

**Key Questions to Address**

- **What actions/projects do we need to take now and in future to increase forest restoration?**
- **What are barriers to restoration and how do we overcome those barriers?**

People split into 4 groups to address these questions. Two groups were primarily composed of private landowners and agencies and groups that work with private landowners. The other two groups were primarily composed of agencies that manage public lands.

People wrote their ideas on large notecards, and these were then roughly sorted into categories that seemed to address similar topics. Below is a listing of those grouped topics and all the notes from the note cards.

The results of this process will be used by the NSFC Executive Committee when planning actions of the NSFC for the coming year. The Executive Committee is made up of representatives from several agencies, groups, and private landowners.

**Category 1 – Publicity and Visibility for the Restoration Effort**

- **Actions**
  - Highlight what we already have done
  - Annual Report – get the word out
  - Capture work that has already been done. Agree on what activities to track on.
  - Have identifiable “Restoration Sites – come see tomorrow” to provide live examples of restoration
  - Have a focused event to accomplish outreach
  - Have more signs, more events, publish stories in newspapers in the Twin Cities
  - Have greater visibility, do marketing, let landowners know what to do
  - Communicate benefits of forest management to multiple stakeholders
  - Develop ways to market properties that need harvest
  - Outreach – how to get to private landowners better.
  - Outreach – for agencies - finding data
- **Barriers**
  - The number of people and lack of and variable ownerships
  - Reaching absentee owners. Some properties are the worst.
  - Lack of time and grant writers
  - Lack of publicity, lack of follow-up
  - Getting enough response from private landowners
  - Lack of Funding
  - Limited capacity in natural resource management (funding, people, materials)

**Category 2 - Prioritize Areas to Treat**

- **Actions**
  - Focus on big picture – maybe we can restore our piece, but haven’t done it collectively. We could do more.
  - Need baseline of where we are now, and how to measure

- Need inventory of problems in the North Shore Forest – should be comprehensive, deal with issues and be easy to understand
- Modeling to better focus treatments
- Choose areas and treatments that give biggest bang for limited dollars
- On public land – plant areas that are the most visible and in the greatest need
- Identify forest health issues spatially and prioritize
- Know what areas to NOT invest in, for example DOT right of way where road construction and relocation will be taking place
- Collaborate to protect and prioritize
- **Solutions**
  - Self- connect
  - Expand relationships with a variety of stakeholders
- **Barriers**
  - Each agency has its own rules that it has to follow
  - Lack of data and funding

### **Category 3 – Get Private Landowners Planting More Trees**

- **Actions**
  - Make connections with interested parties
  - Contact realtors for absentee owners/new owners
  - Contact Two Harbors High School environmental club and Grand Marais Environmental Club – student members are always looking for projects
  - Increase Communication via Neighbor to Neighbor project and agencies that work with private landowners
  - Maintain network
  - Establish more contacts
  - Talking to landowners that have already been doing restoration
  - Private consultations on individual properties
  - Education, funds, more staff to provide services
  - Inspire landowners to manage their forestlands
  - Collaboration
  - Donate days to others, rain or shine
  - Utilize a targeted volunteer program (Northwoods Volunteer Program)
  - Plant more trees
  - Grant requests – contact SWCD for what grants
  - Conservation Legacy Partnership grants
  - NSFC should put in an application for CCMI work crews (Conservation Crew of Minnesota & Iowa)
  - Target outreach to landowners – start with SWCD
  - Set small goals (example in Neighbor to Neighbor program focus on small neighborhoods)
  - Neighbor to Neighbor program can connect landowners to resources and other landowners
  - Connect with Trout Unlimited (Juenemann can make the connection)
  - Create/improve links and resources to help landowners with their restoration efforts
- **Barriers**

- Working alone
- Need help with planting
- Lack of staff for private consultations
- Challenging conditions, identifying interested landowners
- Working alone with limited energy and resources
- Limited time/energy/funds
- Many small parcels; many owners make it complicated
- Falling trees that take down the cages

**Category 4 – Goal Setting**

- **Barriers**
  - Do we understand our goal?
  - How do we determine we have met our goal?
  - Have cross-boundary BMPs (best management practices)
- **Actions**
  - Increase the collaboration between federal/state/county and private
  - Share data
  - If you know what you want, the dollars can come

**Category 5- Miscellaneous**

- Have coordinator position be full time
- Develop markets for the various species
- Dead and dying birch– cut first, but they have low value and may increase fire risk. – Discuss with U of M forest resources
- Need to also partner with SAF – Society of American Foresters
- Develop a private sector employee reward system – work with major companies so instead of giving a prize for length of service, or safety, they plant x number of trees on the north shore in the employees name.
- (Barrier) Limited capacity of State parks to do landscape scale forest management