

**From:** Gary Zimmer  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 09, 2009 3:52 PM  
**To:** FAN Member  
**Subject:** FAN UPDATE



# Western Great Lakes Region FAN UPDATE

Volume 9, Issue 2

June 9, 2009

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## **Wisconsin 2009 Drumming Counts Up 3%**

**The Wisconsin 2009 ruffed grouse drumming counts are in and show a statewide ruffed grouse increase of 3 % over 2008 levels. This is the fourth year in a row that the index has been up and should be close to the anticipated high point in the cycle. Final tallies show .94 drums per stop across the state on the 117 routes run. The central and northern regions showed the greatest increase in drumming activity over last year with 14 percent and 6 percent increases, respectively. The southeast region showed the most dramatic decrease with a decline of 58 percent while the southwest region showed a decline of 24 percent fewer drums than in 2008. Drummer densities on the Sandhill Wildlife research census area in**

**Wood County increased 21%, while drummers on the Stone Lake Experimental Area in Oneida County decreased 8% from 2008 levels.**

**Unfortunately two different cold and wet periods have occurred over the past two weeks in northern Wisconsin that may not be favorable for grouse broods that have already hatched. Additional info on the 2009 Wisconsin drumming count is available at**

**<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/harvest/reports/09finaldrum.pdf>.**

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## **Equipment For Habitat Work Has Arrived**

The Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) has taken ownership of the two ASV/Terex PT-100 Forestry loaders with mulching heads, one that will be housed in Michigan and one in Wisconsin. Grants from the R.K. Mellon Foundation, the Frey Foundation of Grand Rapids, MI, and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation located in East Jordan, MI helped make these acquisitions possible. Currently we are working on acquiring trucks and trailers that will be used to haul these units from site to site (see note below). The Michigan unit is currently being used by the Michigan DNR in SW Michigan on some habitat projects while the Wisconsin unit is being stored with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The versatile equipment will allow the RGS to help public and private partners aggressively manage neglected aspen, alder and brush habitats for ruffed grouse, woodcock and many other species. The RGS and its partners have been operating similar equipment in the Northeast for several years with excellent results. RGS is currently working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wildlife Management Institute on cooperative projects that may provide funding assistance to private landowners for habitat work on their properties.

The equipment program has allowed the Society and its partners to manage high quality habitats that typically are neglected because of the lack of proper equipment. Woodcock in particular have benefitted because large areas of old fields, prime woodcock habitat, that are typically left to convert to forests are now maintained as shrublands.

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## **Wanted - 1 Ton Truck**

RGS is in need of a 1 ton pickup truck, preferably with a gooseneck hitch, to haul the new Michigan ASV machine around to work sites. Anyone with any leads on a used truck in good condition, please notify Gary Zimmer at 715-

674-7505 or by email at [rgszimm@newnorth.net](mailto:rgszimm@newnorth.net). The US Fish and Wildlife Service will be providing a truck to tow the Wisconsin unit.

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## **Win Two Hunts and Two Guns**

**Last Chance to Enter the 2008/2009 RGS Upland Bird Dream Hunt Raffle**  
*Drawing is June 30th*

Thanks to all who have purchased a national raffle ticket so far. If you haven't, please enter soon or you might miss out on a upland game bird hunting trip of a lifetime. Odds are pretty good with right around 1,000 entries up to this point for the following three great prizes.

**First Place Prize - All Expense Paid Trip for Two to hunt from October 3-5, 2009** for sharptail grouse and Hungarian partridge at Bear paw Mountain Outfitters in Havre, Montana followed by participation in the National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt in grand Rapids, Minnesota from October 6-9. **Both hunters each receive an SKB model 1785 o/u shotgun.** Approximate value of package: \$18,000.

**Second Place Prize - \$1,000 Cabela's Gift Certificate**

**Third Place Prize - Custom fitted Pair of upland hunting boots from Russell Moccasin Co.** Approximate value of boots: \$400.

Donation for Tickets is \$50 each with winners drawn on June 30, 2009.

