

~ The Flin Flon/Creighton Green Project ~

Notes for the Soil Science Meeting at the University of Saskatchewan

~ December 10, 2010 ~

Introduction: Work progresses on the Green Project 'Report of Activities' for 2010 - it should be ready for distribution during the first quarter of 2011. What follows is a summary of progress through 2010. I have brought with me a collection of Green Project photographs taken in 2010 - together with a collection of 'Before & After' pictures.

Limestone/Areas: In 2010 - our eleventh year - we spread 82 yards of crushed limestone in 5 areas - see attached map. The total area covered during the year was been 4.28 hectares. The application rate was 19.23 yards/hectare.

During the period 2000-2010 we have spread 1,011 yards of crushed limestone in 33 areas. The total area covered has been 46.8 hectares. The application rate has been 21.61 yards/hectare.

Workers: In 2010, the work was carried out by 814 individuals. These included 617 students from Flin Flon and Creighton schools (24 sessions), 36 Community Volunteers (6 evening sessions over the summer months) and by other groups - University of the North electrical students, Natural Resources Youth Training Program, Canadian Baptists of Western Canada youth volunteers and the City of Flin Flon Summer-in-the-Parks and Base Camp programs - 161 individuals during 9 sessions.

The total the number of workers at our Greening sessions during the past eleven years comes to 7,347. Even allowing for the fact that some individuals were present at more than one session, it is clear that the Green Project has benefitted from the involvement of several thousand individuals.

Partners/Funding: Funding and in-kind support for the Green Project has come from a variety of sources over the years. Major funding at the present time comes from Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited. For detailed information, see our annual Reports of Activities, and 'Green Project News' - which is down-loadable from our web site at www.greenproject.ca .

Vegetation: The attached tabulation and 'circle map' give an indication of vegetation status in each of our areas as of fall, 2010.

In our best areas - for example, Knight North - there is a dense growth of woody vegetation, and some birch and aspen are 4-5m. high. Given time, some of the areas presently categorized as 'good' are likely to be upgraded to 'best' status. On the other hand, some 'good' areas are likely to stay in that category because although they support a reasonable density of woody

species, individual trees are clearly growing much more slowly than those in the 'best' areas. In only one area - Second Valley West (squares 10, 11) - has there been no perceptible response to the limestone treatment.

As of the fall of 2009, self-seeded conifers (spruce and jack pine) had been noted in 20 of our areas - by the fall of 2010, they had been noted in 22. Tamarack (three individuals) has been noted only at our Knight area. Scots pine (two individuals) was noted for the first time at two of our areas (Knight and Knight North).

Alder has been slower to establish itself in treated areas than have other woody species. It was first noted at our Pizza area in 2005. It is still not widespread, but by 2009 it had been noted in 12 of our areas - in 2010, it had been noted in 14.

The acid-tolerant grass *Agrostis stolonifera* is commonly the only vegetation to be seen in untreated areas - often as isolated individual tufts surrounded by un-vegetated mineral soil. Following treatment, it tends to spread and to take on a lush, healthier appearance.

