

North Shore Subsections SFRMP Meeting Notes
MIFC – Grand Rapids
November 30, 2004
9:30 am – 4:45 pm

Approved at 2-1-05 meeting.

Present: Doug Rowlett, Craig Sterle, Martha Minchak, Lawson Gerdes, Doug Tillma, Tim Quincer, Bob Kirsch, Gaylord Paulson, Paul Olson, Steve Benson, and Maya Hamady.

Stand Selection Update: Cloquet, Hibbing, and Tower Areas are completed and posted on the NS SFRMP ftp site. Two Harbors still completing and reviewing stand selection.

NLTFIM Items: Paul attended the meeting to discuss what needs to be done to get the four area selection NLTFIM shapefiles merged into one shapefile. See attachment: *Olson Tasks for NLTFIM1*

During afternoon team discussions, it was recommended that **Paul** complete the merging of the NLTCSA to NLTFIM shapefile work so that the OBJECTIVE Field (preliminary management objectives) can be checked against the PRESCRIPTION Field (preliminary prescription) during the core team review for addressing conflicting recommendations. **Doug T** will request that Paul do the above work sooner than what was discussed when Paul was present in the morning. It should be done after Two Harbors completes their selection of stands for the 10-year plan.

Comment Fields: Some team members expressed concerns about the merging of comments from all divisions into one comment field (WILDIDEA + FORIDEA + ECO_COMM + TEAMCOM → COMMENT Field) and losing the identity of where the comments came from – one division or the team. **Gaylord** will discuss this concern with Jon Nelson. WILDIDEA, FORIDEA, TEAMCOM, and ECO_REVIEW Fields will be brought into NLTFIM1 as separate fields for the team review of the stand selection step.

SRM Access: **Gaylord** will check with Karl Olmstead regarding the FORIST meeting with staff from other divisions on whether or not there will be a place in SRM that other divisions can enter comments. How will comments from annual plan reviews be included in SRM? Also, any updates on other division staff access to SRM? Will fields imported into SRM from SFRMP planning (all plans) be placed on the DRS for access by other divisions during the 10-year planning period?

JT_VISIT Field: Tag all stands selected for treatment on Fisheries lands with a FSH code. During area stand selection team review, fisheries representative review, and core team review of the merged area shapefiles (NLTFIM1), additional stands may be tagged

with joint visit codes. Also, other divisions will have an opportunity to tag stands for a joint visit during annual stand examination plan review. *Note: The coordination policies for review of timber sales by other divisions should continue whether or not a stand is tagged with a joint site visit.*

Peatland SNA Watershed: **Doug R** will check to see if they have a Peatland SNA watershed shapefile (from Steve Wilson) so that the team can use this during stand selection review to determine if any stands are selected or have criteria for decorative tops harvest in the Peatland SNA watersheds. DECORATIVE TOPS should not be included for these stands in the CRITERIA Field.

ArcView Extension for New Access: Steve demonstrated the revised Stand Access Form in the ArcView extension for new road access information in SFRMP. Steve changed the order of the entries based on team recommendations so the entries are in the same order shown in the flow chart: *Identifying New Access Needs in SFRMP.*

Doug Tillma recommended adding a statement to address circumstances where new access is not needed, but a USFS road permit is required to access the stand. In this case, only the USFS system road permit or the USFS non-system road permit would have to be checked on the form.

Craig recommended including adding County Permit to the options since they need a permit for access across county lands in their part of St. Louis County. This wasn't added since it was not uniformly applied throughout the county and this requirement varies from county to county. Also, the time period to get a county permit is typically less than a USFS permit.

Strategic Direction Document and Public Review: Gaylord is completing the edits to the document and it should be ready for printing this week or next. Other tasks include getting the document posted on the DNR Web site, getting CDs printed, preparing a statewide news release, notifying those on the mailing lists, and distributing documents and CDs. The team recommended that public review period start on January 3rd and end on February 4th. Two open houses will be held, tentatively scheduled from 3 – 7 pm on January 25 in Two Harbors and January 26 in St. Paul. **Doug R** will check on renting a meeting room at Superior Shores for the 25th. **Gaylord** will check on a St. Paul location for the 26th. At least 1 team member from each division will attend the open houses. Doug R encouraged the whole team to attend the one in Two Harbors. *Update: Meetings will be held from 5 – 7 pm on January 25th at the Two Harbors Area Office Meeting Room and on the 26th in St. Paul at the Central Office Cafeteria.*

Two Harbors Area Stand Selection: Team direction is to complete the stand selection and send the shapefile to Paul. For stands where there is disagreement on the selection of a stand, code with 6666 for core team review. For stands where there is disagreement on the prescription or the preliminary objectives for a stand, code with 7777 for core team review.

