

# Young Forest Initiative Strategies & BMPS

## *Acknowledgements*



# What is the YFI?

- ◆ Young forest = Aspen, Oak (less than 20 yrs post-harvest) and Alder (less than 10 yrs post-harvest)
- ◆ Initiatives for young forests and associated wildlife
  - e.g. [youngforest.org](http://youngforest.org)
- ◆ Changing perspectives, adding species
- ◆ How are DNR & partners advancing YFI?

# Species of Greatest Conservation Need (State Wildlife Action Plans)

States with “Young Forest Initiatives” list 57 SGCN that require young forest and shrubland habitats:

- 39 birds
- 11 mammals
- 7 reptiles

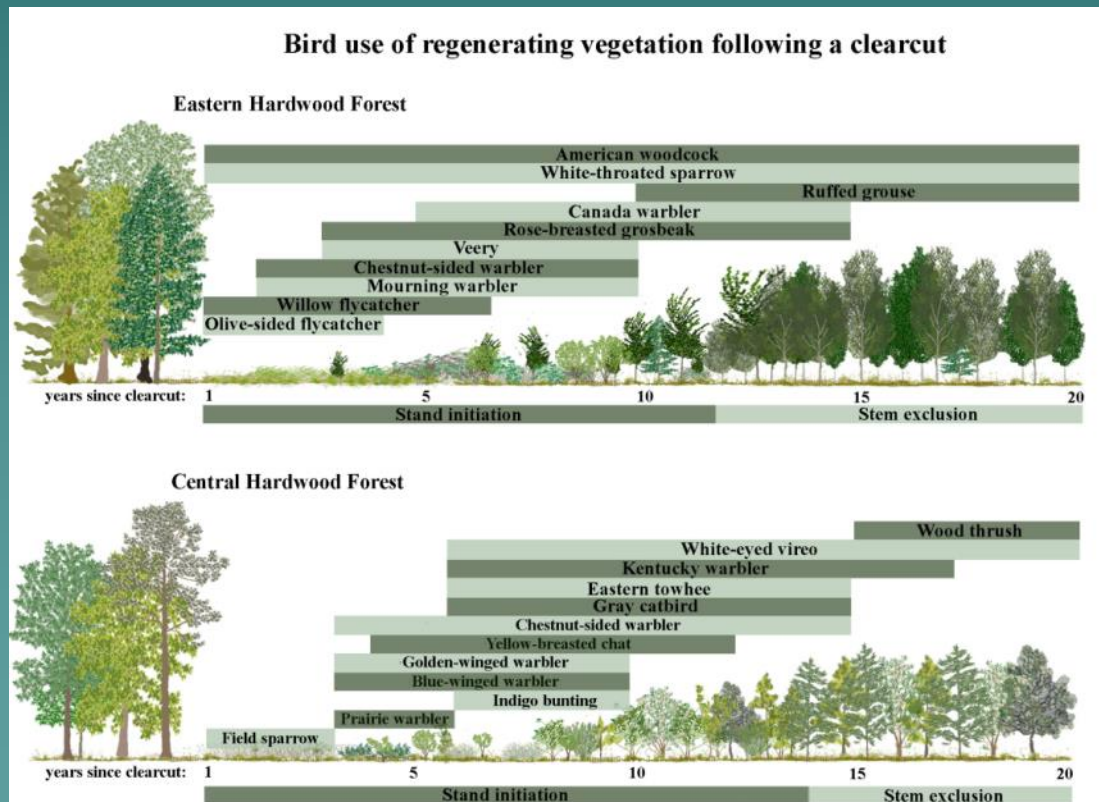
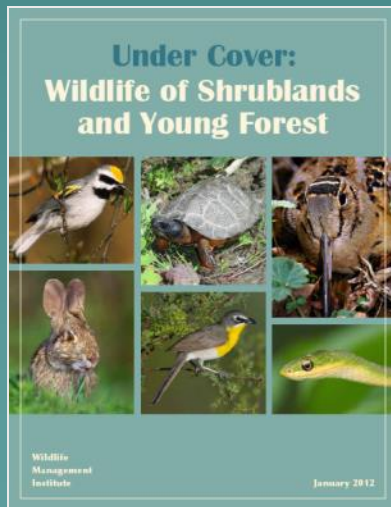






Photo by Jack Bartholmai



# YFI Goals

- ◆ Increase the quantity of Young Forest on Private Lands
- ◆ Improve the quality of Young Forest on Public Lands

