Three Rivers
Wildlife Management Area
Habitat Management Plan

Adam Perry & Mike Putnam Wildlife Biologists
Andrew Drake, Forester
Adam Robedee, Forestry Technician
Timothy Yeatts, Forestry Technician
Agenda

• Overview of Wildlife Management Areas

• Highlights/History of Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area

• Overview of the Young Forest Initiative and Habitat Management Plans

• Goals and Management Activities for Three Rivers Habitats

• Questions (at the end please)
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.)
Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area

Overview:
- Acquired in 1947
- 3,597 acres
- Forest 52% of total

Past Management:
- Grassland improvements
- Water level management
- Some timber work
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
Young Forest Initiative

• Creating habitat for wildlife

• More opportunities for bird watching, hunting

• Will evaluate effectiveness of management and adapt if needed

Learn more at:
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/104218.html
How to get the work done?

- Timber sales
- Non commercial contracts
- Operations staff
- BOW staff
Three Rivers Habitat Management Plan

Major Goals:

- Create 10% young forest
- Maintain shrublands at ~5%
- Maintain grasslands at ~17%
- Ensure forest diversity/health
- Maintain wetlands (23%)
Three Rivers Habitat Classification

Current

Proposed
Three Rivers 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
Three Rivers Habitat Management Plan

Target YFI Species:

- American woodcock
  - Singing grounds
  - Feeding
  - Nesting/brood rearing
  - Roosting

Photo: Tom Bell
Three Rivers Habitat Management Plan

Target YFI Species:
- Wild turkey
  - Foraging areas
  - Nesting
  - Roosting
  - Brood rearing
Three Rivers Habitat Management Plan

Management Actions:

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

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

Management Actions:

Grassland/Fields
- Routine mowing/reseeding
- Improve quality of existing

Wetland and Pond
- Maintain dikes and WCS
- Control invasive species
Specific plans:
Three Rivers: West section

- Work for both 0-5 and 5-10 years
- Non-commercial work opportunities
- Limited access
- Demo area
Three Rivers: East section

- Some non-commercial work/apple release
- Grassland maintenance/improvements
- Timber sales 0-10yrs
Three Rivers Habitat Management Plan

Monitoring Activities:
• Before and After Surveys
  ▪ Woodcock (annual)
  ▪ Turkey/ruffed grouse (annual)
  ▪ Songbirds (semi-annual)
• Sensitive Species Surveys
  ▪ Rare bats
  ▪ Golden-winged warbler?
• Vegetative Response
Contact Information

- Adam Perry, Wildlife Biologist
- Andrew Drake, Forester
- 1285 Fisher Ave
- Cortland, NY 13045
- adam.perry@dec.ny.gov
- andrew.drake@dec.ny.gov
- 607-753-3095

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