



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, Mississippi 39213

July 13, 2009

Memorandum

To: All Members (~100) (via e-mail), Southern Range Translocation Cooperative

From: Will McDearman, RCW Recovery and Longleaf Pine Coordinator

Subject: 12th Annual Southern Range (FL-GA-AL-MS-NC-SC) Translocation Cooperative Strategy Meeting, August 12-13, 2008

This memo follows the earlier June 12 notice to inform you that the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) Southern Range Translocation Cooperative (SRTC) meeting has been scheduled for August 12 – 13 at the Betty Easley Conference Center in Tallahassee, FL. The objectives of the meeting are to: (1) identify recipient populations, (2) list recipient population bird needs, (3) tally total number of birds available from donor populations, (4) pair donor and recipient populations, (5) prioritize recipient populations, (6) allocate birds to recipient populations, and (7) determine tentative translocation schedule.

In addition to these functions, I invited Travis Alstad (University of Georgia) and collaborators to give a presentation of their research on genetic structure and diversity in small and large RCW populations, based on mitochondrial DNA and microsatellites. We'll have an opportunity for questions and discussion on future research and the relationship of translocation programs and the need for population genetic management.

Ralph Costa will give an update on the status and challenges of funding through various partnerships the continued work of translocation biologists at Osceola National Forest (Sarah Lauerman), Francis Marion National Forest (Larry Wood), and Apalachicola National Forest (Joel Casto). This has significantly increased the number of birds available, in addition to the long-term and extraordinary work by others we've routinely depended on for many years at Apalachicola National Forest, Fort Stewart, Fort Benning, Eglin Air Force Base, and Camp Blanding. Since there is a possibility of funding for one or two additional (new) positions, we might conceptually consider in a preliminary fashion how to increase RCW allocations and/or modify schedules if this opportunity becomes a reality.

The format for donor and recipient population reports will remain the same, with an additional request that you report the RCW management goal (active clusters and/or PBGs) for your property/population. The agenda is flexible, providing time to discuss most any issue of SRTC

Table 1. Donor population and estimated number of subadults and pairs to be provided for 2008.

Donor	Birds	Pairs
Apalachicola RD	40	20
Osceola NF	20	10
Francis Marion NF	20	10
Fort Stewart	34	17
Fort Benning	6	3
Eglin AFB	6	3
Total	126	63

relevance. Please let me know in advance if there is a particular subject you would like to schedule. Otherwise, the floor will be open during the business session and at other times as needed. I have tried to include everyone on the list that needs/may want to attend. However, given new employees and others moving on to new jobs, some folks may have been missed or received this message in error. Please feel free to forward this memo to colleagues who should be attending but may not be on the e-mail list to ensure that everyone who wishes to attend can do so.

Please contact me if I've made any errors or you have any questions or problems. Looking forward to seeing you there!

2009 Donor Populations

Donors currently estimate about 126 subadult birds and 63 pairs will be available (Table 1). Estimates from Eglin Air Force were not available at the time of this memo, but historically Eglin usually provides about 3 pair. Other donors may be available, including Camp Blanding and Carolina Sandhills NWR, for which we will have information to consider at the meeting. As always, these estimates may change by the time of our meeting. Recipient populations are expected to supply their own solitary bird needs, or to conduct reciprocal swaps with other SRTC populations to augment single bird clusters.

2009 Recipient Populations

Sixteen properties/populations are slated to receive birds this year (Table 2). The DeSoto NF DeSoto RD is not requesting birds this year for the Biloxi unit, a former population scheduled on this rotation. This population is approaching 30 active clusters and DeSoto staff decided to focus on the establishment of the recent DeSoto RD – Black Creek population which requires 5 pair annually. At this time, additional birds appear available to recipients. If so, our choices will be to increase the number to selected recipients scheduled this year, or allocate birds to recipients scheduled for next year, and/or allocate to new recipients. Decisions to add new recipients to the schedule must also consider the likelihood of having a sufficient number of donors to supply all scheduled recipient population needs.

Table 2. Proposed and normally scheduled 2009 recipient populations and allocation.

Population	2009 Pairs
Avon Park Bombing Range	3
Babcock/Webb WMA	3
Blackwater SF – Hurricane	3
Bull Creek-Triple N Ranch WMA	3
DeSoto NF, DeSoto RD – Black Creek	5
Disney Wilderness Preserve	5
Dupuis WEA	5
Enon Plantation	3
Goethe State Forest – North	3
Ichauway	3
Ocala NF – Paisley Woods	3
Picayune Strand SF – North	3
St. Marks NWR	3
St. Sebastian River Preserve	3
Talladega NF, Talladega RD	5
Total	53

Table 3. Proposed 2010 recipient populations and allocation.

Population	2010 Pairs	Actual 2008 Allocation, Pairs
Chickasawhay RD – East, DeSoto NF	3	
Conecuh NF - East	3	
Conecuh NF - West	3	
DeSoto RD – Black Creek	5	
Disney’s Wilderness Preserve	5	
Dupuis Wildlife and Environmental Area	5	
Fort Gordon	3	
Goethe SF - South	3	
Hal Scott/Stanton	3	
J.W. Corbett WMA	3	
Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point	3	
Okefenokee NWR – Northwest?	3	
Okefenokee NWR - South	3	
Picayune Strand SF	3	
Sehoy Plantation	3	
Shoal Creek RD – Talladega NF	3	
Southlands Forest?	3	
Talladega RD – Talladega NF	5	
Wetapo Creek?	2	
Withlacoochee SF - Croom	3	
Total	67	

2009 Recipient Populations

The normal allocation schedule for 2010 (2008 recipients) should be on track if there is good reproduction and funding is continued.

