

# **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

February 21, 2023 to March 20, 2023

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

## **HABITAT PLANNING**

Tyler Kinney

### **Southern Region**

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney began developing a task order for the monitoring of restoration activities in the Manahawkin Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney is working with a contractor to create access to a field in the Abbotts Meadow WMA, so that it can be used as a staging area for restoration activities in the Abbotts Creek marsh.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney created sign proofs for the Lenape Tract interpretive trail. Proofs were reviewed in a meeting with Fish & Wildlife staff and sent to Stockton University for printing.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney ordered 100 Bayberry seedlings to be planted in the Dennis Creek WMA with volunteers from the Jersey Shore Chapter of the American Woodcock Society. Planting will occur in May 2023.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney attended several matters regarding the woodcock habitat creation in the Glassboro WMA.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney assisted in compiling habitat management acreage data to be provided to the Commissioner.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney is working with internal stakeholders to compile review comments for the Buckshutem WMA Forest Stewardship Plan.

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney acquired quotations for 170 acres of aerial seeding in Impoundment Lester, located in the Tuckhachoe WMA.

### **All Regions**

Habitat Planner Tyler Kinney attended a meeting with contractor Solitude Lake Management to discuss drone herbicide applications in waterfowl impoundments.

### **Northern Region**

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a stakeholder meeting for the Hyperhumus wetlands restoration project at the Paulinskill River WMA. Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner also attended the first project team bi-weekly status call with The Nature Conservancy and contractor WSP. Results of a Natural Heritage Data request were received and forwarded to the contractor.

One bid was received by a contract vendor for field preparation and planting operations at the Musconetcong River WMA. A Preserve New Jersey (PNJ) funding request and purchase order is in progress.

### **Central Region**

Permit application packages for the Manahawkin coastal wetlands restoration project were completed and sent to the Assistant Commissioner's office for signature. Permit materials were compiled by staff member Diane Dow with coordination from Ducks Unlimited.

A draft Forest Stewardship Plan for the Greenwood Forest WMA was reviewed and sent back to Pine Creek Forestry for revisions.

No bids were received from contract vendors for planting operations at the Manasquan and Prospertown Lake WMAs. Bid requests were then sent out to off-contract vendors. No bids were received for Manasquan WMA and two bids were received for Prospertown Lake WMA with the project awarded to the lowest bidder. A Preserve New Jersey (PNJ) funding request and purchase order request is in progress.

### **All Regions/Miscellaneous**

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a virtual meeting for the Barnegat Bay Partnership Estuarine Habitat Working Group.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a virtual meeting to review requirements for a blanket permit application for herbicide spraying on WMAs.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner attended a virtual meeting with Solitude Lake Management to discuss drone use for herbicide applications.

Habitat Planner Melissa Woerner submitted a travel request for the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team annual conference.

## **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 River, and White Lake WMAs.

Staff began the first week of pre-season trout stocking.

Crew Supervisor Christopher Murphy worked with freshwater fisheries staff to plan and schedule trout stocking runs for the upcoming spring trout season.

Crew Supervisor Jim Hartobey continued work on the powerline easement portion of the quail area at the Columbia WMA. The powerline is now clear and ready for field prep and planting this spring.

Crew Supervisor Christopher Murphy and Crew Supervisor Jim Hartobey worked with the NJ Forest Fire Service (NJFFS) to conduct habitat management and invasive vegetation-controlled burns on several northern region WMAs.

Heavy Equipment Operator Trevor Hull repaired a culvert pipe under the entrance road to Ryker Lake in the Sparta Mountain WMA in Sussex County.

Heavy Equipment Operator Trevor Hull added fill to and repaired the area between the bottom end of the boat ramp and the water line at the Round Valley Reservoir in Hunterdon County.

Regional Superintendent Anthony McBride attended a stakeholders meeting concerning restoration at the Hyper Humus section of the Paulinskill River WMA in Sussex County.

Regional Superintendent Anthony McBride attended a meeting about the development of a Round Valley steward program to examine boats and educate boaters about invasive aquatic species.

## **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

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

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

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

NJFW continues to improve boating and fishing access at waterbodies on WMAs throughout the Central Region. This latest project updated 2 existing gravel boat ramps to concrete ramps at Rising Sun and Stone Tavern Lakes within the Assunpink WMA. The ramps are complete, and the lakes are back up normal levels. To complete the project, we will be starting the procurement process for floating docks which are planned to be installed this fall.

Crews prepared snow removal equipment and performed preventative maintenance on tractors and other farming equipment.

Crews conducted prescribed burning at WMAs throughout the Central Region in coordination with NJFFS.

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.

