



Department of
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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



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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

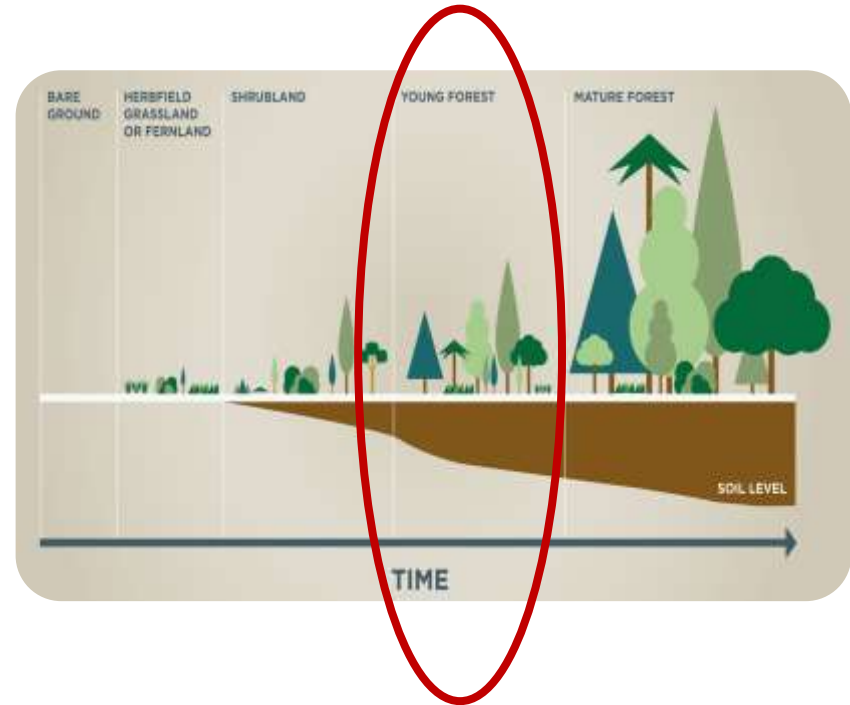


Young Forest Initiative

- 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

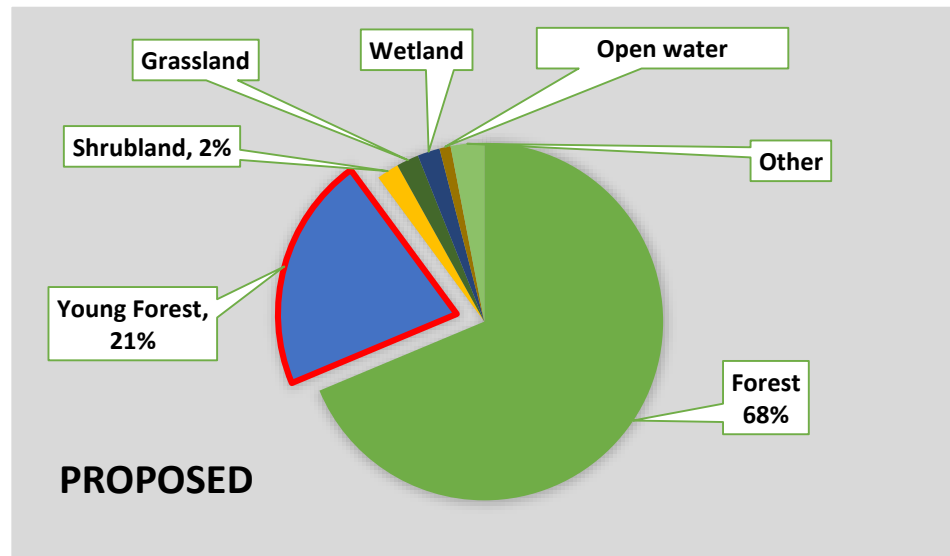
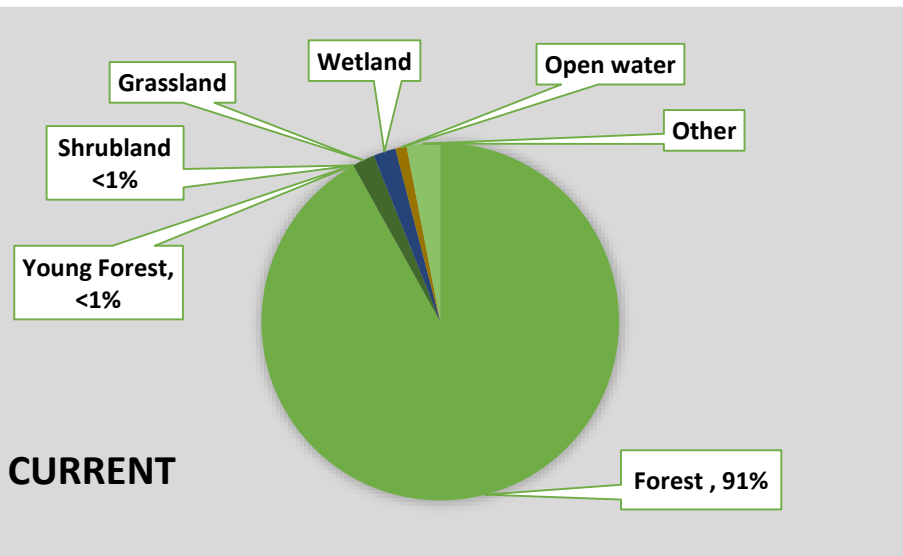
Pharsalia Habitat Management Plan

