



USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region



Personnel Changes

Regional Forester – Charles (Chuck) Myers

Renewable Resources Director - Nancy Ross

Regional Wildlife Program Manager - Mary Maj

Renewable Resources Intern – Brittnee Shows

Hutton Junior Fish Biologist Scholar – Oshawun Chalmers

- Kent Connaughton (former Regional Forester) is the Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region in Portland, OR;
- Paul Momper (former Renewable Resources Director) retired in December 2010; and
- Bill Bartush, accepted a job with the US F&WS in LaFayette, LA as the Gulf Coast Prairie LCC Coordinator.

Fish and Wildlife Landscape Scale Conservation Activities

Glades Conservation Assessment and Strategy. Limestone glades provide essential habitat for many plant and animal species of conservation concern. The Forest Service and the Central Hardwoods Joint Venture are leading an effort to bring federal, state, and non-governmental partners together to identify a restoration strategy for glade systems, of which many are considered imperiled. Completing a conservation assessment is the first step; this effort will identify the distribution of remnant and functioning glade systems, as well as restoration opportunities. Once completed, restoration guidance priorities will be identified, documented, and made available for interested agencies, organizations, and land owners. The geographic area under consideration includes the states of Missouri, Oklahoma, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Arkansas, Alabama and Tennessee.

Contact: Mary Maj, (414) 297-1254 or mmaj@fs.fed.us.

Kirtland's Warbler Memorandum of Understanding. The Forest Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service signed an MOU in May 2011, which provides written assurances that these agencies will continue collaborative habitat management, brown-headed cowbird control, monitoring, research, and education as it relates to Kirtland's warbler and jack pine management. These assurances represent a critical step toward delisting the Kirtland's warbler. This species is now present in Michigan and Wisconsin, and is nesting on the Huron-Manistee, Hiawatha, Ottawa, and Chequamegon-Nicolet national forests.

Contact: Becky Ewing, (414) 297-3612 or rewing@fs.fed.us.

Coordinated Bird Monitoring in BCR 12. The Forest Service has been cooperating with University of Minnesota (Natural Resources Research Institute) and University of Wisconsin-Green Bay for 20 years on the collection of breeding bird data from the Superior, Chippewa, and Chequamegon-Nicolet national forests. A 2011 agreement was recently signed between the partners for the purpose of summarizing the datasets (e.g., population trends, habitat trends). The final report is to be published by the Northern Research Station as a General Technical Report.

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In addition, the Forest Service is planning to participate this fall in discussion with other BCR 12 partners on the topic of coordinated bird monitoring. We look forward to discussing with states and others collecting bird surveillance and management related monitoring data how we can cooperate in data collection, management and analysis in order that we get the most from our efforts, singly and collectively.

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Regional Forester Sensitive Species List. The Eastern Region updated its sensitive species list, a process undertaken about every five years. Forest Supervisors have worked closely with state wildlife agencies and heritage programs to include those species of greatest conservation concern in the update. The Forest Service incorporates proactive and protective measures for sensitive species in all land management projects. A total of 374 animals and 603 plants are on the updated list.

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National Fish Habitat Partnerships. There are 9, nationally recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships that lie within or cross the Eastern Regional boundary. Several R9 units provided inventory data for fish and mussels through their partnerships for inclusion into the detailed assessments being conducted by Downstream Strategies. The Eastern Region coordinated filming of a spring fishing trip on the Chippewa NF with Pat Rivers, Midwest Glacial lakes FHP Coordinator and Steve Pennaz, from the North American Fishing Club. The show highlighted recreational fishing and the importance of lake shorelines, clean water and lake habitats for fish communities and how the partnership works with lake associations and landowners to protect, enhance, and restore Midwestern glacial lakes and watersheds. **Contact:** Nick Schmal, (414) 297-3431 nschmal@fs.fed.us.

Threat Campaign® with Wildlife Forever: National Invasive Species Outreach and Education. The Threat Campaign is a unique multimedia educational effort targeted to anglers, boater, hunters and outdoor recreationists to stop the spread of invasive species. Outreach efforts include extensive television, print ads, billboards, airport dioramas, and Public Service Announcements. Partners value the diverse fields of expertise among members. Federal and State agencies serve as the scientific and messaging arm ensuring the Best Management Practices are based on findings of professionals. In five years, the campaign has expanded to 20 states and over 715,000,000 impressions have been reached. **Contact:** Nick Schmal, (414) 297-3431(nschmal@fs.fed.us) or Doug Grann, Wildlife Forever, (763) 253-0222.

