

## **2007 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **RGS Biological Program**

#### **National/Regional Level Activities**

- Completed RGS Biological Program Business Plan
- Developed and Coordinated New RGS Seed Program
- Completed Biological Strategic Plan
- Finalized the Appalachian Mountains Bird Conservation Region Chapter of the National Woodcock Plan
- Developed Biologist Performance Measures
- Developed various grant proposal for general support of RGS Biological Programs
- Submitted 15 Monthly Electronic Forest Activist Network (FAN) Newsletters
- Guided Hunts and Checked in Harvested Birds at the National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt
- Provided RGS Trail Mix to various Energy Companies and landowners
- Acted as Reviewers for Manuscripts Submitted for publication in the Proceedings of the 2006 American Woodcock Symposium
- Spoke at Annual meeting of Association of Consulting Foresters
- Secured \$400,000 in grants and implemented associated projects.
- Trained on CAT equipment and transported it to VT from PA.
- Met w/ USFS re: potential donation of vehicle to RGS for use w/ CAT program.
- Worked on RG Plan Executive summary paper.
- Reviewed background information on Conte Refuge resources/CCP process to develop RGS perspective on ESA development upcoming in 2008. Made contact w/ numerous partners to solicit input for future use.
- Coordinated prioritization of regional/national potential habitat projects

- Reviewed, edited and made comments on Regional RGS newsletters.
- Participated in USFS field trip re: management options for areas of GMNF recently reappropriated as Federal Roadless Areas. Promoted RGS mission integration on areas slated for prohibitions to vehicles and mechanical timber harvest.
- Published 15 Forest Action Network Newsletters
- Developed a state-by-state menu of programs for landowner management incentives.
- Met with USFS foresters, biologists and contracted operators on several occasions to review and monitor habitat work conducted on GMNF in 2006 and plan work for upcoming 2007 field season.
- Met w/Orvis Corp. to provide proposal for funding habitat work on GMNF in 2007 & 2008.
- Met with GMNF Plan appellants (Vermont Traditions Coalition, Associated Industries of Vermont, Vermont Forest Products Association) and USFS re: potential mediation of Forest Plan Appeal. Contacted RGS attorney re: soliciting his involvement should an attorney-based approach benefit appellants during the appeal process.
- Drafted Powerpoint Final Report for RGS project (Residents' Attitudes on Management of the Northern Forest) funded by grant from Northeastern States Research Coop. in 2004. Submitted draft report to cooperators at Cornell for review.
- Queried USFWS re: HIP information for RGS use in identifying potential supporters and educational opportunities.
- Provided information on grouse hunting potentials for Northeast to NRA magazine editor.
- Solicited interest in partnership with NRA on a joint habitat project that could later be featured in American Hunter Mag.
- Reviewed Trust for Public Land proposals at request of their regional staff for support from Orvis Fund.
- Contacted PEI RGS Chapter/PEI Environment Ministry to discuss possibility for inclusion w/ WMI/RGS Northern Forest Woodcock Initiative.

- Participated in WMI Northern Forest Woodcock Initiative meeting in White River Jct., VT
- Attended North American Wildlife Conf., Portland, OR.
- Obtained \$2000 in additional funding from the Forest Service to apply toward habitat work on the GMNF. These federal funds will also be matched 1-1 by the WMI Woodcock Initiative. Total 2007 project fund: \$14,000.
- Obtained \$5000 in funding from the Northern Forest Woodcock Initiative to apply toward habitat work on the GMNF, and these non-federal funds will be matched 1-1 by the FS on those projects.
- Replied to contact from RGS Canada re: RGS partnership w/ WMI Woodcock Initiative.
- Attended dozens of meetings with resource agency staff/legislators and provided RGS input to dozens of public land management projects.
- Involved in 40 media contacts (includes press releases/television and radio interviews). Participate in the filming of three TV shows highlighting RGS.
- Conducted reviews of existing or proposed Management Area Projects.
- Conducted on-site habitat consultations on many thousands of acres.
- Participated in numerous chapter meetings, youth events, and field events.
- Attended dozens of RGS chapter banquets.
- Participated in dozens of external outreach events that included thousands of individuals.
- Responded to thousands of individual requests for information.
- Represented RGS on Michigan and Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative Councils, Lake States Resource Alliance and Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association Board.
- Assisted with the staffing of the RGS Booth at the international SHOT Show in Orlando.

