



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

# **Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area Habitat Management Plan**

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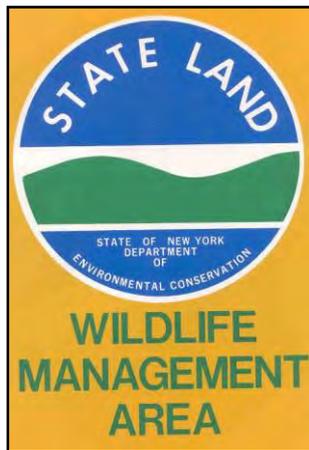
# Agenda

- 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

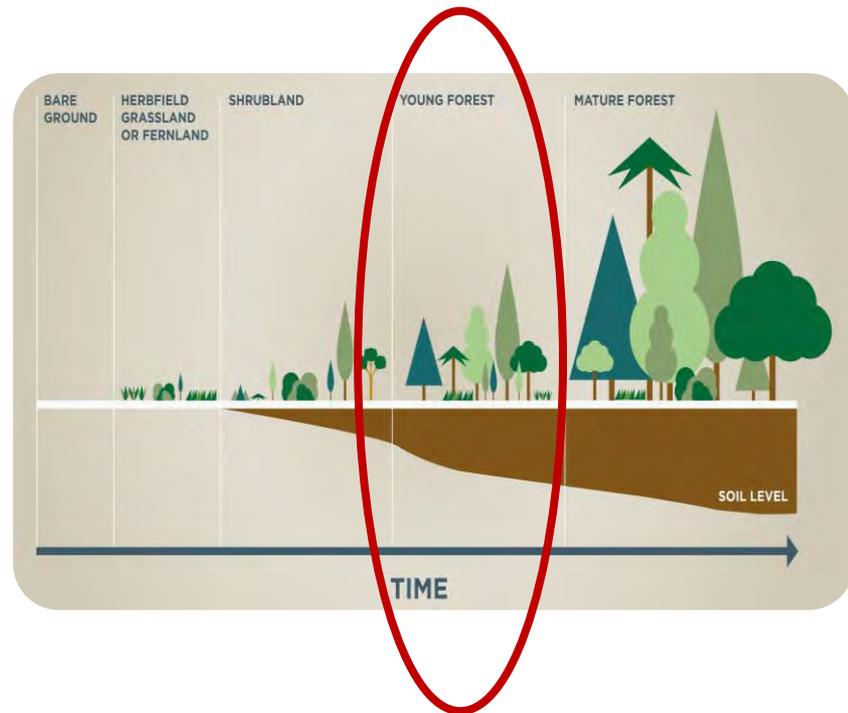


# Young Forest Initiative

- 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](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/104218.html)



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Why commercial sales  
sometimes are NOT a good  
choice...



