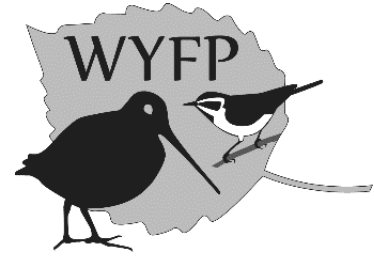


**Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting
9:00am - 3:00pm CDT
May 30th, 2018
Wisconsin DNR, 107 Sutliff Avenue, Rhinelander, WI**



MEETING DETAILS

Conference Room 1, DNR Service Center, 107 Sutliff Avenue, Rhinelander WI

Attendees:

Rhinelander Service Center:

Dan Eklund (USFWS), Callie Bertsch (ABC), Kent Van Horn (WDNR), Jeremy Holtz (WDNR), Ryan Jacques (WDNR), Randee Wlodek (WYFP), Janet Brehm (WDNR), Diane Anderson (WDNR), Kristin Lambert (WDNR), Gary Zimmer (WCFA), Chris Borden (NRCS), Tom Krapf (NRCS), Jared Elm (NRCS/RGS), Dan Hoff (NRCS/RGS), Eric Holm (WCFA), Bob Ellingson (WWF)

Conference Call Line:

Kurt Waterstradt (USFWS), Katie Koch (USFWS), Chuck McCullough (WDNR)

9:00 am - Additions to Agenda – none

Introductions

Steering Committee changes since last meeting

- Last call for executive committee nominations
 - o No nominations for our third committee member (NGO cooperator)
 - o Kent Van Horn – Recommends we hold off until the Ruffed Grouse Society finalizes hiring of the new regional biologist
 - Dan Anderson – local chapter President of the Eagle River Ruffed Grouse Society may be an option for RGS rep, but that needs to be discussed internally of RGS

MOU – any recent additions

- Wisconsin Center for Wildlife: Scott Hygnstrom rep – in progress
 - o Scott was unable to attend meeting, but work is still being done to become a partner
- Jamie Nack mentioned potential interest from UW Extension and/or Dept. of Forestry & Wildlife Ecology

WYFP updates – Holtz

- USFWS Webless Grant was extended till Dec. 2018
 - Fortunate to extend grant to meet all deliverables
 - Close on overall deliverables but were way under on the money spent
 - Grant will provide time for us to generate match for LTE support and Coordinator position
- RGS and WMI potential on multi state RCPP
 - NRCS - Awaiting the passing of the next Farm Bill
 - It is unknown on what the new Farm Bill will produce regarding a RCPP or something similar
 - ABC/NRCS – will re-apply but will be short window once Farm Bill passes
 - Dan/Jeremy – executive committee – in addition to others to come up with skeleton/plan to apply – put together framework and proposal that looks similar to an RCPP application – Minimally, what deliverables and objectives should we be thinking about prior to the passing of the Farm Bill
 - What are the RCPP and others looking for – project types – what can we contribute to be competitive
 - **Use of core group** to drive the application (NGO core group) focusing on the goals and practice of the WYFP – match from the group does not necessarily have to be monetary but could be time or resources

Coordinator Report – Wlodek

- Website updates
 - Added 'For Landowners' tab tailored to private landowners filled with resources, promotional videos, testimonials, information, and activities (Family Fun) they can use for their land
 - 'Family Fun' subtab include scavenger hunts, ID guides, survey techniques
 - Added 'Monitoring' tab to show research projects WYFP is conducting in young forest management areas and to show landowners how important monitoring wildlife is
 - 'Monitor your Property' subtab discussing new iNaturalist project – Wisconsin's Young Forest – an aid to landowners to observe, record, and monitor wildlife on their property
 - 'Identification Resources' subtab consisting of website links for landowners who need help with resources to ID plants/wildlife
 - May shut down WYFP webpage maintained by DNR – or just have a hotlink to the main WYFP webpage
 - Randee – **reach out to each entity** to see who is promoting WYFP webpage with a link –

what is the cost behind entities adding success stories or promotional pages within their website

