Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership (LRP) Project
FY 2016 Final Report

State: Wisconsin
Project Name: Lake Superior Landscape Restoration Partnership

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Outcomes Achieved and Benefits Realized:

Lake Superior, the largest freshwater lake in the world by surface acreage, is the healthiest of all the Great Lakes. The watershed on the south shore of Lake Superior (the Basin) is predominantly forested but includes important agricultural lands of dairy, beef, and fruit and vegetable farms. As clean and healthy as it is today, the future condition of Lake Superior and the surrounding forests, farms, and way of life for the Basin's communities depends on actions taken now. A history of poor land management and the highly incised clay soils of the area continue to result in severe soil erosion, increasing sediment in the rivers and streams and threatening critical aquatic species. The predominance of dairy and beef production in the area calls for careful management of manure resources. Adding to the urgency, the Basin is experiencing a loss of critical habitat for birds and other wildlife from a rebound in the area farm economy which is placing more pressure on the existing open lands.

In recognition of the national importance of the Lake Superior Basin as well as the urgency of the threats it faces, the Chiefs of the United States Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service identified the Basin as a landscape deserving additional attention and resources to meet the challenges associated with restoration at a landscape scale. That in turn led to the creation of a broad partnership of more than two dozen local, tribal, state, federal, and non-profit organizations. Known as the Lake Superior Landscape Restoration Partnership (the Partnership), this collaborative is implementing a comprehensive program to coordinate its work across all ownership boundaries to restore and protect the waters and forests of the Basin. The Partnership has set an ambitious goal over the next five years: Restore, protect, and enhance critical habitat for golden-winged warbler, Kirtland's warbler, sharp-tailed grouse, and brook trout, while reducing sedimentation and manure runoff into the waterways that feed Lake Superior.

To accomplish this goal, the Partnership is coordinating its work cross-boundary to ensure that on-the-ground management and restoration are connected where needed and add up to real change on the land. The Partnership has also identified priority geographic areas with best management practices for the focus resources. Using this information, outreach efforts focus on key areas so that appropriate conservation practices are occurring to reach specifically identified private landowners.

As a result of the Lake Superior Landscape Restoration Partnership (LSLRP), the local Field Office of the NRCS has seen a 500 percent increase in level of funded Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications. This a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to private landowners through contracts that provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns. LSLRP funds have made possible the implementation of over 450 individual conservation practices on private lands.

As a direct result of the partnership, the USFS is seeing a different level of engagement with partners in overall participation of some of their new land planning efforts. The USFS with input from partners have also designed and implemented many projects including more than 40 miles of stream corridors improved for brook trout. And the USFS State and Private Forestry Program is working with the partnership to develop strategies to more effectively encourage conservation on the part of non-industrial private forestland owners.

The Partnership has established a high-functioning collaboration of organizations working in a disciplined way to coordinate and integrate its landowner outreach efforts. It has also built many of the essential tools and strategies needed for continued success after funding support from the USDA has ended. This ensures that the funding will continue to be highly leveraged into the future, well beyond the life of the initial funding.

Based on all this work, the Partnership has accomplished the following aggregate benchmarks for the entire Lake Superior Basin landscape in less than three years:

- Two hundred thirty acres of private lands, 2,450 acres of public lands and 48 river/stream miles have been or are being worked on to enhance and expand critical habitat
- A new public-private partnership is in place and ready to translocate sharp-tailed grouse from northwestern Minnesota into the enhanced habitat created by the project
- One hundred eighty nine projects underway that will improve and protect water quality
- Thirteen improved stream crossings and one dam/weir removal
- In addition to the 98 private landowners and two federally recognized tribes receiving EQIP funding and engaged in active management, over 110 additional private owners have responded to new outreach efforts by the LSLRP's My Lake Superior Northwoods
- Addressed the risk of wildfire by reducing hazardous fuels on more than 5,360 acres and the creation of 1.5 miles of fire breaks

Prescribed burn on Moquah Barrens. *US Forest Service*

The Partnership outcomes and benefits realized are demonstrated in the below categories.

Brook Trout

- Refinement of priority watersheds for targeted brook trout restoration was achieved through a multidisciplinary team. This approach that sets priorities for the Joint Chief's funding is also setting the foundation for other funding allocations for Brook Trout restoration/protection (GLRI, USFWS programs) and management strategies by partner agencies. This cross border, long-term approach to restoration will help ensure devoted resources are concentrated in the most appropriate areas for sustained population benefits.
- Seventeen EQIP funded brook trout habitat improvement projects are scheduled for construction in the upper reaches of Iron River and Whittlesey Creek.
- Over 20 miles of Brook Trout habitat was improved by maintaining free flowing conditions and adding brush bundles to help narrow and deepen the stream channel. This project also was in cooperation with several agencies that leveraged resources to work together on the Marengo and Twenty Mile river systems.

Before and after photos of the 2016 Spring Brook Hatchery Weir Removal. *US Forest Service*

Water Quality and Slow the Flow

- USFS has implemented numerous stream crossing replacements and improvements resulting in a much greater flood capacity that will prevent failures, reduce maintenance requirements, and increase resilience to potential increases in runoff associated with climate change. All projects included installation of larger culverts set lower to reduce erosion, restore aquatic organism passage, restore channel morphology and allow the natural movement of sediment and organic matter.
- Reduced erosion and sedimentation into the Marengo and Twenty Mile priority watersheds.
- In moving from broad concepts to a targeted on-the-ground approach, a multifaceted team of professionals across organizations developed priority areas for slow the flow techniques to improve waters quality that considers the amount of open land, known watersheds with heavy sediment loads, and watershed position. Focusing action in these areas will help ensure the connection between implemented BMPs and watershed response.
- Recent efforts have sought to improve the strategic approach of water quality conservation. A multifaceted team of professionals across organizations developed priority areas for slow the flow techniques. The final product of this work was landscape scale maps of where to work and what to do in those locations to improve water quality. To establish desired future conditions as a result of restoration activities, the Team is working on a Slow the Flow white paper that will compile and describe the existing scientific understanding of landscape scale interactions between watershed condition and streamflow. This product will help the Team identify what the indicators of success should be, what level of change will result in desired response, and the ability to link our criteria for identifying priority restoration locations with the actions taken in those areas.
- One agricultural waste storage facility and twenty barnyards manure runoff control systems are planned using EQIP financial and technical assistance.
- The primary practices that the USFS and the NRCS are implementing to control sedimentation involve stabilizing roads and stream crossings, and streambank stabilization.

Golden-winged Warbler

- The LSLRP is partnering with a larger three state effort lead by the American Bird Conservancy and the NRCS to increase the quality and quantity of golden-winged warbler Habitat. This warbler in in significant decline and efforts are being made to improve populations with the hope of keeping the bird off of the threatened and endangered species list. There are currently 119 acres of habitat improvement funded through the EQIP Program in the basin.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

- This past April 2016 biological staff from the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, in cooperation with many partners captured 101 Sharp-tailed Grouse from northwestern Minnesota. In total, 29 birds (13 hens, and 16 males) were transported to the Moquah Barrens in northwestern Wisconsin on the Washburn Ranger District.
- Cooperation between the Forest Service, agencies, tribes, and private partners made this effort a success. Our colleague's from Wisconsin and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Red Cliff and Bad River Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa, Great Lakes

Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Minnesota and Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Societies, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Refuges and Private Lands) all worked together to initiate the recovery of Wisconsin's most northern population of Sharp-tailed Grouse.