# How to get the work done?

- Timber sales
- Non commercial contracts
- Operations staff
- BOW staff

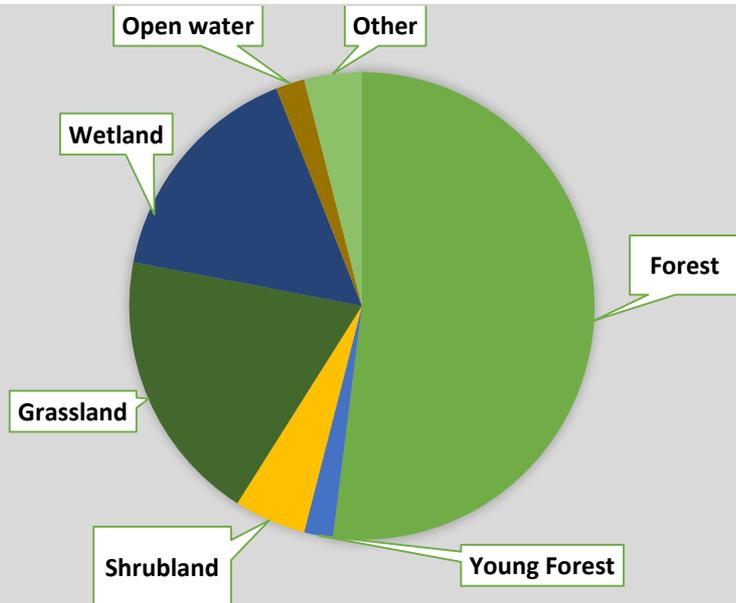
# Three Rivers Habitat Management Plan

## Major Goals:

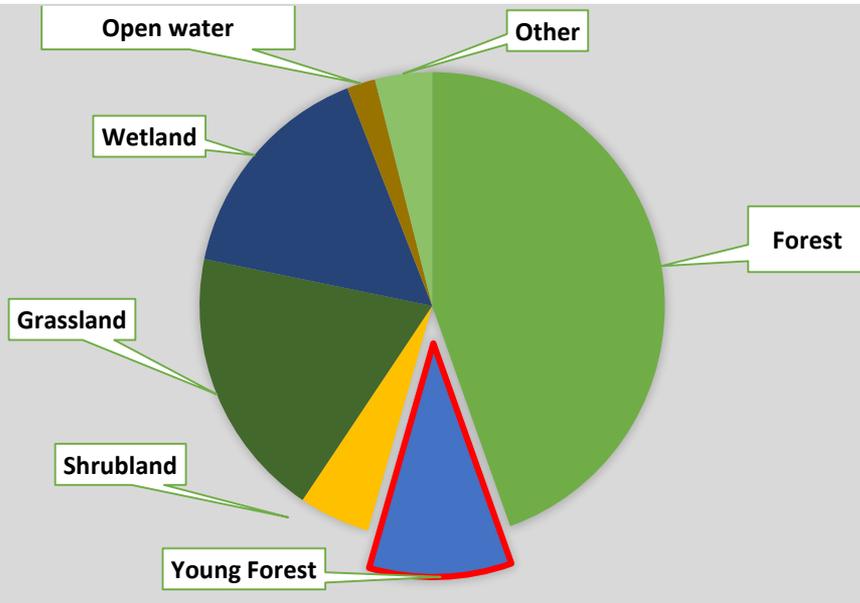
- Create 10% young forest
- Maintain shrublands at ~5%
- Maintain grasslands at ~17%
- Ensure forest diversity/health
- Maintain wetlands (23%)



# 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

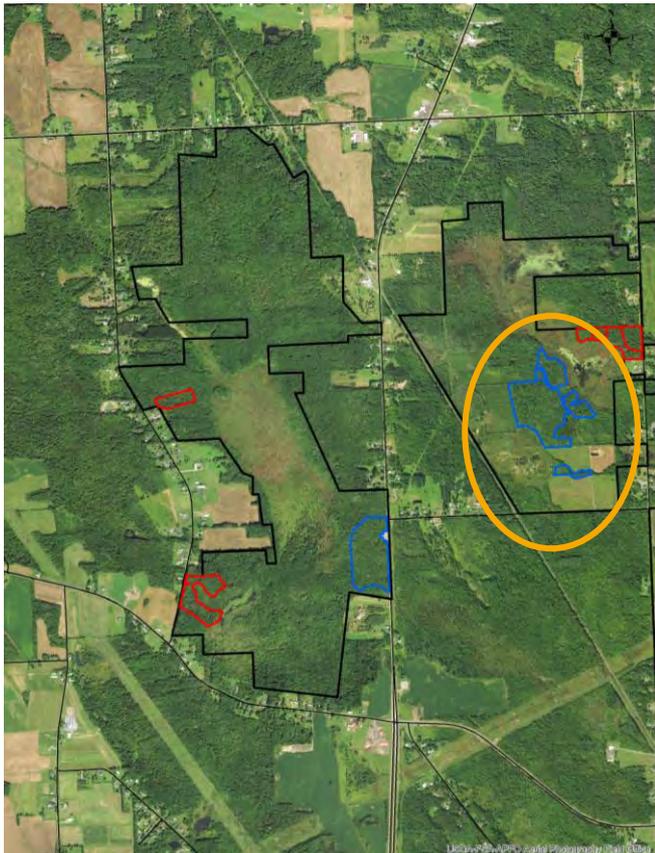
- Maintain dikes and WCS
- Control invasive species



# Specific plans:

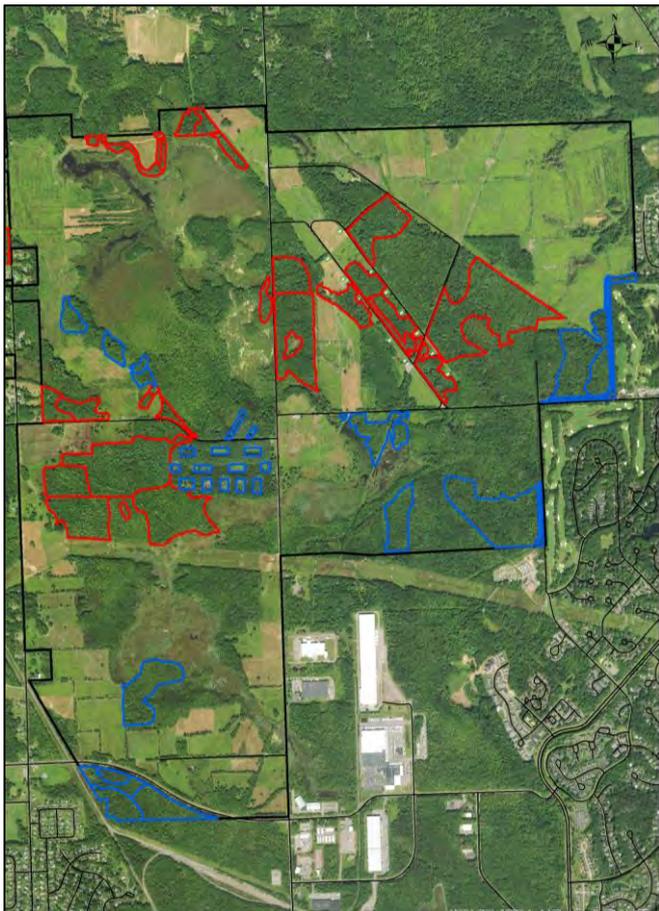


# Three Rivers: West section



- 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

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