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Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 12:08 PM
To: FAN Member
Subject: FAN Update



Western Great Lakes Region FAN UPDATE

Volume 10, Issue 1

April 19, 2010

**UW-Madison's Dept. of Forest and Wildlife
Ecology's**

**2010 LEOPOLD LECTURE Presents Shane
Mahoney**

Executive Director of Science for Newfoundland and Labrador and renowned
expert on North American wildlife conservation

**"Maintaining Public Trust in the North American Model of Wildlife
Conservation: The Crucial Partnership Between Hunter-Conservationists
and Wildlife Professionals"**

Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 6:00pm

Ebling Auditorium, Microbial Sciences Building on the UW-Madison campus

Babcock Dairy ice cream reception at 5:00pm in Allen Centennial Gardens

(Please visit the UW campus map - <http://www.map.wisc.edu/> - to locate Microbial
Sciences, Allen Centennial Gardens, and available, free parking after 4:30pm in
Lot 36)

LEOPOLD LECTURE SPONSORS

**UW Campus Lectures Committee, Wisconsin Department of Natural
Resources, Badgerland Chapter of the Safari Club International,
Pheasants Forever, Wisconsin Chapter of the National Wild Turkey
Federation, Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society, The Ruffed
Grouse Society, and Whitetails Unlimited.**

**For questions about the Leopold Lecture or information about the North
American Conservation Model, please contact Scott Craven at
srcraven@wisc.edu.**

**Don't Miss Out! Only 73 Days Left!
Drawing on June 30, 2010**

Enter the 2009/2010 RGS National Raffle Today

Baby Frame 28-Gauge Shotgun with 28 inch barrels

Made Famous by Winchester

(approx. retail value \$32,000)

Straight English Stock, Walnut

Beavertail forend

Gold RGS Logo Engraving on bottom of receiver

Visit www.ruffedgrousesociety.org to see a picture (it's a beauty) of this one-of-a-kind
shotgun

To Purchase 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 @ \$100.00 Each = \$** _____ **Total Enclosed**

CHECK (Payable to RGS) CASH CREDIT CARD

CC # _____ **Exp. Date** _____

Billing Address _____ **Billing Zip** _____

Signature _____

Golden-winged Warbler Petitioned for Federal Listing

On 10 February 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service received a petition to list the Golden-winged Warbler as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The petition was referred to the Midwest Region, largely because over 80% of the global breeding population of the species resides in the forests surrounding the Great Lakes.

Once the Division of Ecological Services receives a listing petition, there are two key decision points. The first, called a 90-day finding, considers whether the information contained in the petition is substantial enough to justify additional evaluation by the Service. If the information in the petition is determined to be not substantial, the petition for listing receives no further consideration. In making this first determination, the Service considers the information presented in the petition and any other information readily available from its files. The standard for a substantial 90-day finding is whether that information is adequate and reliable enough to lead a reasonable person to believe that listing may be warranted.

If the petition is judged to be substantial, additional evaluation by Service biologists is justified, and a second decision point occurs when a 12-month finding is prepared. Evaluation of the petition during this period involves a review of the scientific evidence and a call to state agencies, organization partners, and the public for any new information which would be relevant. A biological document is prepared rendering one of three possible decisions regarding the petitioned listing: warranted, not warranted, or warranted but precluded. Warranted and not warranted have their commonly understood meanings. Warranted but precluded means that the species warrants listing, but other species have higher priority in the decision queue; after listing decisions are made for those species, the warranted but precluded species will get its turn. Evaluation is based on the criteria of the Endangered Species Act: the likelihood of extinction in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of the species' range. If listing of the species is determined to be not warranted, no further action is taken. If listing of the species is considered to be warranted, that finding ordinarily would be accompanied by a proposal to list the species. If the species is considered warranted but precluded, the species becomes a candidate for listing and is assigned a listing priority. If the species is ultimately listed, the provisions of the Act apply and the next step is normally the preparation of a recovery plan.

