

Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative

- Home
- Upcoming Events
- Past Events
- Camp 8 Podcast
- About SFEC
- Continuing Education Credits
- Cloquet Forestry Center

Workshop: Exploring Opportunities in Forest Management to Benefit Wildlife Habitat

This is a major two-day indoor and field event designed to foster information exchange about how current harvesting levels and patterns are affecting wildlife habitat. Presentations will explore the state of Minnesota's forests from a variety of spatial scales, the quality and nature of habitat for forest-dependent wildlife species, the influence of harvest-related disturbance on habitat, and a process to help prioritize policy, management, and research needs to optimize the habitat outcomes of active forest management.

Approximately one hundred forest and wildlife managers, ecologists, and researchers joined us in Grand Rapids for the two-day workshop. At the end of day one, we identified the highest priority action item in terms of forest management, policy, and research to be: managing for a **range of covertypes, patch sizes, and age class distributions** across the landscape to meet the needs of a diverse range of wildlife species. Over 51% of participants selected this as the most important action item.

Dates: Tuesday and Wednesday October 10 and 11, 2017. Tuesday we will be inside and Wednesday we will be in the field.

Location: Timberlake Lodge and field sites near Grand Rapids, MN

Agenda

Event Slides



Contact Us

Eli Sagor, SFEC Program Manager
esagor@umn.edu | 218-409-6115

Tweets from @MNForestEd Follow

UMN SF... @MNFores... · Sep 21
 Brian Palik gave a great talk yesterday called Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change: Lessons for timber-oriented managers.
 If you missed it, here's the recording:
sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2022-webinar-s...

UMN SF... @MNFores... · Sep 20
 Starting in 15 minutes: Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change



Eli Sagor, SFEC Program Manager | esagor@umn.edu | 218-409-6115

AGENDA

Exploring Opportunities in Forest Management to Improve Wildlife Habitat

October 10 and 11, 2017 in Grand Rapids

Day 1, Tuesday October 10:

8:30am: Registration opens

9:00am: Welcome and Agenda Review (Eli Sagor)

9:05am: Our Purpose: What Can We Achieve Today? (Mike Kilgore)

9:15am: The State of Northern Minnesota Forests and Wildlife Habitat: Big Picture

-The state of forest wildlife habitat types in Minnesota (Mark Nelson)

-Trends and status of some forest-dependent wildlife species (Mike Larson)

10:25am: Break

10:40am: Trends and Impacts at Smaller Scales (subsections and / or stand level)

-Changes in forest disturbances and spatial patterns (Dennis Kepler)

-Changes in Disturbance Regimes from Presettlement to the Present (George Host)

-Site to Landscape level considerations in forest management of wildlife (Jerry Niemi)

-Minnesota's Forest Management Guidelines and wildlife habitat (Rob Slesak)

12:05pm: lunch break including brief remarks from John Eichinger, President and CEO of the Ruffed Grouse Society

1:00pm: Concurrent sessions

-Habitat basics for forest dependent wildlife species (Jodie Provost)

-Timber sale design for both forest products and wildlife habitat benefits (Paul Dubuque)

-How wildlife habitat is integrated into forest planning (Jon Drimel and Nate Eide)

-Programs to encourage habitat improvement on family woodlands (J. Carlson & K. Sheppard)

1:40pm: Second round of concurrent sessions

-Silviculture systems and their relationship to habitats (Eli Sagor)

-Leave trees, more information on recent research findings (Alexis Grinde)

-Planning for and managing across multiple ownerships (Jim Manolis)

-Non-commercial opportunities to provide enhanced habitat (Chad Kirschbaum)

2:15pm: Break

2:30pm: Final plenary session and small-group discussions focused on action items.

-Engaging participants to identify the highest priority action items in terms of forest management, policy, and research.

4:05pm: Next steps and a path forward:

-Major themes and ideas from the day (Bob Stine, UMN-CCAPS)

-Closing thoughts (Eli Sagor, UMN-SFEC)

4:20pm: Adjourn Day 1



Wifi: TimberLake Lodge Guest
(public network, no password required)

Wednesday, October 11:

Field site visits in the Grand Rapids area

The purpose of the field site visits is to add to the discussions from October 10. Being in the field will add specificity and enable participants and tour leaders to dig deeper into how the ideas presented in day 1 might play out in a real field setting.

