

# **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

November 21, 2021 to December 20, 2021

**Jason Hearon, Bureau Chief**  
Tyler Kinney, Habitat Planner  
Melissa Woerner, Habitat Planner

## **HABITAT PLANNING**

Tyler Kinney

### **Southern Region**

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney developed several proposals for the restoration and management of Woodcock habitat on the Cape Island, Dennis Creek, Menantico Ponds and Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). A bid specification sheet was put together and requests were sent to contractors. Bids are due mid-January, with project deadlines of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney applied for a Project Authorization from the Historic Preservation Office to move forward with field reclamation operations in the Port Republic WMA. Authorization is currently awaiting approval.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney met with the Division's Office of Geographic Information Systems (OGIS) to discuss the first steps in coding the new habitat patch shapefiles. Fields in Millville and Maple Lake WMA's were coded. Updated drafts of the habitat patch shapefiles were returned to OGIS for review.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney met with the Blue Acres Program and Division of Coastal Engineering to discuss design options for the Baypoint Beach Restoration.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney met with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to discuss Salt Marsh Sparrow habitat restoration on southern region WMAs. A special use permit was issued to allow USFWS to assess several sites for potential restoration efforts.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney began assembling Farm Lease Program in-kind service packages for calendar year 2022.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney updated the current southern region habitat management Geographic Information Systems (GIS) shapefile with FY22 fall planting data. Planting acreage and Corporate Business Tax (CBT) usage logs were updated.

### **All Regions**

None

Melissa Woerner

### **Northern Region**

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner and Crew Supervisor Jim Hartobey met virtually to code GIS habitat patch files at the Black River WMA.

Approximately 50 acres of fields at the Lockatong WMA were planted with native warm season grasses by a contractor. These fields had previously been overtaken by invasive species and will now serve as better habitat for grassland birds and other wildlife.

### **Central Region**

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a virtual meeting with The Watershed Institute to discuss the wildlife passage system at the Assunpink WMA.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a virtual meeting on Saltmarsh Sparrow Habitat to review and prioritize marshes along the Atlantic Coast region of New Jersey (NJ).

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a virtual meeting of the Barnegat Bay Partnership Estuarine Habitat Working Group.

### **All Regions/Miscellaneous**

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a meeting to discuss the coding process for new GIS habitat patch files on WMAs.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a virtual webinar hosted by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) called "Restoration Retrospective Learning Exchange on Avalon, Fortescue, and Ring Island Beneficial Reuse Projects".

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a virtual meeting to discuss evaluation criteria for the Pond Creek Marsh restoration bids. Discussions were also held regarding the posting and enforcement of restricted areas of the Higbee Beach WMA during the construction phases.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended the "What's Happening in NJ Wetlands" monthly seminar.

## **NORTHERN REGION**

### **Susan Predl, Regional Superintendent**

Jim Hartobey, Crew Supervisor  
Imre Bene, Sr. Wildlife Worker  
Robert Bodnar, Sr. Wildlife Worker  
Mark DeVito, Sr. Wildlife Worker  
Trevor Hull, Heavy Equipment Operator

Christopher Murphy, Crew Supervisor  
Bill DeYoung, Sr. Wildlife Worker  
Septembio Garo, Sr. Wildlife Worker  
Jonathan Kenney, Sr. Wildlife Worker  
Randy Ujvary, Wildlife Worker  
Stephen Wilson, Sr. Wildlife Worker

Regional Superintendent Susan Predl has retired, and Bureau Chief Jason Hearon is filling until a back fill happens.

Land Management staff will continue pheasant stocking for the remainder of the season despite the Covid-19 challenges with staff.

Regional Superintendent Pete Winkler will meet with hydro-ax contractors to finish out projects Regional Superintendent Susan Predl had started in the region prior to retirement.

Maps were prepared indicating which fields could be used for pheasant stocking in the future when the new Northern Region Office building is constructed on the Clinton WMA. The new building will remove 55 acres of fields in the WMA that are currently stocked with pheasant. Options are being considered at this time.

Road work will begin at the following: Columbia, Pequest, Black River, and White Lake WMAs. The crews will be spreading stones in these areas. This project will take full force in January when scheduling is more predictable.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) checklist work requirements have been completed for the Black River shotgun and archery ranges ahead of schedule. The van accessibility parking lots have been developed and marked according to code.

Additional safety lights will be installed on the trout stocking trucks to increase employee safety while stocking.

