UPPER MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP
Project Portfolio

Managing Private Forests for Songbirds

BACKGROUND
The Audubon Center of the Northwoods facility is managed for bird and wildlife habitat, ecological restoration, recreation and environmental education. A Forest stewardship Council certified management plan has been developed for the property. This grant supports white oak and white pine regeneration. The management areas will be monitored for bird population responses.

LOCATION
The Audubon Center of the North Woods is located on an 800 acre section of woods, water, and fields near Sandstone, Minnesota, approximately 90 miles north of St. Paul.

ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED
Land development is increasingly fragmenting critical forests. Existing agricultural activities, invasive exotic species, high deer population levels, the road systems, and forest harvest all impact songbird habitat. Management decisions can be taken to reduce the problems for songbirds posed by these activities if people are provided with the necessary information and technical assistance. One major problem is that many forestry professionals do not have the technical information necessary for them to understand the habitat needs of forest bird species.

GOALS
Allow the development of an understory of native woody and herbaceous vegetation, providing habitat for a diverse community of woodland birds.

- Regenerate white oak and white pine using small-scale disturbance regimes.
- Monitor the effects of the management actions and share the results through educational programs.
- Conduct technical assistance and training for professionals who work directly on land management with private forest land owners in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

RESULTS
- Song bird monitoring protocol has been developed.
- Song bird surveys have been conducted.
- Deer exclosures have been constructed at three sites.
- Small trees, unwanted shrubs and brush were removed from three demonstration sites using 80 hours of volunteer time.
- Five landowner workshops on “Bird Friendly Forest Management” reached 118 individuals.
- A small scale land management planning workshop was conducted for 37 professionals.

OUTCOMES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS
The Audubon Center for the Northwoods fully embraces active forest management as an important tool in maintaining their land for bird habitat. Through various outreach strategies this message is being share with private forest landowners.

PARTNERS
- **Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy**
- **Audubon Center of the Northwoods**
- **UMN-Natural Resources Research Institute**

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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.