2009 HABITAT PROGRAM SUMMARY

Below is a brief progress report on several restoration projects that the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ has been working on within the coastal zone of New Jersey. These projects were specifically designed as mitigation for impacts to critical wildlife habitat. We have received funding from a variety of sources to help fund our restoration projects. The goals of our program are to restore, enhance, and create suitable wildlife habitat and to improve ecosystem health in New Jersey. More than 20 acres of wildlife habitat (specifically migratory songbird habitat) will be enhanced or restored as a result of these projects.

PROJECT AREAS

Bass River State Forest
- Restored habitat: over 15 acres of Atlantic-white cedar forested wetlands.
- UPDATE: Volunteers were recruited to survey for migratory birds from mid-September into November. Data has yet to be summarized. Volunteers will be recruited to survey again in spring and fall in 2010 and 2011.

Ballanger Creek – Bass River State Forest
- In late 2009, CWF received funding through a grant from the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, US Forest Service from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).
- The funding is intended to help create both jobs and wildlife habitat in New Jersey. The scope of the project includes the creation and enhancement of wildlife habitat and helps control the spread of invasive species inside Bass River State Forest in Bass River Township, Burlington County.
- CWF is in the process of selecting a consultant to help design and enhance habitat on site.
- For more information, click here.
Petrecca Tract – Wading River WMA

- Invasive species control and restoration of 13 acres of costal marshland. The surrounding areas of two impoundments have been treated for control of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) with the use of herbicides and prescribed burns. In 2010 two water-control structures will be installed to allow water level management of the two impounded areas at the project site.
- Monitoring will begin the following fall after work is completed for use by target species (shorebirds and waterfowl) and will continue for 3 years. A summary of the results will be included in annual reports.
- **UPDATE:** Construction is expected to begin within the next few months.

Cape Island (Villas) WMA

Reforestation

- Over 750 native “bare root” seedlings from the New Jersey Forest Nursery were planted on 1.5 acre fairway in April, 2009. Seedlings were planted using volunteers from Lower Cape May Regional High School and a local Boy Scout troop.
- Reforestation of this site is meant to help connect the interior fairways (once reforested) to the surrounding unfragmented forested habitat. This habitat treatment follows the recommendations and goals highlighted in the “**Ponderlodge Draft Management Plan**”
- Monitoring will begin in fall of 2010 for use by target species (migratory songbirds) and will continue for 3 years. A summary of the results will be included in annual reports.

Grassland/Meadow Enhancement

- In 2010, CWF will assist (NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife) with the planting of native warm-season grasses and wildflowers on approximately 12 acres of old fairways.

**Future Project Areas**

- Visit [www.conservationregistry.org](http://www.conservationregistry.org) to see over 11 other proposed projects that are located throughout the coastal region of New Jersey.
• To view our project areas in New Jersey, simply point your browser to the website above and scroll your mouse pointer over “View Projects,” then select “Browse by keywords,” look for “Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ” and click on the text to view our projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
• Habitat Program Project page: http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/projects/habitatprotection.html
• Contact: Ben Wurst, Habitat Program Manager
  o Phone: 609.628.2103
  o E-Mail: ben.wurst@conservewildlifenj.org