with

those in the planned treatments to be able to determine if at some point the overall 10 year stand treatment targets need to be modified. Treatment levels (including unplanned stand additions) should be monitored to ensure that treatment levels (acres) are not being exceeded beyond some *acceptable* level.

7. **EILC Review:** Doug Tillma will review the selection of EILC. Does appear to be many stands selected for EILC that are in the younger age classes 0-10, 11-20 etc. Also need to have a report generated that shows EILC acres by subsection for team review.
8. **Road Access:** Team developed a First DRAFT set of directions that when finalized will be sent out to staff for their review prior to beginning the road access project. (See attached)
  - a. Wildlife would like to have some way to tag MMR roads that they would like closed if the statutes were to ever allow MMR roads to be closed. Tim will talk with Jon Nelson on this.
  - b. Reviewed emails sent to group by Jon Nelson and Gaylord Paulson related to road access.
  - c. Team hopes the newest roads arcview extension will be ready for team review by the March 7 meeting date.
  - d. Road Access decisions will need to be made at the Area Team level with representatives from Ecological Services, Forestry and Wildlife present.  
*Note: Ecological Services will not participate directly with Area staff in developing their road access plans, but will continue to be involved in developing direction to the Areas for this step and in Core Team review of the results.*
  - e. Doug Tillma recommended Area's complete their treatment list FY assignments prior to starting the road access project. Cloquet is already done with this. Bob Kirsch will check with wildlife staff to determine if they want to be present when Two Harbors forestry completed this process. Lawson will let Doug know if Ecological Services staff want to be present too.
9. **Public Comments Responses:** Public comments submitted during the thirty-day public comment period for the Strategic Planning Document will be assigned to individual team members as appropriate. Each team member will prepare a first draft reply for the topics/issue they are assigned. These will then be reviewed by all team members with modifications made as needed. Team did not review any public comments at this meeting.
  - a. Will make individual assignments at the next meeting or possibly try to do this by email before the next meeting so team may have some draft replies completed for review at the March 7 and 8 meeting.
10. **Red Shoulder Hawk:** Reviewed direction from Jon on distributing Red Shoulder Hawk guideline information. Ok to provide this information when requested but need to be certain to convey the degree of development and review that has gone

into them to this point, how they are viewed within the department (i.e., the matrix categories of policy, guidelines, and recommendations).

11. **Yellow Birch Query:** Lynden Gerdes requested that the Core Team do some queries of the CSA2h database that may help determine where possible White Cedar –Yellow Birch Native Plant Committees may be located. Tim Quincer will talk to Gaylord and either Tim or Gaylord would do the queries and provide the information to Lynden.
  - a. On page 4.3 of the White Cedar covertype there is a statement saying something about no harvest will take place in these native plant communities. Since there is currently a dispute over a proposed treatment in a stand that turned out to be in this NPC it will likely be resolved now since no harvest should be occurring in this NPC.
12. **MCBS Goal Statements:** Discussion related to the MCBS Site Goal Statements that are added by Ecological Services to the joint visit summary reports that some staff are using. Doug R. believes that forestry should have input on what the MCBS Site Goals are before they are stated on any reports since much of the state land within these sites are forestry administered lands and forestry should have input in what the overall site goals are when they are different than what the Core Team has already established. Team decision was that this was an issue for the Coordination Working Group to discuss.
13. **Gap Management:** Doug R. asked whether the Core Team needed to revisit the Gap Management option listed for Northern Hardwoods. Gap management and single tree selection are the two treatment options in northern hardwoods. To date one interdisciplinary joint visit has occurred when one division preferred single tree selection, and another division preferred gap management. This dispute was resolved after another field visit took place but Doug R. is concerned that more disputes are likely in the future related to appropriate treatments in this cover type. Team decided not to revisit this, and Doug Tillma will discuss dispute resolution options at the next Coordination Team meeting.
14. Meeting Adjourned about 5:45. Next meeting dates are March 7& 8, 2005 at Two Harbors.