

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

May 21, 2024 to June 20, 2024

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

HABITAT PLANNING

Tyler Kinney

Southern Region

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney saw through the near completion of the Glassboro Restoration Project. Planting activities are complete for the spring season. Contractors will return in the fall to plant several more tublings that were not available this Spring.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney submitted the T2931 Farm Service Contract for re-procurement.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney attended a meeting with the Office of Natural Resource Restoration (ONRR) and contractors to discuss ongoing and potential Atlantic White Cedar restorations.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney saw through the completion of FY24 Spring Planting and boom mowing operations.

Coastal Unit

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney continues to attend weekly meetings on the Pond Creek Marsh Restoration Project. Construction of berms is currently underway. Discussions were held relating to the removal of old wood pilings at the mouth of Pond Creek.

Tyler Kinney is coordinating with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Coastal Engineering and NJDEP Land Resource Protection to install an emergency culvert to alleviate flooding issues associated with an impoundment in the Heislerville Wildlife Management Area (WMA). This project has successfully passed through Land Management Review. NJDEP Coastal Engineering is currently soliciting bids.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney attended a meeting with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), WSP, and the Wetlands Institute to review concept plans for a beneficial use restoration at Ephraim Island. Several amendments were made to the plans.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney completed the amendment of the spending plan approval associated with the Manahawkin Wetland Monitoring project with Rutgers University. A 076 Amendment form will be completed and submitted shortly.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney saw through the procurement of an intragovernmental payment voucher between NJDOT and NJDEP Fish and Wildlife. This voucher will be utilized to treat phragmites in the Abbotts Meadow WMA in the Fall of 2024. Contractors are currently coordinating the effort.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney is coordinating with Ducks Unlimited and the University of Georgia to conduct a site visit to collect soil samples in Mannington Meadows as a part of their interest in conducting a restoration project at this site.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney is coordinating with NJDOT to procure a letter of support for the Stouts Creek Restoration.

All Regions

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney attended several classes both virtual and field sessions held by Rutgers University to learn how to identify and delineate wetlands. An exam will be taken to complete the course.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney attended a meeting on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant opportunities for the creation of early succession habitat.

Melissa Woerner

Northern Region

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a bi-weekly status call for the Hyperhumus wetlands restoration project at the Paulinskill River WMA. Permits have been submitted to the Division of Land Resource Protection.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a bi-weekly call for a potential RCPP grant to fund part of the Hyperhumus restoration project. Project partners are busy developing the grant narrative and application materials.

A contractor conducted a follow-up herbicide spot treatment on 25 acres of Japanese barberry at the White Lake WMA.

A contractor conducted two aquatic herbicide treatments at Amwell Lake to help control invasive water chestnut. Two site visits were made to Baldwin Lake, but water chestnut was not currently prevalent enough there to treat. Both sites will have follow-up visits in July.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a call with staff from the Office of Natural Lands Management, Division of Information Technology, and Fish and Wildlife to discuss collecting drone imagery at the Hyperhumus section of the Paulinskill River WMA. High resolution aerial imagery will assist in making decisions about where upcoming herbicide treatments could potentially impact rare plant species.

Central Region

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff conducted field visits to the Greenwood Forest and Colliers Mills WMAs to evaluate habitat for rare invertebrates and potential management activities that could improve habitat.

A draft of the Greenwood Forest WMA Natural Resource Stewardship Plan was sent to the internal Natural and Historic Resources working group for review.

Rutgers University has completed vegetation community surveys and seed bank collection for pre-restoration monitoring at the Manahawkin WMA. Avian surveys are currently in progress.

All Regions/Miscellaneous

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a call to discuss an upcoming RCPP grant to fund early successional habitat work on public lands throughout the state.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a call to discuss the Land Management Review process.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a quarterly meeting between BLM and Land Resource Protection to discuss permitting issues.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a call with Solitude Lake Management to discuss completed, current, and upcoming herbicide applications in the northern and central regions.

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, Clinton, Walpack, Whittingham, Paulinskill, and White Lake WMAs.

Staff continued ordering equipment and seed for habitat work.

Crew Supervisors Jim Hartobey and Chris Murphy worked on seed orders for spring habitat planting. Both northern crews planted fields in northern WMAs.

Staff completed stocking trout in the northern and southern regions.

Crew Supervisor Jim Hartobey and Regional Superintendent Anthony McBride completed Rutgers courses on wetlands delineation.

Regional Superintendent Anthony McBride continued to work on the decommissioning of several dams, including the Warren Mills and Buckhorn Creek Dams in Warren County and the Rockafellows Mills Dam in Hunterdon County.

