

WYFP Work Group Meeting

1/24/2018

Attendees: Randee Wlodek, Ryan Jacques, Chuck McCullough, Janet Brehm, Shawn Graff, Callie Bertsch

Program updates:

- **ABC – Callie:** Nora is out certifying sites/contacting contractors/setting up sites for alder shearing every day. 2014 contracts are getting wrapped up this season and continuing to work on 2015, 2016, and 2017 contracts – many are flagged and ready to go. In partnership with NRCS they have contracted over 5,000 acres. Nora/Callie are getting requests from landowners.
 - o Sign-up deadline is May 2018.
- **ABC – Shawn: GRANTS** – NFWF grants are available for this year (December 31, 2018 deadline) to run a workshop (money for supplies, food, drinks, renting a hall). Will be running a program in Michigan and Minnesota. There is also money for mailings, either outreach for management activities or for invitation for workshop. 125 acres worth of money available for on the ground use (Private or Public Land) – use some of the for-demo site during workshop as well as interested landowners. (Ackley workshop had about 15 acres).
 - o If we do another workshop it would be beneficial for us to do it more west (near Derek Johnson in Park Falls – contact him to get him in the game) to get more landowners/contractors involved. This will need to be done this winter or in December on a good dry location. Open this workshop more to the foresters/ contractors/ wildlife biologist in the area. (Young Forest Workshop– Contractor Demonstration Included). Rusk County does not have a DNR person available, position is vacant and searching.
- **Young Forest Contractors List:** useful for in house information on contractor details. Price is not usually the determining factors on who is getting hired based on landowner decisions. We want to provide general info to landowners to help them decide on a contractor.
- **DNR – Janet:** Working on finding and contacting more people for this year. 1 property from last year needs to be sheared. Additional property has good upland alder – waiting for parties to agree on contract. Eric B. – has two that he is working on getting ready to shear. Janet/Tom – have multiple sites that they are going to consider shearing next winter (updates on excel that will be sent to Randee). Have multiple site visits planned to check alder (will be added to spreadsheet). Looking good to be set up
 - o **Tom’s Situation:** Still working in Merrill – applying to biologist cohort for headwaters – if he does not get it he will be transferred to Wausau. We want to start including Marathon County more in YF work. Leaves Eric B. to be the only Tech left to do YF work in Lincoln and Langlade counties.
- **DNR – Ryan:** Four projects in the works for 2017/2018 winter. Waiting on one of those to agree to contract. One is a 2016/2017 project that did not get finished due to poor conditions. All are flagged and ready to go. An addition property was referred to NRCS partly due to the want of a management plan. Contractors list has been completed and forwarded in house for our use to have more detailed information on contractors available.

Mailings – Randee:

- Next mailing – potentially 7 townships in Ashland/Iron if worth the effort, Price County (pink area that was mailed in 2014 – after sifting out MFL and landowners that we already work with see what the number are, then if we need more finish up Oneida and maybe Rusk).
- Ashland/Iron: have not been reached yet. Counties touching Lake Superior do receive a lot of mailings from other agencies, so we should be looking to target a small area specific.
- Cut our mailings back to two mailings instead of three. We could add some of the hunting info to the first mailing.

Annual Report – Randee:

- Collect numbers from partners
- NRCS switched to NRCS/ABC
- Remove ‘new people in office’ sections
- Grant updates and explanations/breakdowns – County/aspen shearing/alder shearing
- Section on NFWF 2017-2018
- Provide the report to partners who can pass it on within their agencies, landowners we have worked with
- Provide flow chart of where landowners can go for funding/plans for alder/aspen shearing to explain the options they have and what the different agencies do
- Include map of where we are planning to expand
- Section on management plans and provide info on how a plan can help and that we can help them get one
- Add Jeremy’s Wildlife Professional article as well as Anna’s research update
- I-Naturalist citizen science project could be mentioned in “looking ahead”
- **Altering the Report:**
 - o is it for partners or landowners – hard to use one document for both parties
 - o two documents – one for each – Popular version vs Professional version
 - o include map of our work area
 - o Professional report to partners is priority then look into a summary for the landowners

Notes:

- We could start going back into the files of properties that have had shearing done in the past but still have more alder available. Is that additional alder ready to shear again?
- Create a young forest group on I-Naturalist for landowners to start talking about how the management activities are helping their land.
- Webpage – ‘For Landowners’ tab to provide testimonies and resources on what they can do on their land – Snapshot WI, I-Naturalist, Annual Frog Surveys, Woodcock or grouse drum counts.
- Outreach Subcommittee- Includes Callie and Amber who weren’t communicated recently on outreach emails, as well as Randee, Chuck Fergus, Jamie Nack, and Gary Zimmer. Amber use to give monthly emails to subcommittee to keep them all up to date.