- WYFP webpage is hosted by DJ case and edited by WMI (Chuck Fergus) and payed for by WMI – Funding is unreliable and grant is running low, communication is needed between WMI and Partnership about funding – should we dedicate funds for webpage maintenance and editing
 - Options to discuss with WMI
 - bypass WMI and pay DJ case to maintain webpage
 - WMI is an official partner, and if they would like to continue to be involved, find a way to maintain a funding source and get them money
- **Proposal by Jeremy Holtz** - Create WYFP Facebook page that mimics the official WYFP webpage – Managed by Randee with supporting partners as administrators
 - Run with this through the Outreach sub-committee to create a protocol to manage a Facebook page – who responds – who posts – who monitors public comments – how often do we post – what is our identity and goals
- Outreach committee will discuss creating an email distribution list of landowners. Landowners added will get information about upcoming events, new project potentials, updates on research going on in the area, etc.
- iNaturalist workshop
 - June 16th – invited landowners that have or will have young forest management done. Agenda can be found in Appendix A.
 - Interactive workshop to show landowners how to use iNaturalist, observe and ID wildlife, techniques behind surveying and monitoring, young forest habitat diversity (not just aspen/alder)
 - Initially targeting landowners that have worked with the Partnership to kickoff and promote the iNaturalist workshop, but in the future, we would like to have more workshops and get more landowners involved that are not just WYFP clients
 - Advertise June 16th workshop on DNR Facebook page with testimonial, WYFP introduction, and advertise workshop series we are starting – Kent VanHorn and Randee Wlodek
- 2017 Annual Report – great reflection on what the partnership has become
 - Finalized report will be posted to the WYFP webpage in June
 - Updated habitat impact since partnership birth and over the course of 2017, as well as, the number of management plans created or updated with partners work and outreach
 - Needs moving forward
 - Right now, the Annual Report is geared towards our partners to update them on what the partnership is doing and this will always be a priority to update the

partnership

- In the future – may add some tidbits that are more geared towards our private landowner clients to provide them with what has been to show what they are a part of as a participant
- Do we need to include total dollar amounts spent on these different projects – grant dollars generated – match dollars generated??
 - Decided partners can report that in house to their committees to show what was done and what they chipped in individually

Subcommittee Reports

- Personnel – Holtz
 - Nora Kennedy – ABC – left position, but position is posted for applications (Callie sent out link in email)
 - Potential intern through Scott Hygnstrom and the Wisconsin Center for Wildlife (Scott looking to be involved and exposed to young forest and habitat management)
 - RGS – future regional biologist – will have a high priority to work directly with northern Great Lakes staff to expand habitat work area.
- Outreach – Wlodek
 - Cold contact mailing results – 2000 letters mailed out end of April/early May
 - Price County and small portion of Oneida County
 - 33 responses to date (5/30/18)
 - 5,178 acres are represented with the 33 responses
 - 3,000 of those acres do not have management plan
 - Landowners that have been contacted before and responded (since 2012) have been removed from the mailing
 - Cold contact mailing has been successful for the Partnership and should continue in the future – additional outreach (social media) is welcome
 - Two letter processes – second letter will be sent out in the fall to the non-respondents from the first mailing
 - Suggestion to add something in letter to tell already engaged landowners to contact us and let us know they don't need help or to encourage them to contact us in case there are additional programs/practices they may be eligible for (CSP)
- Funding/fund administration – Eklund
 - NRCS – For the Lumberjack RC&D – Committed to and ready to go with \$25,000/year for three years – *on quarterly basis* – provides housing, logistical, and supervisory support to the contracted coordinator position to relieve others in the partnership – will add

