

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:

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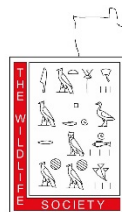
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The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