- Habitat improvement on the Moquah Barrens is an on-going process where timber harvest, prescribed fire, non-native invasive plant removal, and brush cutting are used to achieve barrens objectives. Restoration of the Pine Barrens habitat is the ultimate goal of the Northwest Sands project, which benefits upland wildlife species such as sharp-tailed grouse. Success in this project area would not be possible without a variety of partners. Partners in the restoration of the Moquah Barrens include the Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Red Cliff and Bad River Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- As of September 2016, the Bad River Band is using their All-Service-Vehicle to brush cut 60 acres of brush in the Moquah Barrens to create more open habitat and increase woody fuel loads for future prescribed burns. An intern hired by the Red Cliff Natural Resources program worked on the Washburn Ranger District with Forest Service seasonal employees during the 2016 field season to achieve habitat restoration management goals including non-native invasive species control and brush cutting for open land species.
- Future plans for the Moquah barrens include prescribed burns, brush cutting, timber harvest, non-native invasive plant control, and the trapping and release of more sharp-tailed grouse in 2017.
- The development of one EQIP prescribed grazing system in close proximity to a known Lek, is being developed in consultation with the WI DNR in order to maximize the potential for Sharp-tailed Grouse habitat.

Kirtland's Warblers

- Habitat improvement included a Furrowing Project by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- Bayfield County had its first confirmed successful Kirtland's warbler nest with 5 fledged nestlings in 2016.

Wildfire Mitigation

- Reduced hazardous fuels and moderated fire behavior of a potential wildfire in that highly travelled area adjacent to a community within the Barnes Drummond Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
- A spring 2015 hazard fuel reduction prescribed burn around the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center arrested wildfire spread in March 2016 when a human-caused fire burned into the interagency burn. The fire break and sparser fuels changed fire behavior dramatically in the tall reed canary grass, allowing crews to gain control of the fire and potentially save adjacent structures.

Habitat improvement included a Furrowing Project
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

- Increased awareness of wildfire risk in the Basin through targeted, multi-media outreach activities.
- Provided support to partner agency to create and improve fire breaks for a long term wildlife habitat (sharp tail grouse) area that will require prescribed fire to maintain; this also provides a secondary benefit to wildfire mitigation by providing an opening in a fairly large block of conifer species

Additional

- Continued restoration of habitat at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center by controlling non-native invasive species. The restoration efforts convert open, former agricultural grassland with non-native invasive species into open grassland with native forbs, grasses and shrubs and lowland conifer forest in order to decrease non-native invasive plants, create better habitat for native pollinators and open land animals, and improve the Terwilliger Creek, Fish Creek, and Whittlesey Creek watersheds at the head of Chequamegon Bay. This project cooperatively engaged properties where USFWS lands border National Forest lands. This project helps both agencies meet landscape management and conservation goals. This project helped habitat restoration projects benefiting brook trout, and Golden-winged Warbler, and meeting the habitat restoration goals of the respective agency's land management plan.
- Native seed collection is being conducted within the Lake Superior watershed during the fall of 2016. Collected seed will be used for rehabilitation of areas that have been treated for control of non-native invasive plants, fire lines, road decommissioning, pollinator habitat, and native plant gardens.
- Treated non-native invasive species that are in the watershed include: glossy buckthorn, common buckthorn, spotted knapweed, honeysuckle, and reed canary grass.
- Improve roosting habitat for the Federally Threatened northern long-eared bat and other bat species, many of which are WI State Threatened; that would benefit from roosting structures. Installation of bat houses on National Forest lands as well as those lands within the Lake

Non Native Invasive Species (Tansy and Garlic Mustard) Removal. *US Forest Service*

Superior watershed managed by city, Tribal and/or other federal agencies. Project target was to improve between 200-800 acres per year for two years. One installed structure, or multiple structures installed in close proximity to each other equal approximately 200 acres of habitat improved. Over three years, 27 bat boxes were installed improving 2,400 acres of habitat.

Community Benefits:

Briefly describe benefits to the community or counties achieved through this partnership, as applicable.

Employment opportunities created from 2014-2016:

- UW Extension ½ FTE (meeting coordination and facilitation)
- Bayfield Regional Conservancy (community outreach director - 2015)
- American Forest Foundation 1 ¼ FTE (Landowner and Community Outreach Director & Field Technician Contractor)
- NRCS 1 FTE – (soil conservationist technician)
- USFS partially funded four seasonal full time biological technicians to conduct wildlife habitat improvement projects and control non-native invasive species in the Lake Superior Watershed.
- One native seed collector was hired in the fall of 2016 to collect seed
- Red Cliff Tribe (One seasonal hire using GLRI and LSLRP funds through a CCS Agreement) to affect Partnership projects benefiting sharp-tailed grouse.
- The NRCS's EQIP project implementation for the 2014 through 2016 funds will generate the need for approximately 29,500 hours of labor on the part of land improvement contractors and landowners. (Estimate developed assuming 50% labor and 50% materials costs with an average labor rate of $25 per hour.)

Educational opportunities provided:

- Prescribed burns and plantings at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center provide learning opportunities for the nearly 100,000 annual visitors.
- Smokey Bear signage was improved and additional media materials were used to raise awareness for awareness of fire risk, fire prevention, and property preparation in the event of a wildfire.
- During the burns at NW Sands, research was ongoing centered on soil heating, seed viability and mercury release. While not specifically funded by LSLRP monies, the burn opportunity allowed for this research and professional learning to occur.
- The education and increased understanding of bat habitat and life history requirements by not only the staff of cooperating agencies, but also members of the public that observe and inquire about the installed artificial roosting structures. In many locations where these bat boxes are installed, an opportunity is created for public outreach regarding the importance and conservation of bats.

Big Brown Bat used for educational purposes with US Forest Service, Brian Heeringa. *Emily Stone*

Community safety enhanced:

- Development and continuation of wildfire protection plans are in the process of being created for area communities.
- Several road segments utilized by the public were reconstructed and improved.
- By providing artificial bat roosting structures we are providing quality alternatives to bats roosting in buildings, providing locations for maternity colonies to raise their young which help to provide a healthy bat population that in turn provide an incredible benefit to people by controlling insect pests. Many of these insect pests cause major crop damage and human disease.
- Increased awareness and education of fire preparedness in the Lake Superior basin by hosting education events, trainings and Fire-Wise assessment.
  - Interagency fire training was held June 9-11, 2015 at the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Ashland, WI. The course, "S215: Fire in the Wildland-Urban Interface", boasted an interagency cadre and was offered to 4 federal agencies, two state agencies and multiple county and local fire department members.
  - The 2016 Interagency fire training academy was held June 13-17. Multiple courses were conducted by an interagency cadre for over 95 area firefighters from 4 federal agencies, state agencies, tribal entities and multiple county and local fire department members.
  - USFS fire staff members held a fire education day in the Drummond/Lake Owen area for local LCO students. The group learned about equipment used by firefighters to suppress fire and prescribe burn. They learned about Community Wildfire Protection Plans and toured several fuels project sites. They also received hands-on experience with assessing structure defensibility in the wildland-urban interface.
  - Private land structural assessments were conducted within the Drummond, Lake Owen, and Ashland areas. Over 25 sites with multiple structures on each were evaluated. Written assessments were drawn up and information was shared with landowners regarding tips to improve their wildfire survivability.
  - Multiple educational events were conducted to increase the awareness of various age groups. Events were held in the Lake Superior Watershed including Ashland, Washburn, Bayfield, and at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. Additional prevention education reached out via WHSM

Dollars invested in communities:

It is estimated that from 2014 - 2016 more than **$1,582,000** has been invested into the local communities from the efforts of the Lake Superior Landscape Restoration Partnership, including contractors, job creation and labor associated with implementation of EQIP projects.

- $6,000 for contracting mailing services and print materials associated with private landowner outreach.
- $550,000 in salaries supporting above positions described above in Community Benefits #1.
- $982,000 is two-thirds of the $1,473,000 in EQIP financial assistance given to applicants estimated to remain in the local economy.
- $18,000 will be spent on contracting services for creating the Ashland County Emergency Response Book.
- $20,000 will be spent on various projects within Bayfield County on the Barrens Core Habitat Area and prevention and educations signs.
- $6,000 will be/has been spent to contract for chipping services (brush pile chipping occurred this week on most, still some to pick up yet) on private lands within the Bad River Reservation.