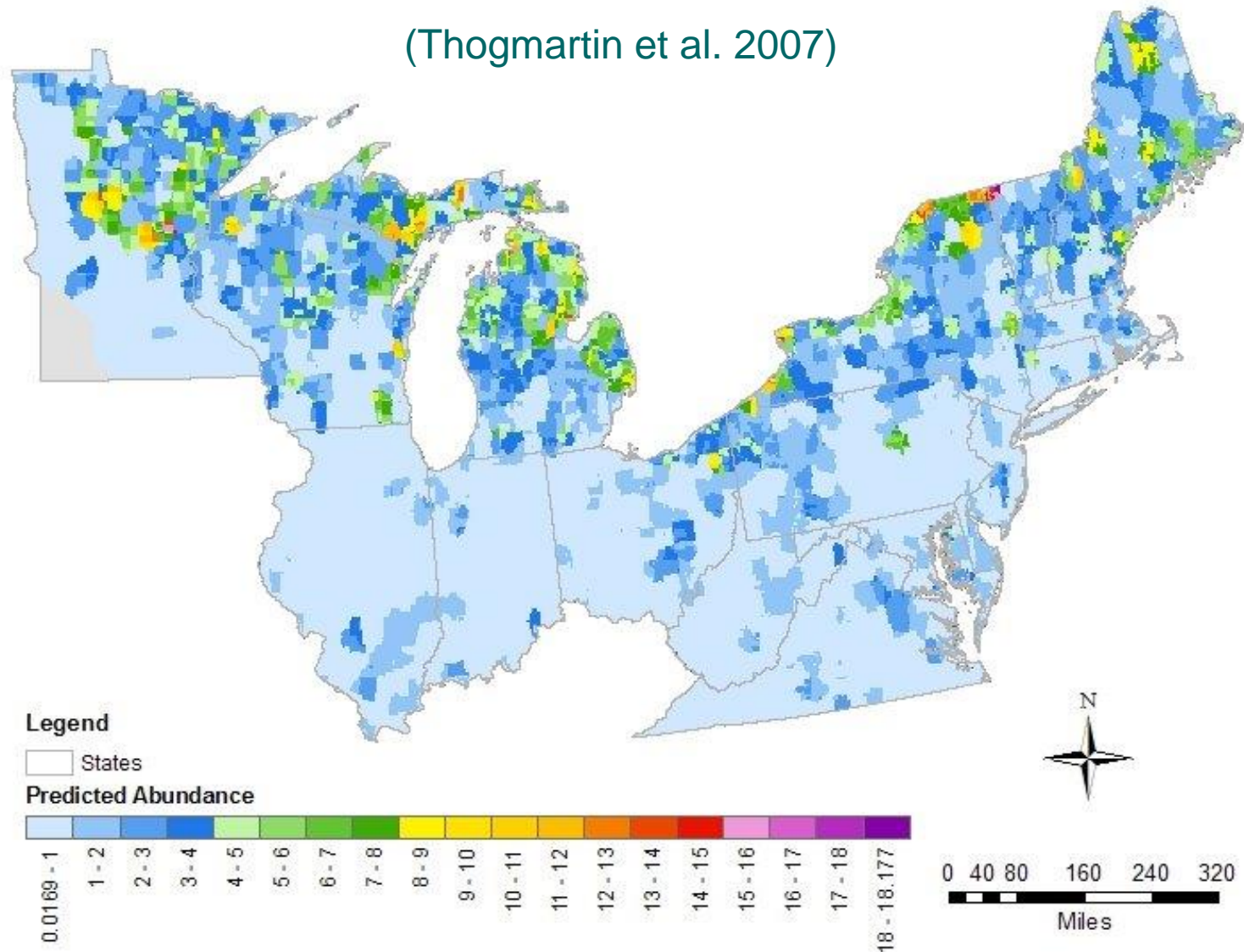


© Laurie Smaglick Johnson

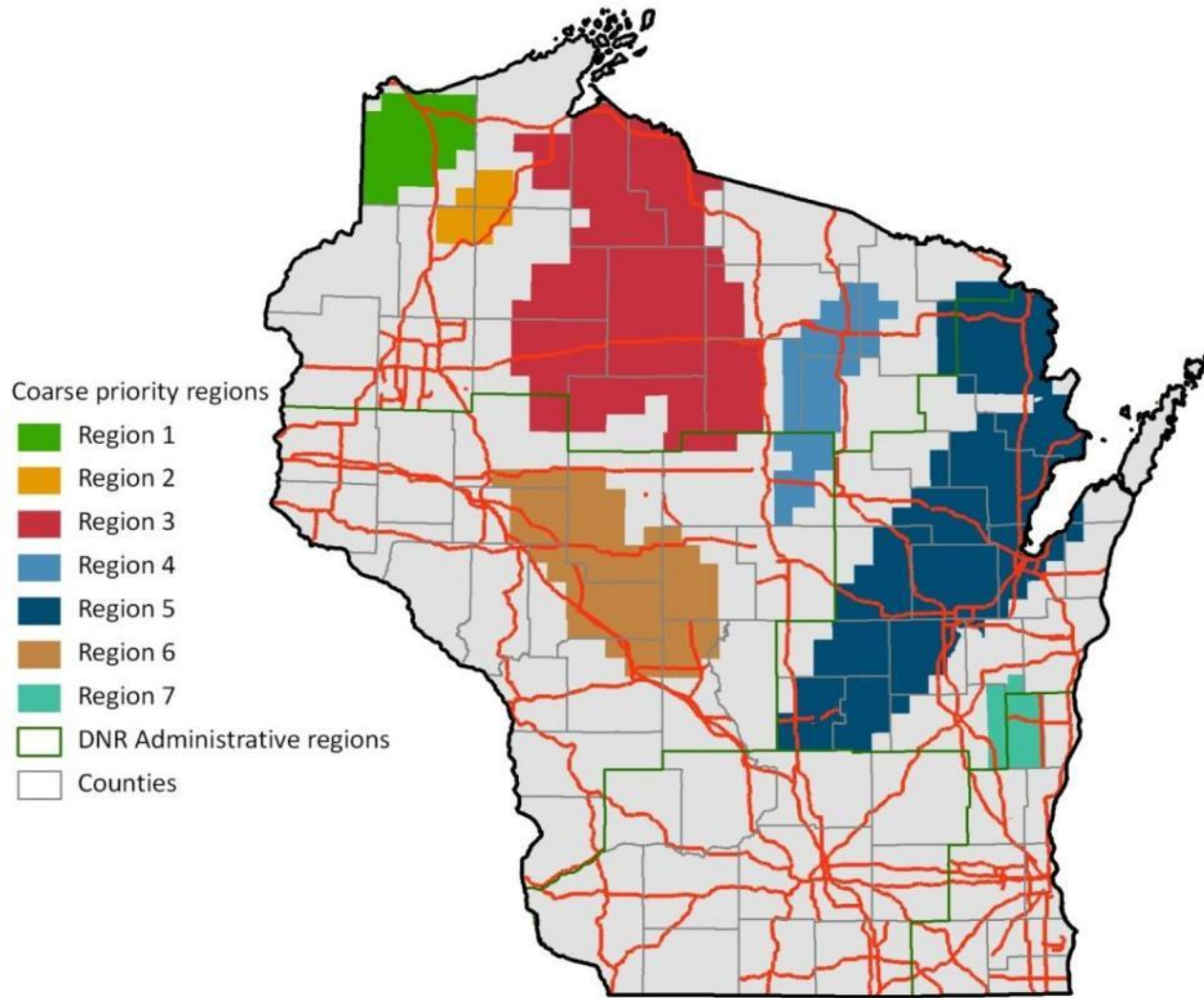


# Predicted Woodcock Abundance

(Thogmartin et al. 2007)