In practice, processing of the petition and both decisions (90-day finding and 12-month finding) may take more than a year and are influenced by the availability of both personnel time and funding.

Until a decision to propose listing is rendered as a result of a 12-month finding, all activities and permitting would proceed as they have been. Nonetheless, the petitioning of the species for listing under the ESA should serve to highlight the conservation vulnerability of Golden-winged Warbler in the public eye. The goal of the Golden-winged Warbler Working Group has always been and should continue to be prioritized research and monitoring and proactive conservation action through interstate and international partnerships for the benefit of Golden-winged Warbler and its breeding, migratory, and non-breeding habitats.

NOTE => to download a pdf of the petition submitted to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, go to www.gwwa.org/petition

Forest Service Wins Two More Court Decisions in Wisconsin

Judgements in favor of the US Forest Service were recently received on two vegetation management projects on the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest in Northern Wisconsin. In January, District Court Judge Lynn Adelman of the Eastern District Court ruled that the Forest Service had adequately addressed cumulative effects in the Northwest Howell Project on the Eagle River/Florence Ranger District and the McCaslin Project on the Lakewood/Laona Ranger District. These projects have been in legal limbo since 2003 and 2004 respectively. The plaintiffs as in other past cases were the Habitat Education Center out of Madison, WI and the Environmental Law and Policy Center from Chicago. They claimed that the Forest Service failed to properly consider the effects of the project on forest species like the American Pine Marten, Northern Goshawk, and the Red-shouldered Hawk.

These decisions are good news for continuing to move the implementation of the 2004 Forest Plan along and include a variety of vegetative management projects including several that will benefit ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat.

Wisconsin Drummer Fund Receives \$40,000 Donation

The Wisconsin Drummer Fund received a generous start up boost when it received a \$40,000 donation from long time RGS supporter David V. Uihlein late last year. These funds have been added to funds generated by Wisconsin Chapters from their fund raising banquets to support ruffed grouse and woodcock related projects in the state. This was another of the many ways Mr. Uihlein supported habitat work for his favorite game birds. David V. Uihlein passed away at his home in Mequon, Wisconsin on January 29, shortly after he provided this donation to the Ruffed Grouse Society.

Beginning in 2010, RGS chapters with successful events are able to place a portion of what they raise in state "Drummer Funds" for habitat projects within their state. This new program was recently approved by the RGS Board of Directors and is in response to a call by chapters to locally fund additional habitat projects. Contact your local RGS Regional Director for more information on this important program.

Wisconsin Statewide Forest Strategy Out For Review

April 23 deadline for online survey comments

The Wisconsin DNR Forestry Division is inviting the public, government representatives, and partner organizations - anyone interested in forests and forestry in Wisconsin - to share their views on the Statewide Forest Strategy.

The draft can be viewed at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/assessment/strategy/overview.htm> . The webpage has information on how the strategies were developed, a listing of the major issues and threats affecting the state's private and public forests, and the documents used to develop the Statewide Forest Strategy. The website also includes links to 5 theme-based online surveys (<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/assessment/strategy/comment.asp>), as well as alternative ways to submit views on the draft. The deadline for responding to the surveys and/or submitting written comments is April 23.

The 5 themes addressed in the Statewide Forest Strategy are: fragmentation and parcelization, forest composition and structure, energy and climate change, forests as economic contributors, and protection of life and property. The goal of the review "is to facilitate a process where the public and the forestry community can identify what strategies should be undertaken to tackle

issues and to build on current strengths over the next 5 to 10 years,” according to Forest Planner Rebecca Gass. “The draft strategies represent a large investment of resources. Recognizing the current economic constraints, it is necessary to determine which strategies and actions are the most important to focus on.”