Federal Funds Expended:				
	FY16	**FY15**	**FY14**	**Total FY2014 – FY 2016**
NRCS EQIP Financial & Technical Assistance (LRP Funds only)	$537,829	$849,519	$203,037	**$1,590,385**
Other NRCS Funds (Non-LRP Funds such as CTA, General EQIP)	$90,000	$45,000	$45,000	**$225,000**
FS - National Forest System	$700,010	$791,000	$305,000	**$1,796,010**
FS- Hazardous Fuels	$240,000	$160,000	$33,000	**$433,000**
FS- State and Private Forestry (AFF and WDNR)	$329,000	$250,000		**$579,000**
Total				**$4,623,395**

Non-Federal Partner Contributions:

Please highlight partners and stakeholders that are involved in this project

The goals for the Partnership cross many political and ownership boundaries which requires strategic partner discussions and decision making. For example, during budget planning for restoration projects on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, staff sought input from Partner organizations working on private lands outside the National Forest boundary in order to maximize the restoration impact of its own spending. Similarly, the NRCS has established criteria that help focus its cost-share support for private landowners on the highest priority restoration areas. Another example is NRCS's challenge to reach deeply into private woodland owners to engage them in stewardship supported by its cost share programs and technical support. To address this "market penetration challenge," NRCS has coordinated directly with the Outreach Team to take advantage of its marketing expertise and focus on all relevant landowners. Specifically through this coordination effort, the fall 2015 marketing campaign focused on NRCS cost share programs as the principle message and offer for landowners. Finally, landowners are able to gain access to the breadth of expertise of numerous technicians in a "one stop shop" fashion and with a single contact with the Landowner and Community Outreach Director. Working across agencies, the Partnership is able to identify the appropriate land management for the right places while directing landowners to potential funding sources to assist in achieving the mutually beneficial goals of the Partnership and landowner. Working together, the Partnership actively reaches and engages landowners at a scale that contributes to landscape goals.

Organizations participating with the partnership*	
Aldo Leopold Foundation	**MN Sharp-tailed Grouse Society**
American Forest Foundation	Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science -USFS
Ashland County Land Conservation Department	Northflow
Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa	**Northland College**
Bad River Watershed Association	Northwoods Weed Cooperative Management Area
Bayfield County Land Conservation Department	**Natural Resource Conservation Service**
Bayfield Regional Conservancy	**Pheasants Forever**
Chequamegon Bay Area Partnership	Red Cliff Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa
City of Ashland	The Nature Conservancy
City of Washburn	Trout Unlimited
Douglas County Land Conservation Department	**Upper Great Lakes Young Forest Initiative**
Environmental Protection Agency	**US Fish & Wildlife Service**
Iron County Land Conservation Department	**US Forest Service** (Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry)
Lake Superior Binational Forum	**UW-Extension – Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas County**
Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve	**UW-Extension** – Environmental Resources Center
MN DNR	**WI DNR** (Land Division, Water Division, Forestry Division)
MN Prairie Chicken Society	**WI Sharp-tailed Grouse Society**

Direct funding, significant in-kind support through staff and resources, non-highlighted organizations provide focused expertise and resources (Resources include database creation and support, meeting supplies and logistics, GIS expertise)

Partner	Dollars	In-Kind Labor	In-Kind Other	Total 2014 - 2016
Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society	152,957		38,510	**191,467**
Red Cliff Tribe	2,500		500	**3,000**
Bad River Tribe	2,500		500	**3,000**
Private Landowners	368,000	123,000		**491,000**
Ashland, Bayfield, and Iron County Land Conservation Departments, UW Extension, Northland College, American Forest Foundation, Bayfield Regional Conservancy, Aldo Leopold Foundation, Bad River Watershed Association, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, city of Washburn*		105,000		**105,000**
Project Totals	**525,957**	**228,000**	**39,510**	**793,467**

**Conservative estimate of time for non-federal partners participating in meetings, teams, and site visits for LSLRP*

Partner Conservation Highlights:

Concisely describe in one to three sentences a unique or significant conservation highlight resulting from activities of the partnerships.

Sharp-Tailed Grouse Project

1. Fourteen partners have combined efforts to support the supplementation of sharp-tailed grouse populations and manage barrens habitats on the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest (Forest), where non- profits, private land owners and agencies are vested in management activities throughout the 2.1 million acre Northwest Sands landscape (barrens) and the restoration of sharp-tailed grouse populations.
2. This project expands beyond the boundaries of the National Forest to benefit a range of species from badgers to tiger beetles across jurisdictions in the Northwest Sands (barrens), including umbrella species, such as the upland sandpiper (a USFWS surrogate species) and sharp-tailed grouse (a USFS Regional Forester's Sensitive Species).
3. In 2016, two primary habitat improvement activities included prescribed fire and brush cutting on 3,500 acres of barrens habitat. Translocation of sharp-tailed grouse occurred with Partnership funds via cooperative agreements with the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society and the Bad River and Red Cliff Bands of Lakes Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Bat Habitat Improvement

1. Five partners were involved with placing artificial roosting boxes (bat houses) on their respective managed lands in order to improve bat roosting habitat. Partners included the City of Washburn, City of Ashland, Bad River and Red Cliff Bands of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and the National Park Service-Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.
2. This project became more than just putting up bat houses and improving habitat. It also evolved into a great means by which to educate others about the importance of bats and bat conservation, and demonstrating how individuals can be involved in these efforts in their own "backyard." To properly place these bat boxes, Forest Service staff provided site assessments and visits to ensure the most effect locations where chosen and bat boxes would be installed correctly. During these visits discussions about bats and bat habitat would often take place.
3. The following number of bat boxes were installed by each partner: National Park Service (2), City of Washburn (4), City of Ashland (5), Bad River (5), and Red Cliff (5).

Bat box installed in the city of Washburn, Thompson's Westend Park. *US Forest Service*

Project Accomplishments:

Federal Lands

Activity/Treatment	FY 2016		FY 2015		FY 2014	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Habitat improvement Sharp-tailed Grouse - brushing & Lek improvement by FS employees and tribal partners over multiple years	600 acres	200 acres	350 acres	377 acres	NA	NA
Fuel reduction treatments and prescribed burning in the Moquah Barrens	3,600 acres	3,600 acres	495 acres	522 acres	260 acres	260 acres
Fire Education and Prevention	5 education & prevention events 1 Community Wildlife Prevention Plan initiated	7 education & prevention events in the basin, 25 fire wise assessments, 1 CWPP initiated and 1 cont'd	5 education & prevention events, 1 Community Wildlife Prevention Plan initiated	7 education and prevention events in the basin, 1 new prevention sign, 25 fire wise assessments	NA	NA
Native species restoration: sharp-tailed grouse multi-year project	500 acres	145 acres	85 acres	85 acres	25 acres	25 acres
Watershed restoration or "slow the flow" projects	7 improved stream crossings, 1 small dam/weir removal	3 improved stream crossings, 1 small dam/weir removal	8 improved stream crossings	8 improved stream crossings	2 improved stream crossings	2 improved stream crossings
Soil and water resources improved	2.6 miles	0.3 miles	1.15 miles 2 acres	1.9 miles 2 acres	0.8 miles	0.8 miles
Invasive species treatment	150 acres	200 acres	75 acres	75 acres	21.25 acres	21.25 acres

Stream corridors improved for Brook Trout (T&E species)	.25 miles 6 acres	**0 miles 6 acres-aspen girdling in the RMZ	22 miles	21 miles	20.5 miles	20.5 miles
Bat Habitat Improvement	200 acres	200 acres	200 acres	400 acres	200 acres	200 acres
Partnership Agreements	NA	Funding for agreements with Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, Red Cliff Tribe and Bad River Tribe	NA	Funding for a partnership coordinator with UWEX, agreement with Bad River Watershed Association for a assistance with education programming a the Northern Great Lake Visitor Center and design of stream stabilization project on the Marengo River	NA	Funding for a partnership coordination with Northland College

