

Upper Great Lakes Young Forest Initiative

Four-year Accomplishment Report for Wisconsin– Nov 2012

Prepared by Amber Roth

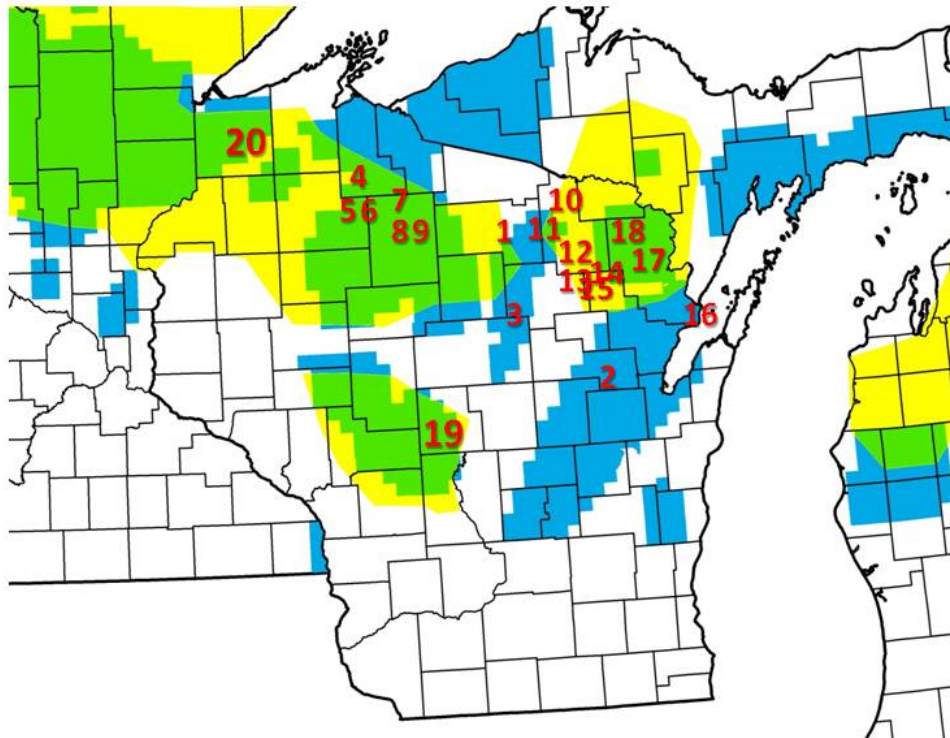
Highlights:

- Eighteen demonstration areas have been designated in Wisconsin with the hope of adding two more, one in Northwest Wisconsin and the other in the Central Forest, to complete coverage of the northern 2/3 of the state.
- In collaboration with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, a 6-county pilot project has been launched to focus resources on private lands outreach to create young forest habitat. Jeremy Holtz, Wildlife Biologist in Rhinelander, dedicates 35% of his time to this project called the North Central Wisconsin Young Forest Initiative.
- The Navarino Nature Center’s Woodcock Walk, a self-guided trail through woodcock breeding habitat components, has been completed and awaits its official launch in spring 2013.
- Demonstration area designation and habitat management is ongoing through the cooperation of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, USDA Forest Service, Ruffed Grouse Society, American Bird Conservancy, Navarino Nature Center, North Lakeland Discovery Center, and County Forests in Oneida, Vilas, Langlade, Marathon, and Marinette Counties.
- Bird monitoring has been established at 50% of the demonstration areas with plans to get the remaining nine areas up and running in 2013.
- Outreach activities are increasing as demonstration areas become better utilized.

Woodcock outreach at
Lake Tomahawk
demonstration area.