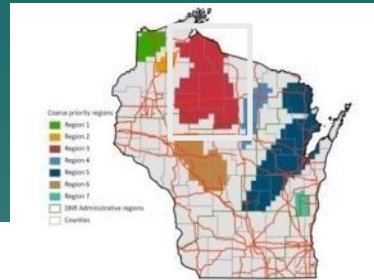


# Priority Woodcock Management Regions

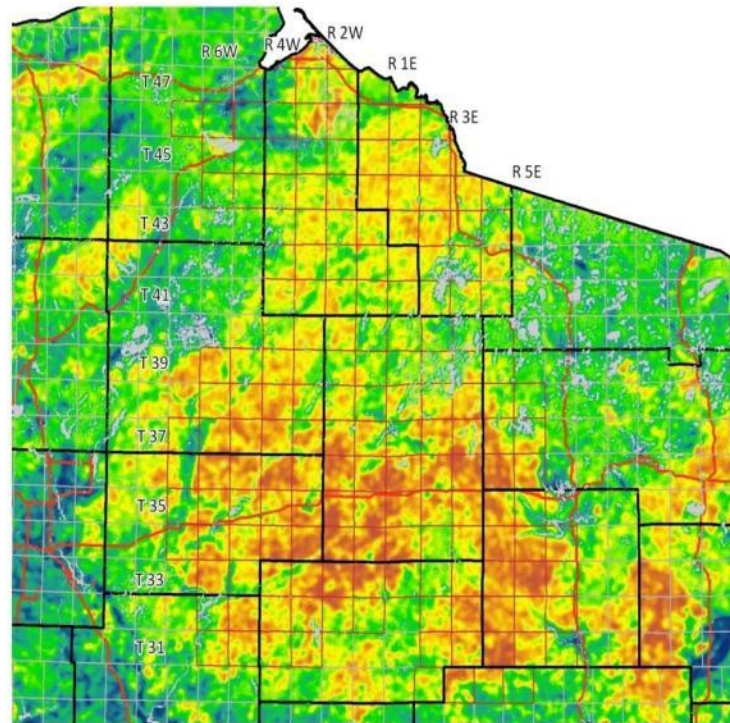


Map generated by Brad Potter, USFWS

# Region 3 Township Map



Region 3 potential habitat index



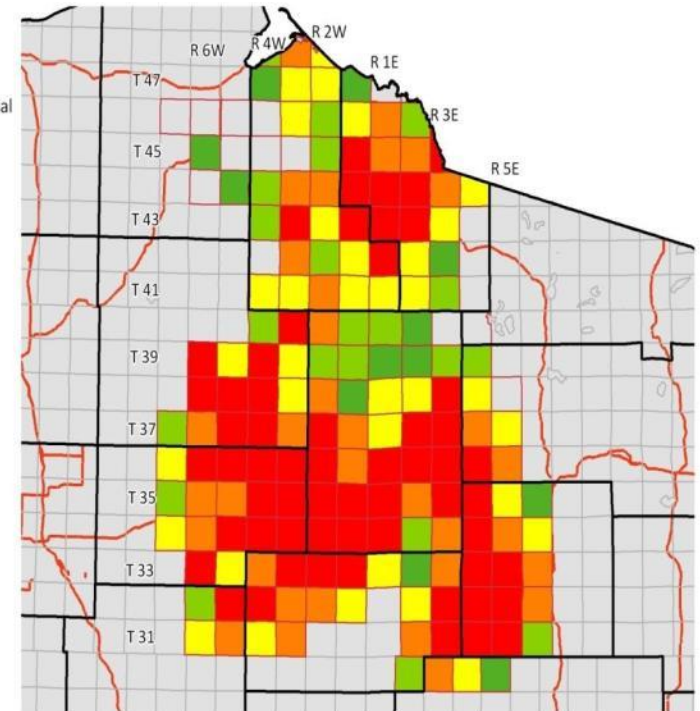
Region 3 habitat potential

Woodcock habitat potential

% of township

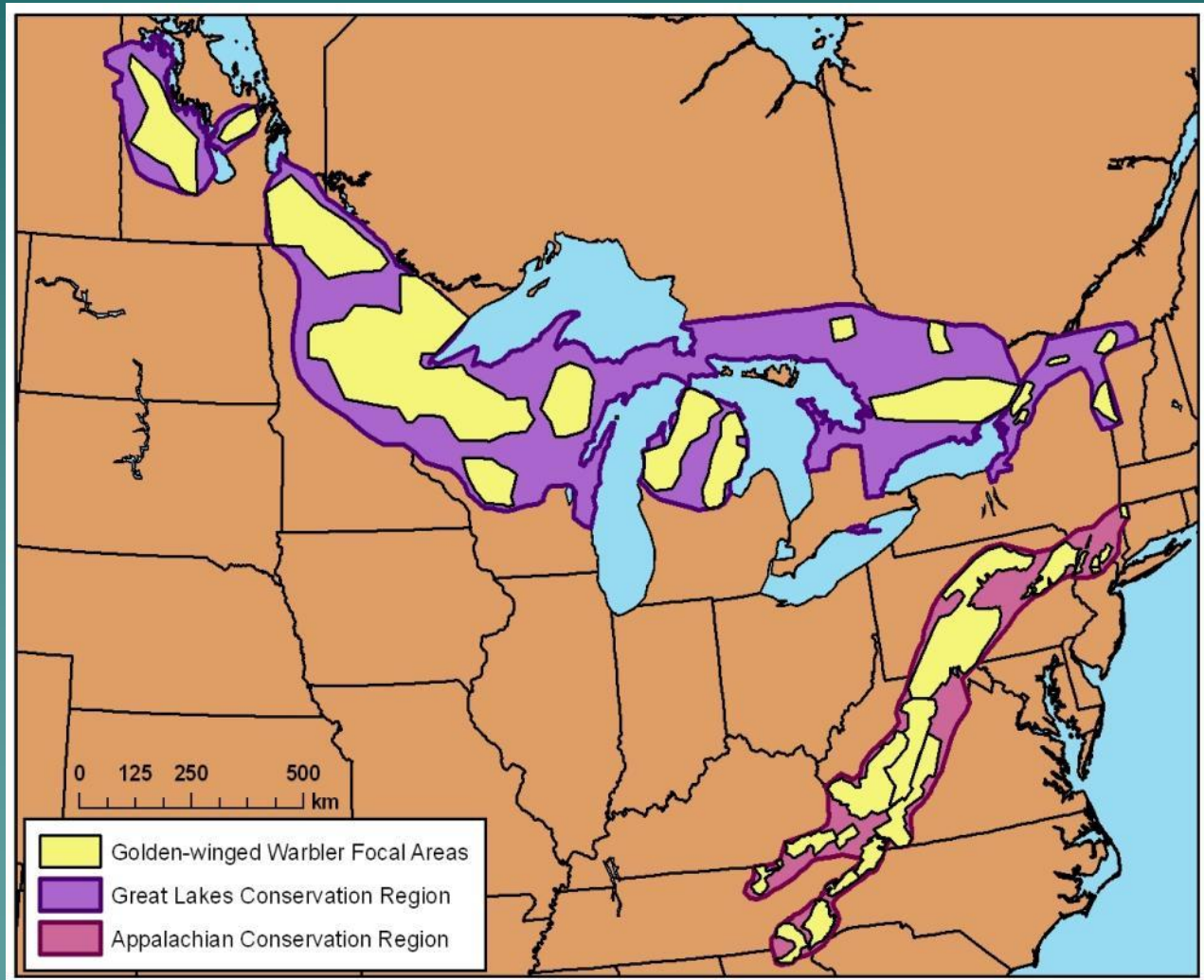


Coarse priority region

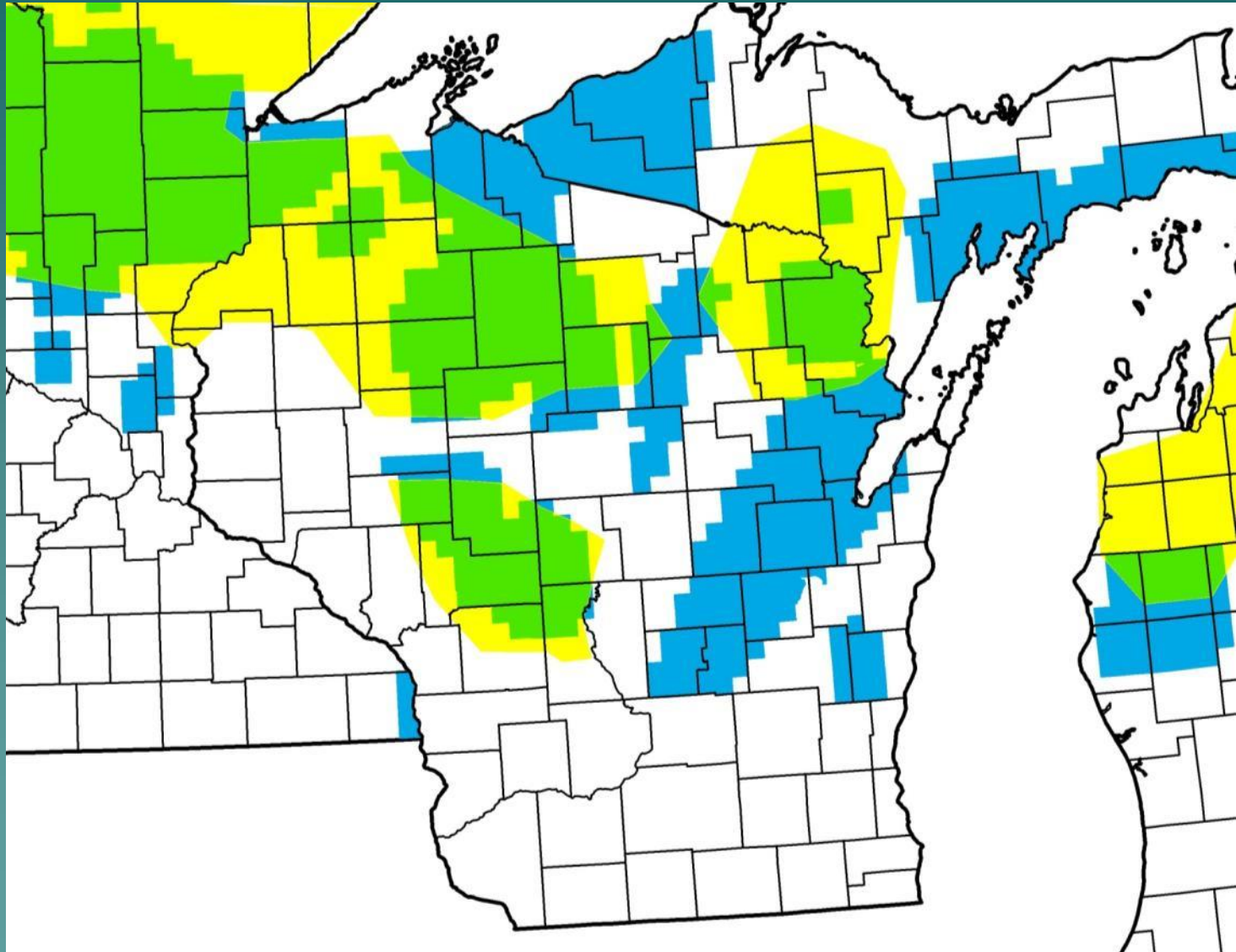




# Golden-winged Warbler Rangewide Focal Areas



# Golden-winged Warbler and American Woodcock Focal Areas



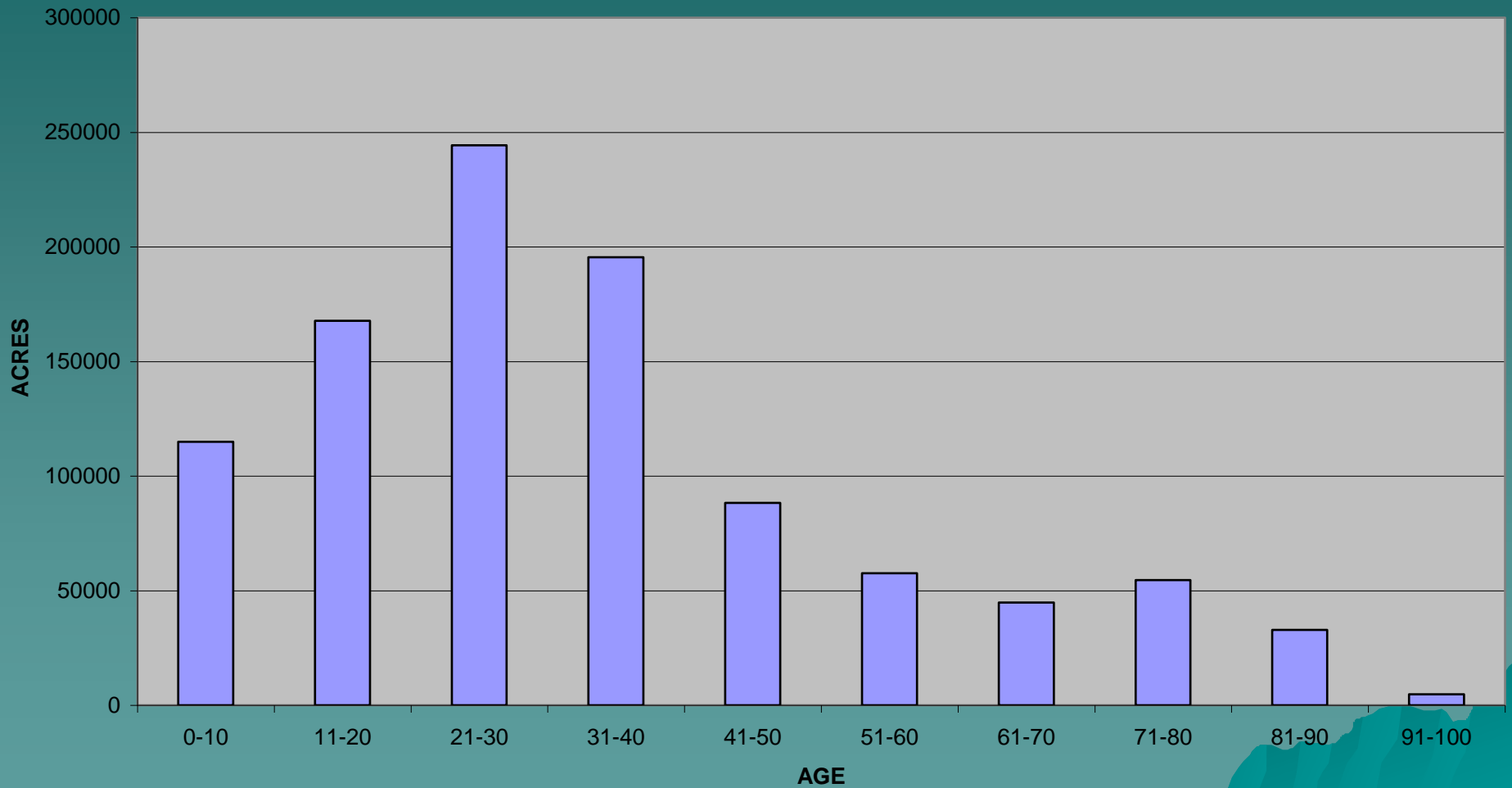
