

Landscape Planning Subcommittee Meeting  
MINUTES March 11, 2016

Landscape level subcommittee meeting in Gaylord DNR Field Office

Agenda: Identify 20 - 40 acres of Beaver Island State Forest Land suitable for Wildlife Club proposed clear cuts

Attending: Jennifer Kleitch, Bill Parsons LTBB, Seamus Norgaard BIFC

On the phone: Galen Bartels, Phil Wyckoff, and Don Tritsch BIWC; Jim Keiser LTBB

3 candidate areas were brought up for discussion as potential sites for the clear cut goals:

- 1) Area South of Martin's Gravel Pit near the East Side Rd, 54 acres of wetter lowland mixed forest, in Compartment 54, partly in stands 25 and 65. This area was suggested by Phil Wyckoff as an easy access good potential spot, and all others present agreed with this choice. It was noted by all that this lowland mixed forest type may have some areas that are wet and with cedar and other species (ash, etc) that should not be cut, so it was agreed that not all of the 54 acres could be seen as desirable for clear cutting. It was noted by Jennifer that the approach used would be a non-commercial clear cut anyway, and that it would be preferable to have smaller patches cut (rather than one large open area) with debris left in place to mimic natural windfalls. Phil asked if there were any other values and considerations that needed to be looked at, for instance any potential conflicts with cultural values? Presence of invasive species? It was agreed that no one present could speak to the cultural values question and that the subcommittee on this should be consulted. A discussion about the potential dangers from invasive species ensued. Jennifer noted that whenever the canopy is opened up by a clear cut this increases the likelihood of invasive species, as many invade disturbed areas. Seamus pointed out that the Beaver Island Forest Council supports clear cuts on the periphery, rather than in the interior of State Forest Lands, partly due to this potential incursion of invasive species. Seamus noted that the concept of "Core Wild Areas" (CWAs) embraced by the collaborative group requires that larger interior areas to remain uncut, surrounded by buffer areas that may be lightly cut, keeping heavier management areas and clear cuts on the periphery. It was agreed by all that any areas that have been clear cut need to be monitored afterwards for the potential incursion of invasive species, and to evaluate the impacts and long term success of the clear cuts.
- 2) Area West of McCauley's Rd near Alvin LaFreine's property, 20 acres of higher, drier aspen with some components of cedar, in Compartment 67, stand 7. Questions were brought up about access, and concerns were voiced about not wishing to create another road. Galen noted that there is access via Alvin LaFreniere's property on an old logging road entering from the northwest. He noted that since Alvin LaFreniere is

a member of the Wildlife Club he might likely grant access. Bill Parson's asked would this be available to the public and for anyone who wished to hunt? Wildlife Club members replied that even if not, there would be some value to wildlife to make this cut regardless. It was agreed that Alvin would need to be consulted soon. I was agreed that if Alvin grants an easement access route to reach this 20 acre area for cutting, that parts of this stand - along with the first area identified south of Martin's Gravel Pit - together should be able to provide the maximum 40 acres that the larger collaborative agreed upon to endorse for the Wildlife Club's clear cut grant application on State Lands.

- 3) An area south of Hannigan's Rd across from a square of private property to the north was discussed. This 8 acre parcel was not mapped or marked for treatment through the formal Compartment Review process, so would require getting a variance to cut. It was identified by Bill Parsons as a possible "demonstration area" for the Wildlife Club habitat management project, because it is close to the road and has seen grouse hunters in the past. However because this area would need a variance it would be more difficult to enact a cut, so consideration of it was put on hold.

The consensus was that the areas described in 1) and 2) above should be able to provide the maximum 40 acres for clear cuts that the collaborative group endorsed. All attending agreed that this was the beginning of a good cooperative partnership and showed a demonstration of good will in achieving the Wildlife Club's goals. Other topics that were not part of this meeting's agenda but were touched upon briefly in discussion included the Core Wild Areas, which Bill Parsons, Seamus, Galen and other noted should be addressed next. Seamus also suggested that common ground might be found by discussing potential oak tree plantings in areas where the beech trees have been devastated. Bill Parsons indicated that LTBB would like to collaborate with the Wildlife Club on Winter Deer yard areas and other matters of joint interest.