Regional Superintendent Anthony McBride met with representatives of NRCS and representatives from the Township of Franklin, Hunterdon County to go over next steps for refurbishing the trail at the Capoolong Creek WMA.

Crew Supervisor Chris Murphy, Sr. Wildlife Worker Bill DeYoung, and Heavy Equipment Operator Trevor Hull completed work at the Silver Lake Dam located in the Hamburg Mt. WMA that was prescribed during a recent dam safety inspection. Staff from the Bureau of Wildlife Management assisted with beaver control work.

All northern region staff met at the Clinton WMA office to discuss Land Management topics including stocking, habitat work, equipment needs, encroachments, and upcoming work.

Regional Superintendent Anthony McBride attended inspections of Amwell Lake and Baldwin Lake dams.

CENTRAL REGION

Pete Winkler, Regional Superintendent

Wendy Barbuck, Agency Services Rep. 3

Bill Torry, Crew Supervisor WMAs

Vacant, Sr. Wildlife Worker

Zachary Mahon, Wildlife Worker

Tim Ruth, Wildlife Worker

Brian Kubin, Crew Supervisor

Anthony Carben, Sr. Wildlife Worker

Brian Hankins, Wildlife Worker

Robert Madden, Heavy Equipment Operator

Regional Superintendent Pete Winkler attended the Board of Directors Meeting at the Horse Park of New Jersey and for the Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education representing Fish and Wildlife.

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

Crews completed planting spring pollinator and food plot plantings.

Crews completed dam maintenance on all Central WMAs in time for the annual inspections. Inspections went well.

Regional Superintendent Pete Winkler met with a Rutgers University Field techniques class to talk about habitat management at Fish and Wildlife.

Crews completed stocking trout following the 2024 stocking plan.

Regional Superintendent Pete Winkler met with interns from the Bureau of Law Enforcement to explain how the 2 Bureaus work together on issues.

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

Deer Project

Law Enforcement

NJSFSC State

OIS

Mosquito Control Commission Meeting

NJCB Steering Committee

Bureau of Wildlife

4-H

Fish and Game Council Meeting

NJSFSC BOD

Mosquito Control Committee

Management Team Meeting

Climate Resilience

SWAP Technical Advisory Group

WRAC

CIER Manager Summit Meeting

I & E

Underground Storage Tanks Staff Meeting

SOUTHERN REGION

Nathan Figley, Regional Superintendent

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

Vacant, 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

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

Road Crew staff continue working on Glassboro roads. A crushed culvert pipe was replaced in the Tuckahoe WMA, eliminating a constant road flooding issue. New grader blades were purchased and installed. Portions of Ackley Road in the Millville WMA were graded. Potholes were filled at the Spicers Creek Boat Ramp.

Staff continue routine maintenance mowing of dams, offices, boat ramps, and WMA access points. With a point of emphasis on dams during this period, staff removed vegetation as noted by Dam Safety in annual inspection reports.

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

Staff participated in weekly construction meetings regarding the Pond Creek Project. Work continues, with the focus on the creation of the earthen berm and installation of silt fencing in preparation for additional vegetation clearing. The vegetation clearing is currently on hold due to timing restrictions.

Land Management staff have completed spring planting and are now hoping for rain. Planting was delayed due to excessive rain and now there is a lack of rain when the plantings need it.

Regional Superintendent Nathan Figley reviewed multiple special use permits and several were denied. The denials were for use of drones, strictly for recreational purposes.

Regional Superintendent Nathan Figley continues to review an application that was developed by the Bureau of GIS for detecting encroachments. Working with BLE staff on several encroachments and property boundary issues.

Regional Superintendent Nathan Figley worked with Bureau of Law Enforcement (BLE) staff, BLM staff, and a private contractor to remove several large items from WMAs. Some of the larger items included boats, trailers, and mattresses.

Regional Superintendent Nathan Figley and Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney completed a Rutgers University Wetlands Delineation Course. This class taught how to delineate wetlands based on hydrology, vegetation, and determining the difference between hydric and nonhydric soil based on soil indicators. The knowledge gained will allow internal staff to determine these boundaries as they relate to various habitat creation projects. Staff are establishing an itemized list of equipment needed to complete delineations. This kit will be used to perform pre-project sampling.

Meetings Attended: BLM Staff Weekly, Bureau of Law Enforcement, NJSFSC, Higbee Beach Project 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.

WMA	COUNTY	TOWNSHIP	NAME	ACRES
Assunpink	Monmouth	Upper Freehold	Evanko	17
New Sweden	Cumberland	Lawrence	Lawrence Township	.89
Rainbow Lake	Salem	Pittsgrove	Genova Investments	104

Acres assigned during this period: 122

Total acres statewide: 358,320