# Public Land

- ◆ Age distribution
- ◆ Stand size
- ◆ Green tree retention
- ◆ DNR Silviculture Handbook






# NORTHERN REGION PUBLIC LANDS ASPEN DISTRIBUTION



# Private Land

- ◆ Demonstration areas
  - ◆ 500-1000 ac intensive management plots within each demo area
  - ◆ Focused workshops for landowners (e.g. field days)
  - ◆ Technical training for foresters
  - ◆ Referrals from cooperating professionals
- 
- A stylized, dark teal silhouette of a mountain range is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, partially overlapping the text area.

The map displays the Great Lakes region, including parts of Canada and the United States. The Great Lakes are labeled: Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario. The map is divided into counties, with colors indicating the distribution of the Great Lakes Sturgeon. Yellow and green areas represent the historical range, while blue areas represent the current range. Red stars mark specific locations. Two red question marks are placed in areas where the species is uncertain or unknown.



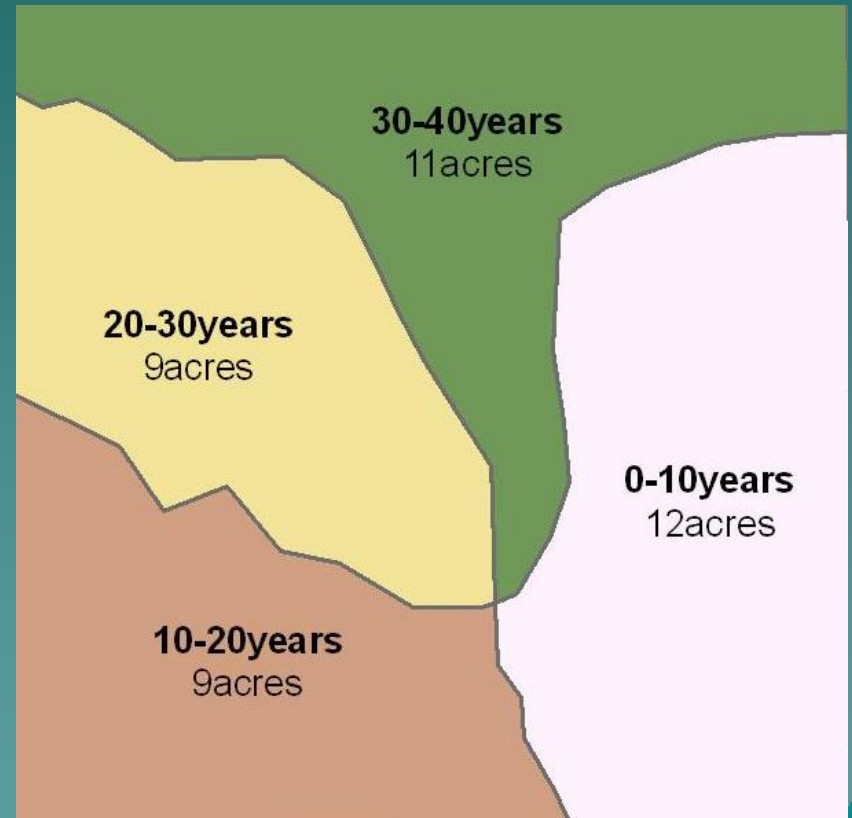
# General Young Forest BMPs

- ◆ Maintain at least 20% of the area as young forest (< 20 yrs post-harvest)