**To Purchase Raffle Tickets Contact: Gary Zimmer**

**at 715-674-7505 or [rgszimm@newnorth.net](mailto:rgszimm@newnorth.net) or mail the following to:**

**RGS, PO Box 116, Laona, WI 54541**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Tickets @ \$50.00 Each = \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed**

**CHECK (Payable to RGS) CASH CREDIT CARD**

**CC #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp. Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Billing Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Billing Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Wisconsin COVERTS Project Signup Deadline Approaches**

***Applications Due by June 15th***

Building on its success, the Wisconsin Coverts Project will be expanding to two workshops in 2009. Both workshops will be held at the beautiful Kemp Natural Resources Station near Woodruff, WI. The first one will be from August 13 - 16 with a second one planned for August 27 - 30. These 3-day sessions have had rave reviews from past attendees that have become Covert Cooperators through past workshops. Now starting its 16th year, 374 cooperators have attended these workshops. Sharing with others what they have learned these Coverts Cooperators have influenced the management of over 434,000 acres of land in Wisconsin. This workshop is highly recommended for those landowners interested in better understanding their role as stewards of their property. For additional information on the workshop contact Jamie Nack at 608-265-8264 or by email at [jlnack@wisc.edu](mailto:jlnack@wisc.edu). Attendance is limited. More information is available on the Coverts Project website at:

[http://forestandwildlifeecology.wisc.edu/wl\\_extension/wicovertsproject.html](http://forestandwildlifeecology.wisc.edu/wl_extension/wicovertsproject.html).

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## **Open House and Compartment Review for Baraga Forest Management Unit**

The Michigan DNR will host an open house on June 24th from 3 PM to 7 PM at the Baraga Operations Service Center at 427 US 41N in Baraga. The open house is an opportunity for interested people to review proposed management activities and provide input to local foresters and biologists. This open house will cover proposed activities on state lands in Baraga, Houghton and Ontonagon Counties.

A formal compartment review to finalize these activities is scheduled for July 9th at 9 AM at the Michigan Technological Universities Ford Forestry Center in Alberta, Michigan.

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## **Conservation Easement Protects Habitat and Public Access in Northern Minnesota**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Blandin Paper Company (UPM) have signed a binding agreement for the purchase of a working forest conservation easement to forever protect 187,277 acres of Northwoods forests, wetlands and shoreline currently owned by UPM. The agreement includes a closing date in 2010 when the recently approved Lessard Outdoor Heritage funds will be fully available for the project.

The agreement will provide public access and numerous land and water safeguards, regardless of who may own the forest lands in the future, including:

- Permanent public access to 187,277 acres of land in north-central Minnesota for hunting, fishing, birdwatching and other recreational activities.
- Preservation of existing hiking, snowmobile and ATV trails.

Safeguards include:

- No development permitted on any of the lands.
- No dividing or subdividing of the lands for sale or other uses.
- No altering of water channels, wetlands, streams or rivers.
- No new or expanded roads or landings except as needed for sustainable forest management practices.

The agreement came after Gov. Tim Pawlenty signed into law the Clean Water, Land and Legacy constitutional amendment funding allocations, which included a two-year state appropriation of \$36 million for purchase of working forest conservation easements. The state funding will come from revenues generated by the additional sales tax authorized by the constitutional amendment.

In addition, private funding of \$9 million is being provided to the state by The Conservation Fund. The sources of these funds include \$7 million from the Blandin Foundation and \$2 million from the R.K. Mellon Foundation, bringing the total easement investment to \$45 million.

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## **Upcoming RGS "Habitat" Events in the Region**

**June 15 - Sign Up Deadline for WI Coverts Workshops, Contact Jamie Nack at 608-265-8264 or email at [jlneck@wisc.edu](mailto:jlneck@wisc.edu).**

**June 19 to 21 - Stop by the RGS Booth at the UP SXSC Classic near Sagola, MI.**

**June 20 - Habitat Work Day on the Cheq/Nicolet National Forest near Laona, WI. Contact Dave Bartz at 920-743-6004 for info.**

**June 24 - Baraga Forest Management Unit Open House, Baraga, MI.**

**July 9 - Baraga Forest Management Unit Compartment Review, Alberta, MI.**

**August 13 to 16 - WI Coverts Workshop, Contact Jamie Nack at 608-265-8264 or email at [jlneck@wisc.edu](mailto:jlneck@wisc.edu).**

**August 14 to 16 - Stop by the RGS Booth at the Chippewa Valley Outdoor Games, Eau Claire, WI.**

**August 27 to 30 - WI Coverts Workshop, Contact Jamie Nack at 608-265-8264 or email at [jlneck@wisc.edu](mailto:jlneck@wisc.edu).**

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### **Reminder**

**To insure that you continue to receive timely FAN updates please notify me of changes in your email address.**

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Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions:  
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PO Box 116 Laona, WI 54541 Phone: (715) 674-7505 email:  
[rgszimm@newnorth.net](mailto:rgszimm@newnorth.net)

The Ruffed Grouse Society is the one international wildlife conservation organization dedicated to promoting conditions suitable for ruffed grouse, American woodcock and related wildlife to sustain our sport hunting tradition and outdoor heritage. For information on the Ruffed Grouse Society, please call 888-564-6747 or check out the RGS website at [www.ruffedgrousesociety.org](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org).