## **CENTRAL REGION**

### **Pete Winkler, Regional Superintendent**

Wendy Barbuck, Agency Services Rep. 1

Bill Torry, Crew Supervisor WMAs  
Timothy Crotchfelt, Sr. Wildlife Worker  
Zachary Mahon, Wildlife Worker  
Tim Ruth, Wildlife Worker

Mike Haines, Crew Supervisor Equipment Operations  
Anthony Carben, Sr. Wildlife Worker  
Brian Kubin, Sr. Wildlife Worker  
Robert Madden, Heavy Equipment Operator

Regional Superintendent Pete Winkler attended the Board of Directors Meeting at the Horse Park of New Jersey and for the Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education representing the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Staff continue to issue Field Trial and Special Use Permits consistent with the latest State issued Covid-19 related Executive Orders.

Crews continue stocking Pheasant and Quail according to the 2021 schedule.

Regional Superintendent Pete Winkler attended a meeting on the prioritization of Saltmarsh Sparrow Habitat within New Jersey.

The Division Offices opened back up to the Public on November 29<sup>th</sup>. All people entering the building must wear a mask.

Regional Superintendent Pete Winkler attended the Statehouse Commission Quartermaster meeting where the Land Swap between the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the Central Jersey Rifle and Pistol club was approved.

The following groups and activities utilized the Assunpink Conservation Center and the Central Office Meeting Room during this reporting period:

HOFNOD  
Under Ground Storage  
Bass Nation  
NJSFSC Executives  
NJSFSC Board of Directors

## **SOUTHERN REGION**

### **Nathan Figley, Regional Superintendent**

Brad Heffley, Crew Supervisor  
Sean Clayton, Sr. Wildlife Worker

Dan Baker, Crew Supervisor  
Steve Dobrosky, Heavy Equipment Operator  
Jennings Jones, Sr. Wildlife Worker  
Erin Peek, Heavy Equipment Operator

Mason Reeves, Crew Supervisor  
Nicholas Carros, Sr. Wildlife Worker  
Johnnie McGaha, Sr. Wildlife Worker  
Jeffrey Wettstein, Sr. Repairer

Seasonal - Rich Ingraldi, Curt Riggins

Southern region crews continue performing routine trash clean-up at boat ramps, shooting ranges, and other high use WMAs.

Road Crew staff have been hauling material to Mad Horse Creek, Millville, and Buckshutem WMAs where they will be starting road work.

Staff continue to issue Field Trial and Special Use Permits consistent with the latest State issued Covid-19 related Executive Orders.

Senior Repairer Jeff Wettstein has completed construction of gun racks for WMA shotgun ranges. The racks were installed on the Millville WMA Hunter Training Range.

Senior Repairer Jeff Wettstein met with contractors to renovate the Southern Region Office (SRO) to provide additional office space. He is currently working with contractors to perform yearly service on heating systems in all Southern Region Division offices.

Staff have cleared roads of downed trees that were inhibiting access to boat ramps, stocking areas, and WMA parking areas.

Regional Superintendent Nathan Figley provided a monthly report to Dam Safety for the no name dam located on the Salem River WMA.

Winslow staff cleared brush and vines from SRO buildings and grounds.

Staff continues to monitor Matt's Landing Dike in the Heislerville WMA. Sacrificial material was placed in a sinkhole until a permanent fix to the problem is completed.

Staff have been busy with pheasant and quail stocking three days per week. These stockings will continue through December. Staff fixed damaged pheasant and quail crates.

Regional Superintendent Nathan Figley worked with Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney to select areas for field reclamations and creation of woodcock habitat.

Regional Superintendent Nathan Figley met with Historic Preservation Office staff to investigate a complaint about looting of a possible historic site located on a WMA in Cumberland County. Evidence was found however it was not recent and probably occurred 3+ years ago.

Regional Superintendent Nathan Figley responded to a low water complaint in Mannington Township. No issues were observed and believe the low water to be a result of extremely low tides and lack of precipitation.

Meetings Attended: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Staff Weekly, BLM and Bureau of Law Enforcement (BLE) monthly, Money Island Meeting, Green Acres (GA), Parks & Forestry (P&F) & Fish & Wildlife (FW) Acquisition Meeting, Cumberland County Sportsmen's Federation, and Saltmarsh Sparrow Planning, Money Island and Bay Point Restoration meeting.

## **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SECTION**

### **LAND ACQUISITIONS**

Lisa Carben, Executive Assistant

The following lands have been acquired by the State and have been assigned to the Division of Fish and Wildlife during this period.

<b>WMA</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>TOWNSHIP</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ACRES</b>
Abbotts Meadow	Salem	Elsinboro	Terry Lee Bell	6
Great Egg Harbor River	Atlantic	Buena Vista	Buena Corporation	532

Acres assigned during this period: 538

Total acres statewide: 360,460