# Ruffed Grouse Habitat BMPs

- ◆ Aspen
  - 10-15 acres
  - 10-15 yrs apart
  - Drumming logs
- ◆ Interspersion & Juxtaposition





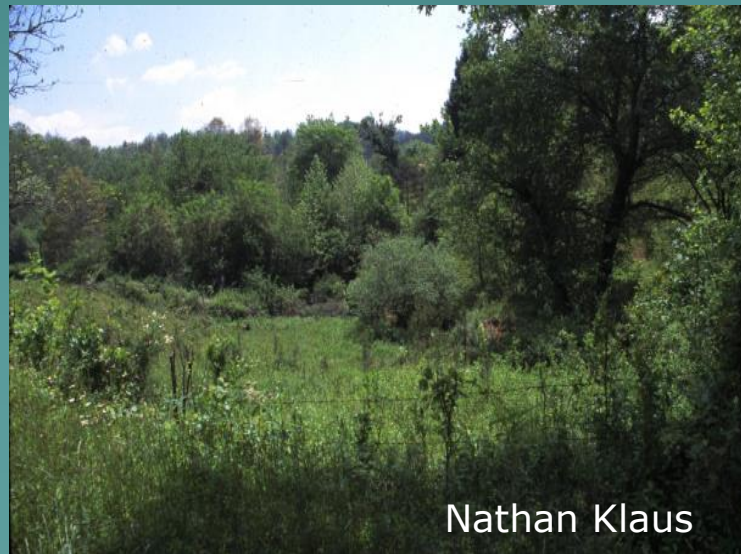




# Golden-winged Warbler Habitat



Katie Percy



Nathan Klaus



Amber Roth



© Laurie Smaglick Johnson



John Confer



# Golden-winged Warbler

## Recent Habitat Management



# Golden-winged Warbler Habitat BMPs

- ◆ Landscapes with:
  - 60% forest cover
  - 70% deciduous trees
- ◆ Harvest area:
  - $< \frac{1}{4}$  mile from nearest young forest :  
5 ac minimum
  - $> \frac{1}{4}$  mile from nearest young forest patch:  
25 ac minimum

# Golden-winged Warbler

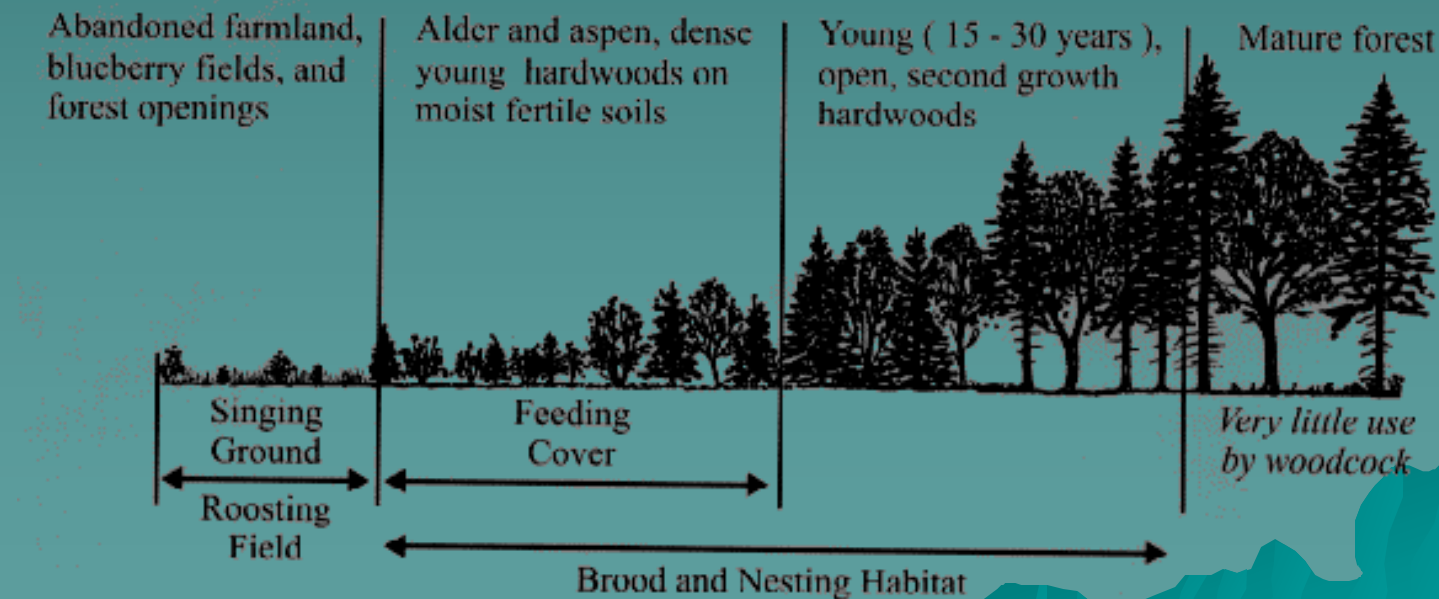
## Habitat BMPs

- ◆ Green-tree retention (i.e. residuals, reserves)
  - Retain 10-15 trees/ac (Range: 5-50 trees/ac)
  - OR 10-30% canopy cover (DNR GTR guidelines: 5-15%)
  - Disperse <10 trees/ac; Aggregate >15 trees/ac
  - Retain trees with >9 in dbh (DNR GTR guidelines: >12 in dbh)
  - If no large trees for retention trees are present, consider fostering small trees to retain in future rotations



# Woodcock Habitat

- ◆ Feeding and nesting (moist, rich soils)
- ◆ Singing grounds (peenting sites)
- ◆ Nocturnal roost sites



# Feeding & Nesting Habitat



- ◆ 80% of area:
  - Young aspen
  - Upland alder
- ◆ Soil moisture gradient:
  - Nesting sites somewhat drier
  - Think worms!!!