Recipient Populations Slide Show

As an integral step in meeting our objectives, recipient populations within the SRTC (see Agenda for list) will be required to provide a population/translocation status report. We will continue to use the standard presentation format for clarity and time management. At least 7 slides are required. Other slides or data may be added if you have specific topics of interest you would like to share with the group. In the interest of time and avoiding repetition, we do not need detailed coverage of your population's history, habitat work, etc. Important points about your population's history will be shown in various standard slides. Regarding habitat, your habitat for active and recruitment territories should be in superior condition. Remember that your total presentation is limited to 10 minutes.

Examples of these slides can be viewed on the RCW website at <http://fws.gov/rcwrecovery/srtc.html>. Please present the 7 slides in the following order:

1. Cluster status map.
Include and distinguish active clusters, all recruitment clusters available by this fall, and recruitment/recipient clusters for the next translocation effort. It is not necessary to include cavity trees. Indicate subpopulations as necessary.
2. Active cluster status and trend graph.
Include a graph for each subpopulation, when relevant, and a graph for the overall combined trend.
3. PBG status and trend graph
Some participants prefer to combine the active cluster and PBG trend graph, which is fine. Include a graph for each subpopulation, when relevant, and a graph for the overall combined trend.
4. Table with PBGs, solitary bird groups, number of fledglings, and number translocated.
Include data for as many years available.
5. Fire history map.
Distinguish growing and dormant season prescribed fire, with fire interval (years between burns). Include active, inactive, and recruitment clusters. This can be a difficult single slide to prepare depending on fire history, data, and management complexity. Use more than one slide if necessary.
6. Translocation results table.

Translocation results categories are breeder, solitary (defending a territory), helper, floater, or missing. It does not matter whether a bird is in the territory where released. At a minimum, tabulate results of the most recent translocation. Distinguish years if more than one translocation year is included.

7. Translocation map.

Donor Populations Slide Show

Because donor populations are the foundation of the SRTC program, each will be required to provide a population/translocation status report. A total of 5 slides are required. Other slides and data of interest may be added. However, total presentation time is limited to 10 minutes.

Please provide the following slides: (1) cluster status map (do not include cavity trees), (2) active cluster status and trend graph, (3) PBG status and trend graph, (4) table illustrating number of PBGs, active clusters, and birds translocated (inter-population) by year for as many years as you have data, and (5) fire history map.

Also, please be prepared to discuss your population's future potential for continued involvement as a donor in the SRTC. This involvement could be positive (continuing with expansion), neutral (continuing at status quo) or negative (diminishing). All members of the SRTC need to be engaged and understand the future of this critical recovery program. We need more funds, donor population personal, and partners if the past decade of success is to continue or increase.

Proposed New Recipients

Additional birds may or may not be available for new recipient populations. If you want to be considered as a new recipient population, please prepare the standard recipient slides with additional information on available habitat quality and quantity. Time will be allotted on the agenda for you to make the standard 10-minute presentation.

Logistics

The meeting will be at the Betty Easley Conference Center, Room 152. I previously sent maps and directions – contact me if you need them. Everyone typically stays at the **Cabot Lodge, 850-386-8880**, at 2735 North Monroe Street. The meeting will begin at **1:00 PM on August 12th** and should conclude by **3:00 PM on August 13th**.

2009 SRTC AGENDA

12 August - Wednesday

- 1:00 Welcome, introductions, business. Will McDearman.
1:15 Genetic structure in natural and restored RCW populations. Travis Alstad. University of Georgia.

Donor Population Reports

- 1:45 Apalachicola RD
1:55 Osceola NF
2:05 Francis Marion NF
2:15 Fort Stewart
2:25 Fort Benning
2:35 Eglin AFB
2:45 Camp Blanding

- 2:55 Break

Recipient Population Reports

- 3:15 Avon Park
3:25 Fort Gordon
3:45 DeSoto NF, DeSoto RD – Biloxi
3:55 DeSoto NF, DeSoto RD – Black Creek
4:05 DeSoto NF, Chickasawhay RD – East & West
4:15 Conecuh NF – East & West
4:25 Ocala NF – Paisley Woods
4:35 Talladega NF, Shoal Creek RD
4:45 Talladega NF, Talladega RD
4:55 Adjourn

13 August – Thursday

- 8:00 Status of funding and partnerships for RCW translocation biologists. Ralph Costa.

Recipient Population Reports, continued

- 8:15 Okefenokee NWR - Northwest
8:25 St. Marks NWR
8:35 Blackwater River SF
8:45 Goethe SF – North
8:55 Goethe SF – South
9:05 Picayune Strand SF
9:15 Picayune Strand SF - North

9:25 Withlacoochee SF (Croom)

9:35 Babcock/Webb WMA

9:35 Break

9:50 Dupuis WEA

10:00 J.W. Corbett WMA

10:10 St. Sebastian River Bluff Preserve

10:20 Southlands Forest

10:30 Tall Timbers

10:40 Wetapo Creek

10:50 Enon

11:00 Sehoy

11:10 Bull Creek – Triple N Ranch

11:20 Hal Scott/Stanton

11:30 Lunch

12:30 Disney's Wilderness Preserve and Park

12:40 Military Ocean Terminal

12:50 New Recipient Populations & Other

Allocate RCWs to recipient populations & pair donor and recipients

Adjourn