***Some stream crossings and road work to restore aquatic organism passage and reduce sedimentation were not accomplished because resources were diverted to respond to the July 2016 flood. Designs were completed for all projects and culverts purchased. The Forest hopes to complete the remaining projects in FY2017.*

State, City or Tribal Lands

Activity/Treatment	FY 2016		FY 2015		FY 2014 (If Applicable)	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Hazard Fuel Reduction (WDNR)	Potential of 1400 acres in 3 years	155 acres burned, equipment purchases Bad River Chipping Project	Potential of 1400 acres in 3 years	824 acres; 1.5 miles of fire breaks;	SFA grant not obtained during this time period	N/A
Fire Education and Prevention (WDNR)	Outreach and education materials	Media campaign, educational materials and supplies, Ashland County Mapbook progress (complete in 2017)	Outreach and education materials	Media campaign; signs; Smokey Bear suit; mailings	N/A	N/A
Kirtland Warbler Habitat Furrowing Project	Increase Habitat Opportunities	125 acres south of Brule, (47-10-36) site prep complete 2016, plan to plant spring 2017. Wildlife management and Brule River State Forest coop project.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Red Cliff Streambank Stabilization Project (Tribal)	N/A	4 tons/year of soil loss savings				
Bad River Access Road Erosion (Tribal)			N/A	N/A	N/A	2 Ton/Acre/Year Soil Loss Savings
Red Cliff Gully Erosion Control (Tribal)			N/A	7 Ton/Acre/Year Soil Loss Savings	N/A	N/A
Bad River Aquatic Invasive Control (Tribal)			N/A	5 Acres	N/A	N/A
Bad River Wild Rice Restoration (Tribal)			N/A	5 Acres	N/A	N/A
Bat Roosting Habitat Improved (City and Tribal)			200 acres	1600 acres		

Please include treatments accomplished and units. Add rows if necessary.

Private Lands

	FY 2016			FY 2015			FY 2015		
	# of Contracts or Plans	Total Acres		# of Contracts or Plans	Total Acres		# of Contracts or Plans	Total Acres	
		Target	Actual		Target	Actual		Target	Actual
EQIP Contracts Obligated	48	N/A	3,837	41	N/A	2627 ac	9	N/A	1416 ac
New Conservation Plans or Forest Management Plans	48	1,400	3,837	40	1400 ac	2627 ac	8	500 ac	1416 ac

EQIP Practices Planned and Implemented	FY 2016		FY 2015		FY 2014	
	Quantity	Units	Quantity	Units	Quantity	Units
Access Road (Repair for Control of Erosion and Sedimentation)	4,922	Feet	2,843	Feet	2,555	Feet
Agrichemical Handling Facility (Reduce Risk of Chemical Contamination)	1	Number	0	Number	0	Number
Animal Trails and Walkways (Reduce Sedimentation and Facilitate Prescribed Grazing)	1,842	Feet	10,109	Feet	2,550	Feet
Brush Management (Control of Invasives)	33.5	Acres	0	Acres	0	Acres
Conservation Cover (Pollinator Habitat)	2.7	Acres	22.9	Acres	0	Acres
Critical Area Planting (Control Erosion and Sedimentation)	1	Acres	0	Acres	0	Acres
Diversion (Reduce Manure Runoff or Control Erosion)	0	Feet	270	Feet	395	Feet
Early Successional Habitat Development and Management (Golden-winged Warbler Habitat Development)	66.2	Acres	45.3	Acres	0	Acres
Fence (Facilitate Prescribed Grazing and Limit Stream Access	41,773	Feet	39,655	Feet	10,115	Feet
Forest Management Plan Development	10	Number	5	Number	2	Number
Forest Stand Improvement	245	Acres	29	Acres	0	Acres
Grade Stabilization Structure (Erosion and Sediment Control)	0	Acres	1	Acres	1	Acres
Grassed Waterway (Erosion Control)	0	Acres	6	Acres	0	Acres
Heavy Use Area Protection (Reduce Manure Runoff or Facilitate Prescribed Grazing)	20	Acres	27	Acres	9	Acres

Herbaceous Weed Control (Control of Invasives)	0	Acres	5	Acres	0	Acres
Lined Waterway or Outlet (Erosion and Sediment Control)	340	Feet	1,744	Feet	0	Feet
Livestock Pipeline (Facilitate Prescribed Grazing)	22,200	Feet	12,370	Feet	7,335	Feet
Nutrient Management (Reduce Phosphorus Runoff)	0	Acres	0	Acres	806	Acres
Prescribed Grazing (Improve Soil Quality, Reduce Manure Runoff and Improve Hydrology)	284	Acres	224	Acres	81	Acres
Pumping Plant (Facilitate Waste Storage)	3	Number	2	Number	0	Number
Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (Reduce Erosion and Sedimentation)	1,000	Feet	0	Feet	0	Feet
Roof Runoff Structure (Reduce Manure Runoff)	3	Number	3	Number	0	Number
Roofs and Covers (Reduce Manure Runoff)	3	Number	0	Number	0	Number
Stream Crossings (Repair for Erosion Control)	4	Number	15	Number	3	Number
Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (Brook Trout Habitat Improvement)	6	Number	10	Number	0	Number
Streambank and Shoreline Protection (Reduce Sedimentation)	617	Feet	640	Feet	0	Feet
Structures for Wildlife (Improve Bat Habitat)	2	Number	1	Number	0	Number
Subsurface Drain (Reduce Manure Runoff)	0	Feet	70	Feet	0	Feet
Tree/Shrub Establishment (Improve Hydrology and Wildlife Habitat)	21.5	Acres	7	Acres	1.3	Acres
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Improve Hydrology and Wildlife Habitat)	16.5	Acres	7	Acres	1.3	Acres
Underground Outlet (Reduce Manure Runoff)	0	Feet	525	Feet	0	Feet
Vegetated Treatment Area (Reduce Manure Runoff)	1	Number	13	Number	2	Number
Waste Facility Closure (Protect Groundwater)	0	Number	1	Number	0	Number
Waste Storage Facility (Reduce Manure Runoff)	0	Number	1	Number	0	Number
Waste Transfer (Facilitate Waste Storage)	0	Number	3	Number	0	Number
Water & Sediment Control Basin (Control Erosion and Sedimentation)	0	Acres	1	Acres	0	Acres
Water Well (Facilitate Prescribed Grazing)	3	Number	0	Number	0	Number
Watering Facility (Facilitate Prescribed Grazing)	12	Number	8	Number	2	Number
Well Decommissioning (Protect Groundwater)	1	Number	0	Number	0	Number
Wetland Restoration (Improve Wetland Wildlife Habitat and Slow Runoff)	6	Number	2	Number	0	Number
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (Provide Wildlife Habitat and Conserve Energy)	0	Feet	0	Feet	6,900	Feet

