Cicero Swamp
Wildlife Management Area
Habitat Management Plan

September 26, 2016
Town of Clay Town Hall, 4401 Route 31, Clay, NY
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Andrew Drake, Forester
Adam Robedee, Forestry Technician
Agenda

• Overview of Wildlife Management Areas
• Highlights of Cicero Swamp Wildlife Management Area
• Overview of the Young Forest Initiative and Habitat Management Plans
• Goals and Management Activities for Cicero Swamp
• Questions
What is a Wildlife Management Area?

• Open to the public
• To provide & enhance:
  ▪ wildlife habitat
  ▪ wildlife-dependent recreation
• Sporting license fee/Federal PR funded
Region 7 Wildlife Management Areas

- 9 counties
- 14 WMAs (53,268 ac.)
- 11 WMAs included in YFI (52,956 ac.)
Cicero Swamp Wildlife Management Area

Overview:
- Acquired in 1945
- 4,991 acres
- Mostly forested wetland (80%)

Past Management:
- Grassland maintenance
- Pond creation
- Very limited forest management
Young Forest Initiative

- Creating habitat for wildlife
- More opportunities for bird watching, hunting, fishing
- Will evaluate effectiveness of management and adapt if needed

Learn more at: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/104218.html
What is a Habitat Management Plan?

- A 10-year plan to manage habitat for wildlife
- Acreage goals for each habitat type
- Guided by responsible management practices

Photo: Mike Putnam
Cicero Swamp Habitat Management Plan

Major Goals:

- Create 12% young forest
- Promote forest diversity
- Maintain shrublands
- Maintain/improve grasslands with mowing/fire
- Seasonally regulate impoundments
Cicero Swamp Habitat Classification

CURRENT
- Forest, 89%
- Young Forest, <1%
- Shrubland, <1%
- Grassland, 3%
- Wetland, 6%
- Open water, <1%
- Impounded, 1%
- Other, <1%

PROPOSED
- Forest, 76%
- Young Forest, 12%
- Wetland, 6%
- Impounded, 1%
- Open water, <1%
- Shrubland, 1%
- Other, <1%
- Grassland, 2%
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Target YFI Species:

- American Woodcock
  - Open areas for singing
  - Moist, rich soils for feeding
  - Young, dense forest for nesting and brood rearing
  - Overgrown fields/shrublands for roosting

Photo by Tom Bell
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Other species of interest:
- Eastern massasauga rattlesnake
- Ruffed grouse/wild turkey
- Cerulean warbler
- Spotted turtle
- Waterfowl
- Bats
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Management Actions:

Forest
- Timber harvests
- Non-commercial forest management

Shrubland
- Tree removal, brush hog
- Control invasive species
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Management Actions:

**Grassland**
- Routine mowing
- Prescribed fire
- Improvement at 481 Ponds

**Wetland and Pond**
- Maintain dikes and WCS
- Seasonally regulate water levels in 481 ponds
- Control invasive species
Specific plans:
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481 Ponds area

- Improve grass areas
- Create shrublands/YF/soft-edge
- Continue to regulate water levels
- Control invasive aquatic plants
Cicero Swamp Habitat Management Plan

Northwest section

- Maintain grassland areas (yellow)
- Harvest via seed tree cut (green)
- Create patch clear cuts (red)
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East section

- Create patch clear cuts (red)
- Harvest via clearcut (orange)
- Harvest via seed tree cuts (green)
- Maintain shrubland areas
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Monitoring Activities:

• Before and After Surveys
  ▪ Woodcock (annual)
  ▪ Songbirds (semi-annual)

• Sensitive Species Surveys
  ▪ Rare bats
  ▪ E. massasauga rattlesnake

• Vegetative Response
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Thank you!

Questions?

Survey on the table