

# YOUNG FOREST INITIATIVE THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

Creating habitat for wildlife  
on New York Wildlife Management Areas



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER | LIZ TRUSKOWSKI



THE TEAM | MARCELO DEL PUERTO

## OUR TEAM

We are wildlife biologists, foresters, and technicians who specialize in managing forests as high-quality wildlife habitat.



## OUR MISSION

For 5 years, we have been restoring young forest on state-owned WMAs to improve habitat for grouse, woodcock, wild turkey, snowshoe hare, New England cottontail, white-tailed deer, whip-poor-will, and golden-winged warbler. We're working towards a goal of over 10,000 acres of young forest on WMAs.

CLEARCUT | SELINDA BRANDON

## MANAGEMENT PLANNING

We conducted 92,249 acres of habitat inventory and used that information to write 56 Habitat Management Plans and 75 silvicultural prescriptions. These plans guide when, where, and how we will create, maintain, and improve habitat.



SEED TREE CUT | MALCOLM GRANT



APPLE TREE RELEASE | GREG ECKER



BASKING RATTLESNAKE | WADDIE ALFIERI

## MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

We established 925 acres of young forest. Where needed, we planted seedlings (42 acres), treated invasive & interfering plants (261 acres), and conducted prescribed burns (68 acres). We also completed 259 acres of timber stand improvement.



## OUTREACH

To raise awareness, we held 37 public information sessions, offered 70 presentations, woods walks & other events, designed 7 demonstration areas, produced & installed 4 types of signs, and built a webpage that's been visited 16,718 times.



DEMONSTRATION AREA | MALCOLM GRANT



PLANTING SEEDLINGS | MIKE PALERMO

## MONITORING

We surveyed wildlife on 55 WMAs to detect target species and to protect rare species during forestry operations. We also established 116 photo point locations and conducted 25 regeneration assessments to track seedling/sapling growth.



RUFFED GROUSE | ART KIRSCH



FUTURE HARE HABITAT | ADAM PERRY

## CURRENT PROJECTS

Working towards our goal, we have 1,680 acres of commercial timber sales under contract (proceeds go to the Conservation Fund), 215 acres in noncommercial work plans, and 2,198 acres in the planning stages. Our work is far from done!



PRESCRIBED FIRE | TYLER BRIGGS



GOLDEN-WING HABITAT | KATE YARD

# GET INVOLVED

- Visit a forest management demonstration area
- Purchase a NY hunting license or \$5 Habitat & Access Stamp
- Hunt deer on WMAs to help control browse on seedlings and saplings
- Volunteer to plant seedlings or remove invasive plants on WMAs
  - Create young forest on your woodlot
- Learn more at [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/104218.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/104218.html) and [www.youngforest.org](http://www.youngforest.org)

## PARTNERS & FUNDING



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

CONSERVATION FUND