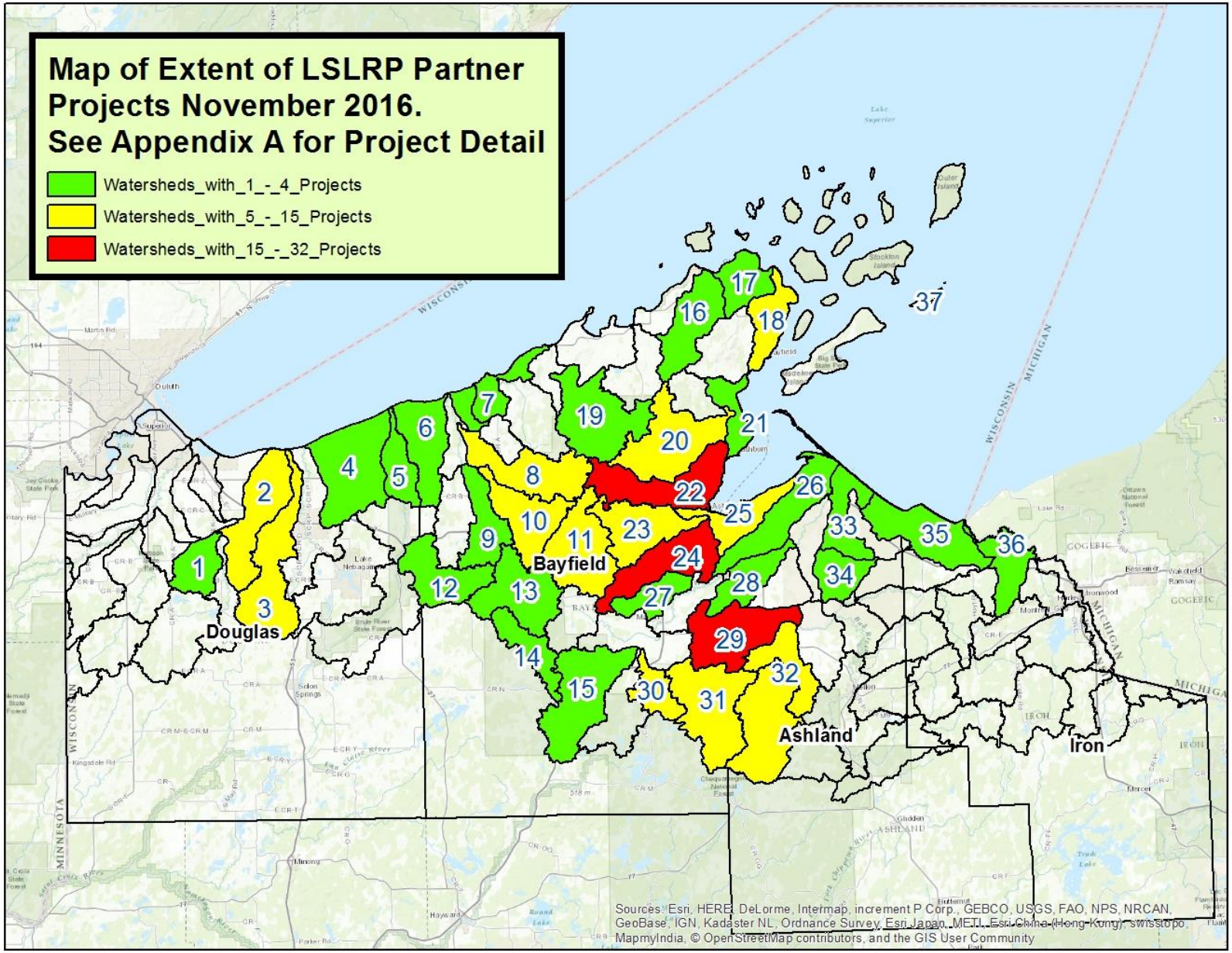
Success Stories including News Articles and Press Releases:

Please share a success story from this partnership project. If possible, highlight stories that document conservation successes across landownership boundaries. Please include pictures and a location map. Please share any news articles and press releases that have been issued.

See attached sheets on Success Stories:

- Map Narrative - LSLRP Project Benefits by 12 Digit Watershed (Appendix A)
- Sharp-tailed Grouse Translocation and Habitat Improvement - (Appendix B)
- Connections between LSLRP and the Lakewide Management Plan (Appendix C)
- Learn about Your Land News Article - private landowner outreach (Appendix D)

(Map of Partner Projects from 2014-2016 on following page.)


Map of Extent of LSLRP Partner Projects November 2016.
See Appendix A for Project Detail
Watersheds_with_1_-_4_Projects
Watersheds_with_5_-_15_Projects
Watersheds_with_15_-_32_Projects
Bayfield
Douglas
Ashland
Iron
WISCONSIN
MICHIGAN
MINNESOTA
Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Lessons Learned:

Please describe any lessons learned or successful practices, including how you adapted your approach, implementation or partnership goals; the impact the challenge or new information had; and any recommendations for other partnerships in the future. For example, did you run into any unforeseen circumstances or barriers that prevented you from achieving project goals or have required you to adapt the project goals? If so, please describe the circumstances and the actions that you took to address them. How did having a Joint Chiefs' LRP project affect other aspects of your program of work outside of this landscape?

Issue or Barrier/Change in Circumstance	Adaptation or Course Corrections	Impact	Recommendations
Lack of long term funding	Task force created to raise money from a diverse set of private entities, including foundations, corporations, and individual donors.	Fundraising plan is in place with priority targets for future years. Three proposals have been written. A donor event was held. Follow up to individual donors at that event are now underway.	The Partnership views the current support from US Forest Service State and Private Forestry as "venture capital," allowing the partnership to get up and running. But the Partnership also recognizes the need to raise $ beyond this initial investment in order to ensure its long-term sustainability and success.
Lack of adequate mapping tools to prioritize, show progress, and assist in decision making.	Seeking funding to address mapping tools.	Development of a spatial restoration mapping tool will enhance the Partnership's ability to display collective efforts towards desired outcomes.	Establish framework for spatial tool to track cumulative effect of restoration projects that will inform capacity need and long term strategy for tool development and ongoing maintenance.
The Partnership views each marketing effort to private landowners as part of a continuous, long term effort to achieve the conservation outcomes in the landscape. As part of this thinking, the Partnership intentionally designs its marketing campaigns to test and learn what works best.	The Partnership has modified its messages and messengers for the second marketing campaign based on results from its first effort.	Once results come in from the second campaign, which is currently underway, the Partnership will evaluate those results in comparison to the first campaign, which occurred in the spring. Which was the higher performing marketing package?	Evaluation of results from the first two marketing campaigns will lead to recommendations and modifications in the marketing packages designed for future years.
Tendency to think in Species/Resources "silos"	Working across species/resource teams to address potential conflict areas	Worked together to identify ways to address potential conflicts as they emerge and reduced conflict and concerns among partners	Continued discussion between resource teams

Communicating intangible benefits (cross agency decision making, private landowner goals (game species) positive overlap with partnership resources	Communicating success stories and impacts to appropriate audiences	Greater desire to work collaboratively, both between agencies and with private landowners	Continue to find ways to communicate the success that isn't directly associated with acres/miles restored
The awareness of the NRCS and its EQIP program opportunities are higher in the agricultural community than in the non-industrial private forestland (NIPF) community. This resulted in more of the currently funded EQIP projects being devoted to projects on ag lands and fewer on forestlands than anticipated.	The American Forest Foundation and the Bayfield Regional Conservancy along with other LSLRP partners are adapting innovative strategies to increase awareness on the part of non-industrial private forestland owners.	In 2016 and beyond, NIPF owners will be in a better position to utilize EQIP resource in order to meet there resource management goals, and the NRCS EQIP program will have a larger impact from a wildlife habitat and forest management standpoint. Preliminary results from current campaign include more than 30 landowners asking for a site visit tied to potential cost share support.	Initial results are promising; however a full evaluation will be conducted at the conclusion of this campaign when all the results are in. Lessons learned regarding effective outreach to non-industrial forestland owners should be shared with other partnerships that might expect similar circumstances.
Engineering capacity to design projects.	An increase in staffing is needed to address the backlog of EQIP projects that need to be designed.	Landowner outreach has been effective in developing landowner interest in conservation. Without timely action in implementing projects, we will likely lose that interest.	Without an increase in engineering, design and project oversight capacity for EQIP projects, another approach would be to look to funding programs other than EQIP to help meet landowner demand for conservation.
The WDNR employs numerous foresters throughout the project area and is instituting greater emphasis on working with private forest landowners. Technical support capacity to private landowners could be leveraged more strategically.	Increase targeted outreach to forested landowners in identified focal areas. Continue to try different methods to engage private forest landowners.	Greater engagement in forest management on private lands throughout the basin.	Invest in targeted outreach to private forestland owners.

