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Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2008 5:16 PM
To: FAN Member
Subject: FAN Update



FAN UPDATE

Volume 8, Issue 3

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Medford Aspen Project

Comments Needed By August 25th

Your Help Is Needed to support an important aspen management project on the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest. Ranger Bob Hennes of the Medford/Park Falls Ranger District is seeking public comment on the Medford Aspen Project located northwest of Medford, Wisconsin. This project specifically targets the regeneration of overmature aspen across the Medford Unit. Currently the Forest Service is considering choosing Alternative 3 for implementation, an alternative that proposes regenerating 1755 acres of aspen habitat. Obviously this project is of high importance to ruffed grouse and woodcock populations. Without management in the near future, much of the opportunity to maintain the aspen type in these areas will be lost permanently. Ruffed Grouse Society members must show their support for this management action now! Comments must be received by August 25th to be accepted. Without a doubt comments will be forthcoming from environmental groups opposing this action. For more specific information on the project go to

http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/natres/eis/mpf/medford_aspen/index.html

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You can comment three ways:

Written comments can be sent to: Jane Darnell, Project Leader, Medford/Park Falls Ranger District, 850 N. 8th St., Medford, WI 54451; phoned in to 715-748-4875 or by email to comments-eastern-chequamegon-nicolet-medford-falls@fs.fed.us . (If emailing put Medford Aspen in the subject line)

Some things you might focus on in your comments are:

- **State**
why the Forest is important to you (ie. I hunt grouse in the Forest and decisions that improve grouse habitat would increase your use of these public lands).
- **Support**
t the selection of Alternative 3 that regenerates 1,755 acres of old aspen at this time and helps address Forest Plan Goals in Management Area 1A, an aspen emphasis area.
- **Empha**
size the importance of maintaining habitat for game species such as ruffed grouse and woodcock and that hunters, like yourself, are one of the primary users of the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest.
- **Explain**
that young forest habitat is crucial to many wildlife species besides ruffed grouse and woodcock, directly providing essential habitat for declining songbirds such as golden-winged warblers, and chestnut-sided warblers. This habitat, that provides home for key prey species like snowshoe hare and ruffed grouse is also important to predators like the goshawk and bobcat.
- **Provide**
your mailing address so that information relating to this project can be sent to you.

Spring 2008 Woodcock Singing Ground Report

The US Fish and Wildlife Service recently released the 2008 Woodcock Singing Ground Report. While the Abstract is included below the entire report is available at <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/reports/status08/AMWO%20status%20report%202008.pdf> . The report shows that woodcock counts were down 5.7% in Michigan, 6.1% in Minnesota and 14.2% in Wisconsin while Illinois showed a slight increase of 0.6% when compared to 2007 surveys.

Abstract: Singing-ground Survey data for 2008 indicated that the numbers of displaying American woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) in the Central Region declined 9.2 % from 2007; however, the Eastern Region was unchanged. There was no significant 10-year trend for

woodcock heard in the Eastern Region during 1998-2008, while there was a significant decline in the Central Region. This represents the fifth consecutive year that the 10-year trend estimate did not indicate a significant decline in the Eastern Region, while it marks the first time since 2003 that the Central Region has had a declining 10-year trend. There were long-term (1968-08) declines of -1.2 % per year in the Eastern Region and -1.1 % per year in the Central Region. The 2007 recruitment index for the U.S. portion of the Eastern Region (1.6 immatures per adult female) was 4.2 % greater than the 2006 index and 3.6 % lower than the long-term regional index. The 2007 recruitment index for the U.S. portion of the Central Region (1.5 immatures per adult female) was 9.7 % lower than the 2006 index and was 7.6 % lower than the long-term regional index. The Harvest Information Program indicated that U.S. woodcock hunters in the Eastern Region spent 144,979 days afield and harvested 75,882 woodcock during the 2007-08 season, while in the Central Region, hunters spent 358,480 days afield and harvested nearly 214,162 woodcock.

