

# Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program

## *Burgess Brothers and Tansitor Electronics Superfund Sites Bennington, Vermont*



Jesse Achtenberg / USFWS

### The Problem

Wastes from a local battery manufacturing operation were deposited in unlined settling lagoons and subsequently contaminated a drainage area, a shallow pond, and a forested wetland with heavy metals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). As a result, the 2.5-acre landfill on the Woodford and Bennington town line was designated the Burgess Brothers Landfill Superfund Site.



John J. Mosesso / USGS

The restored wetland will also provide habitat for amphibians, such as the green frog.

### Highlights

- Restored 2 acres of open water and scrub/shrub wetland
- Created 7 acres of grassland
- Total Project Cost: \$165,000
- Partners: Town of Bennington, USDA, NRCS, DOI USFWS (NRDAR Program and Partners for Fish and Wildlife), DOI NRDAR Restoration Support Unit
- Status: Construction was completed in Fall 2007; wetland planting will occur during Spring 2008, and monitoring will continue through 2013.

At another site (the Tansitor Electronics Superfund Site) 3.5 miles west of Bennington, wastes generated during the manufacturing process of electrical capacitors entered a nearby, intermittent stream and eventually migrated to a perennial stream south of Route 9. Groundwater and soil were contaminated with VOCs and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs); surface water and sediments were contaminated with heavy metals. Contamination at both sites reduced the quality and quantity of habitat and food available to aquatic and wetland-dependent species including migratory birds such as warblers, thrushes and herons.



Anthony Tur / USFWS

The wetland restoration is expected to benefit migratory birds that favor early successional scrub/shrub habitats, such as the yellow-rumped warbler (top) and woodcock (bottom).

## Restoring the Resources

To compensate for natural resource injuries associated with the Burgess Brothers and Tansitor Electronics Superfund Sites, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) used funding from the two natural resource damage settlements (over \$115,000), in addition to other sources, to restore wetland and grassland habitat at a former gravel pit in Bennington. In October 2007, approximately 15,000 cubic yards of gravel spoils were removed to restore two acres of open water and scrub/shrub wetland. The spoils were used to fill and grade portions of the gravel pit. The area was then seeded to create seven acres of grassland. In combination with surrounding fields, nearly 30 acres of contiguous grassland habitat were created.

## A Partnership for Success

The Town of Bennington permanently protected the entire restoration area (including the purchase of 24 acres) and provided funds and in-kind services for the wetland construction. Monies from the Department of Interior (DOI) Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) fund and technical expertise from the DOI Restoration Center supported the restoration planning and design. The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) provided funds and expertise to seed and grade the gravel pit and to control invasive species. Lastly, the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program provided the finishing funds to complete the restoration.

## Before



Prior to restoration, the gravel pit and spoils area offered limited habitat for migratory birds.

## After



Fill-removal and land contouring activities initiated the transformation of the former gravel pit into a wetland/grassland complex. Wetland plants provided in Spring 2008 will complete the restoration.



**U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**New England Field Office**  
**70 Commercial Street, Suite 300**  
**Concord, NH 03301-5087**

**P: 603/223 2541**

**F: 603/223 0104**

**W: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/newenglandfieldoffice>**

**Federal Relay Service for the deaf and hard-of-hearing: 1 800/877 8339**

**May 2008**