

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Blandin Forest Tour

July 15, 2009

Leave ICC ca. 1:45

STOP 1 2:10-2:15

Smith Creek entrance off US Hwy 169: Public Recreation, sign campaign, brochures, issues

STOP 2 2:15-2:20

Designated Trout Stream—Blandin investment in road rockering & culverts to prevent siltation
Water resources are an integral and important aspect of the conservation values protected under the Conservation Easement. In 1998, the local chapter of Trout Unlimited teamed up with DNR, USFS and Blandin Forestry to upgrade culverts and install rock to prevent further degradation of trout streams from runoff. Sandy Verry of USFS designed the culverts and Blandin invested \$80,000 to do the entire project. Verry has revisited the streams and says they are much healthier now.

STOP 3 2:20-2:45

Hardwood Marking and harvest—Jim Gabriel explains Blandin Smart Forestry concept of marketing what grows best; timber sale design features, implementation

Hardwood Marking and Selective Harvest

UPM employs a "Smart Forestry" strategy of Life-Cycle-Management in Habitat Types that are best suited for growing trees at a variety of ages and species. This stand's Habitat Type is ATiCa (sugar maple, basswood, blue cohosh). This stand was marked by foresters for "cut-tree-removal"; trees to be removed were painted orange. The tree marking style favors the regeneration of shade tolerant hardwoods, maintenance of wildlife trees and snags, and future crop tree development. Future entries will be made into these stands every 15-30 years or so; they will never be clearcut.

STOP 4 2:50-3:15

Mixed Wood planting and release scheme—Quintin Legler discusses Blandin Smart Forestry rationale and practical advantages of this method of reforestation.

This site was cut in summer 2004, planted in spring 2005 with a target of 500 conifer (490 white spruce & 10 white pine) per acre. The planting quality check showed an average of 442 trees actually planted per acre. The first year survival check showed an average of 400 planted conifer per acre. The third year survival check showed an average of 378 planted conifer per acre (86% survival) with a total stocking of 2441 trees per acre, 448 conifer and the balance deciduous. The site was brush saw released this summer with directions to release all conifer in a 3-foot radius and space the residual aspen to a total of 1,000—1100 trees per acre.

STOP 5 3:20-3:45

Young aspen stand—US Fish & Wildlife Service's Tom Cooper discusses habitat issues for game species

Stand harvested fall 2006, stand establishment year 2007, stand is entering its 3rd growing season.

STOP 6 4:00-4:45

Spruce Plantation Management; Cut-to-length harvester in operation on Blandin Spruce plantation—

Jim Gabriel introduces Rieger Logging and site design/plan; See harvester in operation

UPM has about 19,000 acres of spruce plantations established in the 60's, 70's and 80's. This stand was established in 1972. We began actively thinning the plantations in 1994, coinciding with the first use of "Scandinavian" Cut-To-Length Harvesting equipment in Northern Minnesota. Ideal crown to bole ratio to maintain in spruce crop trees is 1/3 to 1/2 for best stand health and vigor. The contractor is very experienced in identifying the best crop trees to save while carefully removing the subordinate trees around them. The Habitat Type in this stand is AAbAa (sugar maple, balsam fir, wild sarsaparilla). In Habitat Types best suited to mixed hardwood conifer development, repeated stand entries will lead to natural regeneration of hardwoods. Future stand condition will be allowed to trend towards mixed conifer and hardwood.

Bus to St. Paul directly