## **State Level**

### **Connecticut:**

- Co-drafted, edited and provided final editorial review of Public Forest Subcommittee Vision Statement for Connecticut Forest Council approval. Goals are to increase harvesting on public forest in CT.
- Participated in CT Forest Stewardship Council Public Forest Management Subcommittee. Promote RGS mission through integration w/ state forest management initiatives. Subcommittee work this fall will focus on creating a series of PSA's to educate CT public on benefits for forest management to silviculture and wildlife/habitat.
- Communicated with Hartford CT chapter President on RGS operations in the region, and how to market the pending reception of CAT equipment to members as a membership benefit. Also discussed how to approach CT DEP re: donation of CAT gear for management on state WMA's and initiate projects immediately instead of allowing state-driven time priorities to stall activities we might conduct as member/volunteers on state land.
- Worked w/ CT DEP to identify potential projects for RGS/CAT partnership. Project options are limited due to planning constraints, but CT DEP will consider several options and get back to RGS w/ interest.
- Contacted various private consulting foresters who had read about RGS habitat expertise in various press releases and called for information for implementation on their clients' lands.

### **Georgia**

- Toured prescribed burn and timber harvest sites on Chattahoochee National Forest with Forest Service that RGS supported.
- Set up for and attended Atlanta Banquet
- Developed flyer and helped coordinate grouse drumming survey meeting to organize volunteers for spring drumming counts.
- Provided public comments on various projects on the Chattahoochee National Forest.

### **Iowa**

- RGS members from the Iowa Chapter were successful in working with Iowa Department of Natural Resources personnel to allow dollars generated through

timber sales on state forests to be used to fund habitat management programs on the ground that will have a greater effect on forest wildlife populations.

- *Northeast Iowa Wildlife Areas* - \$7,000 in RGS funds were used for the regeneration of aspen and supported the planting of aspen and conifers for winter cover on state wildlife management areas in Allamakee, Clayton and Winneshiek Counties.

## **Maine**

- Met with the Wildlife Management Institute re: habitat initiatives in partnership w/ utility companies in Bangor area. Outcome to date is that local advocacy has created a positive working cooperation and habitat is being created in conjunction with pipeline and powerline ROW work.
- Communicate again w/ Mal Coulter re: habitat issues in ME re: power and pipeline companies. Contact Dan McAuley and Gary Donovan re: woodcock initiative interests in that regard and outputs of meeting held by Coulter to generate an interest habitat partnerships.
- Met about management for grouse on Robbins Lumber and other private lands (30,000 acres in Maine). Robbins Lumber cuts/mills its own lumber, so LP partnership was not feasible. Will continue to provide information and expertise and integrate WMI re: Woodcock Initiative to help with management on lands unsuitable for commercial forestry.
- Attended public hearing in Presque Isle re: grouse season reduction petition. Strongly advocated no change in season as there was no scientific justification. This was a minority opinion at the hearing as season reduction proponents packed the hearing. Justification for season reduction involves local sentiment that late-season hunt promotes slob hunting and overharvest of grouse by road hunters.
- Contacted LP forester re: putting RGS landowner contacts into LP forest management/harvest program for RGS corporate donations.

## **Maryland**

- Coordinated equipment transport to and from Indian Springs WMA and completed alder regeneration project in coordination with Maryland DNR personnel.
- Provided display and educational items for outdoor show

## **Massachusetts**

- Met w/ Mahican Trail Committee re: RGS involvement w/ multiple habitat demo areas on proposed trail. Formally involved RGS as Committee member to

increase exposure to new audiences and inform public on habitat management in non-traditional venues.