# Alder



- ◆ Core of habitat mgmt area
- ◆ Moist rich soils,
- ◆ Dense stands
- ◆ 5-10 acre stands
- ◆ 20yr rotation
- ◆ 5yr age-classes















# Open Areas

- ◆ Peenting sites
  - 8+ per 100 ac
  - $>1/2$ ac
- ◆ Roosting sites
  - 1+ per 100ac
  - $>5$ ac







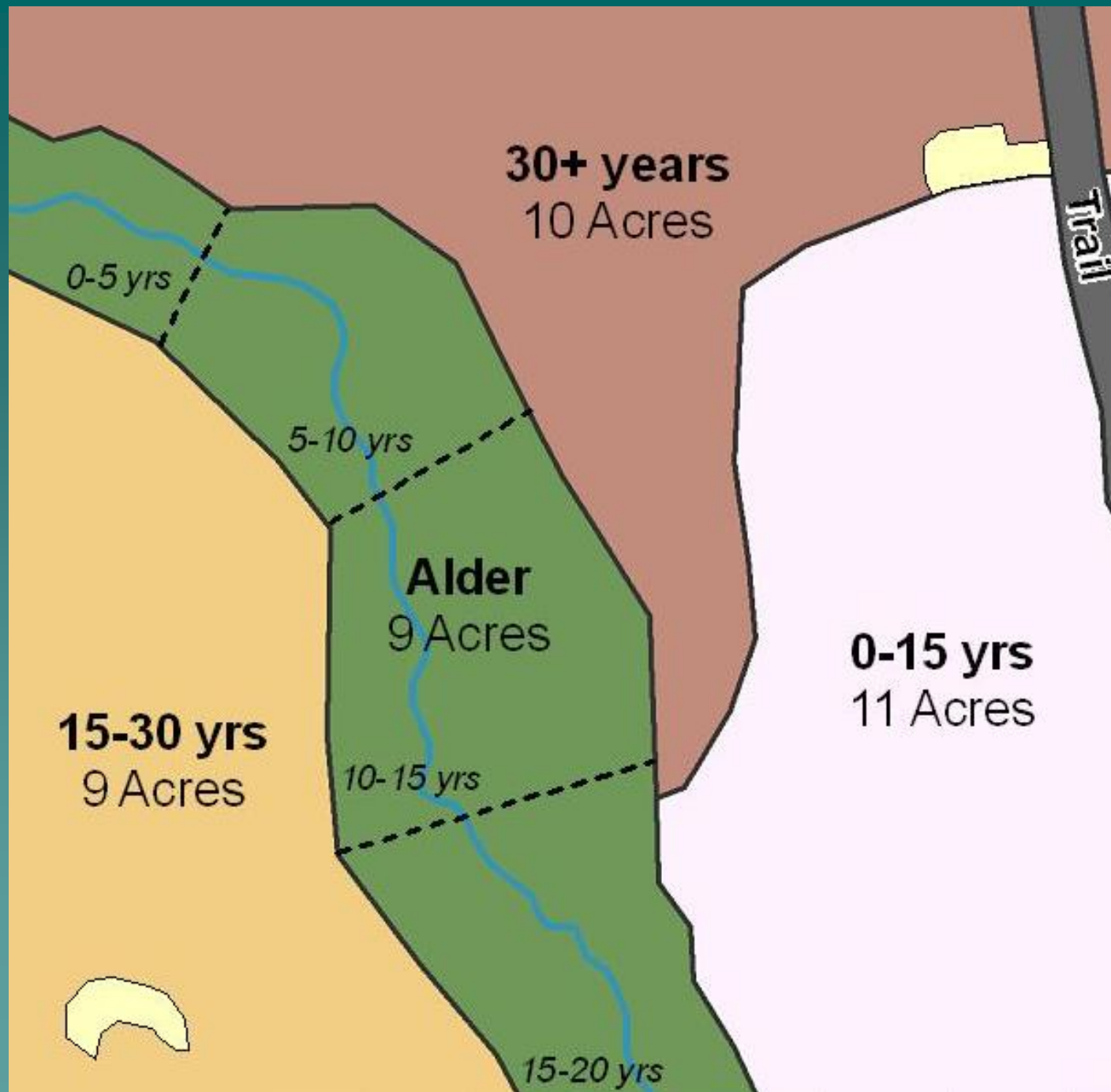




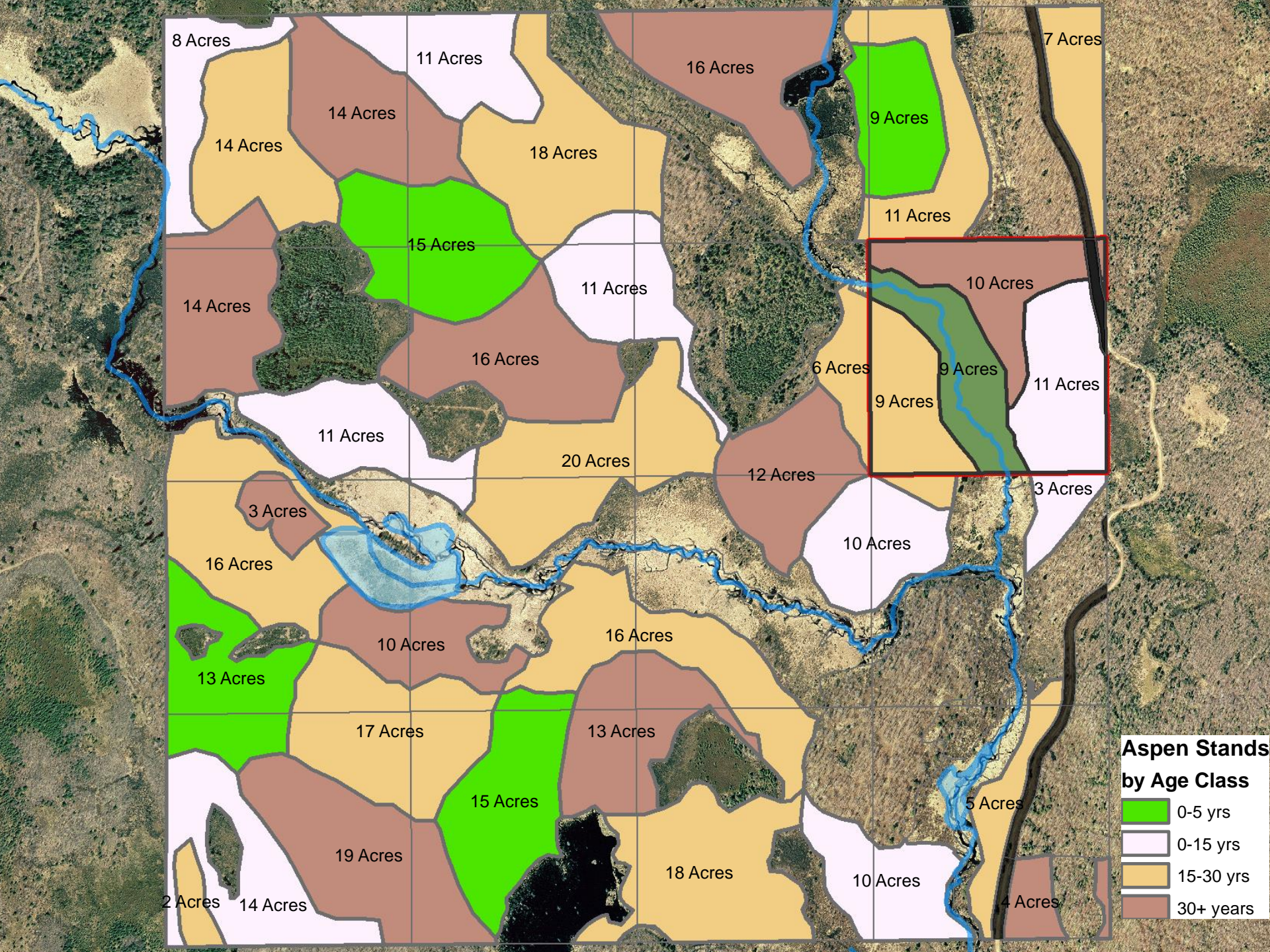






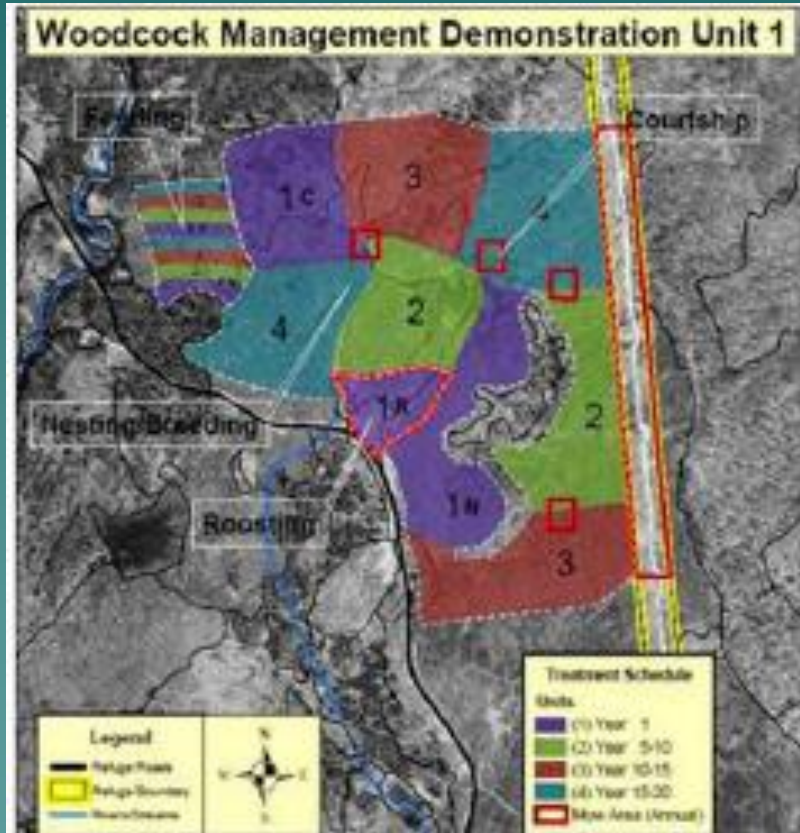









# Woodcock Habitat Management





# Funding Opportunities (current level)

- ◆ Commercial logging
  - ◆ DNR: technical services
  - ◆ Federally sponsored grants: \$30-45,000
  - ◆ Ruffed Grouse Society: \$50-75,000
  - ◆ USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife
  - ◆ USFS: Stewardship program??
  - ◆ USDA: Great potential; EQIP ??
- 
- A stylized, layered mountain range graphic in shades of teal and blue, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

## North central Wisconsin young forest initiative

Wisconsin's young forests have been declining in quantity and quality for the last half a century; many wildlife species that depend on this habitat have declined as well. In response to this decline, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has partnered with other agencies and organizations to create the north central Wisconsin young forest initiative.



A golden-winged warbler at home in north central Wisconsin. Photo by Michele Woodford.