another \$1,000/year for website for three years to total \$26,000/year

- Set meeting (phone/skype/in-person) with NRCS and DNR forestry and wildlife to discuss logistics behind managing the finances behind the coordinator position (include Eric Ulness from NRCS)
 - NRCS and DNR will have separate agreements with Lumberjack
 - Federal fiscal year vs state fiscal year
 - Plan work schedule on when deliverables are due to meet objectives that partners are paying for
- Guidelines/expectations of coordinator position from NRCS
 - Coordinate/facilitate stakeholder meetings
 - Young forest outreach event coordination and participation
 - Develop young forest habitat promotional material
 - Coordinate and conduct young forest outreach mailings and generate EQIP application submissions
- Figure out Farm Bill and RCPP outcome
- SFI grant – useful to us to get landowners management plans, print brochures, info packets, etc. (usually between \$1,000 to \$2,500 to keep us on their radar and them on our radar)
- **Something to think about:** As we expand territory we can be expanding our community with who we communicate with - adding more groups with different habitats (jack pine, Kirkland's warbler, and other species across the state to include different types of young forest habitat) – feedback from sub-committees on thoughts about the workload that including other species and habitats would have on the partnership
- **When will RGS initiate their Drummer Grant – Timeframe?**
 - **Start putting proposal together now in preparation for the application process that will be coming up eventually**
- Monitoring/research – Buckardt
 - Anna was unable to attend, but is working on her analysis of the geolocators and will be able to share more once results are published. See Appendix B for update.

Partner updates – each rep fills us in

- USFS – Dan Eklund – Work on funding and transitioning to Lumberjack
 - On the ground wood is getting cut - primarily aspen with some black ash
- NRCS – Chris Borden
 - Conservation stewardship program – talk more about the CSP opportunities because things have changed and will most likely continue to be available through the next Farm

Bill – **Add time in agenda during next meeting** or have separate meeting with on the ground staff to talk about additional opportunities. Potentially use a field trip type setting in an area that needs work to use as an example.

- Impact the partnership through providing information on habitat type correlation through soil mapping/soil surveys in relation to forest type
 - Soils suited to blueberry, white cedar, and hemlock based on soil map unit/Kotar et al. Forest community and habitat type correlation
- USFWS – Kurt Waterstradt
 - Waiting on RGS to hire regional biologist to reengage with them as a partner and renew FY16 agreement, since it is starting to run low, in order to set aside funds for young forest habitat work.
 - Across the north in our 21 core counties, looking to complete about 9 – 12 projects for the year 2018 potentially spending between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Budget for 2018 is stable but may get cut going into 2019.
- DNR – Wildlife – Kent Van Horn
 - Statewide prioritization of habitat type management for staff time with re-organization of the Wildlife Management structure. State lands were then prioritized into 1, 2, or 3 to direct our work and resources once habitat types on these state lands are mapped.
 - With alignment on the tail end of completion, the agency is in the process of filling positions across the state to fill openings within the wildlife program to have more staff to support the WYFP goals and objectives.
 - Million dollars a year set aside to interested parties to grant out for habitat work and increase public access. In search of non-traditional partners to get involved and partner up with the DNR. This is in hopes to increase management on private lands.
 - Hunter types and land bases used – License sales that are increasing are using private land and the license sales that are stable or decreasing are using state public land. Looking more into statistics like these show us where we should be putting our efforts and resources.
 - Ruffed Grouse Update – Grouse population numbers follow a long-term cycle. West Nile virus – Pennsylvania found in poor habitat, occurrences of west Nile virus increased, but in areas that have good habitat west Nile virus does not seem to impact grouse at the population level. Michigan tested some birds in hearing these results and found west Nile virus within ruffed grouse. Wisconsin folks are worried this is what is causing the low numbers in our grouse population. There is no evidence that west Nile is in our grouse population yet... but in result of all of this it was suggested that the DNR should decrease the length and bag limit of ruffed grouse during the 2018 fall season.
 - Missouri have asked for ruffed grouse to be translocated. They will receive 300 over the next three years at 100 birds/year.

