

# PROGRESS REPORT

## WOODCOCK HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

### Princeport, Colchester County, Nova Scotia

**THE PROJECT GOAL:** to improve the woodcock feeding habitat by periodic rejuvenation of over mature alder covers; to provide temporary singing grounds and good brood and nesting habitat; and to begin and continue a spring singing survey on the project site.

**THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES:** to improve woodcock feeding habitat and provide temporary singing grounds and also serve as good brood and nesting habitat by the rejuvenation of over mature alder covers. Good feeding (daytime) covers are essential for woodcock well being. The Woodcock Conservation Society (WCS) anticipates woodcock will be feeding in this rejuvenated habitat in 2009. The WCS will return to the Project site in 2009 and cut another series of strips. Then in 2014, we will return to make our final series of cuts. We will follow the same procedure each year - cut over one third of the feeding habitat, leaving two thirds intact for present population.

Thus the entire cover will be cut and replaced in ten years. Strips will be cut and separated by uncut strips in the over mature alder feeding covers. This project will not only rejuvenate the alder feeding cover, it will also provide temporary singing grounds, nesting and brood rearing areas for woodcock.

Woodcock require a young, vigorously growing habitat. Ruffed grouse, white tail deer, snowshoe hare and a variety of songbirds are species which also benefit from this rejuvenated habitat.

With the co-operation of the provincial government, forestry companies, private landowners and other conservation organizations, the Woodcock Conservation Society is working to improve woodcock habitat in Nova Scotia.

### PROJECT MANAGEMENT:

- a. Planning the Project - Fall 2004
- b. Site Selection - Fall 2004
- c. Landowner Relations - Fall 2004
- d. Monitoring Woodcock Singing Survey - May 11, 2005
- e. Planning Strips on Project Site - October 19, 2005 - 5 hours
- f. Flagging Project Site - November 11,12,14, 2005 - 18 hours
- g. Site Work - December 2005
- h. Fuel for WCS Staff on Project - \$141.75  
Meals for WCS Staff on Project - \$61.14  
Miscellaneous Expenses for WCS Staff on Project - \$35.35
- i. WCS Staff time on Project - 14 days
- j. Project Sign Installation - Spring 2006, paid for and installed by WCS

The actual on-site cutting of alders began on December 1 and was completed on December 2, 2005. In spite of extremely wet and difficult working conditions in December 2005, a recent visit to the Site reveals a natural healing of the Area and it is clearly evident that spring regrowth will be swift. The landowner is very pleased with the Site conditions.

The Woodcock Conservation Society feels the project goal and objectives have been met and the Project work has been completed for 2005.

The 2005 work has been completed and the Woodcock Conservation Society thinks it has been a success. There will be further rejuvenation work in 2010 and 2015 at this Site to continue improving Woodcock Habitat on this Project site.