Stand Selection Summary: Doug T will summarize the stand selections by cover type and forestry area after Paul completes the merging of the NLTFIM shapefile. This will provide data indicating whether or not Areas met their targets assigned for the stand selection process. This may be useful in the review of stands where there was disagreement in the selection for treatment of the stand or the prescription. Some of these stands may be dropped from the treatment list if the acreage goals were exceeded.

Objectives vs. Prescriptions: After the NLTFIM shapefile updates are completed by Paul, **Area stand selection teams** need to check for agreement between the preliminary objectives and prescription(s). Edit as needed. If agreement can't be reached on the prescription(s) or preliminary objectives, tag the stand with 7777 in the PRESCRIPTION Field or COMMENT Field and include information regarding the disagreement in the COMMENT Field for the core team review. If agreement still can't be reached on the selection of a stand, tag with 6666 for core team review.

FY05 Stand Examination Review: All divisions have reviewed it. Maya Hamady replied back to the four Area Program Foresters covered by the NS SFRMP with a shapefile named: *Stands 2005*. As per her email, the shapefile contains all stands that will be flagged for ECO visits and contacts. Stands with ECO joint visit tagged should contact Maya (18 stands tagged with a "1" in the ECOVISIT Field. One joint visit is currently in progress. Doug R has informed his staff that they need to contact Maya for the joint site visits. Maya will contact the Ecological Services staff that will be involved in the site visit.

FY06 Stand Examination Review: All Areas, except Two Harbors, have submitted their FY06 stand examination plans to Gaylord. They were distributed to other divisions by the Forestry Areas prior to or at the same time as submitting them to St. Paul. At this time, Maya is only reviewing the Forestry Areas covered in the NSH/TU/LU and Border Lakes SFRMPs in the Northeast Region. All Northeast Region areas submit their annual plans to her.

Direction Needed Request Status: Gaylord will check with Jon on the status of the direction needed request regarding multiple prescriptions and follow-up by the appraiser with other divisions; comment field information to include for appraisal consideration; and interim requirements/procedures for joint field visit and documentation (until the Forestry/ Wildlife/ Ecological Services Coordination Work Group completes this task).

Joint Site Visit Documentation: Lawson briefed the team on the documentation of a FY05 stand joint visit she recently completed with Aaron Mielke. **Lawson** will distribute the document to the team after Aaron reviews it and completes the forestry portion. (*Distributed 2-7-05*) Agreement on the final prescription was not reached, selective harvest vs. gap management and basal area retained. The process outlined in the 6/21/2004 Department Direction regarding disagreements in management of stands within MCBS will be followed: *If an agreed upon outcome cannot be reached during the field visit, then the usual conflict resolution process should be used. The Forestry Area Supervisor and the Ecological Services equivalent would be used, if that didn't work then*

the Region, and so on. The recommended options in the Division Directors 6/21/04 memo are:

1. Treat the stand according to agreed upon prescription;
2. Retain as reserve for further evaluation; or
3. Agree on a new management prescription guided by the ECS framework

USFS cRNAs: Paul and Doug T have developed a shapefile of the PRNAs that are no longer candidate RNAs (cRNAs). This will be used in the review at the Region to determine which stands can be released from the temporary reserve status. Doug T said this review will occur sometime after John Grossbach returns to work. Tower Area has several stands (previously appraised) that they would like to offer for sale now in the vicinity of USFS sales (large patch management cooperation) that will be offered near the Sand Lake-Seven Beavers Peatland SNA. This will be determined in the Region review.

Old-Growth Stand Nominations: Doug T will provide the team a copy of the stand list when he completes it. None of the nominated stands will be included in the 10-year treatment list.

Next Meeting: January 12th in Two Harbors (13th alternate date). *Rescheduled for January 19th.*

Notes by gp/12-3-04. *Revised 12-28-04.*