

# **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

June 21, 2023 to July 20, 2023

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

## **HABITAT PLANNING**

Tyler Kinney

### **Southern Region**

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney continues to work on developing a task order for monitoring at the Manahawkin Wildlife Management Area (WMA) wetland restoration site. The task order has received VPP-006e approval and is ready to be sent to contractor for signature.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney solicited quotes for 2023 phragmites management in the Heislerville, Tuckahoe, and Abbotts Meadow WMA's. Treatment in Abbotts Meadow is expected in August and will be conducted via aerial application. Treatments in Heislerville and Tuckahoe will follow via terrestrial application.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney attended a meeting regarding the thin layer placement of material on Shaw Island.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney developed bid specs and sought bids for the removal of woody debris piles in the Glassboro WMA.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney attended a meeting at the Wetlands Institute to discuss habitat restorations in the Abbotts Meadow and Cape May Coastal Wetlands WMA's. Research was conducted on how these restorations may align with several conservation plans for various species of special concern. A PowerPoint was developed to be presented at the Fish and Game Council June 2023 meeting.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney sent updated shapefiles and barter rates for 3 properties to be bid in the upcoming 2023 farm lease auction.

### **All Regions**

Nothing to report.

Melissa Woerner

### **Northern Region**

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a status call with The Nature Conservancy and contractor WSP for the Hyperhumus Wetlands Restoration project at the Paulinskill River WMA.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner coordinated with NJ Audubon to update new staff on the current management agreement and NRCS grant activities at the Musconetcong WMA.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner submitted four projects in the northern region for Land Management Review: Columbia Pond Field Reclamation (Columbia WMA), Hydroax and Field Reclamation work at the Columbia WMA, Hydroax and Field Reclamation work at the Honey Run WMA, and Hydroax and Field Reclamation work at the Black River WMA.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner has been trying to coordinate with a contract vendor to apply herbicides at the Musconetcong River, Paulinskill River, Baldwin Lake, Ryker Lake, and Amwell Lake WMAs. Due to staff changeovers at the contract company, it has been difficult getting responses and moving projects forward.

### **Central Region**

A virtual meeting between NJ Fish and Wildlife and Ducks Unlimited was held to discuss the Manahawkin Coastal Wetlands Restoration Project. Permit applications are currently in review and project members discussed future plans for construction bids.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner submitted one project in the central region for Land Management Review: Omni Field Reclamation Plan (Assunpink WMA).

### **All Regions/Miscellaneous**

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner provided Geographic Information Systems (GIS) assistance for a blanket permit application for Bureau of Land Management activities.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner responded to questions from social media regarding NJFW pollinator plantings on WMAs.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner provided comments on the draft Department of Environmental Protection Invasive Species website.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner provided information to the Office of Transactions and Public Land Administration on northern and central parcels to include in an upcoming farm lease auction.

## **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  
Vacant, 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, Whittingham, Paulinskill, and White Lake WMAs.

Staff have been mowing safety zones and preparing fields for pheasant season.

Heavy Equipment Operator Jonathan Kenny, Sr. Wildlife Worker Mark DeVito, and seasonal B. Karlak conducted habitat work at the Columbia WMA. Trevor Hull assisted with heavy equipment work. The crew did an excellent job there prepping these fields for habitat plantings.

Sr. Wildlife Workers Mark DeVito, Rob Bodnar, and seasonal B. Karlak conducted habitat work at the Black River WMA and prepared fields for habitat plantings there.

The Clinton crew repaired potholes in the driveways of the Northern Region Office and Round Valley Reservoirs.

Crew Supervisor Jim Hartobey and Regional Superintendent Anthony McBride met to assess damage done during the heavy rain events of weekend of July 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> along Rt 46 near Manunkachunk. Damage was done to the entrance road, parking area, and fences at the Ramsayburg historic site on Rt. 46. In addition, a tributary of the Beaver Brook re-routed and left substantial mud and debris deposits on Rt. 46. A team of engineers routed the tributary back to its original flow. Crews will be working on the parking area and entrance road at Ramsayburg to correct the damage done there.