Michigan DNR Compartment Reviews and Open Houses

You can help make decisions affecting Michigan's 3.9 million acre state forests by participating in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources compartment review process where you can express your concerns or desires for managing portions of these properties. The State Forest Land is divided into 15 Forest Management Units which are also divided into smaller units called compartments. Each forest compartment is formally reviewed every ten years to plan management activities that will occur in the near future. Open Houses are informal sessions that give citizens an opportunity to speak with foresters, wildlife biologists, and other resource professionals. The inventories, compartment maps, and recommended management actions are available for the public to look at and provide suggestions to MDNR staff. The Compartment Review is a formal presentation that outlines the formal management plan for the compartment and includes an explanation of forest treatments if any are proposed. **The dates and locations for these meetings are:**

Baraga Open House 9/9/08 3:00pm - 7:00pm Baraga OSC Contact Don Mankee 906-353-6651, Compartment Review 10/15/08 9 am Ford Forestry Center Alberta MI

Roscommon 9/10/08 3:00pm -7:00pm Roscommon Field Office Contact Steve Anderson 989-275-4622, Compartment Review 10/8/08 9 am Roscommon OSC

Crystal Falls 9/16/08 3:00pm - 7:00pm, CST Crystal Falls Office Contact Steve Milford 906-875-6622, Compartment Review 10/6/08 8:30 am CST Crystal Falls Township

Sault Ste. Marie (Naubinway) 9/16/08 3:00pm - 6:00pm Naubinway Field Office Contact Pat Hallfrisch 906-635-5281, Compartment Review 10/10/08 9 am Quality Inn, St. Ignace

Escanaba 9/17/08 4:00pm - 8:00pm, EST U.P. State Fair Grounds, DNR Pocket Park Contact Eric Thompson 906-786-2354, Compartment Review 10/1/08 9:30 am EST, UP State Fair Grounds, DNR Pocket Park

Sault Ste. Marie 9/18/08 3:00pm - 6:00pm Kinross Twp. Hall Contact Pat Hallfrisch 906-635-5281, Compartment Review 10/10/08 9 am Quality Inn, St. Ignace

Atlanta 9/23/08 2:00pm - 7:00pm Atlanta Unit Office Contact Laurel Marzolo 989-785-4251, Compartment Review 10/16/08 9 am, Lewiston Library

Grayling 10/15/08 1:00pm - 6:00pm Grayling Field Office Contact Susan Thiel 989-348-6371, Compartment Review 11/6/08 9 am Grayling Field Office

Gwinn 10/23/08 3:00pm - 7:00pm Sands Township Hall Contact Bill Brondyke 906-346-9201, Compartment Review 11/7/08 NMU University Center - Superior Room

Cadillac - Baldwin field office 10/28/08 4:00pm - 7:00pm Baldwin Field Office Contact Bill Sterrett 231-775-9727, Compartment Review 12/4/08 9:30 am, Cadillac Public Library

Cadillac - Manton field office 10/29/08 4:00pm - 7:00pm Manton VFW Hall Contact Bill Sterrett 231-775-9727, Compartment Review 12/4/08 9:30 am, Cadillac Public Library

Traverse City 11/24/08 3:00pm - 7:00pm Traverse City Field Office Contact Dave Lemmien 231-922-5280, Compartment Review 12/11/08 9 am East Bay Town Hall

TC Kalkaska 11/25/08 3:00pm - 7:00pm Kalkaska Field Office Contact Dave Lemmien 231-922-5280, Compartment Review 12/10/08 9 am Stone House - Fireside Room, Kalkaska

Gladwin 12/2/08 3:00pm - 6:00pm Gladwin Field Office Contact Courtney Borgondy 989-426-9205, Compartment Review 12/16/08 9:30 am Riverwalk, Gladwin

Newberry 12/2/08 4:00pm - 7:00pm McMillan Twp Hall Contact Les Homan 906-293-3293, Compartment Review 12/17/08 Newberry Correctional Facility

