

North Shore Subsections SFRMP Meeting Notes
Two Harbors Area Office
March 7, 2005
10 am – 5:45 pm

Approved by Team on 3-24

Present: Doug Rowlett, Craig Sterle, Martha Minchak, Tim Quincer, Bob Kirsch, Chel Anderson, and Gaylord Paulson.

1. Meeting Notes: Reviewed and approved the edits to the February 22 meeting notes. Attached.

2. Access Needs Direction: **The team finalized the *Directions for New Access Needs Step* document for Area teams to complete the access needs step. Gaylord will edit the document and send out to the Areas. Gaylord e-mailed the document and related attachments to staff on 3-8.**

The team recommended that FRIT should consider further clarification of the difference between minimum maintenance road and resource management access route in the *Access in SFRMP Directions*. Jon Nelson's clarification in an e-mail on 3-4 is as follows: The new resource management access route replaces the old minimum maintenance road-closed option. If you want a minimum maintenance type of road and you want to close it, then it should be called a resource management access route.

Tim recommended other items to consider in estimating access routes should include possible private land access conflicts and additional language on avoiding potential adverse resource impacts. A response from Jon on this recommendation in his e-mail reply on 3-4 stated that this is beyond what we are trying/able to do at the planning stage in SFRMP. In this step, we are estimating roughly where and how much of various types of accesses are needed to access selected stands. During the project implementation when the actual roads/routes are mapped out, private land conflicts and potential adverse impacts on resources should be considered in detail. *Tim recommended that FRIT should still review these considerations (edit 3-24).*

3. Patch Designations and Management: Bob and Doug R led a discussion regarding a northern hardwood patch in the Two Harbors Area that was mapped and classified during the patch designation step as a uneven-aged, medium-large size, upland, deciduous patch (PV2UD – Spooner Road - 509 acres). Within this patch, forestry staff has set up a 133-acre timber sale of which 105 acres will be clearcut and managed for conifers, 13 acres will be clearcut and managed for hardwoods, and 15 acres will be thinned. The 105 acres that will be managed for conifers is consistent with adjacent management on a large acreage of white spruce plantations on Lake County lands. Forestry and wildlife staff at the Area have discussed and agreed on this management for this portion of the patch. This management follows Strategies d. and e. in GDS-1C regarding patch management direction while increasing long-lived conifers in the North Shore Highlands Subsection.

The team requests that department direction be developed on the procedures for patch reclassification and regarding patch management that is different from the patch designation. Discussion items included:

- Patch management that is not consistent with the original patch classification.
- Changing of patch classification and size if field examination finds conditions different.
- Patch re-classification, who should be involved? Only divisions that were involved in the original designation?
- Deciduous stands in conifer patches and conversely, conifer stands within deciduous patches. There is the allowance for 15 percent “messiness” in patch designation.
- Landscape vs. species-specific management and landscape vs. site-specific management.
- How plantations fit in patch structure as it relates to diversity issues?
- Timber productivity vs. biodiversity in patch management.

Gaylord will send a request to the Forestry/Wildlife/Ecological Services Coordination Work Group to provide department direction on patch classification changes and patch management conflicts. *Sent e-mail request on 3-15.*

4. Responding to Public Review Comments: After Gaylord completes the grouping of public comments by topic, they will be sent out to the team members based on the assignments for developing draft responses. Team member assignments for public comments responses were made. Team members should complete draft responses for at least one of their assigned topics prior to the next meeting. Send draft responses to other core team members **by Friday, March 18th** so they can be reviewed prior to the March 23rd meeting. *Assignments and response directions were e-mailed to team members at the end of the day on 3-11.*

5. DNR Staff Comments: Assignments for drafting responses to comments submitted by DNR staff were made to team members. **Gaylord** will send the assignments to team members.

6. nltfim1d shapefile editing: In addition to the assignment of stand exam years and access needs for stands identified for treatment in nltfim1d, the following edits will be made:

Bob: Edit *nltfim1d_thbaccess prep.dbf* (Two Harbors Area) WLD_COM Field to include wildlife staff comments that were left out of previous versions. Edit JT_VISIT Field so it includes all the stands that wildlife staff tagged as joint site visits in the Two Harbors Area.

Chel: Edit *nltfim1d_thbaccess prep.dbf*, OBJECTIVE Field for the Two Harbors Area to account for the differences between the 8-10-04 version and the 6-24-04 version of the Stand Management Objectives Codes. The 6-24-04 (Appendix J) version should be used. Chel will send a CD of *nltfim1d_thbaccess prep* including the edits to this field to Paul in mid-April.

7. Next Meeting Agenda: Next meeting is March 23-24 at the Two Harbors Area Office.

- Stand selection summary update (Tillma)
- Review of draft public comment responses

Notes by gp/3-15-05