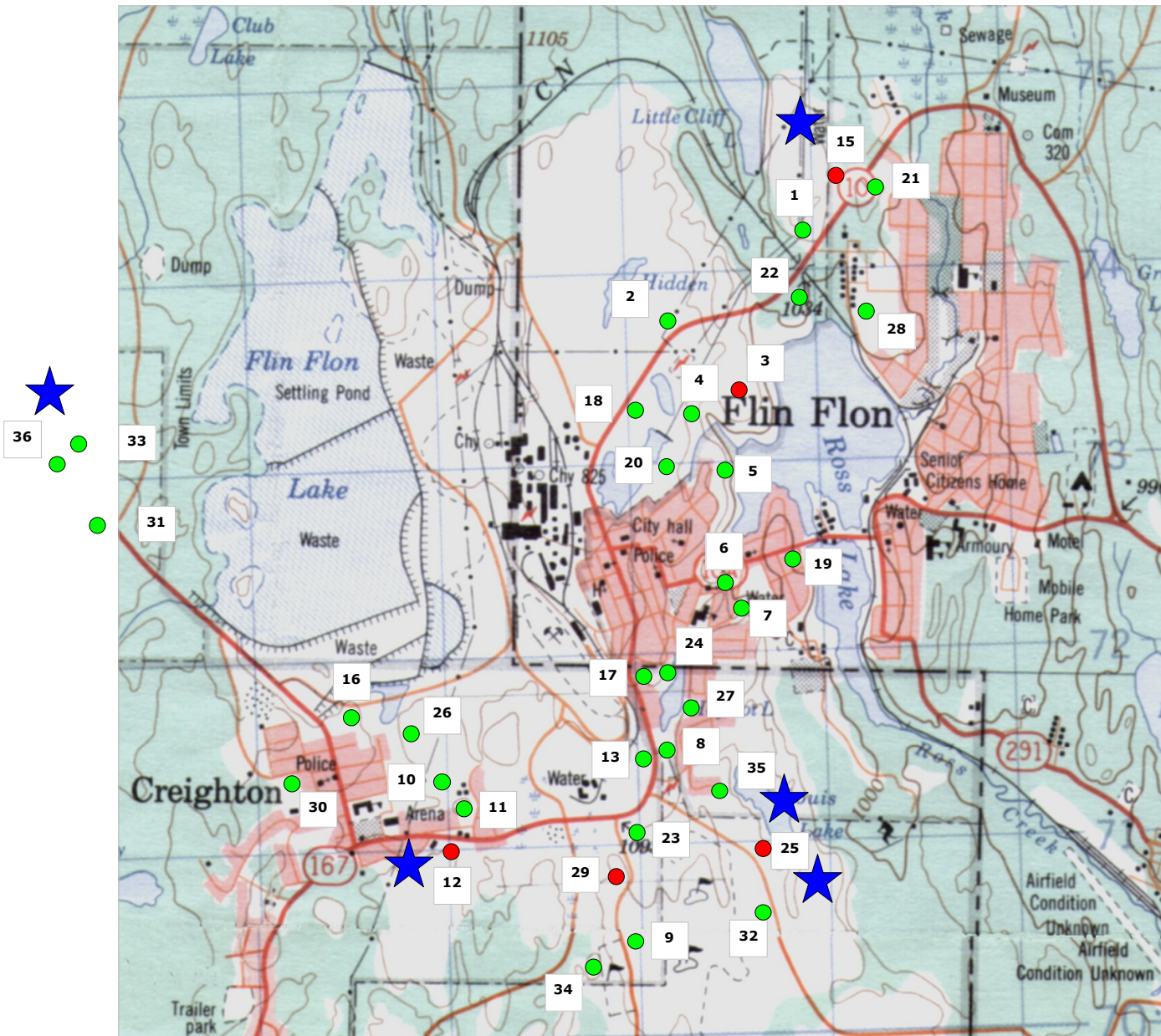
Understory species are still rather thin on the ground in most treated areas - *Agrostis* being the commonest. Herbs such as fireweed and rough cinquefoil are quite widespread, and bearberry is probably the commonest shrub. In one of our 'best' areas - Creighton North - there is still practically no understory - the ground surrounding the bases of the birch etcetera is still essentially bare mineral soil. South Hudson and Roche are unusual in having a much greater variety and density of herbs than our other areas. This is probably because they are in close proximity to houses with their gardens and yards - a good source of seeds.

In several of our best and most densely vegetated areas, there is now an accumulation of dead leaves from the falls of 2009 and 2010 - the beginnings of a new organic topsoil.

Future Plans: The attached map shows the areas we plan to treat in 2011. It seems that we can continue to depend on the schools and on the general public to supply a willing workforce - however, we are likely very soon to run out of suitable areas to treat - that is, areas that are readily accessible - and visible.

Dave Price - Green Project co-coordinator - December 8, 2010

The Green Project - Plan Map for 2011



Green circles indicate areas treated 2000 through 2009.

Red circles indicate areas treated in 2010.

Blue stars indicate work areas for the Green Project in 2011.

12-Pizza; 15-Esso; 25-Louis; 35-Icehouse; 36-Hanson.