



Wisconsin's Young Forest Initiative: Diverse, Healthy Forests to Benefit the Greatest Diversity of Bird Species

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Overview

- History of the Young Forest Initiative in WI
- Focal Species
- Forest Management
- Results, Monitoring, and Success

History

The Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership

- U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society
American Bird Conservancy
Pheasants Forever
National Wild Turkey Federation
Wisconsin County Forest Association
The Forestland Group, LLC
Wildlife Management Institute
Louisiana Pacific
Society of American Foresters

History

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- NRCS Young Forest Initiative
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- Drummer Funds
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Partners Program

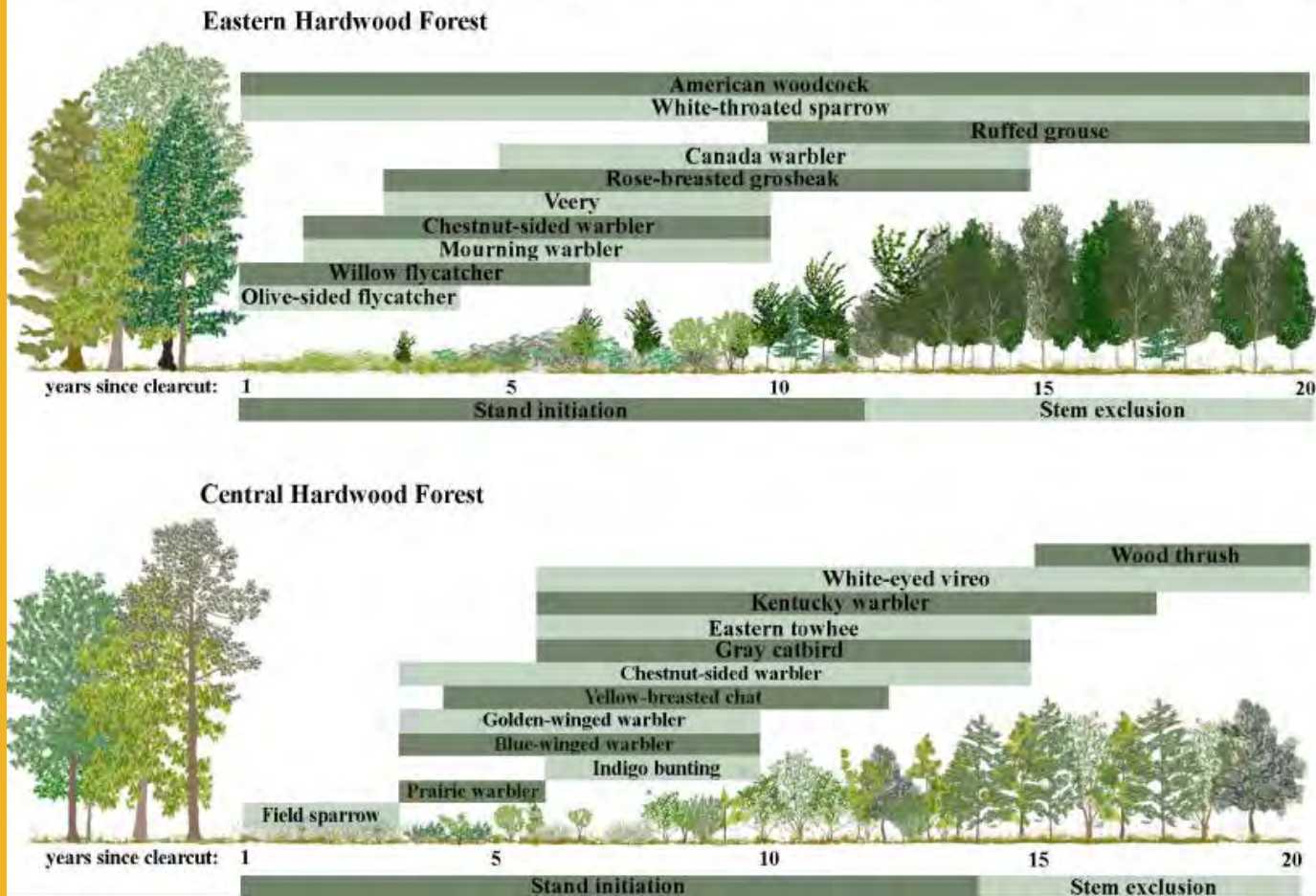
History

- Outreach
- Site Visits
- Forest Management Plans



History

Bird use of regenerating vegetation following a clearcut



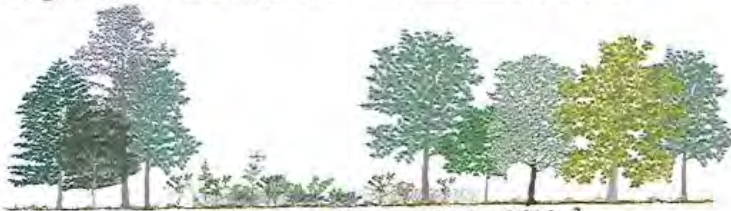
History

Bird species respond differently to harvest type

Harvest Type



Single Tree Harvest: average 0.002 to 0.03; range 0.002 to 0.03 ha³



