UPPER MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP
Project Portfolio

A Bird's Eye View: Restoring Upper Mississippi River Basin Bird Habitat

BACKGROUND
A four-state collaboration among six non-profit land trusts will deliver major education initiative about the Blufflands. A complimentary stewardship component to further bird conservation in the Upper Mississippi River basin with private forest landowners will be conducted.

LOCATION
Blufflands Area of SE Minnesota, NE Iowa, SW Wisconsin, and NW Illinois

ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED
In Iowa, the Upper Mississippi River bluffland region contains much of the state's remaining forests, oak woodlands, savannas and unique hilltop prairies. Virtually all these habitats have now been disturbed in some way within the past century, and these disturbed areas favor some bird species at the expense of others. Many species of birds need this area during breeding or migration, especially Neotropical migrants. There are reports of some species declining 75% in population over the past 25 years. Nineteen species of Neotropical migrants that nest within the Upper Mississippi River bluffland countries of Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin have been identified by states as endangered, threatened, or species of special concern.

GOALS
- **Education and Outreach.** One of the focuses of the educational strategy is educating the public about maintaining and restoring large complexes.
- **Stewardship and Restoration.** Believing that savannas are an endangered ecosystem, and that several declining bird species depend on these savannas and adjacent woodlands for survival, this habitat will be improved benefitting several priority bird species.

RESULTS
"A Bird's Eye View: A Guide for Managing and Protecting Your Land for Neotropical Migratory Birds in the Upper Mississippi River Blufflands" has been reprinted and distributed through landowner workshops.

OUTCOMES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) has found that land management for migratory bird habitat has been a valuable "hook" in sparking landowner interest.
- The Blufflands on the Edge conference was held in April 2005 and drew over 100 people.
- 12 workshops or presentation reached 500 people about the relationship between forestry and providing bird habitat.
- The INHF Land Stewardship Intern program worked with 15 landowners to treat 315 acres for invasive species removal and prescribed burns.

PARTNERS
- **Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation**
- **Blufflands Alliance**

Project Contact
Mark Ackelson, President INHF
505 Fifth Avenue, Suite 44
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-288-1846
515-288-0137 FAX
mackelson@inhf.org

Federal Contact
Mike Prouty, Northeastern Area S&PF
1992 Folwell Ave.
St. Paul MN 55108
651-649-5276
651-649-5238 FAX
Email: mprouty@fs.fed.us

Grant Amount: $38,240

The USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry and the Midwest State Foresters have joined in partnership to build a watershed-wide approach to forestry efforts in the Upper Mississippi watershed in order to improve water quality.