



Turtle Mountain Landscape Forest Stewardship Plan
Working Group
11-9-2022 9:00 AM via Teams



Working Group Members Present:

Liz Smith – Committee Chair, NDFS
Cody Clemenson, NDFS
Jodi Delozier, NDSU Extension
Kevin Kading, ND Game & Fish
Deric Deuschle, SEH Inc.

1. Welcome new working group member. Deric Deuschle, representative for SEH, Inc. joined the TMR-LFSP working group. SEH, Inc. has been selected to develop the Plan.
2. Summary of Focus Group results and discussion. Jodi presented a summary and report of the tour, facilitated discussions, and focus group held in August.
 - WG will develop a 1-page info graphic and summary of this information and provide to the tour participants.
3. Cody shared information about how forest stewardship field services fit in with the TMR-LFSP. Field services include technical assistance in the form of written management plans, cost-share opportunities and demonstration projects.
 - The tour resulted in 8 new Forest Stewardship Plan requests, in addition to 4 requests from landowners not on the tour. All but 4 of the 12 requests have completed site surveys. Field conditions will likely push the rest to 2023.
 - Funding from ND Game & Fish has allowed NDFS to offer aspen management cost-share. We have agreements in place with two landowners. The contractor is the same for both and they are hopeful work will be complete this fall. We will have funding available to cost-share aspen regeneration treatments on approximately 60 acres of private land.
 - With TM private lands aspen management moving out of the demonstration phase, we are now looking at demonstrating forest management on oak-dominated sites. Agreements are in place with two landowners. Demonstrations are completed with NDFS staff and equipment at no cost to the landowner as we utilize FSP funds. These demos will likely begin in 2023.
 - The TMR-LFSP will provide guidance and best management recommendations to encourage and enable active, long-term forest management across multiple land ownerships to meet individual and collective goals and for the benefit of the forest resource. The plan will also serve as a comprehensive reference, which will allow natural resources professionals to focus more on the specifics of a property and spend more time in the field with the landowner. Cost-share opportunities will be essential to scaling up adoption of BMPs and demonstration projects offer real-life examples of active forest management.
4. Deric provided an overview of SEH's approach to developing the TMR-LFSP. The project will be divided into two phases:
 - Phase 1 – Initial Data gathering, Stakeholder Engagement, Develop Plan Framework.
 - Site visit to meet local stakeholders and observe current conditions
 - Complete initial stakeholder interviews and provide summary of findings
 - Gather GIS data on the region and prepare initial figure set for preliminary use
 - Provide framework of Plan to be the basis for Phase 2 tasks

- Phase 2 – Site Visit, Stakeholder Engagement, Draft and Final Plans
 - Additional site to meet local stakeholders, participate in public engagement event, and further document current conditions
 - Finalize any remaining or additional stakeholder interviews and summary of findings
 - Complete GIS data gathering and prepare draft and final figure set
 - Complete Draft Plan for initial review, comments, and revisions
 - Incorporate comments and complete Final Plan
 - Present Plan final plan to North Dakota Forestry Advisory Council and stakeholders
- Expect Phase 1 to be complete Spring 2023 and Phase 2 by late 2023. Hope to have final plan ready for the December 2023 NDFAC meeting.
- Plan is anticipated to be largely online with infographics, handouts, photos, etc.
- GIS components may require providing archived and internal datasets not currently available to the public – NDFS & NDG&F will help with that when needed.

Action Items:

Liz - work with Beth Hill to get LFSP website up and running

Deric/SEH – “1-pager” summary for tour participants and messaging for stakeholders

Cody- Help facilitate stakeholder outreach and help with SEH site visit

All – NDFAC meeting December 15th in Bismarck. Liz will give brief update of activities.

Next Meeting:

December 16, 2022 9:00 AM via Teams

Notes Prepared by Liz Smith