- DNR – Wildlife – Janet Brehm
 - Starting to do site visits on private property for alder/aspen management
 - Tom Carlson has fully transitioned into new technician position in Wausau
 - Eric Borchert in Langlade county was able to finish up an additional 25 acres with the late winter
 - MFL forester found property on with nice upland alder to shear
 - Lincoln county and city forests have alder shearing projects set up, from Tom Carlson.
- DNR – Forestry – Kristin Lambert & Diane Anderson
 - Have been in the process hiring new class of foresters for the northern area
 - Private land forestry – Wisconsin Private Forest Advisory Committee made up of partners reporting to state forester. 1-million-acre goal to reach unengaged woodland landowners across the state (model can be found in Appendix C; Kristin Lambert also sent email with detailed information). Million-acre goal is focused to get landowners engaged through workshops, field days, conferences, have a forester walk through a property, and become a member in an organization. Strategy is in place to promote the Wisconsin Private Forest Advisory Committee goals and objectives. In the future the goal is to have a collaborative effort in reaching out to unengaged landowners.
 - DNR is partnering with Aldo Leopold Foundation, NRCS, NWTF, and others to conduct an oak restoration workshop geared towards deer, turkey, and small game. Three-tiered program for rookie to veteran land managers
- WCFA – Eric Holm and Gary Zimmer
 - It was a good winter for cutting across the county. Nearly reached annual acre goal for the year
 - WCFA 'Plan your grouse hunt' brochure (downloadable on website) is completed and out to promote county forest land that is managed for grouse. Also have online map up to date and running to show hunters where they are within the county forests.
- ABC – Callie Bertsch
 - Last season was great for getting work done on the ground – 99 RCPP contracts completed.
 - ABC position is now posted – GIS and Forestry experience (Nora Kennedy's old position)
 - RCPP will be competitive between Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan which completed the amount of work this past season across the three states
 - Grants – still working with NFWF grant that ends 2018
 - Public land habitat management has about \$30,000 across the three states to get work done before the end of 2018 – specific to young forest management for woodcock and golden winged warblers

- Outreach money is available for workshops and trainings for landowners and contractors
 - Thinking about other species and habitat to include in the RCPP application
- RGS – Jared Elm (Ladysmith) and Dan Hoff (Lena)
 - On second round of regional biologist interviews – covers Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois
 - CSP and EQIP has been the primary workload – how can we help landowners that have already been doing work on their land.
- WWF – Bob Ellingson
 - Annual meeting will happen in two weeks – June 16, 2018
 - Will be pushing for getting the Farm Bill passed and getting it moved up on the priority list and advocate for the WYFP and its importance
- NRCS - Katie Koch
 - Northern Forest Bird Workgroup Meeting in Ashland, WI was successful to create and organize a workgroup for BCR 12. Creating a list of priority species and habitat that the workgroup should be focused on, mainly ones that nest in our BCR 12 region. Provides a communication avenue for the different groups and agencies to keep track of grants and updates going on in our area.
 - Breeding Bird Atlas and data recording – could we add iNaturalist bird observation to eBird
 - Young Birders Organization will have a workshop/camp in lower Michigan to promote the next generation of birders and bird conservation.
 - Forest Stewards Guild workshop is sponsoring an event on forest management for birds (Peter Gieser) June 22nd. This is the next step to forest management to piggy back off the northern forest bird workgroup meeting.

Partnership needs, partner needs & opportunities for involvement; future steps, plans for expansion/subsistence; big picture discussion

- Next meeting will be set in the fall – be on the lookout for doodle pole for dates

2:45 pm Adjourn!

Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership Leadership

Executive Committee Members:

Jeremy Holtz, Facilitator

Dan Eklund

Vacant position

Steering Committee Members (and alternates):

USFS: Dan Eklund and Matthew St. Pierre

NRCS: Chris Borden and Tom Krapf

USFWS: Kurt Waterstradt and Gary VanVreede

WDNR Wildlife: Kent VanHorn (and Jeremy Holtz)

WDNR Forestry: Kristin Lambert and Diane Anderson

WCFA: Eric Holm and Gary Zimmer

ABC: Callie Bertsch and Shawn Graff

RGS: Brent Rudolph (interim rep)

WMI: Mark Banker

Forestland Group: Shawn Hagan

WBCI: Michael John Jaeger and Davin Lopez

WWF: Bob Ellingson and George Meyer

SAF: Tom Hittle

new members always welcome

Subcommittee Members:

Personnel/workgroup:

Jeremy Holtz, Chair

Randee Wlodek

Ryan Jacques

Dan Eklund

Callie Bertsch

Janet Brehm

Fundraising:

Dan Eklund, Chair

Jeremy Holtz

Outreach:

