

# Barnes Barrens Management Area

Located on the Bayfield County Forest

# Barnes Barrens

## Step 1

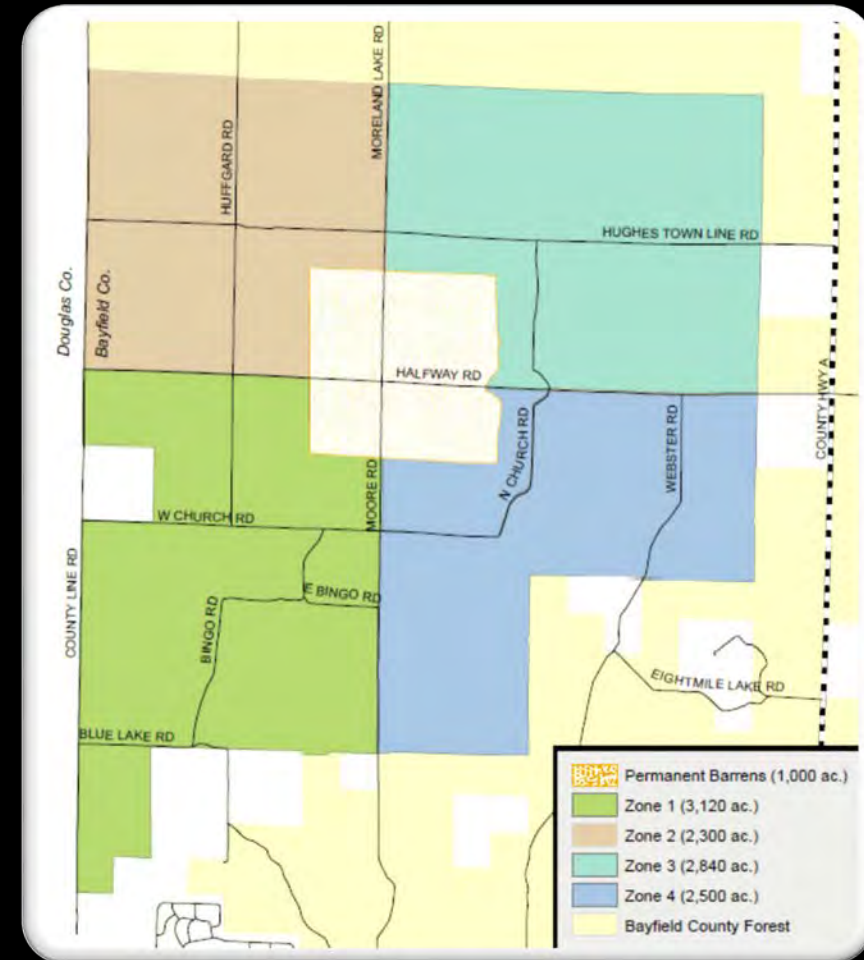
- Starting in the 1970s, fuel breaks were put in place to protect the forest against wildfires.
- These fuel breaks were maintained by prescribed burning to keep as open barrens or grassland.
- The department expressed a desire to plant the northern fuel break while keeping a defensible zone of 100' along all ROWs.





# The Beginning of the Barnes Barrens

- The Bayfield County Forestry office was wanting to create a landscape level barrens area that would be more beneficial to barrens species than the existing fuel breaks.
- The idea of using a floating barrens concept began around 2008.
- 1,100 acres of fuel breaks have been planted in exchange for a 1,000 acre block (core area)
- In 2011 a plan was developed for the Barnes Barrens Management Area
- In 2013 a modification was made to designate 200 contiguous acres in each zone as Kirtland's Warbler Habitat Areas (KWHA).



# Kirtland's Warbler

- 2014 was first year Kirtland's warbler was detected on Bayfield County Forest
- 2016 was first year with a nesting pair.
- Of the 3 males in 2017: 1 was the same male with the nest in 2016, 1 was a male fledged from the nest in 2016, 1 was a new male.

Year	Males	Females	Nests	Young Fledged
2014	1	0	0	0
2015	3	0	0	0
2016	3	1	1	5
2017	3	0	0	0

The results of using audio playback to expand the geographic breeding range of Kirtland's Warbler. (Anich and Ward, 2017)





# Sharp-tailed Grouse

General rule of thumb for estimating total populations is dancing males x 2 x 2 (males + equal number of females + two chicks per female)



Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of Dancing Males Observed	15	12	19	19	25	22
Total estimated population	60	48	76	76	100	88



# Radio collared sharp-tailed grouse



Photos by  
Erin Schlager



In 2017 a bird was radio collared on the Moquah Barrens, which was transplanted from Minnesota. It traveled roughly 15 miles and was found sitting on a nest in the Barnes Barrens.





# Species of Greatest Conservation Need



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-ND](#)



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA](#)

Species	Number of Individuals
Brown Thrasher	72
Connecticut Warbler	42
Field Sparrow	4
Golden-winged Warbler	6
Red-headed Woodpecker	1
Sharp-tailed Grouse	3
Upland Sandpiper	8
Vesper Sparrow	102



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)



Results from a breeding bird survey on the Bayfield County Forest. Data collected in 2008.

# Questions???

## Thank You

Andrew O'Krueg  
Forester

Bayfield County Forestry and Parks

**Link to the Barnes Barren Management Plan:**

**<https://www.bayfieldcounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/349>**

**Link to the video of the Barnes Barren Management Area:**

**<https://vimeo.com/2407445522>**