

Akureyri, November 20, 2015

NordGen

Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute

Subject: A report from the course "Road building for planting and forest management in hilly landscape in Iceland"

The course "Road building for planting and forest management in hilly landscape in Iceland", held in Hvanneyri and Skorradal in the period Sept. 30 to Oct. 2, 2015. It was a result of cooperation between Icelandic Foresters Association and the Agricultural University of Iceland (LBHI) to increase knowledge in road building for both forestry students from the university and professional foresters in diverse forestry sectors in Iceland. Jan Bjerketvedt was responsible for the teaching. He is associate professor in Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) where he is teaching planning of forest roads. He also works with research in this field and has practical experience as forest owner himself. The teaching was a combination of lectures in Hvanneyri and practical exercises and excursions to Skorradalur forest area with discussion about various solutions in road building there.

Participants in the course were 22 where 12 came from the university (LBHI) and 13 from diverse forestry sectors as shown in following list:

1	Ellert Arnar Marísson (S&L 3 ár)	LBHI
2	Hallur Björgvinsson (S&L 3 ár)	LBHI
3	Heiða Ágústsdóttir (UMSK)	LBHI
4	Jakob Hermannsson (S&L 1 ár)	LBHI
5	Jóhanna Ólafsdóttir (S&L 3. ár)	LBHI
6	Maria Danielsdóttir Vests (S&L 1 ár)	LBHI
7	Rúnar Ingi Hjartarson (S&L 3 ár)	LBHI
8	Sigríður Embla Heiðmarsdóttir (UMSK)	LBHI
9	Sigríður Hrefna Pálsdóttir (S&L 1 ár)	LBHI
10	Silja Y. Eypórsdóttir (UMSK)	LBHI
11	Jakob Wayne Robertson	LBHI
12	Björgvin Eggertson	LBHI
13	Bergsveinn Þórsson	NLS
14	Rakel J Jónsdóttir	NLS
15	Rúnar Ísleifsson	SR
16	Teitur Davíðsson	SR
17	Gústaf Jarl	SkR
18	Valdimar Reynisson	SR
19	Hreinn Óskarson	SR
20	Jóhannes H Sigurðsson	SR
21	Sigríður Elefsen	
22	Hraundís Guðmundsdóttir	VLS
23	Sherry Curl	Hask
24	Brynjar Skúlason	SR
25	Borja Alcober	Hask



Teacher and participants on the course (in Hvanneyri)

Many different aspects in road building in forestry were discussed in the course like:

- Use of GIS programs to analyse the terrain (slope and wetness) and locate possible roads based on the analyses.
- Classification of various roads, based on requirement in carrying capacity, slope and radius of curvature, depending on the type of vehicle used for the transport.
- How to manage water drainage aside the roads with ditches and channels.
- Desirable density of roads depending on various logging methods.
- Economic calculation of road building in forestry



Participants discussing a ford in the forest (in Skorradalur)

Participants in the course had different background and experience in road building. Most of foresters in Iceland have had little experience and/or knowledge in this field and the students haven't got the opportunity to join a course in road building earlier. Some of the more experienced foresters did finish their study many years ago and needed refresher course. The cooperation between the Association and the University was sensible and the grant from Nordgen was essential to carry out the course. A copy of the accounts is in enclosure. Thanks for the support.

The board of the Icelandic Foresters Association:

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