

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

October 21, 2023 to November 20, 2023

Jason Hearon, Bureau Chief
Tyler Kinney, Habitat Planner
Melissa Woerner, Habitat Planner

HABITAT PLANNING

Melissa Woerner

Northern Region

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a virtual meeting with staff from New Jersey Audubon (NJ) regarding parcels at the Musconetcong River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) that are under a current management agreement. With recent staff changes at NJA, the meeting focused on bringing new staff up to date with the agreement, prior and upcoming habitat management needs, and status of NRCS grant funds. A field visit is scheduled in December to visit the parcels and discuss upcoming work.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a project status call for the Hyperhumus wetland restoration project at the Paulinskill River WMA. Review of design plans and the design report was completed. The project is at 60% design phase and approaching permit applications. A stakeholder meeting has been scheduled for the end of November.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner visited a potential field reclamation site at the Columbia WMA with Crew Supervisor Jim Hartobey. Visits were also made to nearby fields to look at recent wildlife habitat and food plot plantings.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner conducted site visits with Solitude Lake Management to discuss needs for upcoming herbicide treatments. Proposals are being developed for treating water chestnut and phragmites at the Hyperhumus section of the Paulinskill River WMA and Ryker Lake at the Sparta Mountain WMA. Field visits were also conducted by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff for Amwell Lake, Baldwin Lake, White Lake, and Hainesville WMAs.

Central Region

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner led a field trip to the wildlife passage tunnels at the Assunpink WMA for DEP's Office of Community Relations and DEP Commissioner LaTourette in recognition of the 50th year anniversary of the Endangered Species Act.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner conducted site visits with Solitude Lake Management to discuss needs for upcoming herbicide treatments. Proposals are being developed for treating phragmites at the Manahawkin WMA and a section of fields at the Assunpink WMA that is heavily covered with invasive species.

All Regions/Miscellaneous

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a meeting with staff from the Office of Fish and Wildlife Information Systems regarding pheasant stocking maps.

Tyler Kinney

Southern Region

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney attended several meetings for the beneficial use of dredge materials in the Abbotts Meadow WMA. Informational signs were posted in the area. Area restrictions were posted to the WMA Explorer. Dredging is slated to begin on 11/20.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney continues to coordinate with contract engineers to complete restoration activities in the Glassboro WMA. Invasive vegetation treatment is expected to begin the week of 11/20. Deer fencing construction is awaiting the availability of materials.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney completed calendar year 2025 barter services for the Farm Lease Program. Various matters were also attended to relating to the farm lease program.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney attended a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers for the beneficial use of dredge materials in the Heislerville WMA. Dredge placement began on 11/2 and is ongoing.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney placed a purchase order for 4 sets of computers and associated materials for anticipated positions within BLM.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney completed a review of the Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan draft.

All Regions

Nothing to report.

NORTHERN REGION

Anthony McBride, Regional Superintendent

Jim Hartobey, Crew Supervisor
Robert Bodnar, Sr. Wildlife Worker
Mark DeVito, Sr. Wildlife Worker
Trevor Hull, Heavy Equipment Operator
Vacant, Sr. Wildlife Worker

Christopher Murphy, Crew Supervisor
Bill DeYoung, Sr. Wildlife Worker
Septembio Garo, Sr. Wildlife Worker
Jonathan Kenney, Sr. Wildlife Worker
Nick Yanuzzelli, Wildlife Worker
Jonathan Kaye, Wildlife Worker

Crews continue with lot clean ups, equipment maintenance, and road maintenance at northern region WMAs.

Staff continue to push forward with habitat improvements: work continues at Columbia, Beaver Brook, Berkshire Valley, Flatbrook/Roy, Clinton, Whittingham, Paulinskill River, and the White Lake WMAs.

Staff stocked fields for pheasant season.

Regional Superintendent Anthony McBride worked on ordering tractors for habitat work.

Regional Superintendent Anthony McBride and Crew Supervisor Jim Hartobey visited the BASF property in Belvidere, Warren County to examine habitat work at the site.

Crew Supervisor Christopher Murphy and Regional Superintendent Anthony McBride met with Solitude Lake Management at several WMAs to discuss invasive plant management at these sites.

Regional Superintendent Anthony McBride attended the monthly meeting concerning the Rockafellows Mills property in Hunterdon County.

Staff conducted a site visit at the Buckhorn Creek WMA dam in Oxford, Warren County to determine the best access point for work to be done on the dam.

Regional Superintendent Anthony McBride attended a reservoir coordinator meeting for Spruce Run and Round Valley Reservoirs.

CENTRAL REGION

Pete Winkler, Regional Superintendent

Wendy Barbuck, Agency Services Rep. 1

Bill Torry, Crew Supervisor WMAs
Timothy Crotchfelt, Sr. Wildlife Worker
Zachary Mahon, Wildlife Worker
Tim Ruth, Wildlife Worker

Vacant, Crew Supervisor
Anthony Carben, Sr. Wildlife Worker
Brian Kubin, Sr. Wildlife Worker
Robert Madden, Heavy Equipment Operator

Regional Superintendent Pete Winkler attended the Board of Directors Meeting at the Horse Park of New Jersey representing Fish and Wildlife.