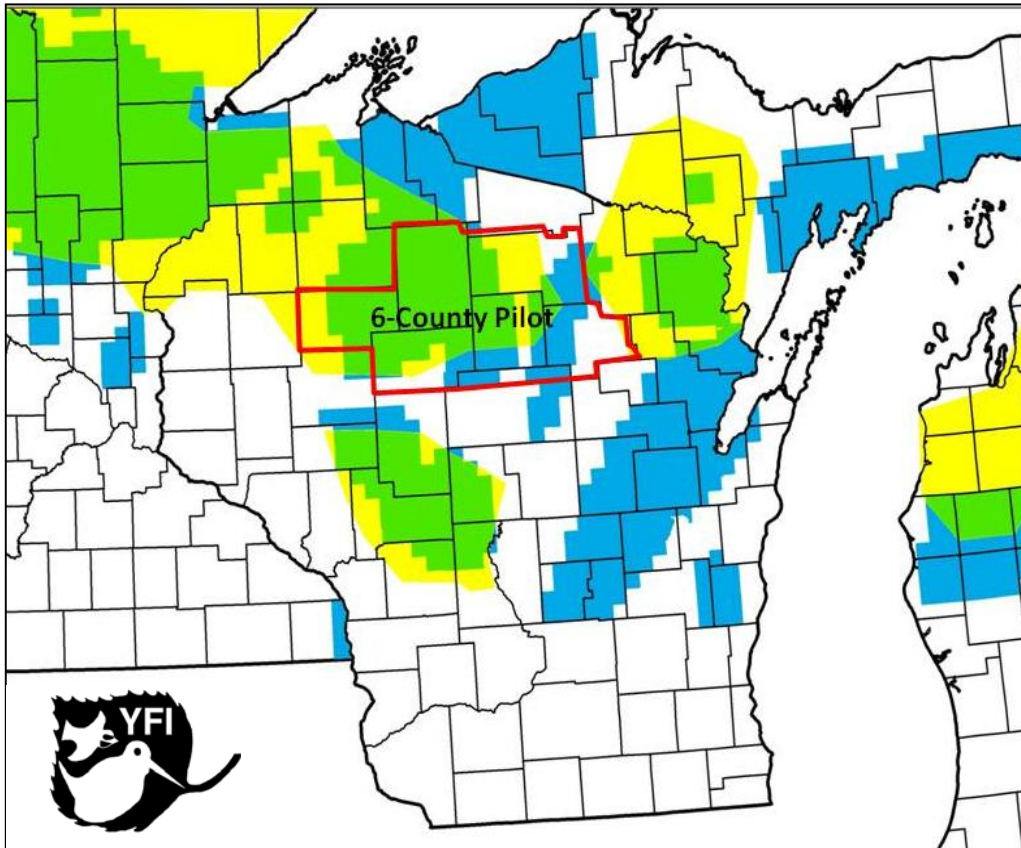


Wisconsin Demonstration Areas



Map #	Demonstration Area Name	Map #	Demonstration Area Name
<u>Established</u>		11	Scott Creek
1	Lake Tomahawk	12	Bushaefer
2	Navarino	13	Wilson Lake
3	Ackley	14	McCaslin
4	Ding Dong	15	Lafave
5	Little Moose	16	Peshtigo Harbor
6	Halfway	17	Athelstane
7	Blockhouse	18	Dunbar
8	Squaw Creek	<u>Proposed</u>	
9	Wilson	19	Sandhill
10	McDonald	20	to be determined

North Central Wisconsin Young Forest Initiative (6-county pilot area)



Project boundaries for North Central Wisconsin Young Forest Initiative.

Demonstration Areas:

Lake Tomahawk (Oneida County)

Year Created: 2008

Ownership: Wisconsin DNR Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest, private lands

Project Area: 1,200 ac

Designations: Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail site

Habitats: aspen forest, lowland brush, hardwood forest, wildlife openings, pine forest and plantations, bogs

Management demonstrations: alder shearing options (block and strip cutting patterns), aspen forest management (clearcutting and retention), wildlife openings, riparian zone management

Nearby indoor facilities for programs: Kemp Natural Resources Station, Lake Tomahawk Community Center (<http://laketomahawkwi.org/?q=node/719>)

Monitoring--# designated routes: 2 woodcock & breeding bird (1 driving, 1 walking)

Monitoring personnel: Vanessa Haesse-Lehmann (woodcock), Guy David (breeding bird)

Other activities: Outreach field trips were conducted here for Kemp Natural Resources Station (17 May 2012), Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin (5 May 2012), and the University of Wisconsin Extension Coverts Workshops (10 and 24 August 2012).