- Communicated w/ TransCanada contact re: habitat partnership in MA. Currently TC forest management plan is in planning phase and will incorporate wildlife values. No active work can be undertaken until plan is accepted and implemented, which should be sometime in 2008. At that time TC/RGS partnership will be possible, but not now.
- Met w/ various partners at Cows Lumber function to discuss upcoming initiatives in 2008 in MA including DCR projects and various Mass. Forest Landowner Assn. efforts to increase positive perception of forest management.
- Worked w/ supporters in MA to inform forest management advocates re: MA EOEAs efforts to encourage USFS to establish a national forest in western MA.
- Committee work with Mass. Forest Landowner Association moving into greater advocacy/lobbying mode.
- Made contact w/ MA NRCS re: revision of policy to the end that state lands are no longer eligible for WHIP subsidy for wildlife habitat improvements. Was informed that NRCS funding cuts prioritized private lands over public lands and that public land projects may be refunded after federal fiscal year.
- Promote RGS mission and habitat message at Deerfield River Coalition meeting in MA. DRC is compiling management initiatives to promote to Massachusetts legislators for funding to increase recreational potential of Deerfield River watershed.
- Attended MA Forest Landowners Assoc. meeting re: revisions to Chapter 61 Current Use statutes in March and formation of a stronger position on advocacy and potential litigation in the face of MAFLA being excluded from early-stage MA state forest planning processes that anti-forest-management groups were included at.
- Finalized and signed DCR MOU and began discussions w/ the State Forester re: selection of a project sites. Will meet w/ DCR foresters in August to begin project.
- Met with MA DCR District Forester and toured and prioritized various project sites on N. Central MA State Forests (Wachusett, Federation of Women's Clubs & Willard Brook). Funding provided in 2006-7 by Searle Family will be used to conduct habitat improvements during winter 2007-8 on selected sites.
- Attended Swift River Sportsmen's Club Forestry Day; participated on tour of management work and helped with educating attendees (40) re: WHIP, RGS

management for grouse/woodcock and other opportunities for management of MA forests.

- Wrote letter of support for Cowls Lumber (an RGS partner on many initiatives in MA) nomination for AFWA Private Land Stewardship award.
- Contacted Monroe Station Field Manager for TransCanada Power to further discuss and investigate potential for 3-way habitat project partnership with RGS, TC and USFS on lands near Somerset Reservoir in So. VT.
- Finalized, signed and mailed MOU w/ Massachusetts DCR and State Forester. Awaiting confirmation of acceptance by Sec. of EOEA after which RGS can initiate projects on MA state forests.
- Made pro-forest management web-comments to the Pioneer Valley Energy Plan site, which highlights the collective desire by the Commonwealth to incorporate biomass energy production as a significant generation component in Western Mass.
- Attended W. Mass RGS Banquet; received Certificate of Appreciation from chapter for work getting habitat improvements on DCR/MassWildlife radar and organizing various sporting/management groups together to watchdog unjustified implementation of old growth Forest Reserves.
- Attended Massachusetts Forestry Association Board meeting to promote Board recommendations of further integrating wildlife habitat practices into Chap. 61 current use programs, continuing to respond to state efforts at additional restrictions to forestry and support for DCR program for increased support for wildlife habitat mgmt.
- Attended Springfield Sports Show to promote RGS efforts and programs.
- Worked w/ new MassWildlife upland biologist to compile and organize old RG survey data that they had lost, and I still had from when RGS was responsible for surveys (2000-2003). RGS will continue to cooperate and conduct 2 drumming routes in Western MA for 2007.

## **Michigan**

- *Hiawatha National Forest* - Established a five year Challenge Cost Share Project with the Hiawatha National Forest that will benefit wildlife species dependent on young forest habitats. Work began in the winter of 2007/2008 on the new Little Bear Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock Management Area near Rudyard. The initial RGS contribution of \$5,000 for this project is being matched with a similar amount from the US Forest Service.

- Settled the Ruffed Grouse Society's appeal of the Hiawatha National Forest Plan with the assistance of pro bono attorney Ryan Woody and RGS Director of Conservation Policy Dan Dessecker.
- *Huron/Manistee National Forest* – Provided \$8,750 to support the non-commercial harvest of approximately 30 acres of aspen to facilitate regeneration of ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat.
- *Gogebic County Project* - Provided \$3,000 in funds to facilitate the regeneration of approximately 100 acres of high quality aspen habitat on the Gogebic County Forest.
- *LeGrande Management Area Project* – Continuation of a project that began in 2006 to support work on a state wildlife area near Afton, Michigan in the northern Lower Peninsula. In 2007, RGS contributed \$4,000 for work that included the rehabilitation of 20 acres of wildlife openings and improvements to access roads and trails.

### **Missouri**

- *River Hills Project* – The Mid-Missouri Chapter of RGS receives Private Land Services Partners Award from the Missouri Department of Conservation for their efforts with the River Hills Forest Habitat Project. Since 2002, the Chapter has been the driving force behind this project to improve young oak/hickory forest habitat across a three county area in east central Missouri. Project activities in 2007 resulted in 440 acres of additional timber stand improvement to promote the regeneration of important oak/hickory forest habitat. In 2007, RGS contributed \$5,000 to the project that was matched by a similar amount from the Missouri Department of Conservation. Grants for the project were also received from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (\$85,000), Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (\$11,767) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (\$8,233).