Group Selection Harvest: average 0.2; range 0.04 to 0.81 ha³



Clear Cut: average > 8.1; range 4 to 30 ha³

Birds shown to respond positively to harvest

Black-and-white warbler⁹
Hooded warbler^{1,7,8,9}
Kentucky warbler^{8,9}

Worm-eating warbler⁹
Yellow-billed cuckoo⁹

Hooded warbler^{1,7,8}
Indigo bunting^{*5,6,7}
Kentucky warbler⁸

White-eyed vireo^{*6,7}
Yellow-billed cuckoo⁹
Yellow breasted chat⁵

Alder flycatcher²
Blue-winged warbler^{1,8,9}
Chestnut-sided warbler²
Dark-eyed junco²
Eastern towhee^{1,9}
Field Sparrow¹

Indigo bunting^{1,2,5,9}
Prairie warbler^{1,5,8,9}
Ruffed grouse^{4,8}
White-eyed vireo^{1,5,8,9}
White-throated sparrow^{2,5}
Woodcock⁴
Yellow-breasted chat^{1,5,8,9}

Focal Species



Focal Species



Focal Species

Why Golden-winged Warbler?

- Neotropical migratory songbird
- Breeds in North America
 - Appalachia
 - Great Lakes
- Winters in Central and South America highlands
- Range-wide population decline over last 40 years
- Petitioned for listing on ESA. Decision possible in 2017

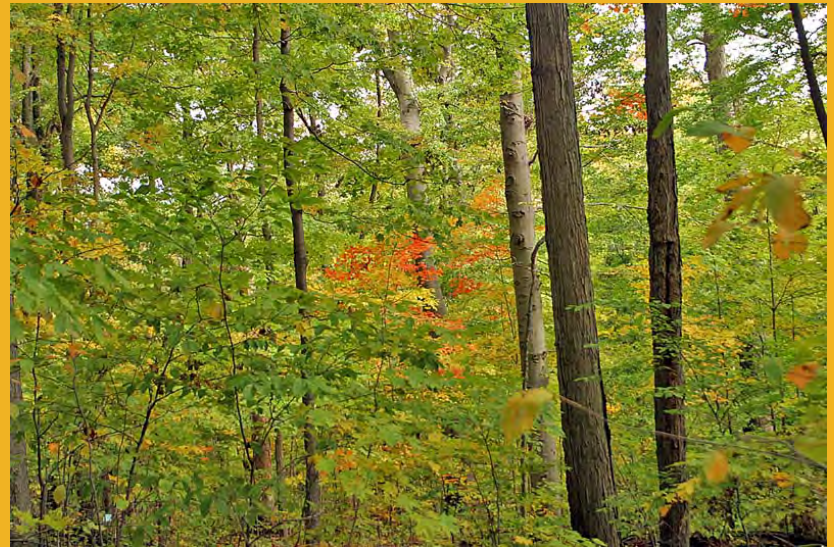


Focal Species

Habitat Requirements: A Dynamic Mosaic



Nesting Habitat: Young Forest and
Mature Forest Edge



Fledge Habitat: Mature N. Hardwoods
and Aspen with diverse vertical
structure.