Randee Wlodek

Jamie Nack

Chuck Fergus (website)

Gary Zimmer

Callie Bertsch

Amber Roth

Diane Anderson

Monitoring/Research:

Kent VanHorn

Amber Roth

Anna Buckhart

Randee Wlodek

Ryan Jacques

Workshop for Introducing iNaturalist

June 16th, 2018 from 9am to 2:30pm at the Kemp Station

Agenda

9am-9:30am

Randee Wlodek- Introduction: agenda and goals of workshop (5 mins)

Anna Buckardt- Introduce iNaturalist: what is it, benefits, why should landowners get involved

9:30am-12:00am

Mist netting to catch birds (hopefully a golden-winged warbler too) and nature hike at Lake Tomahawk demo site to gather data to submit to iNaturalist

12:00pm-12:30pm

Lunch

12:30am-1:00pm

Anna- Give a tour of the website pages with resources, then everyone practices submitting observations on iNaturalist

1:00pm-1:30pm

Ryan Jacques- PowerPoint on monitoring techniques for wildlife on ways landowners can do their own monitoring

1:30pm-2:00pm

Monitoring techniques for wildlife- hands on- short - for fun - track quiz; allow people to check out tables with casted tracks, skulls, small mammal traps, manuals/field guides, other survey props. Informal time to view and discuss.

2:00pm-2:30pm

Randee- Briefly about WYFP, young forest wildlife, and types of young forest that landowners can observe for iNaturalist

Summary of day wrap up

Intro Packet

- Instructions for iNaturalist
- Monitoring powerpoint print out
- List of tracks for wildlife
- Young forest list of species
- Snapshot WI flyer

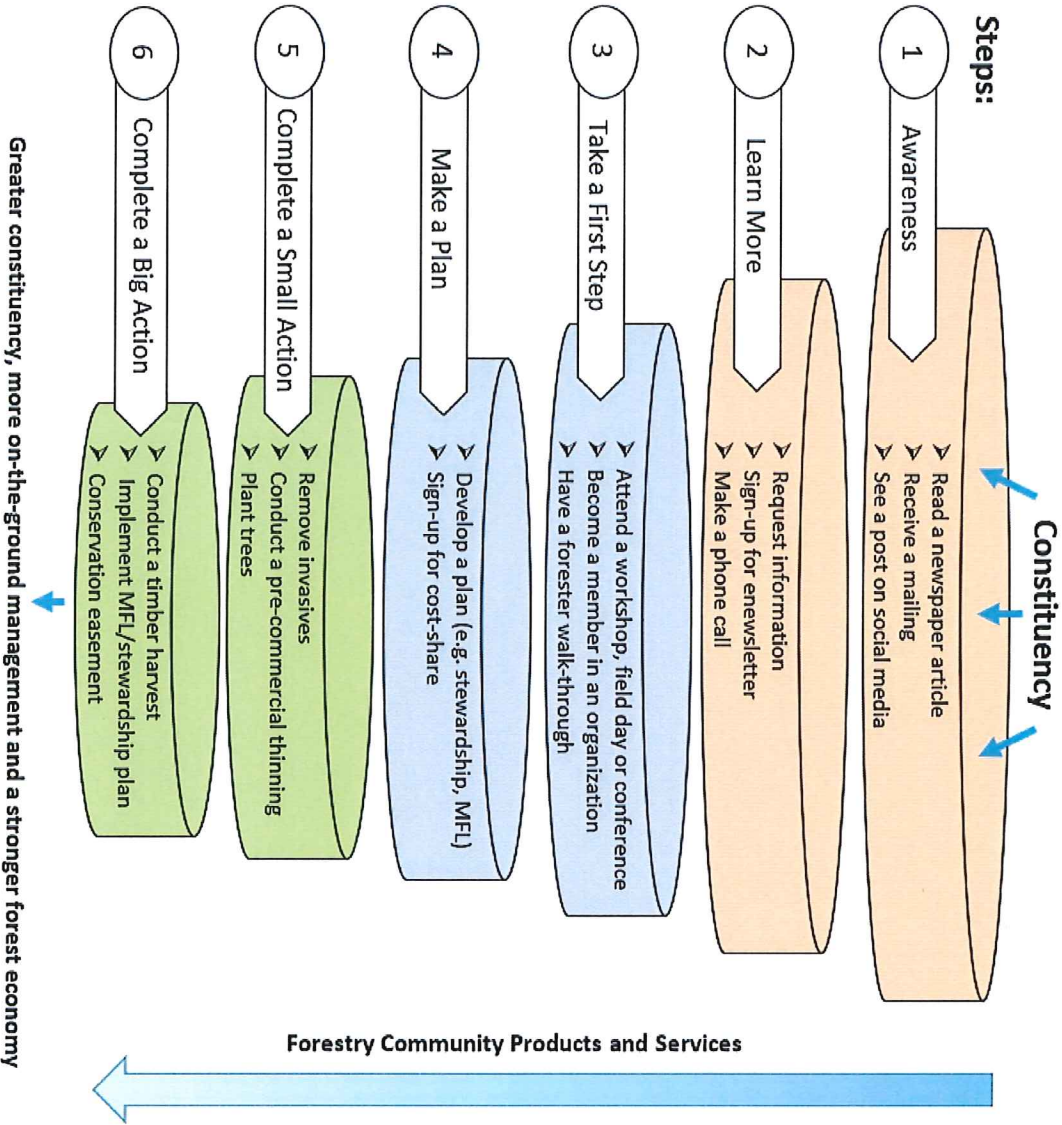
UMaine Research Update for WYFP Steering Committee -May 2018