Recent Press: A newspaper article about the demo area titled “Lake Tomahawk demonstration area offers varying habitat” was written by Criag Turk and printed in the *Lakeland Times* (Minocqua, WI) and the *Rhineland Daily News* (Rhineland, WI) on 27 July 2012. Available online at <http://www.lakelandtimes.com/main.asp?SubSectionID=13&ArticleID=15719&SectionID=13>

Contacts: Craig Dalton, Jeff Olsen, Steve Petersen, Jeremy Holtz, Chuck McCullough

Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) detected (2010-2012):

Species	SGCN in <i>Under Cover</i>	SGCN in WI
<u>Detected in managed aspen < 20 yrs-old¹</u>		
Alder Flycatcher	X	
American Redstart	X	
American Woodcock	X	X
Black-and-white Warbler	X	
Canada Warbler	X	X
Chestnut-sided Warbler	X	
Eastern Towhee	X	
Golden-winged Warbler	X	X
Hermit Thrush	X	
Indigo Bunting	X	
Mourning Warbler	X	
Nashville Warbler	X	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	X	
Ruffed Grouse	X	
Veery	X	X
White-throated Sparrow	X	
Wood Thrush		X
<u>Only detected on breeding bird or woodcock route</u>		
Eastern Whip-poor-will		X
Least Flycatcher		X

¹from transect surveys conducted by Michigan Tech University

Management and Monitoring Accomplishments:

Activities	Proposed 2012	Completed 2012 ¹	3-yr Proposed	3-yr Completed	Proposed 2013-15
Timber harvest (even-aged)	117 ac	117 ac	117 ac	117 ac	20 ac
Shear alder	0	0	~30 acres	~30 acres	0
Mow trails	0	0	~1.5 mi	~1.5 mi	0
Manage openings	0	0	9 openings	9 openings	0
Monitoring--woodcock	2 routes/yr	2 routes	2 routes/yr	2 routes	2 routes/yr
Monitoring--breeding bird	2 routes/yr	2 routes	2 routes/yr	2 routes	2 routes/yr

¹2012 management likely used as match for NFWF grant via American Bird Conservancy



Two wetland harvest areas along the Wisconsin River: strip cut (left photo) and 50% block cut (right).



Mowing was used to remove invading trees from openings (left) and to widen trails for tours (right).



Aspen forest that was “falling apart” (right) was harvested in 2012 (left) with oak and pine retention.

Ackley (Langlade and Marathon Counties)

Year Created: 2009

Ownership: Wisconsin DNR, Langlade County Forest, Marathon County Forest

Project Area: 22,380 ac.

Designations: NONE

Habitats: 70% aspen forest, 23% lowland brush, 4% grass/herb, 3% misc other forest and wetlands

Management demonstrations: alder shearing options (block and patch cutting patterns), aspen forest management (clearcutting and retention), management of adjacent alder and aspen as habitat mosaic, prescribed burning

Area indoor facilities for programs: ??

Monitoring--# designated routes: 2 woodcock & breeding bird

Monitoring personnel: Eric Borchert (woodcock-Langlade), Cortney Schaefer (woodcock-Marathon), Nancy Richmond (breeding bird-Langlade), vacant (breeding bird-Marathon)

Other activities: A landowner workshop was held here on 23 June 2012. The event was covered by Wisconsin DNR Weekly: http://dnr.wi.gov/news/Weekly/WeeklyNews_Print.asp?id=2218

Contacts: Eric Borchert, Cortney Schaefer, Rick Weide, Chuck McCullough

Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) detected (2011-2012):

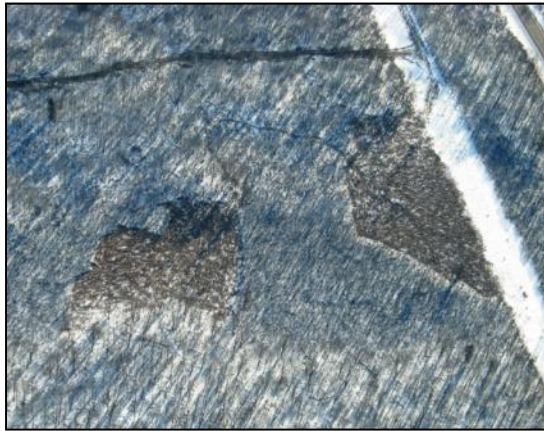
Species	SGCN in <i>Under Cover</i>	SGCN in WI
<u>Detected in managed alder areas¹</u>		
Alder Flycatcher	X	
American Redstart	X	
American Woodcock	X	X
Chestnut-sided Warbler	X	
Golden-winged Warbler	X	X
Gray Catbird	X	
Indigo Bunting	X	
Mourning Warbler	X	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	X	
White-throated Sparrow	X	
Yellow Warbler	X	
<u>Only detected on breeding bird route</u>		
Bobolink		X
Eastern Meadowlark		X
Field Sparrow	X	X
Least Flycatcher		X