Crews continue maintenance and mowing of road edges throughout Central Region WMAs.

Regional Superintendent Pete Winkler attended bi-weekly meetings for a feasibility study to dredge Lake Assunpink. In collaboration with Freshwater Fisheries staff, we will be designing the project to optimize largemouth bass habitat within Lake Assunpink, one of NJ's Lunker Bass lakes. Core Sediment sampling was completed.

Crews continue mowing safety zones.

Regional Superintendent Pete Winkler began working with a potential Scout to develop a project to fulfill his Eagle Scout Badge. The Eagle Scout will rehabilitate the stations at the Stafford Forge skeet range. We are also working with another Eagle Scout to install fish cleaning stations and rod holders at the Point Pleasant Boat Ramp/Fishing Access site.

Central region crews continue performing routine trash clean-up at boat ramps, shooting ranges, and other high use WMAs.

Crews participated in the Pheasant youth hunt. It was another successful year.

Staff completed stocking birds in the dog training areas.

Crews began stocking Pheasant and Quail according to the 2023 schedule.

Regional Superintendent Pete Winkler attended the Capital Improvement Program Coordination quarterly meeting.

Interviews were started for a Wildlife Worker position for the Colliers Mills Crew.

Staff continue to issue Field Trial and Special Use Permits consistent with the latest State issued Covid-19 related Executive Orders.

The following groups and activities utilized the Assunpink Conservation Center and the Central Office Meeting Room during this reporting period:

Mosquito Control Commission Meeting
OIS
Fall Protection Awareness
NJSFSC BOD
Capital Improvement Program Meeting
Law Enforcement
Associate Executives of Mosquito Control
Watershed and Land Management

4-H
SWAP TAG Meeting
VBDWG
I & E
ENSAC
NJSFSC
Deer Project
NJ Women in The Outdoors
Conservation Collaborative Meeting
NJSFSC State
Deer Project
Under Ground Storage Tank
Land Use

SOUTHERN REGION

Nathan Figley, Regional Superintendent

Brad Heffley, Crew Supervisor
Sean Clayton, Sr. Wildlife Worker

Dan Baker, Crew Supervisor
Steve Dobrosky, Heavy Equipment Operator
Jennings Jones, Sr. Wildlife Worker
Erin Peek, Heavy Equipment Operator

Mason Reeves, Crew Supervisor
Nicholas Carros, Sr. Wildlife Worker
Ben Keys, Wildlife Worker
Jeffrey Wettstein, Sr. Repairer
Rich Ingraldi, Wildlife Worker

Seasonal - Curt Riggins

Southern region crews continue performing routine trash clean-up at boat ramps, shooting ranges, and other high use WMAs.

Road Crew completed grading the Mad Horse Creek, Heislerville, and Winslow WMA roads. Staff will be moving equipment to the Glassboro WMA to begin work there. Staff are also working on quotes for material to be used.

Staff continue to issue Field Trial and Special Use Permits consistent with the latest State issued Covid-19 related Executive Orders.

Staff participated in the "Take-A-Kid" youth pheasant hunt event. At the event, staff are responsible for setting up/taking down tables and chairs, stocking birds, and guiding hunters and mentors to field locations.

Staff began stocking pheasant and quail. The only issue so far was that a few large trees fell across roads at the Dix WMA. After completing stocking for the night, staff brought equipment out to the area and removed the trees.

Staff submitted a boat ramp project plan to the Office of Resource Development, and it was approved. Two car top launches within the Maple Lake WMA will receive improved access to the parking areas and floating docks to tie boats up to pre/post launch.

Regional Superintendent Nathan Figley participated in a Rack and Fin Radio interview.

Staff have been completing repairs and are winterizing equipment.

Staff are working on the replacement of a failing dock at the Spicers Creek WMA.

Staff are working with the Office of Coastal Engineering, New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA), United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), and environmental consulting firms to complete beneficial reuse projects on the Heislerville and Abbotts Meadow WMAs. The project at Heislerville will bolster the dike, increasing coastal resiliency. At Abbotts Meadow, high and low marshes will be created to increase habitat for a variety of wildlife including threatened and endangered species.

Regional Superintendent Nathan Figley participated in interviews for the following job titles-- Wildlife Worker, Heavy Equipment Operator and Environmental Specialist.

Provided monthly report to Dam Safety for the no name dam located on Salem River WMA.

Meetings Attended: BLM Staff Weekly, Bureau of Law Enforcement, NJSFSC, Blanket Permit meeting,

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SECTION

LAND ACQUISITIONS

Lisa Carben, Executive Assistant

The following lands have been acquired by the State and have been assigned to New Jersey Fish and Wildlife during this period.

Nothing to report this period.