

Mistik Public Advisory Group Tour

June 19, 2025

The Mistik Public Advisory Group (“PAG”) met for a field tour on June 19, 2025. The tour was held in the Provincial Forest, north of Goodsoil on the Mistik FMA (license) area. This year’s field tour explored regenerating harvest blocks and the different types of renewal treatments done on them.

Tour stop #1 – 1999 Mixedwood Harvest Area (Block 03-005-05)

This stop was in a mixedwood block that was harvested in 1999. The block was planted in 2001 with white spruce following harvest. Mistik did an establishment survey in 2004 and the block was considered sufficiently regenerating at that time with a stocking of 98%. We noticed that there were some natural white spruce trees in the area that have grown in addition to the planted ones. The road we walked in on had not been reclaimed following harvest. Roads built prior to 2004 do not carry the same reclamation requirements as those built after that, where all new roads are to be reclaimed post-harvest. The road has a narrow ATV trail that does not appear to get much use.



Regeneration along the old road



ATV trail on road that was not reclaimed after harvest

Tour stop #2 – 2004 and 1994 Mixedwood Harvest Areas

The first block we visited at the second stop (block 02-016-39) was harvested in 2004 and planted with white spruce in the fall of the same year. An establishment survey was done in 2009 (93% stocking), and a free-to-grow survey was done in 2018 (100% stocking).

The second block we visited at this stop (block 02-016-04) was harvested in 1994 and planted with white spruce in 1997. An establishment survey was done in 2001 which showed the block was sufficiently regenerating with 92% stocking.



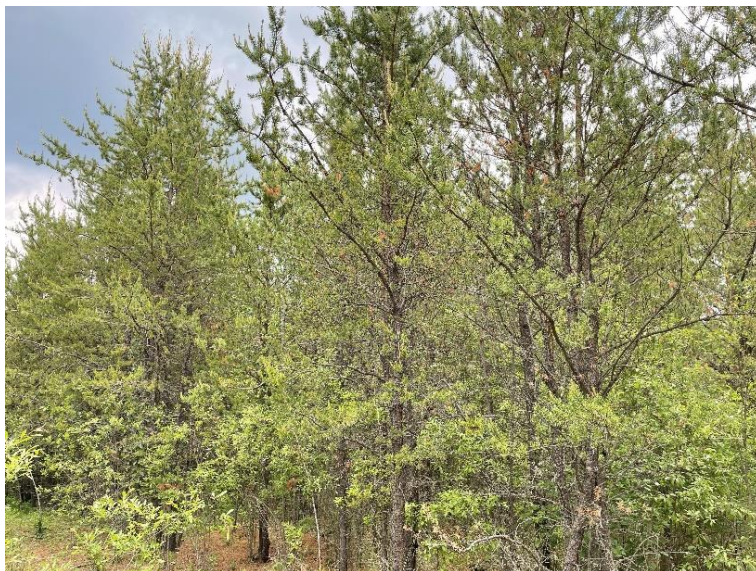
Pipeline through 2004 harvest area



Regeneration in 1994 harvest area

Tour stop #3 – 1991 Jack Pine Harvest Area (Block 02-014-04)

As was common in the 1990's, this block was site prepared with a disk trencher (1993) prior to being planted with jack pine (1994). This technique is no longer used as we now use a 'lighter footprint' site preparation technique (scarification) or leave jack pine blocks to regenerate naturally with very good success rates. The block had an establishment survey done in 1998 which showed it was sufficiently regenerating (97% stocking).



Regenerating jack pine block harvested in 1991.

Tour stop #4 – 2003 Jack Pine Harvest Area (Block 02-014-37)

The fourth stop on our tour was a 2003 jack pine harvest area. This area was left for natural regeneration of jack pine. The area had an establishment survey in 2004 and was sufficiently regenerating (88% stocked).



Natural regeneration of a jack pine area. We were gathered on the road which was not reclaimed post-harvest

Tour stop #5 – 2024 Hardwood harvest area (Block 02-014-54)

Just prior to getting rained on, we made a quick stop at a harvest area from this past winter season. The area is being left to regenerate naturally as it was a hardwood (primarily trembling aspen) stand.



2024 Hardwood harvest area. This block will have trembling aspen suckers appear this summer.

Mistik would like to provide the following clarification related to a question that was asked about the presence of Mountain Pine Beetle in the Mistik FMA Area (clarification provided by the Ministry of Environment post-field tour):

MPB was detected in 2015 near Cold Lake, on the Alberta side of the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range (CLAWR), approximately 50 km from the SK border. In response to this detection, the Forest Service monitored the SK side of CLAWR for 7 years from 2017-2023 and did not detect any MPB.

The good news is that there have been no MPB detections within Saskatchewan, and in fact, since that finding, the MPB population appears to be shifting westward rather than eastward.

The following groups/organizations were represented at the PAG spring tour:

Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation
Zone 8 Trappers
NorSask Forest Products
Ministry of Environment – Forest Service
Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp

Meadow Lake Junior Forest Wardens
Northern Village of Green Lake
Northern Village of Île-à-la-Crosse
Ducks Unlimited Canada

Mistik would like to thank everyone who took part in the tour this year. We enjoyed having you join us and appreciate your questions and feedback.

Photo credits: Emily Poloni, Lorne Neale