



CHAPTER ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The Ruffed Grouse Society will be hosting a meeting Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at the Best Western Hotel, North Shore Grill on the Terrace 7th floor, 820 Shelden Avenue, Houghton, MI 49931 from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm with appetizers & refreshments being served.

We encourage you to join us to discuss the organization of a chapter in your area. An RGS Regional biologist Gary Zimmer will also be in attendance to answer questions.

For questions, please contact RGS regional director Doug Doherty – 231-549-5063 or e-mail: rgsdrd@Centurytel.com.

RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY 2008 **HABITAT HAPPENINGS IN THE UPPER PENINSULA**

UP Overview:

The first Ruffed Grouse Society Management Area Project (MAP) in the Upper Peninsula was initiated in 1985. Since that time, the Society has provided over \$145,000 in funding over 33 projects in the UP. These funds have enhanced ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat on over 38,000 acres of public land. Thanks must go out to our local chapter committees and you, the banquet attendees who continue to make all of this possible.

2007:

The Society has recently joined in a five year partnership agreement with the Hiawatha National Forest to support ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat management efforts on the Forest. Projects slated in this partnership include the development of the Little Bear Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock Habitat Management Area near Rudyard and improving habitat and trail conditions on the Birch Farm Grouse Management Area in Delta County. Project work was also conducted on the Gogebic County Forest that included promoting aspen regeneration efforts. A partnership with the Ottawa National Forest continues with work in 2007 concentrating on alder regeneration efforts and improvements to hunter walking trails in the Bluebill Creek Grouse Management Area. I

What's ahead in 2008?

Work is scheduled to continue on both National Forests in the UP. On the Hiawatha National Forest efforts will be centered on improvement on the Little Bear Habitat Management Area. On the Ottawa National Forest work will be targeted toward maintaining alder and aspen habitats. In addition, support is being provided for a research project through Michigan Technological University addressing the potential impact of using aspen forests for ethanol production on wildlife populations. This research is timely and will evaluate potential tradeoffs between biomass production and wildlife habitat management objectives in aspen stands and develop recommendations for managing aspen forests to meet quality-oriented standards.

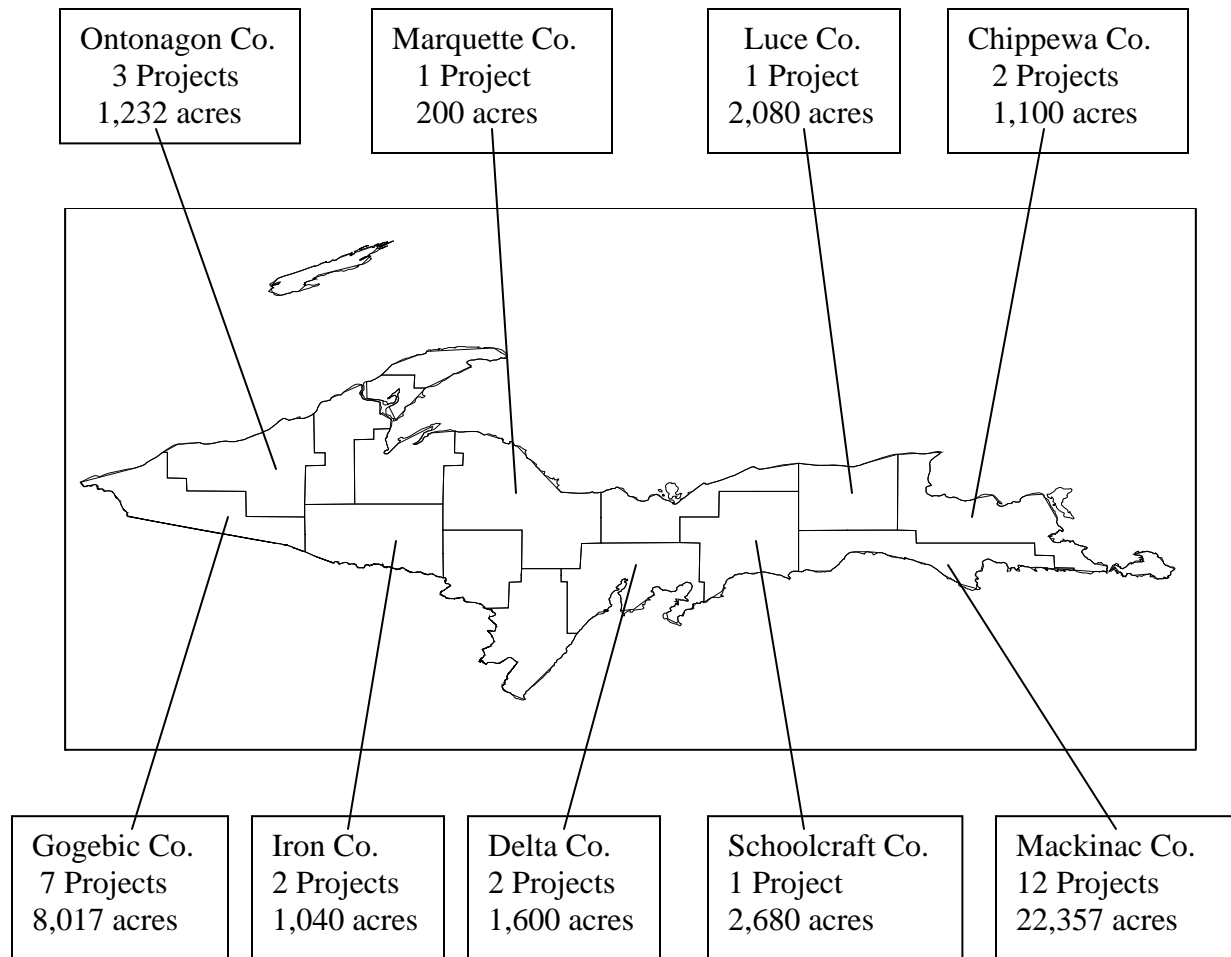
National Emphasis: The Ruffed Grouse Society continues to actively promote common-sense forest wildlife conservation and the interests of sportsmen and women on the ground, in the courts, and in the legislative and policy arenas. At the local, state and federal levels, the Society is protecting the ability of public land managers and private landowners to use the tools needed to manage our forests to benefit ruffed grouse, woodcock, and other wildlife of young forest habitats.

