

Outcomes of the 2nd Annual HAPET-Refuges Retreat Wes Lake Resort

March 8-9, 2005

Attendees:

Terry Shaffer	USGS – NPWRC
Mark Chase	USFWS – Detroit Lakes WMD
Gregg Pattison	USFWS – Windom WMD
Chuck Vukonich	USFWS – Fergus Falls WMD
Neil Heiser	Iowa DNR
Mark Vaniman	USFWS – Windom WMD
Alice Hanley	USFWS – Big Stone NWR
Barbara Boyle	USFWS - Tamarac NWR
Sara Vacek	USFWS – Morris WMD
Tom Buhl	USGS – NPWRC
Steve Wilds	USFWS – RO / MB
Ray Norrgard	Minnesota DNR
Tom Skilling	USFWS – Union Slough NWR
Tom Cooper	MWA / USFWS – Minnesota Valley NWR
Mike Murphy	USFWS – Hamden Slough NWR
John Braastad	USFWS – Agassiz NWR
Scott Glup	USFWS – Litchfield WMD
Scott Kahan	USFWS – Detroit Lakes WMD
Steve Delehanty	USFWS – Morris WMD
Kevin Brennan	USFWS – Fergus Falls WMD
Wayne Briniger	USFWS – Tamarac NWR
Doug Wells	USFWS – Fergus Falls WMD
Stacy Salvevold	USFWS – Fergus Falls WMD
Chad Raitz	USFWS – Fergus Falls WMD
Rex Johnson	USFWS – HAPET
Diane Granfors	USFWS – HAPET
Dan Hertel	USFWS – HAPET
Dawn Johnson	USFWS – HAPET
Tony Rondeau	USFWS – HAPET

Outcomes/Action Items

Highest Priority:

Initiate additional 4 mi² plots (including approximately 370 additional wetlands) in the Prairie-Hardwood Transition Zone (TZ) of Minnesota

- Reach out to additional field stations in the TZ that do not presently participate in the survey
 - Minnesota Valley NWR
 - Sherburn NWR
 - Rice Lake NWR
- Reach out to other partners that commonly request/use data from the survey or HAPET derivatives from the survey

Increasing these plots will enable refinement of the TZ Thunderstorm model after accumulating 4-5 years of data from the expanded survey

To estimate annual production in the TZ –

- Acquire and evaluate the DU TZ “HEN” production estimation model

Immediate Action Items

Get out memo with up-to-date list of non-game birds to be recorded during 4 mi² survey (add to current list Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, and reports of all king rails, yellow rails, and black rails on or between plots – anecdotal info with detailed locations).

Request permission to distribute draft grassland bird – tree histograms from Dave Naugle and Frank Quammen – Distribute pending permission.

Discuss the SD –Univ. Montana tree removal study with Iowa DNR which is doing similar management. Facilitate coordination if appropriate.

Resend HAPET-WMD Marshbird Monitoring Protocols, include IA and WI WMDs and Iowa DNR (via Neal Heiser)

Develop poster on tree impacts and tree removal – print laminate and distribute to field stations.

Near-term Action Items

Work with Bob Russell to develop standard data recording and sharing protocols for Marbled Godwits

Extract coyote info from Predator Literature Review and reach out to DU/PF/MWA to include a Coyote Fact Sheet in their direct mailings.

Develop a short issue paper on condition of temporary and seasonal wetlands, potential management treatments to enhance vegetation condition, and detailed proposal and protocols for scraping wetlands versus traditional restoration (with detailed definition of scraping).

Compile a primer on bird conservation for presentation to maintenance and administrative staff

Present in late-February

Combinations of field station staff (3-4 stations)

RO staff

Invite other agency staff as appropriate (determined by WMD/Refuges)

Continue with inter-agency outreach on bird conservation via Bird Conservation Minnesota (BCM) workshops. Insure that prairie management/protection programs are included in these workshops.

Coordinate with Jim Leach and Larry Nelson (and PF) as part of Service-DNR tree management task force. Apply existing tools to designate multi-agency “tree-free” zones.

Consider “seasonal” restoration of shallow wetlands in croplands – when could water be removed for planting and still augment breeding duck densities/production?

Work on conservation reserve design in the “white space” on HAPET maps.

Complete Phase I of predator surveys and develop models of presence-absence and relative abundance. Assess stability of annual distribution.

Develop posters on Coyotes, Invasive species, etc. with Refuges – print laminate and distribute to field stations.

Longer-term Action Items

Phase II of predator study guided by Phase I models.

Discuss with Regional Refuge Chief and Area Supervisors the future of acquisition in areas with significant on-going rural development. If this will continue to be a significant area of additional acquisition, pursue study (already proposed in draft issue paper to Univ. Minnesota) to assess risks of habitat conversion under different development scenarios, and impacts of development/WPA acquisition on waterfowl productivity.

Work with MDNR (their lead) on fish in wetlands