

Minnesota's Forest Habitats: Managing Across the Forest Continuum

Workshop Vision Statement: Minnesota is blessed with over 17 million acres of forest habitat, represented by a diversity of forest types and age classes. Equally diverse are the wildlife species that rely on Minnesota's forest habitats. Some species may require undisturbed mature forest, some require periodic disturbance creating young forest habitat, while others require a dynamic mix of different forest types and age classes. Almost as diverse are the stakeholders (e.g., various public land management agencies, forest industry, and private landowners) that care about Minnesota's forest habitats. At times, these stakeholders have divergent views on how our forests should be managed. The goal of this forest workshop is to bring together diverse stakeholders and have a safe, constructive dialogue about the integrated management of Minnesota's forest habitats from a landscape perspective, where the full continuum of forest types and age classes, along with the species relying on them and stressors affecting them, are considered.

Workshop Agenda - Monday, August 18, 2014

Long Lake Conservation Center, Palisade, MN

- 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. **Registration**
- 9:00 – 9:15 a.m. **Welcome and Logistics** – Steve Windels, Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society, President
- Morning Session** – Moderator Tony Hewitt, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. **The State of Minnesota Forest Habitats** – Mark Nelson, U.S. Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Assessment Program and Brian Tavernia, U.S. Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
- 9:45 – 10:15 a.m. **The State of Forest Breeding Birds in Minnesota – Results from Minnesota's first Breeding Bird Atlas** – Jerry Niemi, University of Minnesota –Duluth, Natural Resources Research Institute
- 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. **Current and Future Stressors on Minnesota's Forest Ecosystems** – Mark White and Meredith Cornett, The Nature Conservancy
- 10:45 – 11:15 a.m. **Full-season Habitat Associations of Forest Nesting Songbirds** – Henry Streby, National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of California – Berkeley ; David Andersen, Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit; Sean Petersen and Gunnar Kramer, University of Minnesota
- 11:15 – 11:45 a.m. **Marten and Fisher Use of Forest Habitat in Minnesota** – John Erb, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Forest Wildlife Research Group
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch Break**
- Afternoon Session** – Moderator Mike North, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. **Beaver Management in Forested Landscapes: Opportunities for Co-existence** – Steve Windels, National Park Service, Voyageurs National Park
- 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. **Moose and Deer Habitat use in Northeast Minnesota** – Amanda McGraw and Ron Moen, University of Minnesota – Duluth, Natural Resources Research Institute

- 2:00 – 2:30 p.m. **Natural Models for Ecological Forestry** – Brian Palik, U.S. Forest Service, Northern Research Station
- 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. **Minnesota GAP Project: Habitat-wildlife Modeling for Forest Species** – Gary Drotts, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (retired)
- 3:00 – 3:15 p.m. **Afternoon Break**
- 3:15 – 3:45 p.m. **Young Forest Bird Habitat Initiatives in Minnesota** – Tom Cooper, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Kevin Sheppard, American Bird Conservancy
- 3:45 – 4:15 p.m. **Beyond the Big Trees: Restoring the Function of Old Growth Forests** – Becky Marty and Harvey Tjader , Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry
- 4:15 – 5:00 p.m. **Finding Common Ground: Integrating Forest Wildlife Habitat Management at a Landscape Scale** – Workshop Summary and Group discussion led by Brian Lueth, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; Phil Seng, D.J. Case and Associates; and Andrew Rothman, American Bird Conservancy.

Field Tour: There will be an optional fieldtrip sponsored by the American Bird Conservancy on the morning of Tuesday, August 19th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On the fieldtrip, we will be visiting a variety of forest types and age classes in the vicinity of Long Lake Conservation Center. At each stop, we will discuss management options and opportunities and explore how each site fits into the larger landscape.

Continuing Education Credits: The workshop has been approved for continuing education credits by the Society of American Forester Certified Forester Program and by The Wildlife Society for 6.5 hours towards Category I Activities for the TWS Certification Renewal/Professional Development Program.

Workshop Sponsors