Anna Buckardt

As you may remember, Anna deployed 28 geolocators on Male Golden-winged Warblers in Oneida County in the Spring of 2016. The geolocators are archival tags that measure and record light levels every two minutes for a year to track migration and wintering. In order to receive data from the tags, the birds must be manually relocated and recaptured the year following geocator deployment. Once the tags are recovered, the light level data is used to determine the sunrise and sunset times, and day length of each day. Through programming and calculations in program R, this can then be extrapolated into an approximate longitude and latitude of the location of the bird throughout the year.

Seven of these tags were recovered in 2017 and data analysis and processing is underway. So far, Oneida County Golden-wings are traveling south across the Gulf of Mexico and spending the winter in Central America between Honduras and Panama. Analysis of geocator data has a steep learning curve, but Anna has analyzed 16 geolocators to date including many deployed by collaborators in Vermont, New York, and Michigan. She will continue this analysis with intent to publish findings. Although she and her advisor Amber Roth are excited by the results, they will be keeping specific findings confidential until publications have been accepted. They appreciate your understanding and would be happy to answer any questions about the process through email. Anna will be back in Oneida County this June in search of 11 geolocators that were deployed in 2017. She will also be helping to host the landowner iNaturalist Workshop that Randee will be talking about.

Figure 1. Intentional and Cooperative Approach to Private Forest Owner Engagement
Developed by an ad-hoc committee of the Wisconsin Private Forestry Advisory Committee (WPFAC) with participation from University of Wisconsin Extension, Aldo Leopold Foundation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Ruffed Grouse Society, The Nature Conservancy, and Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (2018).



ACQUISITION
Gaining new contacts interested in forestry that represent constituency and potential for action.
Who is? <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Exciting landowner interest> Cataloging contacts Example: 5,600 new NIPF landowners requesting information, based on 20% response rate
CULTIVATION
Social and professional interactions that build a landowner's self-efficacy and commitment to action.
Who is? <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Conducting forester walk-throughs, identifying doable practices, following-up> Converting new contacts at conference and field day attendees to walk-throughs Example: 3,000 new NIPF landowner walk throughs totaling 150,000 acres/yr., based on 5% response rate
IMPLEMENTATION
Services necessary for landowner to complete action.
Who is? <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Prompting financial assistance sign-ups> Prompting recommended practices in plans Examples: 360 new NIPF landowners entering cost-share annually; 1,000's of NIPF landowners conduct a timber sale within 10 years of initial engagement

EVALUATION AND TRACKING: Who is? Identifying new landowners, developing and tracking metrics, and collecting and sharing information with stakeholders