*The goal of this initiative is simple: encourage management of forest habitat in suitable areas to benefit young forest plant and wildlife species.*

Landowners in Lincoln, Langlade, Oneida, Taylor, Price and Rusk counties who are interested in improving their land for birds and animals that depend on young forests can now attend free workshops, request consultation for their individual property and obtain resources for planning and conducting habitat work for little or no cost.

Young forest Management of young forest Wildlife and young forest Demonstration areas

Young forest



### Wildlife and habitat

#### Find

ways to reduce wildlife-human conflict and avoid wildlife damage.

#### Explore

Wisconsin's rare plants, animals and natural communities.

#### Discover

tips to manage your land for wildlife.

#### Learn

about wildlife health and rehabilitation.

### Related links

- [The young forest project](#) [exit DNR]
- [The woodcock management plan](#) [exit DNR]
- [Forest landowners](#)

### Contact information

For information on the north central Wisconsin young forest initiative, contact:





# For more information:

- ◆ Contact your friendly, local wildlife biologist.
- ◆ Amber Roth, Upper Great Lakes Young Forest Initiative at [amroth@mtu.edu](mailto:amroth@mtu.edu)
- ◆ Resources:
  - [www.youngforest.org](http://www.youngforest.org)
  - [www.timberdoodle.org](http://www.timberdoodle.org)
  - [www.gwwa.org](http://www.gwwa.org)