Watershed Condition Framework and Priority Watersheds. The Watershed Condition Framework (WCF) is a comprehensive approach for implementing integrated restoration on priority watersheds on national forests and grasslands. The WCF proposes to improve the way the Forest Service approaches watershed restoration by targeting the implementation of integrated suites of activities in those watersheds that have been identified as priorities for restoration. The WCF also establishes a nationally consistent reconnaissance-level approach for classifying watershed condition, using a comprehensive set of 12 indicators that are surrogate variables representing the underlying ecological, hydrological, and geomorphic functions and processes that affect watershed condition. Primary emphasis is on aquatic and terrestrial processes and conditions that Forest Service management activities can influence. The approach is designed to foster integrated ecosystem-based watershed assessments; target programs of work in watersheds that have been identified for restoration; enhance communication and coordination with external agencies and partners; and improve national-scale reporting and monitoring of program accomplishments. Each forest developed restoration plans for two priority watersheds by the end of September, 2011. **Contact:** Nick Schmal, (414) 297-3431 (nschmal@fs.fed.us) or Ted Geier, (414) 297-1347 (tgeier@fs.fed.us).

The Terrestrial Condition Assessment, which is currently being developed, will bring terrestrial components and characterization into this integrated approach to identifying priority restoration. **Contact:** Greg Nowacki, (414) 297-1977 or gnowacki@fs.fed.us

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The Forest Service received just approximately \$6.9 million in GLRI funds in FY 2012. The funds were allocated between the three branches of the FS-NFS, Eastern Region (\$1.8 million), Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry (\$3.3 million), and Northern Research Station (\$228,630). The Forest Service received in FY 2011, and continues to implement projects on-the-ground from both years of funding. Specific accomplishments include:

- Restoration of degraded and toxic site using native vegetation;
- Outreach to spread the message about Aquatic Invasive Species – implementation of Best Management Practices”, development of exhibits, informational materials, installation of portable boat washers, media blitz, and other comprehensive educational outreach efforts around the Great Lakes forests;
- Restoration and enhancement and post monitoring of over 6,000 acres of threatened and endangered species habitat;
- 20 project relating to fish and aquatic organisms resulting in 23 miles of stream or rivers re-opened, over 146 miles of rivers/streams restored, and 589 acres of stream or lake habitat enhanced;

Contact: Tony Erba (414) 297-1905 (aerba@fs.fed.us) or Nick Vrevich (414) 297-3350 (nvrevich@fs.fed.us).

Accelerated Restoration. The Forest Service is engaged in a broad range of actions designed to restore the health of lands and waters of national Forest System. Accelerated restoration refers to increasing the pace of our work as needed to address threats - including fire, climate change, insect, and invasive species infestations. While our focus is on national forests and grasslands we recognize the importance of restoration across all ownerships and believe in the all-lands approach. “Increasing the pace” will be facilitated through the following:

- expanding collaborative landscape partnerships;
- implementation of new forest planning rule;
- implementing WCF;
- implementing Integrated Resource Restoration budgeting;
- expanding stewardship contracting; and,
- improving implementation and the efficiency of timber and stewardship contracts.

Contact: Nancy Ross (414) 297-3655 or njross@fs.fed.us

Integrated Resource Restoration. Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR) is the Forest Service’s new approach to restoration. This budget line item (BLI) brings together key management resources necessary for maintaining and restoring watershed and forest health under one umbrella and directs funding to achieve priority work in the most important places. This is a step away from the traditional approaches centered on local, individual small scale resource solutions and moves the agency toward evaluating and implementing environmental needs on a broad landscape scale, concentrating activities in priority watersheds. Funds will be directed to reestablish watershed, forest and grassland health, fire-adapted landscapes, and ecosystem function. Traditionally, important resource work was accomplished in many areas, with actions dispersed over various landscapes within in any given forest unit. Often additional critical restoration work essential in other resource areas still persisted. The IRR umbrella draws from a full suite of options in the restoration toolbox at the necessary level to implement action plans that address the most critical environmental needs in specific geographical locations.

IRR funds are organized into four components:

- Restoration and Management of Ecosystems
- Priority Watersheds and Job Stabilization
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program
- Legacy Roads & Trails

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APPENDIX A: USDA FOREST SERVICE, EASTERN REGION WILDLIFE, FISH AND BOTANY STAFF

