



Patuxent Wildlife Research Center Science Brief for Resource Managers

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Science Brief PWRC 2003-22

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Northwoods (International Paper/Champion) Study

Description:

Project: Private and public landholders make daily decisions concerning management of large landscapes with little understanding about the consequences to wildlife management. FWS has developed a series of species-habitat models to predict species occurrence based on GIS data for wetlands, soils, topography, and vegetative structure. The most valuable test of these models would include as many forest age and cover types, as possible, in the Spruce-Hardwood (Northern) Forest. Study areas will be included on lands managed by International Paper (formerly Champion International), Dartmouth College, and six National Wildlife Refuges (Moosehorn, Nulhegan, Sunhaze Meadows, Petit Manan, Aroostock, and Lake Umbagog). Presence/absence data will be collected for upland birds, marsh birds, grassland birds, and calling frogs. Field data will be compared to model predictions. Models will be tested, then refined when necessary. This technical assistance project will involve the establishment and data collection at random sampling points. This is a cooperative study among PWRC, Northern Prairie WRC, USFWS Region 5, and International Paper.

Progress to Date:

In May 2000, 60 permanent survey points were established on land owned by International Paper Co.(IP) (formerly Champion International Inc.) Latitude and longitude for each point was determined using a GPS unit and the habitat at each point was described. During June surveys of avian species were conducted using 10 minute point counts. In October, 2000, 40 additional points were established. In 2001 and 2002 surveys were again run on IP land as well as National Wildlife Refuges in the Northeast. LIDAR coverage will be obtained this spring on the IP and Moosehorn sites. Surveys will continue on the sites.

Management Implications:

Surveys will be useful for evaluating the effects of commercial timber management on neo-tropical migrant birds. Predictive models will be developed that will allow managers to predict effects of habitat management on bird species composition.

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