### **New Jersey**

- Transported heavy equipment to Delaware Water Gap NRA, coordinated equipment training seminar for volunteers and state personnel with CAT, and completed aspen management project using volunteer operators.
- Provided consultation on Johnson & Johnson property regarding woodcock management.
- Provided consultation for two individual private forest owners.
- Lectured on Early Successional Habitat Management Techniques at NJ Chapter of Wildlife Society



- Lectured on Early Successional Wildlife management at landowner workshop coordinated by NJ Audubon.
- Lectured on Habitat Management at meeting of state biologists and foresters
- Toured various public land habitat projects with NJ Audubon and USFWS Partners of Fish and Wildlife

### **New Hampshire**

- Contact w/ NH chapter folks re: meeting to develop programs and events in 2008.
- Contact w/ NHF&G re: CAT work; mailed RGS habitat signs to biologists for placement at RGS MAP sites.
- Provided information on RGS activities/initiatives in Northeast re: American woodcock habitat and cooperation with WMI work to coordinator of alumni gathering at Dartmouth Grants to discuss habitat opportunities on University lands and surrounding private parcels.
- Attended RGS NH Chap. pheasant shoot and presented RGS mission and regional successes to new members.
- Coordinated w/ NH Chap. & NHF&G re: planning for NH Wing & Tail Survey and upcoming promotional shoot/presence of chapter reps in Pittsburg, NH for grouse opener.
- Contacted by both RGS chapter and others interested in grouse hunting/RGS advocacy in Pittsburg are during opening weekend of grouse season as well as forest management on the Dartmouth Grant holdings. Agreed to assist w/ RGS chapter operations as well as present information on grouse management to touring Dartmouth alumni group.
- Attended New Hampshire Merrimack Chapter shoot; met w/ NHFG reps at shoot re: projects for NH and RGS sponsorship of NH BOW.
- Obtained information on 2006-07 RGS/NHF&G grouse wing and tail data collection and drafted press release.
- Worked w/ NHF&G to come up with projects for the RGS/CAT partnership. NH is currently in the process of clearing the concept w/ their administration and trying to figure out how and where to find equipment operators should they proceed w/ partnership.
- Answered inquiries from NHWF and chapter members re: pending proposal by some in the NH public to revise the NH woodcock season. Some wish to move

season back one week to access greater numbers of flight birds in Nov. while allowing native NH broodstock an additional unhunted week in October.

- Discussions w/ NHWF Conservation Committee re: Forest Service proposals for White Mountains and NH Fish and Game Dept. funding.

### **New York**

- Attempted communications w/ TNC Adirondack chapter re: partnership on habitat initiatives in NY.
- Met with Cornell Maple Lab staff to review site proposed for large habitat demo project at Lake Placid and identify funding mechanism that will reduce or eliminate any need for Cornell to deduct administrative overhead costs. Worked with F&WS staff to get Partner's funding for this project on-line.
- Completed and submitted reimbursement paperwork to USFWS re: RGS project in Lake Placid w/ Cornell.
- Provided technical information and forest plan review to several NYS NIPF landowners re: management options for habitat improvement, and provided review of "conservation easement" considerations for one individual interested in how those restrictions will aid/hamper his management desires.
- Discussed Partridge Run management alternatives w/ Albany Chapter representative elected to liaison w/ NYSDEC/RGS on that issue.
- Attempt to mitigate HQ vs. NY Albany chapter issues w/ funding retention and work at Partridge Run/Ticonderoga.
- Communicate w/ Art Lee re: NY Pawling Mountain dinner; attend auction preview to locate merchandise for use at various high-end functions.
- Coordinate RGS grant payment for project work in Lake Placid at Cornell Maple Lab Uihlein Forest.
- Met with officials from town of Ticonderoga and the civic group Pride of Ticonderoga to assess project sites on town forests and other public areas.
- Presented info on grouse habitat management to Master Forest Owner group at Cornell Maple Lab, Lake Placid, NY & coordinated pending MAP project w/Cornell personnel; facilitated payment of RGS funds for project initiation.
- Communicated w/ Cornell Extension re: project on Maple Lab site.