Moving Forward:

What did Joint Chiefs' LRP allow you to accomplish that you could not/had not previously been doing?
What are your plans for continued partnerships and maintenance of projects in this area?

The Partnership helps promote a cross boundary management paradigm in our area. Although partners in our region have a long history of working together, the targeted and development of shared strategies for species and water quality improvements is a big asset. Effective conservation is depended upon this approach. The Joint Chiefs' LRP provided capacity to develop those strategies, along with funding to help implement those approaches. Both pieces are crucial to success. Without capacity for development of shared strategies, restoration is random and not as effective. Without financial support to implement projects, developed strategies don't result in any on-the-ground improvement (which also makes it difficult for partners to allocate limited time in their positions to an initiative.)

Projects of the size and scope of the restoration work, like the one being conducted in the Moquah Barrens, require coordination, adequate funding, and multiple champions to drive the project forward. The Partnership allowed the critical barrens restoration work to succeed by funding resource professionals, which gave them the latitude to connect with multiple partners to make projects like the sharp-tailed grouse relocation and habitat restoration work possible. The restoration work in the Moquah Barrens will continue into the future since greater interest in this area and work being conducted here has been highlighted over the past three years with LSLRP funding. We will continue to work with our partners to conduct habitat work and maintain populations of sharp-tailed grouse in addition to carrying on prescribed burns and brush cutting work critical to maintaining the barrens habitat. The Partnership funds were a significant shot of funding and energy that will vault the work started in project area forward.

The cross boundary approach to shared management and conservation in the Lake Superior basin will continue. Brook trout priority watersheds developed through this initiative are now used as project evaluation criteria for other funding programs (USFWS Coastal Program, Great Lake Basin Fish habitat Partnership and Partners for Fish and Wildlife Programs. Technical experts in different fields of study have expressed interest in utilizing the Joint Chiefs' approach for other priority habitats/species/conservation topics. For Example, Wisconsin's Lake Superior shoreline is rich in coastal wetland habitats, more so than many other areas in the entire Great Lakes system. To develop effective restoration and protection programs, local partners are interested in developing a strategic priority system using similar approaches to those in the LSLRP: establishing priority areas with input from a wide range of partners with well-defined criteria, identifying priority actions in those areas, defining success and required monitoring to evaluate program performance.

Signatures:

Jimmy Bramblett, NRCS, State Conservationist

Gordon Blum, Forest Service, Acting Forest Supervisor

Appendix A. Projects listed by Watershed

1. Little Amnicon River
A. One Project decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
B. One Project decreasing manure runoff to surface waters
C. One Project that benefits grassland birds or waterfowl

2. Lower Amnicon River-Frontal Lake Superior
A. One Project decreasing manure runoff to surface waters
B. Two Projects that benefit grassland birds or waterfowl
C. One Project that improves roosting habitat for Wisconsin bats
D. One Project that resulted in a Forest Stewardship Plan

3. Middle River
A. Two Projects decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
B. Two Projects decreasing manure runoff to surface waters
C. One Project improving hydrology by slowing runoff

4. Bardon Creek-Frontal Lake Superior
A. One Project decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
B. One Project decreasing manure runoff to surface waters
C. One Project that benefits grassland birds or waterfowl

5. Lower Bois Brule River
A. Five WI DNR Prescribed Burns to benefit open grassland species and fuel reduction

6. Reefer Creek-Frontal Lake Superior
A. One Project benefiting Golden-Winged Warbler
B. One Project that resulted in a Forest Stewardship Plan

7. Larson Creek-Frontal Lake Superior
A. One Project decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
B. One Project improving hydrology by slowing runoff
C. Two Projects that resulted in Forest Stewardship Plans

8. East Fork Iron River
A. Two WI DNR Prescribed Burns to benefit open grassland species and fuel reduction
B. Four Projects reducing hazardous fuels and improving Sharp-tail Grouse habitat
C. One Project improving watershed condition by treating non-native invasive species
D. Two Projects improving watershed conditions by collecting native seed the will be used for rehabilitation of areas that have been treated for control of non-native invasive plants, fire lines, road decommissioning, pollinator habitat, and native plant gardens.
E. One Project that improves roosting habitat for Wisconsin bats
F. One USFS project translocating sharp-tailed grouse from northern Minnesota to the Moquah Barrens. 29 total birds (13 hens, 16 cocks)

9. Headwaters Iron River
A. One Project decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
B. One Project Improving native Brook Trout spawning habitat
C. One Project that benefit grassland birds or waterfowl

10. Hill Creek
A. Three Projects reducing hazardous fuels and improving Sharp-tail Grouse habitat
B. One Project that benefit bats
C. One Project improving watershed condition by treating non-native invasive species
D. Two Projects improving watershed conditions by collecting native seed the will be used for rehabilitation of
areas that have been treated for control of non-native invasive plants, fire lines, road decommissioning,
pollinator habitat, and native plant gardens.

11. Headwaters North Fish Creek
A. One Project benefiting Golden-Winged Warbler
B. Two Projects reducing hazardous fuels and improving Sharp-tail Grouse habitat
C. Two Projects improving watershed condition by treating non-native invasive species
D. One Project decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
E. One Project decreasing manure runoff to surface waters

12. Little Bois Brule River
A. Two WI DNR Prescribed Burns to benefit open grassland species and fuel reduction

13. East Fork White River-White River
A. One Project that resulted in a Forest Stewardship Plan

14. Flynn Lake
A. One Project reducing hazardous fuels

15. Long Lake Branch
A. One project that restores aquatic organism passage and reduces sedimentation
B. One Project that improves roosting habitat for Wisconsin bats

16. Sand River
A. One Project that improves roosting habitat for Wisconsin bats

17. Raspberry River-Frontal Chequamegon Bay
A. One Project decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
B. One Project improving native Brook Trout spawning habitat
C. One Project that improves roosting habitat for Wisconsin bats

18. Red Cliff Creek-Frontal Lake Superior
A. Two Projects decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
B. Two Projects improving hydrology by slowing runoff
C. Two Projects that benefit grassland birds or waterfowl
D. Three Projects that improve roosting habitat for Wisconsin bats

19. East Fork Cranberry
A. One Project improving watershed condition by treating non-native invasive species

20. Fourmile Creek-Sioux River
A. Two WI DNR Prescribed Burns to benefit open grassland species and fuel reduction
B. One Project decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
C. One Project improving hydrology by slowing runoff
D. One Project improving watershed condition by treating non-native invasive species

21. Onion Rivers-Frontal Chequamegon Bay
A. Four Projects that benefit bats

22. Whittlesey Creek-Frontal Chequamegon Bay
A. Four Projects decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
B. Two Projects improving hydrology by slowing runoff
C. Four Projects decreasing manure runoff to surface waters
D. Nine Projects Improving native Brook Trout spawning habitat
E. Two Projects that benefit grassland birds or waterfowl
F. Two Projects improving watershed condition by treating non-native invasive species

23. North Fish Creek
A. Three Projects decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
B. One Project improving hydrology by slowing runoff
C. Two Projects decreasing manure runoff to surface waters
D. Two Projects that benefit grassland birds or waterfowl
E. One Project that result in Forest Stewardship Plan
F. One Project improving watershed condition by treating non-native invasive species
G. One Project improving native Brook Trout spawning habitat

24. South Fish Creek
A. Seven Projects decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
B. Eight Projects improving hydrology by slowing runoff
C. Five Projects deceasing manure runoff to surface waters
D. Eight Projects that benefit grassland birds or waterfowl
E. Two Projects that result in Forest Stewardship Plan
F. One Project benefiting Golden-Winged Warbler

25. Fish Creek-Frontal Chequamegon Bay
A. One Project decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
B. Two Project improving watershed condition by converting open, former agricultural grassland with non-
native invasive species into open grassland with native forbs, grasses and shrubs and lowland conifer forest.
C. Two Project improving watershed condition by treating non-native invasive species
D. Five Projects that improve roosting habitat for Wisconsin bats

26. Beartrap Creek-Frontal Chequamegon Bay
A. One Project decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
B. Two Projects benefiting Golden-Winged Warbler

27. Schramm Creek
A. One Project improving hydrology by slowing runoff
B. One Project that benefit grassland birds or waterfowl

28. Deer Creek-White River
A. One Project decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
B. Two Projects decreasing manure runoff to surface waters

29. Troutmere Creek-Marengo River
A. Four Projects decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
B. Seven Projects improving hydrology by slowing runoff
C. Eight Projects deceasing manure runoff to surface waters
D. Six Projects that benefit grassland birds or waterfowl

30. Twentymile Creek
A. Four projects improving watershed conditions on trout stream by addressing road/stream crossing problems and reducing erosion
B. Maintaining free-flowing conditions on 6 miles of class I brook trout water.