Major Goals:

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



Pharsalia Habitat Classification



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



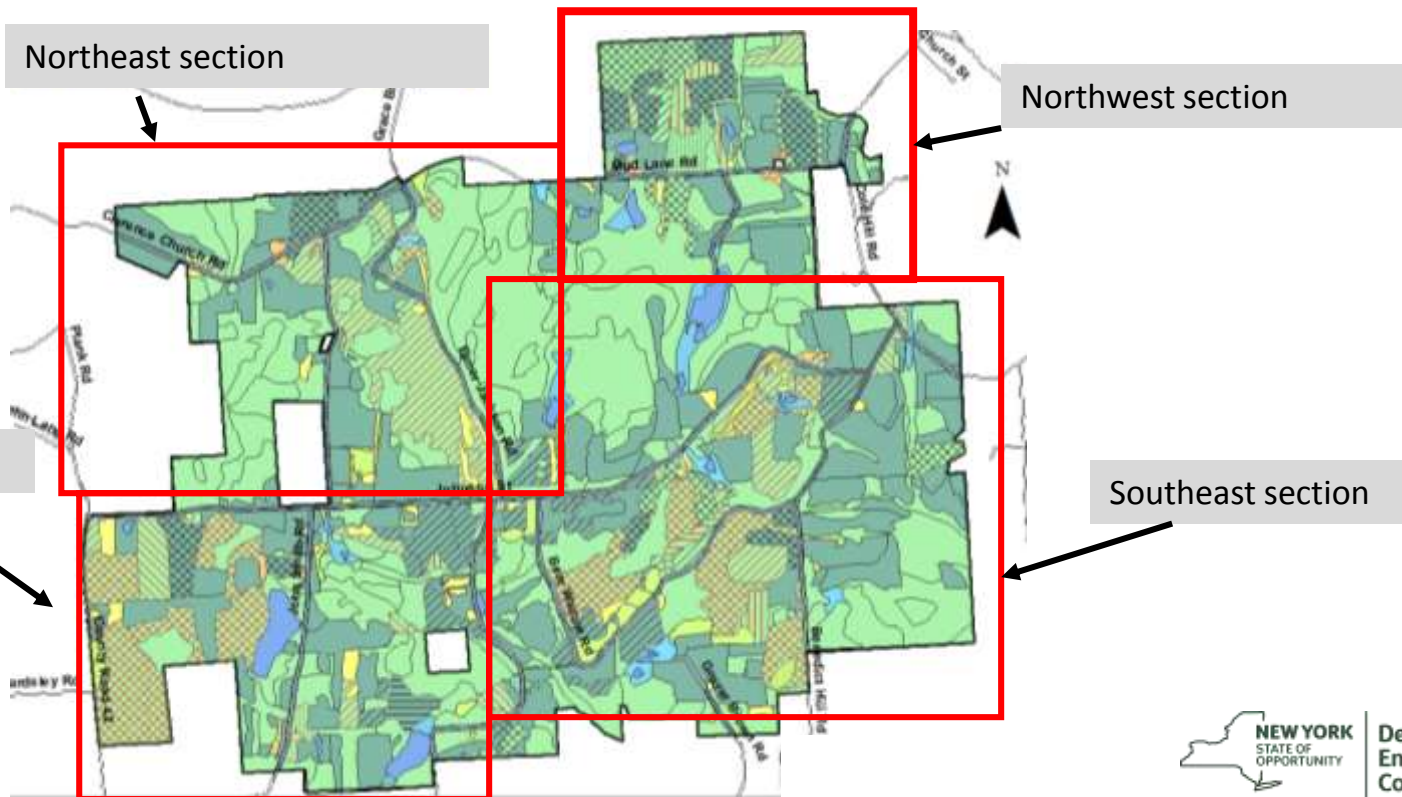


Specific plans:



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Pharsalia Habitat Management Plan



Pharsalia: Northeast section



- Multiple treatment types