- Communicated with Albany, NY chapter re: potential project activities on Partridge Run WMA. Tried to work out solution for implementation of various projects.
- Conducted habitat seminars at Gander Mountain stores in Tonawanda and Syracuse.
- Authorized and submitted paperwork for funding Sontheimer/Happy Valley WMA project for the Central NY RGS chapter. Discussed funding options w/ Bob Chambers who at this point is spearheading the project for the chapter in concert w/ DEC regional personnel.
- Re-contacted Karl Parker w/ NYSDEC and got process going to get more work on Partridge Run WMA done this year. Karl will be soliciting interest from contractors for doing the work and getting back to RGS w/ proposed dates/operators.
- Contacted NYSDEC R-5 Supervisor to obtain information re: potential projects/initiatives that RGS may be able to pursue. Was advised that R-5 biologists will contact me should they come up with viable options.
- Met with NYSDEC biologist to scope potential opportunities for state wildlife grant projects.
- Worked with the Albany Chapter to formulate options for habitat projects in the region.
- Developed proposal and requested input re: projects for NY Lake Champlain basin. Funding was obtained through F&WS Partners Program (5K) and will be matched by RGS. Preliminary sites include Lake Placid and Ticonderoga.
- Participated in Habitat Forum sponsored by Gander Mtn. store in Henrietta, NY (Rochester). Gave upland habitat seminar for grouse and woodcock at that same store that night.
- Worked on State Wildlife Grant proposal for NYS.

### **North Carolina**

- Provided written comments on various projects on the Pisgah and Nantahela National Forests
- Established Jerry Smathers Memorial Project at Cold Mountain Game Lands in cooperation with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- Toured proposed burning project with state and Forest Service Biologists

- Toured proposed project with Forest Service on Pisgah NF

## **Ohio**

- Attended dedication of Reforestation Project at Jockey Hollow Wildlife Area where RGS secured funding for the planting of 33,000 trees on abandoned mine lands.
- Worked with state biologists and foresters to plan near-term habitat projects on state lands
- Worked with Chapters to develop funding initiatives to support projects
- Worked with Caterpillar, Inc and state biologists to plan a Habitat Demonstration Day using CAT equipment

## **Pennsylvania**

- Administered \$115,000 grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for creating 25 acres of woodcock habitat at State Game Lands 39 in Venango County as part of the Woodcock Habitat Initiative on State Lands in coordination with Mackin Engineering, the PA Game Commission, and various other state agencies.
- Began Steve Liscinsky Memorial Project on State Game Lands 278 in Blair County – regenerated acres of aspen and alder using heavy equipment.
- Set up Memorial Fund and Began Bill Goudy Memorial Project on State Game Lands 82 in Somerset County – managed patches of shrubs and trees and planted aspen in coordination with Game Commission
- Transported heavy equipment to various state forests and state game lands for habitat projects
- Coordinated and conducted Woodcock Festival in cooperation with the PA DCNR, Penn State and USFWS.
- Represented RGS on Coverts (PA Forest Stewards) steering committee
- Prepared grant request and received \$25,000 to help endow the PA Forest Stewards (Coverts) at Penn State.
- Prepared State Wildlife Grant proposal for a project at Blue Marsh Lake, Berks County.
- Lectured to Resource Professionals at Bald Eagle State Park about Woodcock Management Project; Guided tour of Bald Eagle State Park project for Bureau of Forestry staff

- Lectured on managing for early successional habitat at DCNR Forest Landowner Workshop near Scranton
- Gave 3 habitat tours/lectures at PA Forest Stewards (Coverts) Annual Meeting and Picnic
- Spoke at PA Association of Environmental Professionals in State College about Woodcock Habitat Initiative on State Lands
- Spoke to business group about grouse and woodcock at dinner meeting
- Met with private landowners in Susquehanna, Clearfield, Potter, Somerset, Butler, Westmoreland, and Fayette Counties
- Completed forest regeneration project on private lands in Huntingdon County
- Sat on steering committee and assisted with wildlife, plant and shooting instruction at PA Buckskin Brigade, a Youth Wildlife Leadership Camp.
- Met with Mackin Engineering, DOT and DEP to discuss cooperative wetland/woodcock mitigation
- Attended Governor's Outdoor Conference at PSU
- Attended PA Fire Council Meeting
- Coordinated volunteers for Harrisburg Outdoor Show and set up, manned and took down RGS booth
- Set up and took down RGS booth at Reading Outdoor Expo
- Attended and spoke at Reading Sponsor Dinner and Field Day
- Attended Washington, Reading, Carlisle, State College, Smethport, Altoona, Pittsburgh, and DuBois banquets and gave short presentation to attendees.
- Attended various chapter meetings to discuss habitat projects, field days and other projects.

