

WFPS Silviculture Subcommittee Accomplishment Report

Update 3: June 1 – October 16, 2018

Previous accomplishment reports can be found at:

<https://councilonforestry.wi.gov/Pages/ForestPracticesStudy/Accomplishments.aspx>

Topic: Northern Hardwoods Management

Accomplishments during the Reporting Cycle:

The Northern Hardwood Ad Hoc Team met on July 24th and October 3rd, and had a conference call on September 20th. The Chapter 24 Ad Hoc Team met as a full team on June 18th and July 16th, and had a conference call on October 3rd with assignment leads. Both teams continue to make progress on their assignments.

The Silviculture Guidance Team met on August 15th and reviewed the results of the survey of silviculture handbook users and the recommendations from the work group. SGT supported several concepts including (1) providing a “quick guide” for each cover type chapter, in addition to the full chapter narrative, (2) standardizing the structure of the cover type chapters, and (3) investigating options to supply information on-line and via apps. In addition, SGT supported that the silviculture handbook no longer a Department handbook, but rather it become a resource similar to other guides, such as forest health guidelines, BMPs for Water Quality field manual, and Biomass Harvesting Guidelines.

Next Steps:

Both Ad Hoc teams are working on their assignments with a goal of presenting the final drafts for public comment to SGT at their December 12th meeting and beginning the process of soliciting public comments at the beginning of the new year.

At their December 12th meeting, SGT will prioritize the suggested improvements to the silviculture handbook and modify its workplan for the upcoming year accordingly.

Topic: Aspen and Red Pine Rotation Ages

Accomplishments during the Reporting Cycle:

The Red Pine and Aspen chapters went out for a 21-day public comment period in July. At the August 15th SGT meeting, the public comments were shared with SGT for their initial feedback and recommendations.

Next Steps:

The public comments and SGT recommendations for the Red Pine and Aspen chapters will be shared their Ad Hoc Team for the comments to 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 at their December 12th meeting and approval by the Chief State Forester this winter.