From: Robert Welch [welchr@execpc.com]
Sent: May 22, 2006 9:30 PM
To: Dupies, Dan/MKE
Subject: Re: Have you firmed up plans on when you will be in the Rapids' field?

Specific Upland Area Observations from south end of Airport south to Nepco Lake

Proposed Road Corridor - West of Sampson Street along County Z to Range Line Road

North of County K - Southwest of Airport

Relatively Level parcel with two gated access roads (power grid ROW) and Range Line Road. Steep slope drops down to Nepco Lake wetland edge, the upland to the northwest and west of Range Line Road is primarily mixed hardwood (maple, oak, basswood)-conifer (white pine) forest with wet pockets and floodplain forest (green/ black ash, silver maple and cottonwood) closer to the Wisconsin River. Understory dominated by excellent structure of young subdominant trees and shrubs and relatively undisturbed herb layer. Based on Kotar forestry handbook, this site is best suited to wet-mesic and wet forest species. Level of previous disturbance and presence of invasive species shows some limited disturbance along access roads with Asian honeysuckle and European buckthorn.

North of County Z - Southeast of Airport

Narrow upland parcel along road drops steeply to an intermittent drainage system surrounded by mature white pines.
Parcel gradually grades upward to a dry, sandy mixed pine and hardwood forest, recently thinned. Formerly a jack pine-pin oak barrens, succeeded into a southern dry forest, managed primarily for conifer production. Parcel with one bicycle footpath trail, dirt and gravel. Western slope drops down to Nepco Lake wetland edge. White pine lowland understory dominated by young red maple and prickly ash, upland edge understory dominated by American hazelnut, northern pin oak. Based on Kotar forestry handbook, this site is best suited to mixed oak and pine, oak barrens type. Level of previous disturbance and presence of invasive species shows quite a bit of disturbance within 20 meters of the road bed with spotted knapweed and Asian honeysuckle being the primary invasives.

South and West of County Z - Southwest of Airport

Relatively level parcel with three gated access roads, along County Z, each with their own small parking area. Upland forest, away from access roads and mountain bike trails, show excellent understory structure and good forest reproduction of red oak, American basswood, black cherry, yellow birch, red maple, and green ash, prickly ash, silver maple and cottonwood closer to the Wisconsin River bottomlands. The Wisconsin River spring flood margins are defined by the steep slope that drops into the flood plain forest along the river. Spring flooding downstream from the dam site, shows seasonal disturbances typical of the floodplain community. A small tributary stream flowing from Nepco Lak, under County Z and meanders to the southwest across this parcel. Bottomland floodplain understory dominated by ferns, grasses, river birch, silver maples, and scattered patches of ash trees. Based on Kotar forestry handbook, this site is best suited to wet-mesic and wet forest habitats. Level of previous disturbance and presence of

invasive species shows quite a bit of disturbance within the recently thinned portion of the level uplands close to County Z and the access trails cutting across the eastern part of this parcel. Within 10 meters of the access roads and 3 meters of the bike trails invasives have established large areas dominated by mostly Asian honeysuckle, and scattered patched of European buckthorn, spotted knapweed, Asian barberry.

South of County Z - South and Southeast of Airport
Relatively level parcel with five access roads, three dirt (one along power grid ROW), and two blacktopped roads (Nepco Lake Road and Gardners Lane). West steep slope drops down to Nepco Lake wetland edge. Slope and wooded edge dominated by Pennsylvania sedge, five other Carex sp., American hazelnut, paper birch, quaking and bigtooth aspen, speckled alder, and black cherry. Eastern portion of velel upland dominated by old pine plantation, which recently experienced a third cutting. Standing timber is healthy stand of primarily 40-50 year old red pine mixed with 80-100 year old white pine, and some scattered red maple and black oak. Western Portion, primarily 40-80 year old white pine forest grading downslope to wetland surrounding north end of Nepco Lake. Upland understory dominated by Pennsylvania sedge, lowbush blueberry, red maple seedlings, black oak seedlings, and white pine seedlings, and various native herbs in isolated undisturbed patches. Based on Kotar forestry handbook, this site is best suited to oak and pine savanna, mixed oak and pine forest. Level of previous disturbance and presence of invasive species shows much change. Plantation conditions and low light have reduced the native understory herb layer to only small patches. Dominant upland understory invasives include Asian barberry and honeysuckle. The open western slope and wetlands are seriously altered with much Asian honeysuckle, European buckthorn, common mullein, butter-n-eggs, and bull thistle.

Hope this is what you were looking for with my brief observations.
Bob