¹from point count surveys

Management and Monitoring Accomplishments:

Activities	Proposed 2012	Completed 2012 ¹	3-yr Proposed	3-yr Completed	Proposed 2013-14
Timber Harvest (even-aged)	337 ac	~400 ac	1,011 ac	~1,200 ac	674 ac
Shear alder	100 ac	108 ac	300 ac	240 ac	200 ac
Monitoring--woodcock	2 routes/year	2 routes	2 routes/year	2 routes	2 routes
Monitoring--breeding bird	2 routes/year	1 route	2 routes/year	1 route	2 routes

¹2012 management funded by NFWF via American Bird Conservancy.



At Ackley, we are comparing the response of Golden-winged Warbler to two alder wetland cutting prescriptions: block cuts (right), and patch cuts (left). The patch cut method is a 50% harvest of an area leaving islands of alder in the cut area and an irregular edge to create the patchy shrub pattern Golden-winged Warblers prefer. With this method, a larger area can be treated for the same effort.

Other Established Demonstration Areas:

Navarino Wildlife Area (Shawano County)

Year Created: 2009

Ownership: Wisconsin DNR

Project Area: Originally proposed 820 acres (two areas: 720 ac in NE corner of Navarino, 100 ac near Hwy K), accomplishments reported for entire 15,000 ac property.

Designations: National Wild & Scenic River (Wolf River), Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resources Area, Great Wisconsin Birding & Nature Trail site

Habitats: aspen forest, lowland brush, hardwood forest, wildlife openings, grassland/prairie

Management demonstrations: alder shearing options (block and strip cutting patterns), aspen forest management, biomass harvest, wildlife openings, illegal marijuana restoration site

Nearby indoor facilities for programs: Navarino Nature Center

Monitoring--# designated routes: 1 woodcock & breeding bird

Monitoring personnel: Tim Ewing and NNC volunteers

Other activities: Woodcock Walk, a mini-demo self-guided trail, is completed and a media event to launch the trail is planned for spring 2013. An educational brochure has been completed that can be used by visitors to the trail.

Contacts: Kay Brockman-Medegas, Tim Ewing

Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) detected (2010-2011):

Species	SGCN in <i>Under Cover</i>	SGCN in WI
<u>Detected on breeding bird and</u>		
<u>Woodcock Route</u>		
Alder Flycatcher	X	
American Woodcock	X	X
Eastern Towhee	X	
Field Sparrow	X	X
Gray Catbird	X	
Indigo Bunting	X	
Least Flycatcher		X
Mourning Warbler	X	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	X	
Veery	X	X
Vesper Sparrow		X
Wood Thrush		X

Management and Monitoring Accomplishments:

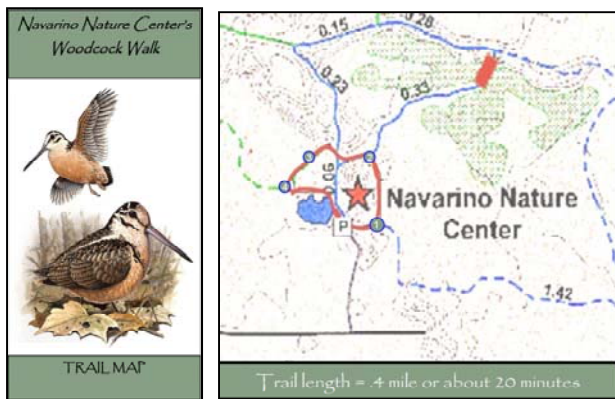
Activities	Proposed 2012	Completed 2012	3-yr Proposed	3-yr Completed	Proposed 2013
Timber harvest (even-aged)	10 ac (biomass)	94 ac (clearcut)	10 ac (biomass)	255 ac (clearcut)	73 ac (clearcut)
Shear alder	0 ac	0 ac	15-20 acres	8 ac	10 ac
Mow trails	72 mi	32 mi	8 mi	157 mi	72 mi
Manage openings	20 ac	23 ac	82.5 ac	73 ac	28 ac
Prescribed burning	125 ac	125 ac	0 ac	289 ac	333 ac
Marijuana reclamation	5 ac/yr	7 ac	5 ac/yr	12 ac	5 ac
Monitoring--woodcock	1 route/yr	1 route	1 route/yr	1 route (3 yrs)	1 route/yr
Monitoring—breeding bird	1 route/yr	0 route	1 route/yr	1 routes (2 yrs)	1 route/yr