- Work for both 0-5 and 5-10 years
- Non-commercial work

Pharsalia: Southeast section



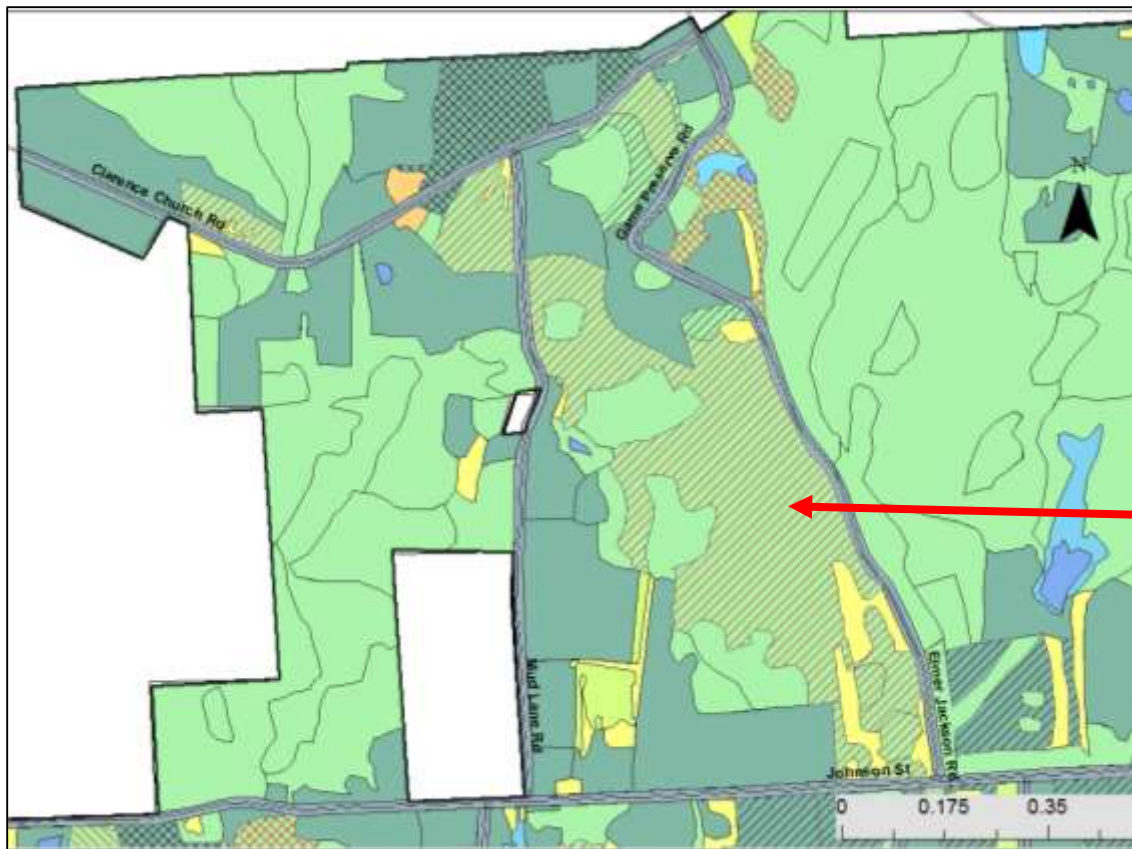
- Multiple treatment types
- Some existing YF
- Large stands of degrading hardwood
- Predominantly first 5 years

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



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Thank you!

Questions?



Survey on the table