

WFPS Silviculture Subcommittee Accomplishment Report

Update 2: March 28 – May 31, 2018

Previous accomplishment reports can be found at:

Topic: Northern Hardwoods Management

Accomplishments during the Reporting Cycle:

The Northern Hardwood Ad Hoc Team had a conference call in April and a face-to-face meeting in May. At the May meeting, status of all the existing assignments were reviewed and comments were provided on work completed to date. A summary of the assignments, team members responsible for those assignments, and timelines for next steps to complete those assignments was produced. This assignment list will be shared with the Chapter 24 Ad Hoc Team so the two teams can coordinate their work. The next meeting of the Ad Hoc is scheduled for one and half days in July and will incorporate a field session to test some of the new tools. The Chapter 24 Ad Hoc Team will also be invited to the field session, so the two teams can better integrate their work.

The Chapter 24 Ad Hoc Team had their first meeting on April 24th. At the kick-off meeting, the charge of the team and WFPS assignments were reviewed. An overview of the work already completed by SGT related to Growing Stock Status, crop trees, and order of removal/order of retention was also provided. The next Ad Hoc meeting is June 4. At this meeting, the list of assignments will be reviewed, responsible parties identified, and timelines developed. This will be shared with the Northern Hardwood Ad Hoc Team to facilitate work between the two teams.

In mid-April, two focus groups (one of public agency foresters and one of private foresters) were conducted to gather feedback on issues related to the Silviculture Handbook. This is part of an effort to holistically address the concerns raised by the WFPS and to improve overall communication of important silviculture concepts. The goal of the focus groups was to gather more information on these issues to refine questions for a survey of all Silviculture Handbook users. Feedback was solicited from SGT on the objectives and questions for the focus groups. Based on the results of the focus groups, a survey for Silviculture Handbook users was developed.

At the May 23rd Silviculture Guidance Team meeting, the results of the focus groups and the draft survey were presented. Comments and clarifications were solicited from SGT members to improve the survey.

Next Steps:

Both Ad Hoc teams are working on their assignments with a goal of soliciting public comments on the chapters before the end of the year.

The results of the focus groups and the Silviculture Handbook survey will be presented to the Council on Forestry at their May meeting. The survey will go live on June 5 and be open until June 22. A small workgroup of SGT members and DNR staff will review the results of the survey, develop recommendations and bring back to SGT at their August meeting. Pending the direction SGT determines for the Silviculture Handbook, then a feasibility will be completed and both the recommendations and feasibility analysis will be presented to the Council on Forestry in September.

Date: 5/29/18

Topic: Aspen and Red Pine Rotation Ages

Accomplishments during the Reporting Cycle:

The Ad Hoc Team met in March to review work on assignments to date and WFPS recommendations. Following the meeting, additional comments were provided to the Ad Hoc Team by Forrest Gibeault. Forrest's comments were shared with the Ad Hoc Team members in addition to edits resulting to the Chapters from the March meeting. Ad Hoc members were asked to review the edits to date and Forrest's comments in an effort to finalize the Chapters to request SGT approval for public comments. Additional minor edits were made and the Aspen and Red Pine chapters were presented to SGT at their May meeting.

At the May SGT meeting, members reviewed the proposed Aspen and Red Pine chapters and modifications to the chapters to include economic considerations for rotation ages. SGT members suggested a couple of edits and then approved moving forward with both chapters for public comments.

Next Steps:

The Red Pine and Aspen chapters will be reviewed by Legal Services prior to soliciting public comments and then be put out for a 21-day public comment period. After the public comment period closes, the comments will be summarized and reviewed to determine what, if any, further modifications and edits are needed to the chapters. The goal is to chapters completed and ready for SGT review and approval by the Chief State Forester this fall.