Shingleton 12/3/08 4:00pm - 7:00 pm Wyman Nursery Contact Jeff Stampfly 906-452-6227, Compartment Review 12/18/08 9 am, Munising Twp. Hall

Kirtland's Warblers Raise Young For First Time in Wisconsin

For the first time in recent history, Kirtland's warblers (pictured above), a Federal Endangered bird species dependent on young jack pine forest habitats, have successfully fledged young outside of Michigan. Monitoring efforts coordinated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service found 10 young that fledged from five nests in Adams County located in Central Wisconsin. Kirtland's warbler populations had dropped to a low of 167 singing males in 1987 but have rebounded due to ongoing management efforts with 1,707 reported this spring including 8 found in Wisconsin and 2 in Ontario.

Ruffed Grouse Society Calls on Congress to Address Wildfire Funding Needs

On Wednesday, July 9th, the United States House of Representatives passed legislation designed to address the ever-increasing costs of emergency wildfire suppression. The discussions surrounding the passage of the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement (FLAME) Act focused much needed attention on a critically important issue.

Skyrocketing costs of wildfire suppression on public lands are seriously eroding the ability of the United States Forest Service to achieve wildlife habitat goals and other conservation objectives and to meet public expectations for the management of National Forest System lands. In 1991, wildfire suppression costs accounted for 13-percent of the Forest Service budget. Today, approximately 50-percent of the agency's budget is consumed by fighting fires.

According to Ruffed Grouse Society Executive Director and CEO Michael D. Zagata, "It is extremely important that a comprehensive solution to this urgent funding need can be crafted as similar legislation is considered by the Senate. Current forest and rangeland conditions in the West suggest that this serious wildfire problem will be with us well into the future."

"It is imperative that Congress draft policies that will allow federal agencies to combat these conflagrations without sacrificing their ability to meet their mandate to provide multiple-use opportunities, such as fishing, hiking, hunting and other forms of recreation, for the American public," Zagata said.

2008/2009 RGS Upland Bird Dream Hunt Raffle

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 also 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 rgzimm@newnorth.net or mail the following to:

RGS P.O. 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 _____

Upcoming RGS Events in the Region

August 14 to 17 - WI Coverts Workshop, Woodruff, WI Contact Jamie Nack at 608-265-8264 or email at jlneck@wisc.edu . (Workshop is full but openings are available in 2009)

August 14 - 29th Annual John Keener Chapter Sportsmen's Banquet, Madison, WI. Contact Robin Marohn at 608-212-8877 for info.

August 15 and 16 - Stop by the RGS booth at the Wisconsin Sportsfest at Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh, WI.

August 23 - 16th Annual Iowa Chapter Sportsmen's Banquet, Dubuque, IA. Contact Eric Van Hook at 319-286-6270 for info.

September 4 - 27th Annual NE Wisconsin Chapter Sportsmen's Banquet, Green Bay. Contact Jim Schuettpelz at 920-469-0751 for info.

September 4-6 - Stop by the RGS booth at the Lake States Logging Congress, Fairgrounds, Green Bay, WI.

September 18 - 22nd Annual Marinette County Chapter Sportsmen's Banquet, Crivitz, WI. Contact Bob Zutter at 715-735-7311 for info.

September 24 - 19th Annual Mid U.P. Sportsmen's Banquet, Marquette, MI. Contact Lyn Durant at 906-228-2280 for info.

October 2 - 4th Annual Northwoods Chapter Sportsmen's Banquet, Iron River, MI. Contact Russ Hagberg at 906-774-5915 for info.

Reminder

To insure that you continue to receive timely FAN updates please notify me of changes in your email or mailing addresses.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions:
Gary Zimmer, Sally B. Searle Senior Regional Biologist, Ruffed Grouse Society
P.O. Box 116 Laona, WI 54541 Phone: (715) 674-7505 email: rgszimm@newnorth.net

The Ruffed Grouse Society is an international non-profit conservation organization dedicated to promoting conditions suitable for ruffed grouse, American woodcock and related wildlife to sustain our 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