31. Headwaters Marengo River
A. Nine projects improving watershed conditions on trout stream by addressing road/stream crossing problems and reducing erosion
B. One project improving native Brook Trout spawning habitat
C. One Project to improve width depth ratios in 0.25 miles of trout stream
D. Maintaining free-flowing conditions on 6 miles of class I brook trout water.

32. Brunsweiler River (Lower)
A. Three projects restoring aquatic organism passage were implemented
B. Three Projects decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
C. One Project improving hydrology by slowing runoff
D. One Project deceasing manure runoff to surface waters
E. Two Projects that benefit grassland birds or waterfowl

33. Bad River-Frontal Lake Superior
A. Two Projects that improve roosting habitat for Wisconsin bats

34. Camerons Creek-Bad River
A. One Project decreasing sedimentation to surface waters
B. One Project improving hydrology by slowing runoff

35. Graveyard Creek-Frontal Lake Superior
A. One Project that improves roosting habitat for Wisconsin bats

36. Montreal River
A. One Project benefiting Golden-Winged Warbler

37. National Park Service-Apostle Islands National Lakeshore: Michigan Island
A. One project that improves roosting habitat for Wisconsin bats

Summary Totals across the Lake Superior Watershed of 228 Projects by Resource Outcome

Improved Critical Habitat for:

- Spawning native brook trout (19)
- Grassland birds or waterfowl (29)
- Golden-winged warbler habitat (6)
- Bats (22)
- Addressed road/stream crossings (14)

Improved Water Quality by:

- Decreased sedimentation to surface waters that support brook trout (36)
- Improved hydrology by slowing runoff (26)
- Decreased manure runoff to surface waters (28)

Improved Habitat by:

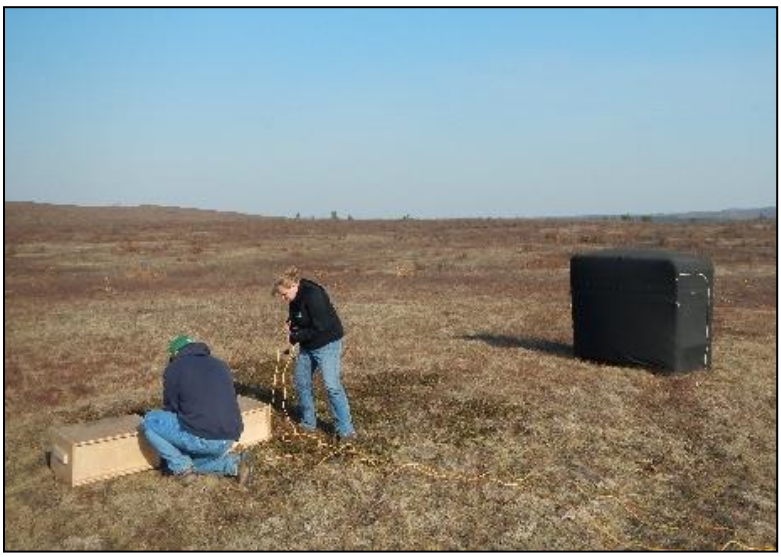
- Controlling invasive species (19)
- Forest stewardship plans written (8)
- Prescribed burns reducing hazardous fuels benefiting open grassland species including Sharp-tailed Grouse (21)

Working Across Boundaries for Sharp-Tailed Grouse Translocation and Habitat Improvement

Sharp-tailed grouse on the Moquah Barrens – photo credit U.S. Forest Service

Prairie sharp-tailed grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus campestris*) populations have decreased considerably in distribution throughout the Great Lakes States. The 22,000 acre Moquah Barrens located on the Bayfield peninsula in northwestern Wisconsin on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest offers suitable habitat, is within the historic range of the species, and has a small remaining remnant grouse population. Recently grouse habitat has been greatly improved within Moquah Barrens due to the implementation (project scope is 15 years) of the Northwest Sands Project by the U.S. Forest Service. The management efforts will continue and will be intensive to accommodate grouse habitat needs. This project aims to improve habitat for sharp-tailed grouse and other upland bird and insect species as well as increase the numbers of sharp-tailed grouse within the Moquah Barrens and surrounding habitat.

This past April 2016 U.S. Forest Service biological staff from the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, in cooperation with many partners captured 101 sharp-tailed grouse from northwestern Minnesota. In total, 29 birds (13 hens, and 16 males) were transported to the Moquah Barrens in northwestern Wisconsin on the Washburn Ranger District.



Sharp-tailed grouse release on the Moquah Barrens, May 2016 – photo credit U.S. Forest Service

Cooperation between the Forest Service, agencies, tribes, and private partners made this effort a success. Our colleague's from Wisconsin and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Red Cliff and Bad River Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Minnesota and Wisconsin sharp-tailed grouse Societies, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Refuges and Private Lands) all worked together to initiate the recovery of Wisconsin's most northern population of sharp-tailed grouse.

Habitat improvement on the Moquah Barrens is an on-going process where timber harvest, prescribed fire, non-native invasive plant removal, and brush cutting are used to achieve barrens objectives. Restoration of the Pine Barrens habitat is the ultimate goal of the Northwest Sands project, which benefits upland wildlife species such as sharp-tailed grouse. Success in this project area would not be possible without a variety of partners. Partners in the restoration of the Moquah Barrens include the Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Red Cliff and Bad River Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Prescribed burn on the Moquah Barrens, May 2016 – photo credit U.S. Forest Service

Brush cutting with the Bad River Band All Service Vehicle on the Moquah Barrens, September 2016 – photo credit U.S. Forest Service

As of September 2016, the Bad River Band is using their All-Service-Vehicle to brush cut 60 acres of brush in the Moquah Barrens to create more open habitat and increase woody fuel loads for future prescribed burns. An intern hired by the Red Cliff Natural Resources program worked on the Washburn Ranger District with Forest Service seasonal employees during the 2016 field season to achieve habitat restoration management goals including non-native invasive species control and brush cutting for open land species.

Future plans for the Moquah barrens include prescribed burns, brush cutting, timber harvest, non-native invasive plant control, and the trapping and release of more sharp-tailed grouse in 2017.