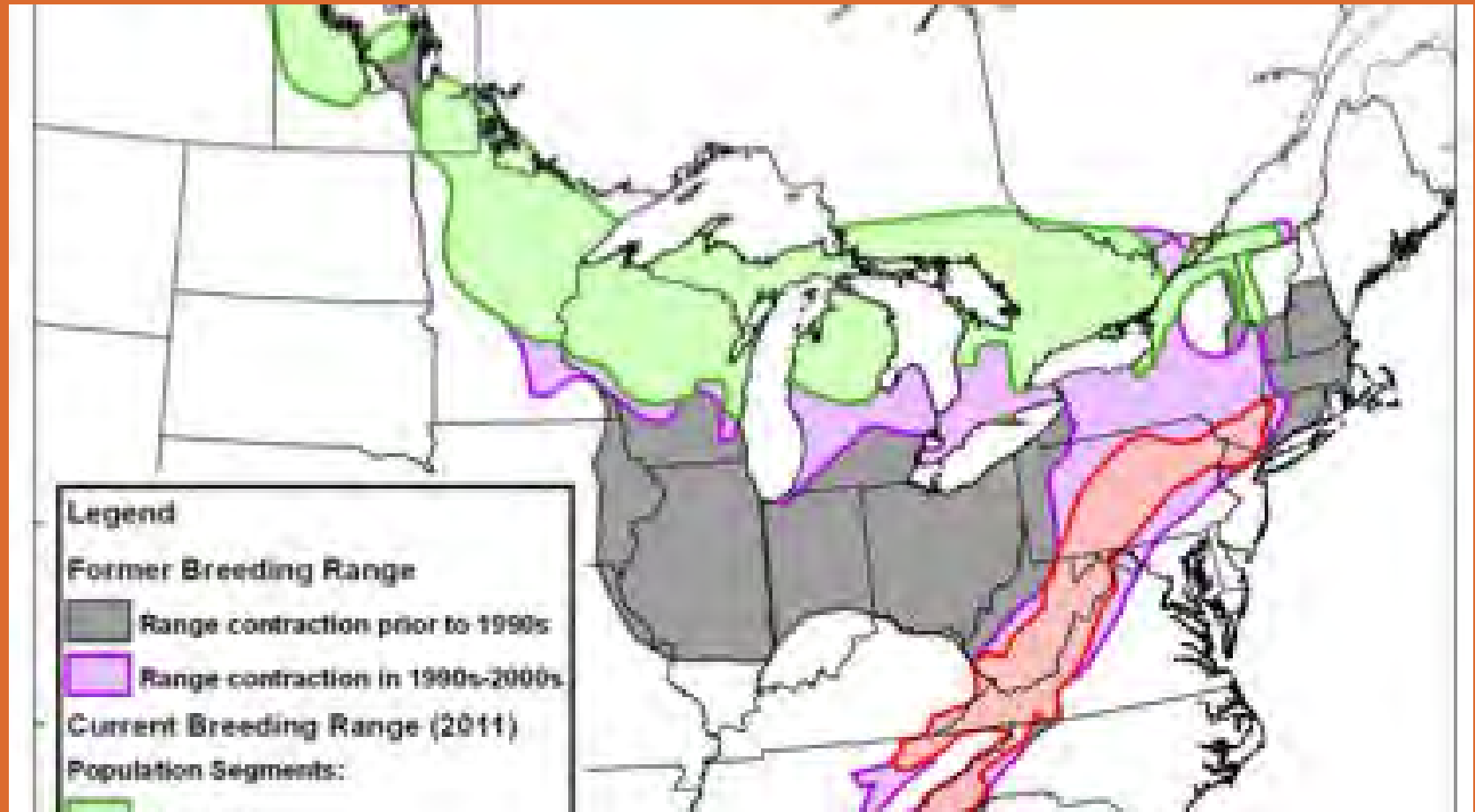
Focal Species

- GWWA best management practices always benefit Ruffed Grouse and American Woodcock. However, this is not always the case when reversed. This is why GWWA BMP's are followed as opposed to American Woodcock.



