

FINAL REPORT

WOODCOCK HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Ess Road, Hants County, Nova Scotia

THE PROJECT GOAL: to improve the woodcock feeding habitat by 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 2012. The WCS will return to the Project site in 2012 and cut the remainder of the site.

This project will 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:

Planning the Project - December 2006

Site Selection - January 2007

Landowner Relations - January 2006

Relocation of Site due to unforeseen restrictions – April 2007

Monitoring Woodcock Singing Survey - May, 2007

Planning & flagging Strips on Project Site - September, 2007 – 11.5 hour

Sign Installation – September 2007 – 2 hours

Site Work - November 2007 – 15 hours

Expenses for WCS Staff during Project - \$409.03

WCS Staff time on Project – 26.5 hours

The actual on-site cutting of alders began on November 8, 2007 and was completed on November 9, 2007.

Weather conditions were very favourable for the work this fall. 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 2007.