Regional Superintendent Anthony McBride prepared maps and information detailing erosion at the Capoolong Creek WMA trail and is conducting work to determine steps and feasibility of restoring the trail.

## **CENTRAL REGION**

### **Pete Winkler, Regional Superintendent**

Wendy Barbuck, Agency Services Rep. 1

Bill Torry, Crew Supervisor WMAs

Vacant, 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 and for the Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education representing Fish and Wildlife.

Crews continue maintenance and mowing of road edges throughout the 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.

Regional Superintendent Pete Winkler attended bi-weekly meetings for the restoration team at the Barnegat Bay Lighthouse Camp.

Colliers Mill Crew completed installation of intermediate berms and performed maintenance to the range and parking area at the Stafford Forge Centerfire and Shotgun ranges.

Dam inspections were completed for all dams on WMAs in the Assunpink drainage.

Regional Superintendent Pete Winkler attended the Forked River Mountain Stakeholder meeting, illegal Off Road Vehicle (ORV) use continues to be a major concern in the area.

Crews are working to alleviate flooding caused by beaver activity at the Webs Mills bog within the Greenwood WMA. The bog has an interpretive boardwalk and is the site of many rare Pinelands plants.

Assunpink crew is working with the Bureau of Law Enforcement to clean up 4 sites where construction debris was illegally dumped on the Assunpink WMA. So far, the estimate is 60 cubic yards of debris. We will document all costs associated with the clean-up and seek restitution when the suspects are apprehended.

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

Game Committee Meeting

Law CPR Training

United Bow Hunters of NJ

Navesink River Retriever Club

NJSFSC

Youth Inclusion

Fish and Game Council Meeting

NJSFSC State

Mosquito Control Commission Meeting

Assistant Commissioner and Staff

Assistant Commissioner Meet and Greet

## **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  
Seasonal – Benjamin Keys

The Bureau sadly reports that former seasonal Curt Riggins passed away recently.

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

Road Crew staff have been pole-sawing roads in preparation for grading. Currently staff are completing roadwork in the Union Lake WMA and have been addressing erosion gulley's at multiple boat ramps throughout the region that formed during severe thunderstorms (Shaw's Mill, Clarks Pond, Penbryn Lake, Salem River Kayak Launch, Jakes Landing, Sheppard's Mill Pond, Lake Audrey). State Forest Fire Staff have begun grading roads in the Winslow WMA, this is a huge help and New Jersey Fish and Wildlife (NJFW) are extremely gracious for the assistance.

- 1) Glassboro WMA
- 2) Tuckahoe WMA

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

Staff completed a Marsh Master training conducted at the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. By completing the training, NJFW staff can now borrow the equipment from the Mosquito Commission to mow areas not accessible to normal mowing equipment. This opportunity came up when looking into a solution to phragmites that have choked out observation towers, where staff can no longer cut using hand implements because the extent to which the phragmites has extended.

Senior repairer Jeff Wettstein worked to repair a portion of fence in the Cox Hall Creek WMA, ordered and replaced several cracked windows and met with a locksmith to discuss conversion of door locks to keyless entry at Southern Region Office. Jeff is also working on a design to create interpretive sign holders to be displayed at the Tuckahoe/Maple Lake WMAs—Lenape Farms Section.

Staff continue routine mowing/weed whacking at boat ramps, parking areas, offices, and dams.

Regional Superintendent Nathan Figley provided monthly report to Dam Safety for the no name dam located on Salem River WMA.

Staff met with Office of Coastal Engineering to discuss replacement of water control structure on the Heislerville WMA.

Regional Superintendent Nathan Figley participated in a focus group to promote tourism within the Maurice River Corridor.

Staff monitored the car counter installed at the Menantico Ponds WMA.

Meetings Attended: BLM Staff Weekly, Encroachment Reporting, Bureau of Law Enforcement

## **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SECTION**

### **LAND ACQUISITIONS**

Lisa Carben, Executive Assistant

Nothing to report this period.