

Native Plant Restoration and Bank Stabilization along the Indian Wild and Scenic River

2007 Accomplishments

In spring of 2007 the Hiawatha National Forest undertook a project to rehabilitate eroding banks and restore native vegetation along the Indian Wild and Scenic River using live fascines made from native plant material. The restoration crew cut several truck loads of alder, willow, and dogwood live stems from a local wetland. Cuttings were soaked in a nearby lake overnight and transported to the worksite the morning of the project. Stems were trimmed, bundled and tied into fascines. The banks were terraced with shallow cup trenches. Fascines were set into each trench, covered with soil and staked into place using cuttings from the live fascine material.

Once the banks were stabilized, certified weed free soil was spread over the site as a growth medium. The slope was then planted with locally collected native seed and seedlings propagated at the Forest Service greenhouse in cooperation with the Marquette County Conservation District. To deter foot traffic and protect the slope until the plants become established, slash was placed over the newly stabilized bank. When the plants become established these project areas will become a source of native seed and future fascine material within the wild and scenic river corridor.

Both sites were monitored for effectiveness two months after implementation. New growth was documented on the fascines and the live stakes. The seedling trees, native plugs, live cuttings and native seed all showed signs of establishment. Significant rain events have occurred at both sites and the stabilizations have functioned effectively.



Eroding river bank prior to project.



Sprouting Alder stake used to secure fascine.



Installing fascine.

Year awarded: 2007

Project completion: 2007 - Final Report

Expenditures: \$9,000

Partners/Contractors/Coop: Bay College,
Marquette County Conservation District

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