## **Rhode Island**

- Attend RGS Benefit shoot sponsored by Rivers Edge Trading at Addieville East. Promote RGS mission and interact w/ participants to generate interest in RGS membership and programs.
- Compiled promo information for RGS Benefit Shoot held at Addieville by Riversedge Trading.
- Contact w/ RIDEM biologist who has been staunch RGS support. He wishes to highlight RGS involvement in RI land management programs and is seeking a partnership in some form of article/publication that can be developed and distributed in RI.
- Contact w/ chapter folks re: development of new Coverts-like program in RI.
- Provided comments on draft forest management plan for Addieville East Farm, when project was finalized provided RGS habitat signs for placement at habitat sites developed in w/ RGS input.

### **Tennessee**

- Coordinated RGS input for prescribed fire research proposal covering the southern Appalachians
- Coordinated comments on national forests with state biologists and volunteers
- Met with newly forming Knoxville chapter and spoke on potential for habitat projects in eastern TN.

### **Vermont**

- Coordinated RGS CAT rental for first client re: private land habitat project w/ WHIP funding.
- Trained private landowner on CAT operation and worked on private parcel WHIP project to improve grouse and woodcock habitat on 50 acre parcel.
- Worked w/ VTC staff to continue applying pressure to USFS re: GMNF Plan appeal.
- Worked on logistics for payment of contractor that hauled CAT to VT.
- Final coordination and contractor oversight re: GMNF Habitat Improvement project. Worked w/ FS bios and foresters to insure work was being conducted to everyone's satisfaction and assisted w/ resolution of emergent issues re: timing and location of work in high-visibility public areas.
- Attended ANR public meeting re: Lake Champlain basin issues. Promoted active management of natural resources as a positive factor in developing and retaining high recreation potential and public support of agency initiatives.

- On-site coordination and contractor oversight re: GMNF Habitat Improvement project. Worked w/ FS bios and foresters to insure work was being conducted to everyone's satisfaction and assisted w/ resolution of emergent issues re: timing and location of work in high-visibility public areas.
- Chaired VTC subcommittee on State Land Management and presented positions/questions on that issue to TNC executive committee at VTC/TNC summit.
- Attend Green Mountain RGS Chapter shoot.
- Met with USFS re: 2007 work on GMNF re: prioritization of work and timing re: other FS projects and personnel time.
- Drafted revised Orvis Fund proposal to meet new options on GMNF since additional allocation of FS funding to RGS.
- Made contact w/ VT ANR to obtain HIP information and contacted VT BOW administrator re: incorporating RGS sponsorship and conservation message into BOW program. Set August meeting to formalize a proposal for submittal to RGS HQ for consideration.
- Attended Coolidge State Forest Management Plan open house, and discussed our displeasure with various management set-asides w/ VT ANR personnel responsible for the plan as well as Commissioner Jonathan Wood. RGS will provide written comments to the plan for the August deadline.
- Conducted post-treatment site review/determine new sites for 2007 GMNF work.
- Met w/ Sugarbush Ski Area land manager and consulting forester to provide technical expertise on habitat project on company lands. Sugarbush is applying RGS habitat guidelines to improve habitat and increase recreation by hunters.
- Worked with VTC to prepare issue paper/questions and meet w/ VT TNC to find common environmental interests.
- Met with VT BOW Coordinator (Becoming an Outdoor Woman) to determine how RGS can provide substantive support for this program. Will continue to develop this contact to integrate RGS habitat message into the VT BOW program.
- Reviewed Draft Forest Plan for Coolidge State Forest. Provided extensive comments to VT ANR re: lack of successional habitat creation and significant decreases in active forest management in the objectives presented in the plan.