Crews are preparing for trout stocking season, getting vehicles ready, reviewing the routes and stops.

Staff are preparing the Pheasant/Quail stocking schedule for 2023.

A contract vendor was secured, and a purchase order was created for a cleanup of illegally dumped asbestos shingles at the Greenwood Forest WMA.

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

Regional Superintendent Pete Winkler and Crew Supervisor Bill Torry met with Allaire State Park staff to discuss illegal trail construction of Mountain Biking Groups on the Manasquan WMA.

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

United Bow Hunters of NJ  
NJ Saltwater License – Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner  
Beaver/ Otter Check  
NWTF  
ELS  
Bureau of Business Administration  
Hunter Education  
Mosquito Control Commission Meeting

CLUE Bureau Meeting  
NJSFSC BOD  
I & E  
Bass Nation  
ENSAC  
Law Enforcement - Conservation Police Officers  
UBNJ  
Waterfowl meeting  
OIS  
NJSFSC State

## **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 staff completed grading of the Higbee Beach and Cape May Coastal Wetlands WMAs. Staff are currently completing work in the Beaver Swamp WMA and will move on to the following jobs:

- 1) Corbin City Section of the Tuckahoe WMA—approved PO for material has been received.
- 2) DOD Ponds WMA—Quotes have been received and PO request submitted.
- 3) Salem River WMA—Quotes received for material PO request being completed.
- 4) Dix or Egg Island WMA—to be determined by field conditions at the Dix WMA.

Road Crew Staff delivered 16 archery target holders to the Rockport WMA. These target holders will be installed on Northern Region archery ranges. Northern Region staff picked up a seed order and transferred to Southern Region staff the same day. The dwarf sorghum and buckwheat will be planted on WMAs throughout the Southern Region.

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

Staff met with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to review the conservation easement at Atlantic Blueberry, Makepeace Lake WMA. NRCS found NJFW has completed management activities at this location and asked if prescribed burning could be implemented to a portion of the property. Regional Superintendent will coordinate with NJFFS to have this work completed.

Senior Repairer Jeff Wettstein is working with Atlantic City Electric (ACE) to remove power to the building at Lenape Farms. Due to recent high wind events ACE canceled the appointment and will reschedule.

Winslow Crew have been trimming back field edges and picking up trash piles in Winslow, White Oaks, Great Egg Harbor River, Glassboro and Rowands Pond WMAs.

Winslow Crew picked up a zero-turn mower that will be used for maintaining office grounds, parking areas, WMA ranges, and fishing access areas.

Southern Region staff have been preparing for spring trout stocking. This work includes trimming back high use fishing locations, installing transfer and oxygen tanks on vehicles, and parking area maintenance.

Southern Region received 3 new Ford F-250 trucks. These vehicles were ordered in 2021 and have replaced 3 high mileage vehicles that required constant maintenance to keep the running. These new vehicles will be used daily to complete work duties on WMAs throughout the Region.

Staff coordinated with NJFFS on prescribed burning activities throughout the Southern Region. A thank you needs to go out to NJFFS for helping with this annual activity as well as responding to wildfires that randomly occur on WMAs.

Regional Superintendent met with NJFFS staff to address plow lines on edges of fields. The furrows created by the plow create a barrier for staff to maintain the wooded field edge. After just a couple years the branches begin to span over the field and shade it out. By discing the plow lines in, staff can boom mow or pole saw the overhanging branches.

During routine dam inspections, staff discovered that two dams have issues with emergency spillway gates. Based on trouble shooting these emergency gates, staff have determined the hydraulic lines or fittings are compromised. Regional Superintendent Nathan Figley is working with Office of Resource Development staff and an engineering firm to address these issues.

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

Contractor continues work on the Mosquito Landing Boat Ramp. Sheet piles and pilings have all been driven and the existing concrete ramp is being demolished.

Meetings Attended: BLM Staff Weekly, Higbee Beach WMA Multi-use Plan, Mosquito Landing Boat Ramp Meeting, and Menantico Ponds WMA Meeting.

## **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SECTION**

### **LAND ACQUISITIONS**

Lisa Carben, Executive Assistant

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

<b>WMA</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>TOWNSHIP</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ACRES</b>
Abbotts Meadow	Salem	Elsinboro	James & Yvonne Grant	.25
Black River	Morris	Chester	Marguerite Smyth	5.5
Dix	Cumberland	Fairfield	George Kimley	.18
Dix	Cumberland	Fairfield	Mamie Blizzard	24.4
Stafford Forge	Ocean	Eagleswood	Beatrice D Williamson	2.32
Thundergut Pond	Salem	Alloway	Albert C. & Patricia D. Zane	3.34

Acres assigned during this period: 36

Total acres statewide: 357,789