Field sites:

UPM Blandin Paper Company 820-acre **Feeley Road timber harvest site**. This is a large-scale harvest conducted between 2001 and 2003 in part to enable research on the impacts of large-scale harvest disturbance on forest bird populations. **Site lead:** Sawyer Scherer, UPM Blandin Paper Company and Alexis Grinde, UMN – Natural Resources Research Institute.

Itasca County Land Department **oak shelterwood site**. This is a nine-acre shelterwood harvest site that creates a range of wildlife habitat conditions at various stages of the multi-year implementation process. We may also briefly discuss a small clearcut harvest site across the road, also managed by Itasca County. **Site lead:** Mike Gibbons, Itasca County Land Department.

Itasca County Land Department **spruce thinning site**. This stand recently received its first thinning. We will discuss wildlife and wood production considerations inherent in plantation management. Also of interest is how wildlife habitat quality changes over the life of the planted stand. **Site lead:** Mike Gibbons, Itasca County Land Department.

Family woodland **brushland harvest site**. Another focus for the event is noncommercial opportunities to improve wildlife habitat, particularly on brushlands. At this site we'll discuss wildlife uses of brushlands, the value of shearing, and resources available to enable this kind of management on private as well as public lands. **Site lead:** Kevin Sheppard, American Bird Conservancy.

Family woodland **aspen and balsam fir patch harvest**. This relatively small harvest site is perhaps typical of family woodland owners' preferred approach to timber harvesting. At only about 500 cords, this site includes a great deal of retention including thermal cover for wildlife, diverse forest structure, and abundant regeneration. We will discuss advantages, challenges, and tradeoffs associated with this kind of management as well as resources to help get it done. **Site lead:** Kevin Sheppard, American Bird Conservancy.

Logistics:

Field trip attendees will meet at TimberLake Lodge in time for a **prompt 8:30am departure** on Wednesday, October 11. Vehicles may be left at TimberLake Lodge, as transportation will be provided by bus.

Lunch will be provided in the field. We will return to TimberLake Lodge to adjourn no later than 4pm.

About the Speakers:

John Carlson

MN DNR – Forestry, Private
Forest Management
St Paul, MN
john.c.carlson@state.mn.us

Jon Drimel

MN DNR – Forestry,
SFRMP lead planner
Bemidji, MN
jon.drimel@state.mn.us

Paul Dubuque

MN DNR – Forestry,
Silviculture Coordinator
St Paul, MN
paul.dubuque@state.mn.us

John Eichinger

The Ruffed Grouse Society
Coraopolis, PA
john.e@ruffedgrousesociety.org

Nate Eide

Lake County Land
Commissioner
Two Harbors, MN
nate.eide@co.lake.mn.us

Mike Gibbons

Itasca County Land Dept.
Grand Rapids, MN
michael.gibbons@co.itasca.mn.us

Alexis Grinde

UMN – Natural Resources
Research Institute
Duluth, MN
agrinde@d.umn.edu

George Host

UMN – NRR
Duluth, MN
ghost@umn.edu

Dennis Kepler

MN DNR, Resource
Assessment
Grand Rapids, MN
dennis.kepler@state.mn.us

Mike Kilgore

University of Minnesota,
Dept. of Forest Resources
St Paul, MN
mkilgore@umn.edu

Chad Kirschbaum

US Forest Service,
Chippewa National Forest
Deer River, MN
ckirschbaum@fs.fed.us

Mike Larson

MN DNR – Wildlife
Research Unit
Grand Rapids, MN
michael.larson@state.mn.us

Jim Manolis

The Nature Conservancy
Minneapolis, MN
james.manolis@tnc.org

Mark Nelson

US Forest Service, Forest
Inventory and Analysis
St Paul, MN
mdnelson@fs.fed.us

Gerald Niemi

UMN – Natural Resources
Research Institute
Duluth, MN
gniemi@d.umn.edu

Jodie Provost

MN DNR – Wildlife Section
Aitkin, MN
jodie.provost@state.mn.us

Kevin Sheppard

American Bird Conservancy
Grand Rapids, MN
sheppard@abcbirds.org

Eli Sagor

University of Minnesota
SFEC
Cloquet, MN
esagor@umn.edu

Sawyer Scherer

UPM-Blandin Paper Co.
Grand Rapids, MN
sawyer.scherer@upm.com

Rob Slesak

Minnesota Forest
Resources Council
St Paul, MN
raslesak@umn.edu

Bob Stine

University of Minnesota
College of Continuing &
Professional Studies
St Paul, MN
[rstine@umn.edu](mailto:rstin@umn.edu)

We appreciate support for this event from the following organizations:



The Biofore Company



The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

