



RD CHATTER

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Shawnee State Forest Uses RGS Trail Mix for Forest Trails

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry recently re-opened recreation trails on the Shawnee State Forest lands. RGS donated our wildlife seed mix, *Trail Mix*, for use in reseeded some of the trails.

Seeding of the trails was accomplished in order to rehabilitate areas impacted by an April wildfire in the forest.

New Equipment Will Enhance RGS Habitat Work

RGS recently purchased two trucks and two trailers for use with the ASV/Terex PT-100 forestry loaders in the Midwest and the CAT loader in the Northeast. The new trucks and trailer will allow for the transport of the equipment to various locations for habitat work.

One truck and trailer will be used in the Midwest and the other in the Northeast. An additional truck is being supplied by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for use in Wisconsin. The remaining truck is also for use in the Northeast, and an additional trailer will be purchased very soon.

The new equipment was purchased with funds from several recently obtained grants.

California Lawsuit Ends in Settlement Unfavorable for Healthy Forest Management

A recent Northern California lawsuit ended with a settlement by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company agreeing to pay \$14.75 million as recompense for the 1999 Pendola fire in Plumas and Tahoe National Forests. The fire started due to a pine tree that fell onto a power distribution line.

Allegations that the fire caused damage to the lands, harm to the ecological habitat and loss of timber ended in the resulting settlement.

The decision is viewed by many to be a blow to conservation groups because fire, which is a natural act of nature that allows for forest renewal, was viewed as destructive.

Wildlife Bill Introduced to Congress

Bill requires lengthy species monitoring, may be unrealistic

In June this year Wisconsin Representative Ron Kind presented “American’s Wildlife Heritage Act” (HR 2807) to Congress. The bill, though ostentatiously written to sustain wildlife and plants on federal public lands, may actually prove too cumbersome to be effective.

Requirements in the bill include overwhelming obligations placed upon federal land management agencies to monitor every species that may be impacted by a proposed activity. The manpower necessary to implement this requirement is beyond the current expertise available to these agencies, and there is no provision for additional funding. The large quantities of money that would be spent attempting to follow these guidelines would, perhaps, be better spent in accomplishing much needed habitat work on federal lands.

RGS intends to work with Representative Kind and other members of Congress to modify the language of the bill to reflect more reasonable expectations.

Welcome to new RGS Corporate Sponsor Connecticut Shotgun. They donated a 28-gauge RBL that will be used in an upcoming raffle or banquet.

Congratulations to our three 2009 National Raffle Winners: Jim Farrell from Altoona, Pennsylvania won the Dream Hunt, Andrew Lukashuk of Sussex, New York won a \$1000 Cabela’s gift certificate and Kristin Dew of Elgin, Illinois won a pair of custom Russell Moccasin boots.

Regional News

Michigan and Northwest Indiana Report

In my first two months as Regional Director in MI and Northwest Indiana I have been meeting the members of the various chapters throughout the region. We have had numerous activities including dog trials, shoots, habitat days and a banquet.

The new development here has been the acquisition of the ASV Pro100 forestry machine, pickup truck and trailer. This new “tool” is doing great things already for habitat conditions and the Ruffed Grouse Society in Michigan. We are continuing work on public lands in Allegan, Barry, and Lapeer State Game Areas. We will continue to work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in our efforts to improve habitat conditions on our state lands.

In addition to our public land efforts we have initiated a program to provide these services on private lands as well. In order to conduct the work on private lands across the region we are looking for a team of qualified operators to provide professional services as the machine moves to various locales across the state.

We have conducted public demonstrations of the machine educating folks on what the unit is capable of, and how it benefits habitat and wildlife. These demonstrations also serve as a means to secure new interest and projects as well as new supporters and members of the Ruffed Grouse Society.

We are very excited about the ASV and the opportunities and benefits it affords us. To learn more about this new program, please see the following brochure and contact Gary, John, or myself.

RGS is always looking for volunteers to assist with its chapters and banquets. Please contact me if you have some time to offer for an existing chapter or to help start a new one. Thank you in advance.

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Ruffed Grouse Society
Habitat Management Equipment Program



Equipment Rental Rates
Heavy Equipment and Cutting Head

Private Lands Projects

RGS Members\$100 per hour (includes operator)

Non-RGS Members\$125 per hour (includes operator)

Transport First 50 miles free, \$75/hr beyond 50 miles

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