Alder harvest areas in 2010-11 at Navarino Wildlife Area.



An illegal marijuana plantation (left) has been reclaimed for young forest habitat (right).



The Navarino Nature Center Woodcock Walk is a mini-demo area highlighting the four components of woodcock breeding habitat: 1) singing grounds and roosting fields, 2) alder shrublands for foraging, 3) young aspen forest for nesting, and 4) 15-20 year-old aspen for brood-rearing cover.

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (12 demo areas)

Year Created: 2009

Ownership: US Forest Service

Project Area: 12,731 acres

Designations: Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail (multiple sites), Wisconsin Land Legacy Site

Habitats: aspen forest, lowland brush, hardwood forest, grass/herb, misc other forest and wetlands

Management demonstrations: alder shearing, aspen forest management (clearcutting, shelterwood, green-tree retention), wildlife openings

Area indoor facilities for programs: depends on site

Monitoring--# designated routes: 12 woodcock & breeding bird & ruffed grouse

Monitoring personnel: Mike Bablick (woodcock- Blockhouse, Wilson, Squaw Creek), J. Scott (breeding bird-Blockhouse, Wilson, Squaw Creek), Mike Peczynski (McDonald), Scott Anderson (Bushaefer), Dave Ruid (Halfway)

Summary of activities: NEPA is complete, public comment period has passed. Timber Sales being prepared and sold for initial harvest. 805 acres currently sold and under harvest contract. Another 1,700+ acres being prepared for sale in FY 13-14 for harvest. Hunter Walking Trails and managed openings treated. Alder shearing sites being set up in preparation for shearing when climatic conditions are suitable.