In Washington, over 4 years of work by the nation's leading wildlife conservation organizations, spearheaded by the Society, resulted in significant improvements to regulations that guide habitat management on 191 million acres of National Forest System lands. Previously, these regulations had often tied the hands of natural resource managers and greatly complicated the ability of the Society and others to implement needed on-the-ground projects. The improvements to these regulations will greatly enhance opportunities for the Society to promote science-based wildlife conservation on our National Forests.

Thank you for your support!

From Ironwood to Lansing to Washington DC, none of the Ruffed Grouse Society's accomplishments would be possible without the generous support from our members. We are in this together; in this struggle to protect the future of our hunting heritage and to preserve our nations forest wildlife. Please consider becoming a committee member if you are not already. If you are interested in receiving regular updates on grouse related issues please consider becoming a member of our Forest Action Network (FAN), a group of grouse enthusiasts who are taking an active role in grouse and woodcock management. For information contact your [Regional Director](#) or Regional Biologist Gary Zimmer at 715-674-7505, or by email at rgszimm@newnorth.net.

Michigan's Upper Peninsula Ruffed Grouse Society Management Area Projects 1985 to 2007



Note: An additional partnership project, completed in 2003, to inventory the aspen forest type on the Ottawa National Forest was conducted in parts of Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, and Ontonagon Counties.

Ruffed Grouse Society

2007 Management Area Projects in Michigan

Hiawatha National Forest Grouse Habitat Improvements,

Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Mackinac and Schoolcraft Counties, Michigan

Work will include non-commercial alder and aspen regeneration harvests as well as improvements to Hunter Walking Trail Systems on the Hiawatha National Forest. Funds will be matched by the Forest Service, therefore doubling on the ground management activities. A portion of these funds will target additional work on the long established Birch Farm Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock Habitat Management Area. This will initiate a five-year Cost Share Partnership Program between the US Forest Service and the Ruffed Grouse Society.

Huron/Manistee National Forest Non-Commercial Aspen Regeneration, Cadillac Ranger District, Lake and Wexford Counties, Michigan

This project will regenerate approximately 35 acres of non-commercial aspen habitat on the Huron/Manistee National Forest. Two project sites have been identified for regeneration on locations that are inaccessible for commercial harvests due to wetland crossings.

Gogebic County Forest Aspen Regeneration, Gogebic County, Michigan

The goal of this project is to regenerate approximately 100 acres of high quality aspen habitat on land managed by the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission. Un-merchantable residual trees remain at recently harvested cutting units. If left untreated, aspen regeneration would be impacted resulting in lower stem densities and poorer habitat for ruffed grouse, woodcock and other young forest wildlife.

LeGrande Management Area Project, Cheboygan County, Michigan

The project area is managed by the Michigan DNR and is located approximately six miles north of Afton, Michigan. Funds will be used to support ongoing ruffed grouse habitat work being conducted on the Pigeon River Wildlife Area. Proposed work will include the rehabilitation of approximately 20 acres of wildlife openings and improvements to access roads and trails used for management activities and as hunter walking trails. This is the second phase of this multi-year project.

Ottawa National Forest Grouse Habitat Improvements,

Iron, Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties, Michigan

Work planned includes non-commercial alder and aspen regeneration harvests as well as improvements to Hunter Walking Trail Systems on the Ottawa National Forest. Funds will be matched by the Forest Service, therefore doubling on the ground management activities. A portion of these funds may be used for additional work on the long established Harris Creek Disabled Hunting Trail System. This is part of a five-year Cost Share Partnership Program between the Forest Service and RGS that began in 2006.

Michigan Private Landowner Education

Lower Peninsula and one in the Upper Peninsula. Workshops are typically one-day events that include a half day seminar that includes a variety of natural resources specialists, a lunch and a half day in the field viewing ongoing management programs. These workshops introduce landowners to ways to better manage their properties for desired wildlife species.