- Attended shoot at Mendon Fish & Game Club to encourage RGS mission and interaction with GMNF/state management.
- Site visit to Groton State Forest re: Management Plan draft recommendations re: set asides for “core reserves”. Discussed management alternatives w/ representatives for Sec. Crombie, ANR Commissioner Wood, VTC Exec. Dir. McLeod; F&G Commissioner Laroche, VAST Rep., and ANR personnel.
- Attended USFS tour of newly acquired lands on Dorset Mountain (GMNF). Management alternatives for this site (MA “Remote Back Country) may include active management options w/ RGS .
- Met w/ VTF&G biologist re: continuing project work w/ 2003-4 legislative grant. Work continues on 4 WMA’s at this time, and total of acres harvested is >2000 w/ affected area of over 15,000 acres of potential habitat.
- Appointed by Governor James Douglas to the Governor’s Task Force on Fish and Wildlife Department funding to finalize report to Vermont legislature. Report will be presented by TF Chairman to aid formulation of Capital Budget and implementation of some type of additional funding vehicle for DFW.
- Submitted review/comments for GMNF “Natural Turnpike” timber/vegetation management project.
- Worked on payment/reimbursement for GMNF work and UVM grant work from 2004.
- Finally registered RGS vehicle after numerous Vermont administrative difficulties.
- Initialized another contract (approx. \$3500) w/ contract consulting forester for work on Steam Mill Brook WMA using 2004 VT legislative Capital Grant funding.
- Visited Nov. 2006 project sites on GMNF to assess response of treated sites and take photos of initial forest habitat regeneration.
- Conducted new project site evaluations on GMNF w/ FS Biologist re: 2007 habitat work and potential coordination w/TransCanada Power on joint projects around Somerset Reservoir on TC lands in VT.
- Continued working w/ VT F&W re: finalizing NFWF project from 2002 and getting funding and payment information to NFWF for final review.
- Reviewed proposed legislation for wanton waste issues in Vermont; contacted Fish and Wildlife Commissioner to discuss their take on the proposal.



- Phone discussions with Vermont Traditions Coalition leadership re: wanton waste proposal as well as upcoming VTC meeting/forum w/ Vermont TNC leadership. Also discussed legislative action re: capital grant funding and Fish and Wildlife Department funding initiatives.

### **Virginia**

- Participated in public tour of proposed grouse management project on George Washington National Forest to help explain the need for early successional habitat.
- Met with George Washington and Jefferson National Forest Supervisor in Roanoke with Southern App Multiple Use Council to discuss timber harvest and cooperative efforts.

### **West Virginia**

- Transported equipment, laid out transects on the ground, and cut 25 acres of aspen and alder on private lands in the Canaan Valley in accordance with a Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program contract developed by the WV DNR .
- Presented lecture on Forest Wildlife to a group of teachers in coop with WV Forestry Association
- Lectured at WVU class “Traditions of Hunting”
- Met with Nature Conservancy in Elkins about potential coop habitat management
- Met with private landowner near Morgantown
- Arranged to supply 3 Energy Companies with seed via chapter
- Held Seminar and Social at Canaan Valley NWR for volunteers, hunters, and scientists studying woodcock in the Eastern U.S.

### **Wisconsin**

- *Coverts Project* - The Wisconsin Coverts Project completed its 14<sup>th</sup> workshop and now has 345 cooperators that have gone through the program. They collectively have influenced an estimated 577,000 acres of private forest lands.
- *Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest* – Provided \$2,600 in RGS funds to begin a five year Challenge Cost Share Partnership to facilitate ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat management activities on the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest. Work will include the regeneration of aspen and alder habitats as well as increased emphasis on the Forest’s 15 designated ruffed grouse and woodcock

habitat management areas. Under this partnership, all funds provided by RGS will be matched by the US Forest Service, therefore doubling the investment.

- *Eau Claire County Forest* – Provided \$3,000 in RGS funds to support the improvement of road access in order to facilitate timber harvest activities targeted to improve ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat on the Eau Claire County Forest near Augusta in west central Wisconsin.
- *Marathon County Forest* – Now in its fourth year, this project regenerated approximately 40 acres of upland alder habitat in a historic woodcock use area near Antigo in north central Wisconsin. In 2007, RGS contributed \$500 to the project.
- *Mead Wildlife Area* - Supported the development of a 1,000 plus acre ruffed grouse habitat demonstration area on the Mead Wildlife Area near Stevens Point that will be used to educate private landowners and public land managers with a \$2,000 RGS contribution.
- *Wood County* - Provided \$2,000 in funding to conduct 55 acres of non-commercial aspen regeneration on the Kubisiak Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock Habitat Management Area and Sandhill Wildlife Area near Babcock in Central Wisconsin.