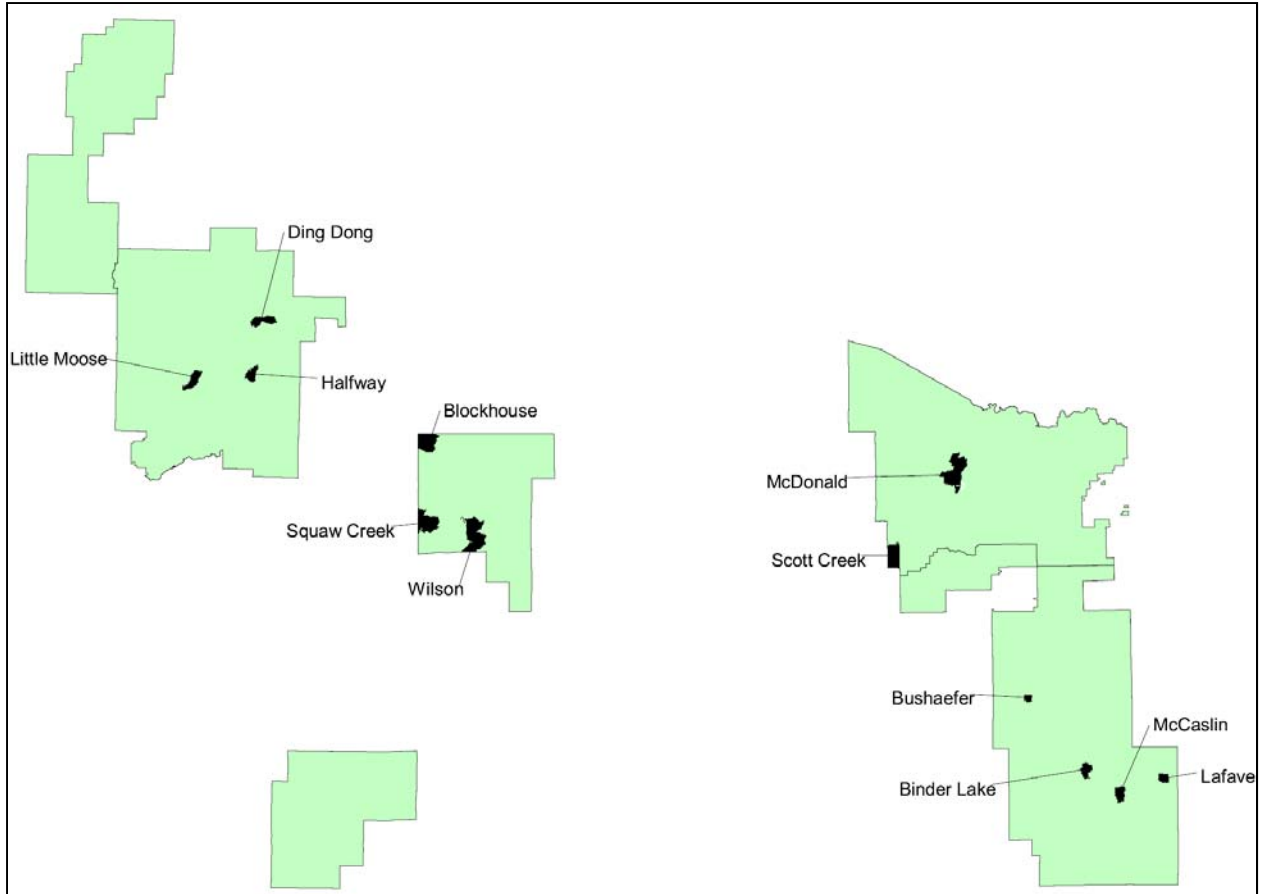
Contacts: Dan Eklund

Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) detected (2010-2012):

Species	SGCN in <i>Under Cover</i>	SGCN in WI	Blockhouse	Squaw Creek	Wilson	Halfway	McDonald	Bushaefer
<u>Detected on breeding bird and Woodcock Routes</u>								
Alder Flycatcher	X				X	X		
American Woodcock	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-and-white Warbler	X		X	X	X	X		
Brown Thrasher	X	X		X				
Canada Warbler	X	X	X	X				
Chestnut-sided Warbler	X		X	X	X			X
Field Sparrow	X	X			X			
Golden-winged Warbler	X	X		X	X			
Gray Catbird	X				X			
Hermit Thrush	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Indigo Bunting	X				X			X
Least Flycatcher		X		X			X	
Magnolia Warbler	X		X		X			
Mourning Warbler	X		X	X	X	X		
Nashville Warbler	X		X	X	X	X		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Veery	X	X	X	X	X			
White-throated Sparrow	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Wood Thrush		X			X			
Yellow Warbler	X		X					

Management and Monitoring Accomplishments:

Activities	Completed 2012	Proposed 2013-16	Proposed 2017-21	10-year Proposed Total
Timber Harvest (even-aged)	162 ac cut + 805 ac sold	1790 ac to be sold by 2014	1,209 ac	5,585 ac
Shear alder	0 ac	Up to 150 ac	Up to 150 ac	300 ac
Mow trails	30 mi	50 mi	50+ mi	130 mi
Manage openings	86 ac	35 ac	24 ac	145 ac
Monitoring-- Woodcock	5 routes	1 route/yr/demo (12 total)	1 route/yr/demo (12 total)	1 route/yr/demo (12 total)
Monitoring— Breeding Birds	5 routes	1 route/yr/demo (12 total)	1 route/yr/demo (12 total)yr	1 route/yr/demo (12 total)
Monitoring— Ruffed Grouse	1 route	1 route/yr/demo (12 total)	1 route/yr/demo (12 total)	1 route/yr/demo (12 total)



Map of Demonstration Areas on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest:

New Demonstration Areas (created in partial fulfillment of American Bird Conservancy NFWF grant):

Athelstane Barrens (Marinette County)

Year Created: 2012

Ownership: Marinette County Forest

Project Area: 1,450 acres

Designations: Wisconsin Important Bird Area, Marinette County Conservation Opportunity Area, Wisconsin Land Legacy Site

Habitats: rare oak and pine barrens, oak forest, aspen forest, alder thickets

Management demonstration opportunities: prescribed burning techniques, decadent alder regeneration management (strip/patch), even-aged forest management (use golden-winged warbler green-tree retention guidelines where possible)