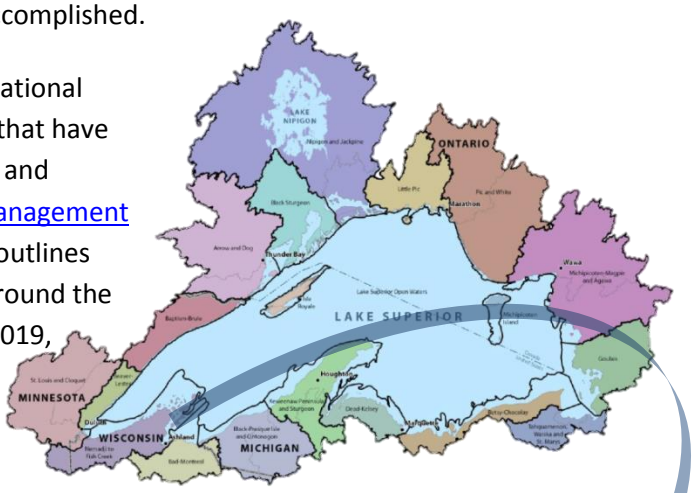
Connections between the Lake Superior Landscape Restoration Partnership and the Lakewide Action and Management Plan

Providing bottom up, locally relevant input into broad scale planning efforts

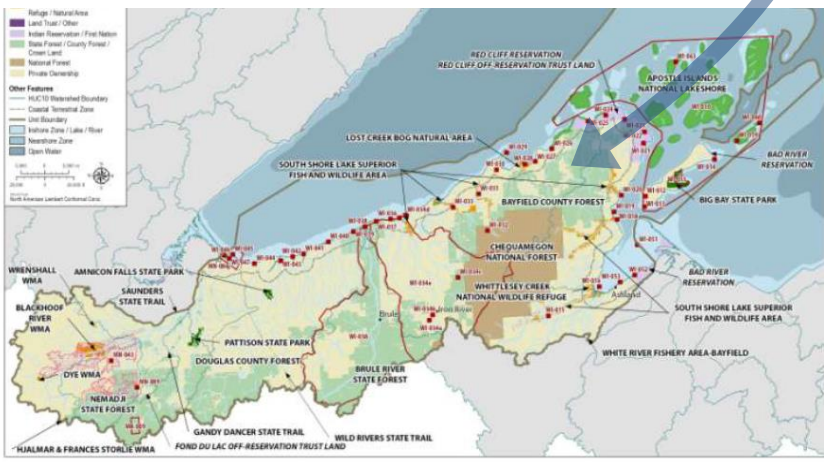
The Lake Superior watershed is revered by many for its clean water and rich collection of fish and wildlife. Lake Superior is iconic for local communities who value their connection to the area and value what that big blue lake represents: vast possibility and a concurrent obligation to care for it - the largest, coldest and clearest of the Great Lakes.

In a shared resource that covers such a large and diverse landscape, it is essential that strategic approaches to conservation are employed. The broad scale priorities set at a across the basin are important. Given the variability across the Lake Superior basin, priorities that are locally relevant, and developed at the ground level to inform more far reaching priorities are just as important. Connecting the Lake Superior landscape Restoration Partnership's strategic approach with the lakewide priorities setting processes ensures that relevant connections are made. Exchange of ideas and priorities needs to occur from both the top down and the bottom up. Here's an example of how this is being accomplished.

At a lakewide scale, the Lake Superior Partnership is a binational collection of federal, tribal, state and provincial agencies that have come together to set broad scale priorities for protection and restoration of Lake Superior. The Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) is the primary document that describes and outlines shared priorities among agencies with diverse interests around the entire Lake Superior basin. Recently updated for 2015 – 2019, the LAMP document itself includes 29 top priorities. One of those priorities is implementation of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.



The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) was developed by regional units (outlined in the map figure above). Three of those regional units occur in Wisconsin's portion of the basin: The St. Louis River, Nemadji to Fish Creek, and the Bad Montreal. For each unit, biodiversity conservation opportunities are identified that link local actions to lakewide objectives. Describing conservation opportunities at the smaller, regional unit scale allows the BCS to focus on regionally relevant actions. Some of the primary strategies in the BCS include *restoring and protecting a system of high quality habitats* and *managing plants and animals in a manner that ensures diverse, healthy and self-sustaining populations*.



Example of increased detail in the Nemadji Fish Creek regional unit plan of the BCS

Appendix C.

All of recommendations established by resource teams of the Lake Superior Landscape Restoration Partnership are included as conservation actions in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategies. This helps to ensure that the work of the LSLRP will live on after the pulse of Joint Chief's funding.

Excerpts from the BCS regional unit plans in Wisconsin that show how the LSLRP focal area recommendations are included.

Regional Objective	Next Step
Protect the habitats of biological significance for early successional species, in particular the Golden-Winged Warbler.	Protect and restore deciduous forests and shrub communities near the Lake Superior shoreline.
	Promote best management practices outlined in the Golden Winged-Warbler Working Group (2013)
Protect the habitats of biological significance with special consideration of the barrens of the interior Bayfield peninsula.	Implement best management practices for Kirtland's warbler and other barren depended bird species (Anich et al. 2014).
	Discourage loss of Jack Pine to Red Pine.
Restore and protect self-sustaining Brook Trout populations in as many of the original, native habitats as is practical, with emphasis in priority areas (Quinlan et al. 2015).	Conduct barrier removal projects that do not expand available spawning habitat for sea lamprey.
	Install in-channel structures that increase cover and channel complexity in areas outside of hydrologically degraded catchments (Wheeler et al. 2015).
Protect the habitats of biological significance for grassland birds, in particular Sharptail Grouse (Naas et al. 2014)	Maintain or develop sites with 10 30% patchy brush cover no greater than 6 feet in height.
	Promote dispersal corridors between open grassland patches.
Promote landscape scale approaches to maintain or restore hydrology and water quality in catchments that contribute to peak flow increases (Wheeler et al 2015).	Re-establish conifer forests.
	Disrupt flow paths in ditch networks.
	Encourage cover crops and filter strips in agricultural fields.

Prescribed Burn on Moquah Barrens. US Forest Service

Kirtland's Warbler Furrowing Project. WDNR

Appendix D.

Learn about Your Land Workshop Series gets Underway

SARA M. CHASE schase@ashlanddailypress.net
Sep 20, 2016

A series of workshops offering people the chance to "Learn About Your Land," will be held over the next five weeks at Northland College

The Chequamegon Bay Area Partnership, University of Wisconsin-Extension, and My Lake Superior Northwoods want to help you "Learn About Your Land," though a series of workshops they are sponsoring.

CBAP coordinator Val Damstra explained that since we live in the Northwoods, "we are fortunate to have a multitude of land that is undeveloped."

"Private landowners often own their land because they love the resources their land provides-- forest, fields, wildlife, and water," she said. "These classes are being offered to give private landowners tools to care for their land, and to help the resource last into the future."

The Learn About Your Land workshop series ¬will be held on consecutive Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. now though Oct. 20 at the Northland College Larson-Juhl Center for Science and the Environment in Room 169 and will features five distinct sessions.

The workshop series will cover a variety of topics from making your land attractive to wildlife, to options for forest management. It also ranges from goods from your woods — wild edibles you can find on your land — to covering resources available for woodland landowners.

"While the specific sessions cover different topics, each session will includes a presentation and ample time for questions and discussion," Damstra said. "Private landowners will get a chance to interact with local natural resource experts and ask their questions specific to their land."

The main presenters will be Bill Klase and Kris Tiles from University of Wisconsin-Extension.

"Local experts vary depending on the session, but there will be representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service office, Wisconsin DNR, and the Bayfield Regional Conservancy attending and sharing information," said Damstra.

The cost is $20 per session or $80 for all five and includes dinner and class materials.

"For people that are signing up for a single class, you must register by the Monday that precedes the Thursday session," she said. "You can sign up online at northland.edu/learnaboutyourland."

During the first session of the series, Damstra noted that landowners would be given an aerial photo/map of their land.

"Other highlights include learning about how to attract more birds and wildlife, or finding wild edibles," she said. "Landowners can also learn about cost share programs available in our area to restore wetlands or do other projects beneficial for the landscape."

Damstra said this series is for anyone that is simply interested in learning more about the resources on their land.

"Anyone should attend who owns forest or fields, and want to learn how to do their part and take care of it for future generations," she said. "We all have a responsibility to do our part to take care of our land and water."

She continued that this series is meant to give help and support to private landowners who have land and water that drains towards Lake Superior.

"The information landowners implement in the long run helps all of us," Damstra said.

To register or for more information or detailed session descriptions go to https://www.northland.edu/sustain/soei/cbap/learnaboutyourland/