The survey is “an opportunity to share opinions on which items respondents consider the most important a chance to comment on how to improve them, and a way to identify any that should be added or deleted,” Gass said. The revised draft will eventually open the door to additional conversations on how those strategies can be implemented - and by whom. “The major issues and threats affecting Wisconsin’s forests cannot be tackled by one group, organization, or agency. By asking the forest community to review and offer their views. The Forestry Division will receive important guidance on how together, we can all best protect and sustainably manage Wisconsin’s outstanding forest resources.”

Wisconsin COVERTS Project Signup Continues

Applications Due by June 15th

Building on its success, the Wisconsin Coverts Project will once again provide two workshops in 2010. Both will be held at the Kemp Natural Resources Station near Woodruff, WI. The workshops for private forest landowners will be held either August 12 - 15 or August 26 - 29 at Kemp Natural Resources Station near Woodruff, WI. These 3-day sessions have had rave reviews from past attendees that have become Covert Cooperators through past workshops.

Now starting its 17th year, 427 cooperators have attended these workshops.

Sharing with others what they have learned these Coverts Cooperators have influenced the management of over 700,000 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 jlack@wisc.edu. Attendance is limited. More information is available on the Coverts Project website at http://forestandwildlifeecology.wisc.edu/wl_extension/wicovertsproject.html. Deadline for applications is June 15th.

New Online Tool Helps Plan Your Michigan Hunting or Outdoor Adventure

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment introduced a new tool for selecting your next hunting, trapping or outdoor recreation spot -- an interactive mapping application called Mi-HUNT

www.michigan.gov/mihunt).

Mi-HUNT is a cutting-edge, Web-based application that allows users to view and navigate through all public lands open to hunting and trapping in Michigan. Mi-HUNT displays multiple layers of information, which can be customized to fit your specific outdoor interests and trip planning needs.

“No matter where you are in Michigan, you can find public land for hunting or trapping,” said DNRE Director Rebecca Humphries. “This sophisticated application is the first of its kind in Michigan and state-of-the-art nationwide, allowing hunters and outdoor enthusiasts to view, print, measure and create custom routing to their desired destinations.”

The interactive layers of Mi-HUNT allow the user to view:

- all state game and wildlife areas, federal land, state forest land and private lands open to hunting and trapping;
 - vegetation types;
 - topography of land;
- recreational facilities such as forest campgrounds, trails, boat launches, and parking areas;
 - aerial photography;
 - street maps and directions.

Mi-HUNT was made possible with a grant from the National Shooting Sports Foundation. The application was developed by the Michigan Department of Information Technology-Center for Shared Solutions using DNRE data.

Upcoming RGS “Habitat” Events in the Region

April 20 - Leopold Lecture Series with Shane Mahoney "Maintaining Public Trust in the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation: The Crucial Partnership Between Hunter-Conservationists and Wildlife Professionals", 6 PM at the Ebling Auditorium, Microbial Sciences Building on the UW-Madison campus.

April 24 - Intro to the Outdoors Youth Education Day near Marshfield, WI, sponsored by the West Central Wisconsin RGS Chapter. Contact Rich Chronquist at 715-387-1163 for info.

May 15 - Habitat Work Day on the Eagle River/Florence District of the Cheq/Nicolet National Forest . Contact Dave Bartz at 920-743-6004 for info.

June 15 - Sign Up Deadline for WI Coverts Workshops, Contact Jamie Nack at 608-265-8264 or email at jlneck@wisc.edu .

June 19 – Habitat Work Day on the Cheq/Nicolet National Forest near Laona, WI. Contact Dave Bartz at 920-743-6004 for info.

June 19 and 20 - Visit the RGS booth at the UP Side by Side Classic, Channing, MI.

August 12 to 15 - First 2010 WI Coverts Workshop, Contact Jamie Nack at 608-265-8264 or email at jlneck@wisc.edu .

August 26 to 29 - Second 2010 WI Coverts Workshop, Contact Jamie Nack at 608-265-8264 or email at jlneck@wisc.edu

Reminder

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

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 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 .
