

North Shore Subsections SFRMP Meeting Notes
Two Harbors Area Office
August 3, 2004
10:00 am – 6:15 pm

Present: Doug Rowlett, Martha Minchak, Craig Sterle, Lawson Gerdes, Bob Kirsch, Doug Tillma, Gaylord Paulson, and Jolene McLaughlin

Meeting Notes from 7/15 were reviewed and approved by the team. *Attachment*

Terrestrial, Vertebrate Species List: Craig recommended that spruce grouse be added as present in the table for the Toimi Uplands and probably also for the NSH. Table e-mailed to team members. If team members have any other recommendations, they should **send comments to Tim by August 9th**. Add date to table.

Division Director Review of SFRMP Plan: Gaylord briefed the team on the Division Director Review that was completed on July 26th. Gaylord presented the division directors (Mike Carroll, Lee Pfanmuller, and Larry Nelson for John Guenther) a review consisting of the a brief summary of key decisions previously reviewed last year and changes/highlights to the SFRMP plan since that time. The division directors made some recommendations for clarifying some of the items in the summary document prior to the Commissioner's review. Also, direction was provided on some issues relating to what should be included in the plan. Doug T, Lawson, and Bob participated in the review via conference phone. Based on this review, the Strategic Direction Step of the SFRMP plan was approved by the division directors and approved for moving on to the Commissioner's review. At today's meeting, Gaylord reviewed the revised summary document with the team. The team recommended a few edits to the summary document. Revised document will be sent to the team members.

Thinning Levels in SFRMP plan: Discussed the thinning levels for pine and white spruce recommended in the plan. Based on past Area plan thinning levels, the acres that meet the thinning criteria based on modeled data significantly underestimate the potential thinning acres available (e.g., NP modeled estimate is 59 acres per year while past plan estimated 209 acres per year). Based on the age-class distribution of these cover types, more acres are moving into the age and size where they should be ready to be thinned. In addition, those stands thinned during the past 10 years may be ready for another thinning during the 10-year time period of this plan. Because of the underestimation by the modeled data, the past Area plans thinning acres in these subsections was used as the treatment acres for the harvest volume projections in the SFRMP plan. The team recommended that Areas should include pine stands greater than 15 years old and white spruce stands greater than 20 years old in their re-inventory projects (**Gaylord** will forward this recommendation to Tom Baumann). This will provide better data for modeling these cover types for the next plan. Re-inventory of stands of merchantable size (5"+ DBH) should result in additional stands to thin. The Silviculture and Roads Module (SRM) may be another method for obtaining information on which stands need

to be thinned based on the last thinning date. The stands that are field visited or re-inventoried that meet the stand selection criteria (e.g., basal area) in the cover type management recommendations chapter may be thinned. **Doug T** will work with Paul to add pine and white spruce stands to the stand examination/treatment pool based on the recommended ages for re-inventory. **Gaylord** will make edits to the plan with the added reasoning for additional thinning beyond what the modeled data estimated.

Document distribution for internal review: **Gaylord** will check with Mike Locke (Agassiz Lowlands) and Lynn Mizner (Mille Lacs Uplands) on what they did relating to internal review of the SFRMP documents prior to public review. Also, will check with Jon Nelson for direction.

Maps: Reviewed old growth/old forest, patch, and MCBS Sites maps. All looked good. Recommended that maps should be available during stand selection. **Doug T** will request the layout version from Tom Engel for this purpose. Recommended that two computer projectors be used during stand selection, one could be used for these maps to provide the landscape view.

Items to Do Step 3 Table: The list was reviewed and updated. *Attachment.*

Stand Selection Acres: **Gaylord** will check with other SFRMP planners to determine if additional acres beyond the recommended treatment levels for cover types were selected during the stand selection process.

Roads ArcView Extension: The ArcView Extension for roads (and Stand Selection Extension for FIM-based data) needs to be updated prior to stand selection. Steve Benson will do the revisions. **Tim:** remind Steve about the date needed and the details of the needed changes.

Road Access Needs Step: **Gaylord** will request further direction from Jon (and/or the SFRMP Process Work Group) on the road access needs step of SFRMP. If possible, further direction requested before next meeting on August 19th. (*Sent request on 8-6, copied team.*)

SX Treatment Level: **Doug T** will provide Gaylord with the estimates for acres of potential decorative tree harvest in the Sx cover type and the estimated annual treatment. (Page 4-95)

Stand Selection Process: Reviewed, edited, and added to the stand selection process document that was worked on at the July 15th meeting. *Attachment.*

Next Meeting: August 19th at the Two Harbors Area Office.

Notes draft by GP. 8-6-04