

**North Shore Subsections SFRMP Meeting Notes**  
**Two Harbors Area Office**  
**October 21, 2004**  
**10:00 am – 6:00 pm**

**Approved by Team at 11-30-04 Meeting**

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

**Stand Selection Update:**

Cloquet completed stand selection, need to finish assigning stand exam FY to stands. Two Harbors is working on the small group review of stand selections. Need team direction.

Tower done. Hibbing done.

**Alteration needed stands:** Stands in the stand selection pool that staff know aren't suitable for timber sales because of poor or incorrect inventory should be given the prescription of alteration.

Include applicable notes on decision in Comments Field.

For stands where staff know the inventory is correct, but for reasons such as stand size, accessibility, slope, or stands located where the stand would not make a viable sale (e.g., small isolated stands or poorly stocked stands on a poor site that will probably never make a merchantable stand), use the Management Code Field in FIM to tag stands with the code "Merchantable not marketable". Include "Merchantable not marketable" and applicable notes on decision in Comments Field.

These acres should not be included as treatment acres for the cover type. If the acres become significant, the core team will have to determine if cover type treatment levels should be adjusted because these acres were included in calculating the treatment levels.

Inoperable and merchantable not marketable stands come up again and again during planning processes and need to be identified so they can be removed from the stand management pool. **Gaylord** will send memo to Tom Baumann and Gary Cummings requesting that an inoperable or not marketable code or field be added to FIM to identify these stands. Other options include, change inventory to what the stand is being managed for, such as altering to the understory species instead of retaining the A51 or BSL41 classification, LB if only scattered spruce or birch in a stand dominated by LB, etc. (*GP sent e-mail to Gary on 12-3-04*)

**Stand Selection Direction for Two Harbors Area:**

**1. Preliminary Prescription Changes:**

- if agreement, change prescription.

- if no agreement, tag stand with 7777 and include comments from ECO, WL, and FOR in the Comments Field for the core team review.

Possible options for addressing other prescription options and related comments in the Comment Field:

- a. Appraiser considers all recommended prescriptions and related comments when the field visit is done and the appraiser **makes** a decision on final stand prescription.
- b. Appraiser considers all recommended prescriptions and related comments when the field visit is done and **proposes** a final stand prescription.
  - Appraiser consults with ECO/WL staff if the final prescription is different than the one recommended by other division staff.
- c. Tag stands with Joint Site Visit where multiple prescriptions have been recommended during the stand selection process, an interdisciplinary decision on the final stand prescription is made in the field.

## **2. Stand Selection Changes:**

-if agree with no action for this 10-year period, select another stand.

-if disagree with no action, tag stand with 6666 and include comments from ECO, WL, and FOR in the Comments Field for the core team review.

Disputed stands should count towards the stand selection target acres for the cover type for core team review.

**3. Comment Field:** The Comment Field includes stand selection and prescription recommendations that could not be agreed to during stand selection. A field visit by the appraiser was felt to be necessary to determine if these other prescriptions and related comments could be applied to the stand. Comments were added to some stands selected for even-aged management, and virtually all stands selected as HRLV, uneven-aged management, and thinning (stands that were query selected using FIM data) located in O, H, and H' MCBS sites. No decision was reached on what comments in the Comment Field would be imported into FORIST to provide this information to the appraiser from interdisciplinary review during the forestry area stand selection process. Do all comments have to be agreed upon by the team to be included? **Gaylord** will request further direction from Jon Nelson.

**4. Age-class selection:** Select acres from age class if possible to meet the targets. If you need to select from other age-classes to meet the target acres, select stands from the stand treatment pool. Core team will review age-class distribution when all Areas selection merged and adjust if needed.

The reason that it may be difficult to find enough acres to meet the goals for all age-classes in an Area is because the acres targeted for each Area are based on the Areas total cover type acres and not to the detail of how many of the acres are in each age-class within an Area. **Team members** should provide Doug T with information regarding the age-classes in cover types where there were problems.

**5. Preliminary management objectives and preliminary prescription:** Areas need to ensure that preliminary management objectives reflect input from all Divisions as per NS SFRMP Plan Direction (e.g. GDS 1G-b, page 30). Areas need to complete preliminary management objectives assignments for stands in MCBS O, H, and H' Sites as per core team stand selection direction (9/17/04). Preliminary management objectives and prescription should agree, if adjustments to either are made, they should agree. Adjustments can be made to either the preliminary objectives or prescription if the Area stand selection review group agrees to the change. There were difficulties in checking the match between the two because the preliminary objectives were not included in the conversion to the nltfim shapefile from the nltcsa shapefile.

**Joint Visits:** Interim procedures for accomplishing the intent of a joint site visit need to be documented until the Forestry/Wildlife/Eco-Services coordination policy is finalized. For example, if the JT\_VISIT Field is tagged by WLD, FSH, or ECO, does that mean a joint field visit must be done by staff from each of the divisions that tagged the stand, or in some cases may it be a phone call to discuss the stand treatment for the tagged stand? **Gaylord** will request further clarification.

**HRLV:** All HRLV stands require a field visit to determine the actual stand treatment to apply. This also applies to stands selected for uneven-aged management and thinning because they were query selected from FIM data.

#### **NLTFIM Shapefile:**

- 1. Decorative Tree Criteria:** Have **Paul** check the stand selection criteria for decorative trees. Some stagnant spruce stands in O, H, and H' MCBS Sites were included in the stand selection pool.
- 2. EILC/ERF Coded Stands:** Need to check stands that are tagged as both EILC and ERF so that no EILC stands are included in the stand selection pool and none were selected for treatment.
- 3. Preliminary Objectives** need to be brought into NLTFIM from the NLTCSA shapefile. Do when Area shapefiles merged?
- 4. WILDIDEA AND FORIDEA Fields** info needs to be brought into the Comments Field.
- 5. TBRM and WHAB Fields** codes need to be brought into the SMA Field.

**Road Access Direction:** The team thinks the revised direction for road access needs in SFRMP provides the needed information for the team to proceed with the road access step after stand selection is completed. The core team thanks Jon and FRIT for their work on clarifying the direction for the road access step.

**Strategic Direction Document Review:** **Team members** should complete the review of the final sections and edits that Gaylord sent out for review via email. Send comments to Gaylord no later than Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. After Meg Hanisch completes an editing review (2 weeks) of the document, Gaylord will complete the edits and prepare it for printing and distribution.

**Open House Date:** Tentatively scheduled an open house date for the Strategic Direction Document Public Review on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 – 7 PM, at the Two Harbors Area Office. **Gaylord** will check with other SFRMP planners about scheduling a joint open house in St. Paul for the Mille Lacs Uplands, Agassiz Lowlands, and North Shore Subsections in December. Dates are subject to change depending on when document is completed, printed, distributed, and posted on the web.

**Next Meeting:** November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:30 am to 6:00 pm, Two Harbors Area Office. Two Harbors stand selection review. (*Meeting cancelled on 11-1.*)

Notes by gp, 11-9. Rev 11-29.