



NEWS RELEASE

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Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation and the Northern Forest Woodcock Initiative to Undertake Woodcock Habitat Enhancement Project on Crowley Island in Addison, Maine

Addison, Maine: Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation announced today that it will undertake a cooperative habitat enhancement project with the Northern Forest Woodcock Initiative with funding provided by the Wildlife Management Institute. The project will develop and improve woodcock habitat on property owned by PRWF on Crowley Island in Addison's Indian River estuary.

American woodcock populations have declined 2 to 4 percent per year from the early 1970's. Because research has documented that the loss of young forest and shrubland habitats is the primary cause of the decline, the creation and maintenance of early successional forest habitats is critical to the survival of woodcock.

Gary Donovan of The Northern Forest Woodcock Initiative worked with Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife regional biologist Tom Schaeffer to identify a portion of PRWF's Crowley Island holdings that was ideal for habitat rejuvenation. This will be accomplished by clearing shrubs, alders and small trees to create a mowed field approximately 5 acres in size where the woodcock can roost.

In addition, feeding and nesting habitat will be created nearby by cutting strips roughly 80 feet wide in alder and shrub habitat that is too old to be productive. Additional strip cutting is planned each five years of a 25 year cycle so that varied age classes of habitat are always available. Smaller cleared areas about 1 acre large in size will provide space for spring courtship displays. In addition to woodcock, ruffed grouse and many song bird species will benefit from the project.

The work will be done by an excavator with a brontosaurus head during the upcoming winter when the ground is frozen.



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