

PROGRESS REPORT

WOODCOCK HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Nine Mile River, Hants 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 2011. The WCS will return to the Project site in 2011 and cut another series of strips. Then in 2016, 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:

- b. Planning the Project - January 2006
- c. Site Selection - January 2006
- d. Landowner Relations - January 2006
- e. Monitoring Woodcock Singing Survey - May 4, 2006
- f. Planning Strips on Project Site - September 2, 2006b - 4 hours
- g. Flagging Project Site - September 5, 7, 12, 13, 15, 2006 - 24 hours
- h. Site Work - January 2007
- i. Fuel for WCS Staff on Project - \$296.33
Meals for WCS Staff on Project - \$90.00
Miscellaneous Expenses for WCS Staff on Project - \$34.14
WCS Staff time on Project - 20 hours
- j. Project Sign Installation - Spring 2007, paid for and installed by WCS

The actual on-site cutting of alders began on January 17, 2007 and was completed on January 18, 2007.

Due to an extremely wet and mild December, work was not commenced on the site until the ground froze in January to minimize damage to the site. A recent visit to the Site reveals little disruption of the Area and it is clearly evident that spring regrowth will be swift. The WCS was very pleased with the professional conduct of the operator. 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 2006.

The 2006 work has been completed and the Woodcock Conservation Society is confident of the success. There will be further rejuvenation work in 2011 and 2016 at this Site to continue improving Woodcock Habitat on this Project site.