Focal Species

Golden-winged Warbler



Forest Management



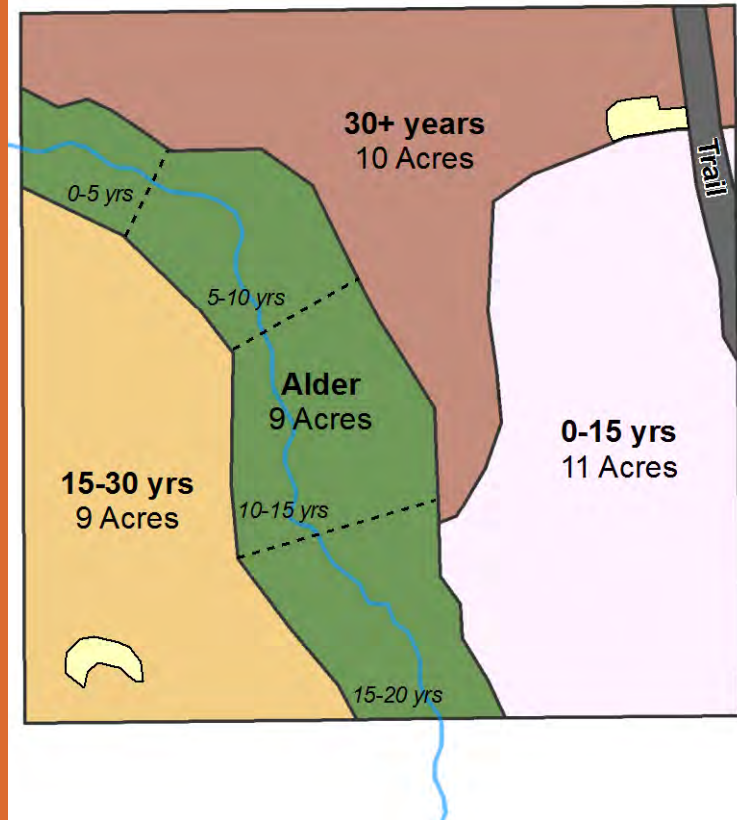
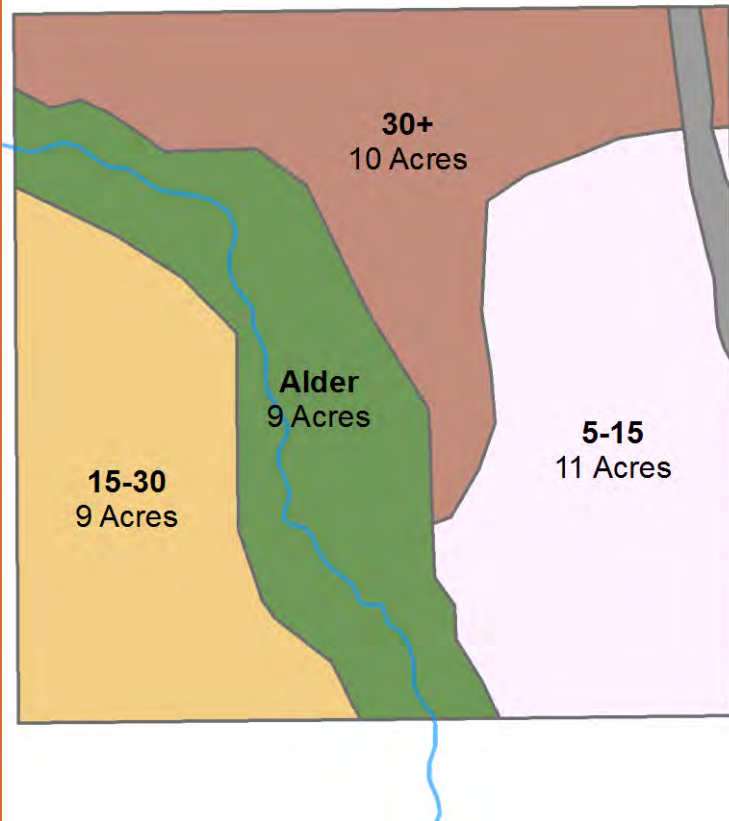
Aspen Management



Forest Management



Alder Shearing Treatment Area



Forest Management



Post-treatment



Results, Monitoring, and Success

- In WI alone, we have created over 1,300 acres of “young forest” habitat with a total of 2,500 acres contracted, and many more applications waiting to be funded through RCPP alone.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife’s Partner’s Program has also created hundreds of acres of habitat.
- We’ve worked with over 300 hundred landowners.
- Great monitoring projects underway by Jeff Larkin and Amber Roth.
- Sound forestry education for landowners and those in the timber industry.
- Created a need for contractors to complete shearing work.

Thank You!

- Please visit the WYFP and RCPP posters for awesome information regarding the Young Forest Initiative.
- www.youngforest.org/wi
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