Pharsalia

Wildlife Management Area
Habitat Management Plan

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Otselic Valley Central School Cafeteria, January 11th, 2017
Agenda

• Overview of Wildlife Management Areas

• Highlights/History of Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area

• Overview of the Young Forest Initiative and Habitat Management Plans

• Goals and Management Activities for Pharsalia

• Questions
What is a Wildlife Management Area?

• To provide & enhance:
  ▪ wildlife habitat
  ▪ wildlife-dependent recreation

• Sporting license fee/Federal PR funded

• Open to the public
Region 7 Wildlife Management Areas

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

Overview:
- Acquired in 1927 (first)
- 4,689 acres
- Mostly forested (91%)
- BCA

Past Management:
- Extensive reforestation
- Pond creation 1930-1950’s
- Timber harvests
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
Young Forest Initiative

- YF management nothing new
- YF targeted work in 1987 on Pharsalia
- Limited forester time + large acreage = over mature forests
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
Pharsalia Habitat Management Plan

Major Goals:

- Create 21% young forest
- Increase shrublands to 2%
- Promote forest diversity
- Maintain open space
- Seasonally regulate impoundments
Pharsalia Habitat Classification

**CURRENT**
- **Forest**: 91%
- **Young Forest, <1%**: 9%
- **Shrubland, <1%**: 1%
- **Grassland**: 7%
- **Wetland**: 3%
- **Open water**: 2%
- **Other**: 1%

**PROPOSED**
- **Forest**: 68%
- **Young Forest, 21%**: 18%
- **Shrubland, 2%**: 2%
- **Grassland**: 10%
- **Wetland**: 7%
- **Open water**: 2%
- **Other**: 5%
Pharsalia Habitat Management Plan

Target YFI Species:
- Ruffed Grouse
  - Drumming areas
  - Mast producing trees for feeding
  - Young, dense forest for nesting and brood rearing

Photo by Art Kirsch
Pharsalia Habitat Management Plan

Other species of interest:
- Wild turkey
- American woodcock
- Wood turtle
- Forest-nesting raptors
- Bats
Pharsalia Habitat Management Plan

Management Actions:

Forest
- Timber harvests
- Non-commercial forest management
- Forestry mow

Shrubland
- Tree removal, brush hog
- Control invasive species
- Forestry mow
Pharsalia Habitat Management Plan

Management Actions:

Grassland

• Routine mowing
• Keep what we have

Wetland and Pond

• Maintain dikes and WCS
• Control invasive species
Specific plans:
Pharsalia Habitat Management Plan

Northeast section

Northwest section

Southwest section

Southeast section
Pharsalia: Northeast section

- Multiple treatment types
- Work for both 0-5 and 5-10 years
- Non-commercial work
Pharsalia: Southeast section

- Multiple treatment types
- Some existing YF
- Large stands of degrading hardwood
- Predominantly first 5 years
Pharsalia: Southwest section

- More stands of degrading hardwoods
- Predominately 0-5 years
- Large seed tree treatments
- Limited existing YF
Pharsalia: Northwest

- Mainly one large stand of degrading hardwoods
- Some non-commercial work
- Has first commercial project of 130 acres to be marked and sold summer 2017
Pharsalia Habitat Management Plan

Monitoring Activities:

• Before and After Surveys
  ▪ Woodcock (annual)
  ▪ Turkey/ruffed grouse (annual)
  ▪ Songbirds (semi-annual)

• Sensitive Species Surveys
  ▪ Rare bats
  ▪ Woodland raptors

• Vegetative Response

Photo by Mike Palermo
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Thank you!

Questions?

Survey on the table