Monitoring--# designated routes: 1 breeding bird and woodcock

Monitoring personnel: Noel Cutright?? (needs to be asked yet)

Area indoor facilities: Amberg Town hall, Wausaukee Ranger Station, Camp Bird Nature Center

Contacts: Dave Halfmann

Management and Monitoring Accomplishments:

Activities	Proposed 2012	Completed 2012	Proposed 2013
Timber Harvest (even-aged)	230 ac	0 ac	24 ac
Shear alder	0 ac	0 ac	5? ac
Prescribed burn	0 ac	0 ac	? ac, probably not due to no \$/timing
Mow trails	no	no	no
Manage openings	no	no	yes
Invasive plant control ¹	12 ac (spot treat)	12 ac (spot treat)	12 ac (spot treat)
Monitoring--woodcock	1 route/year	0	1 route
Monitoring--breeding bird	1 route/year	0	1 route
Monitoring—rare plants	25 ac	25 ac	25 ac

¹Spotted knapweed

Dunbar/Pike River (Marinette County)

Year Created: 2012

Ownership: Marinette County Forest

Project Area: 1,640 acres

Designations: Pike River Habitat Management Area designated in the late 1980s by Ruffed Grouse Society

Habitats: aspen forest, alder thickets

Management demonstration opportunities: traditional even-aged aspen (use golden-winged warbler green-tree retention guidelines where possible) and alder (strip/patch) management for game species, primarily ruffed grouse and woodcock

Monitoring--# designated routes: 1 woodcock & 1 breeding bird

Monitoring personnel: Kay Kavanaugh?? (needs to be asked yet?)

Area indoor facilities: Dunbar Sportsmen's Club

Contacts: Dave Halfmann

Recent Press: Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel article titled “Woodcocks abundant in young forests” by Paul Smith from 20 October, 2013. Available online at <http://www.jsonline.com/sports/outdoors/habitat-in-marquette-thats-cut-for-the-birds-vq79fvg-175096681.html>

Management and Monitoring Accomplishments:

Activities	Proposed 2012	Completed 2012	Proposed 2013
Timber Harvest (even-aged)	0 ac	0 ac	26 ac
Shear alder	0 ac	0 ac	5 ac
Mow trails	0 mi	0 mi	2 mi ¹
Monitoring--woodcock	1 route/year	0	1 route
Monitoring--breeding bird	1 route/year	0	1 route

¹Partnership with Ruffed Grouse Society, Dunbar Sportsman’s Club, Marinette County Forestry, Wisconsin DNR

Peshtigo Harbor (Marinette County)

Year Created: 2012

Ownership: Wisconsin DNR

Project Area: 1,500 acres

Designations: Tier II site in Wisconsin Stopover Initiative, SNA for State-threatened Cerulean Warbler, Wisconsin Important Bird Area, Wisconsin Land Legacy Site, Marinette County Conservation Opportunity Area

Habitats: aspen and red-maple forest, swamp hardwoods including pristine ash hardwood swamp, successional fields, alder thickets

Management demonstration opportunities: even-aged aspen and red-maple management (use golden-winged warbler green-tree retention guidelines where possible), alder management (strip/patch), invasive buckthorn control, and protection (non-management) and restoration? of hardwood swamp habitat, ash conservation

Monitoring--# designated routes: 1 woodcock & 1 BBS

Monitoring personnel: John Huff and Joan Campbell

Area Facilities: WDNR Peshtigo Service Center, Peshtigo Community Center

Contacts: John Huff

Management and Monitoring Accomplishments:

Activities	Proposed 2012	Completed 2012	Proposed 2013
Timber Harvest (even-aged)	62 ac	0 ac	144 ac
Shear alder	0 ac	0 ac	20 ac
Prescribed burn	25 ac	25 ac	0 ac
Invasive plant control	0 ac	0 ac	32 ac ¹
Monitoring--AMWO	1 route/year	0	1 route
Monitoring--BBS	1 route/year	0	1 route

¹Buckthorn treatment prior to timber harvest

Proposed New Demonstration Area (created in partial fulfillment of American Bird Conservancy NFWF grant):

Sandhill Demonstration Area (Central Forest, Wood County)

To be determined (Douglas County)