



Private Lands Aspen Regeneration Project

Project Overview - November 2020



The Turtle Mountain region of North Dakota contains a significant concentration of the State's upland forests and is identified as a Priority Area in the 2020 Forest Action Plan. The Turtle Mountain aspen-birch forest currently consists of an overstory mix of aspen, birch, green ash, boxelder, bur oak, and balsam poplar. Before European settlement, the woody vegetation in the region was indicative of a forest system that was adapted to fires which created patchwork disturbances, maintaining a vigorous forest system. These disturbances created new growth resulting in diversity in age classes which helped reduce the spread of pest and diseases that typically attack overly mature stands. Without disturbance, as the aspen overstory succumbs to disease, these forests are in danger of converting to a forested shrub land.

Through the Aspen Regeneration Project, NDFS will work with private landowners in the Turtle Mountain region to use mechanical treatments to mimic natural disturbance, and restore declining aspen forest.

Project Activities

- Provide Forest Stewardship Plans to landowners within the Project Boundary, prioritizing improvement practices that encourage aspen regeneration.
- Demonstrate mechanical treatment techniques that mimic natural disturbance patterns.
- Provide cost-share incentives to encourage landowner participation.
 - Provide training and equipment to private contractors to perform these services.

This project will address the following State priorities:

North Dakota Priority Issue 1.1: Forest Decline Associated With Natural Disturbance Alterations

Strategy 1.1a: Identify, conserve and actively manage high-priority native forestlands

Strategy 1.1b: Develop incentives and cost-effective measures for management (harvesting, Rx burn, thinning)

Strategy 1.1d: Develop strategies to reach/motivate landowners to apply principles of sustainable forest management

North Dakota Priority Issue 1.2: Conversion to Nonforest

Strategy 1.2b: Incorporate management techniques and/or disturbances that promote/sustain terrestrial ecosystems. Develop, learn and teach methods to remove nuisance woody plants.

For more information please contact:

Cody Clemenson, Forest Stewardship Specialist
Molberg Forestry Center
307 1st St E, Bottineau, ND, 58318
(701) 228-5490
Cody.S.Clemenson@ndsu.edu

Liz Smith, Forest Stewardship Program Manager
Bismarck Field Office
916 E Interstate Ave, Ste #4, Bismarck, ND 58503
(701) 537-3584
liz.smith@ndsu.edu