

Notes from 2/2/2023

Attendees

- Matt DiBona
- Steve Walker
- Carol Weymouth
- Gerry Barnes
- Lisa St. Hilaire
- Steve Young
- Sally Stockwell
- Andy Reed
- David Irving
- Allyssa Gregory
- Andrew Johnson
- Amy Dowley
- Catherine Spolarich
- Sarah Haggerty
- Laura Lecker
- Jeremy Markuson
- Tom Gordon
- Christine Parish
- Tony Jenkins

Rare and Declining Communities (

- [Maine-Scenarios-23-payment-rates.pdf \(usda.gov\)](#)
- Restoration Set of scenarios to address resource concerns
- Only a subset used in Maine
 - #64 Habitat monitoring and Management
 - Tribal only at this point
 - #77 Very small acres planting with seedling or plugs
 - #2 creation of turtle nesting habitat (wetland wildlife habitat management)
 - Talk with NRCS office-talk with
- Utilize wildlife TSP
 - Get a Fish and Wildlife DIA-Design implementation Activity
 - Forester can work into FMP
 - If trees are cut FMP is necessary
 - Planning in forest requires FMP
 - Any ad

Notes

- Sally Recommended a legacy tree or older growth plan
- Tried to develop a scenario for “legacy tree or older growth forests”

- Discussion that habitat was important for wildlife, that perhaps managing for habitat more important than managing species by species.
- Clear and consistent standards are important
 - Struggled to develop since contracts are 10 years and its hard to retain that after 10 years-no existing teeth to make sure the folks retained
 - Limitations from a legacy tree standpoint
 - Is there a future opportunity to increase contract length from 5-10 years?
 - We can try it again
- Steve Young wants to specifically call out cedar and raise distribute cedar seedlings
 - Mature forest management
- Carol – opportunity to discuss non-forested wildlife habitat
 - Coastal areas
 - Grassland areas
 - Jeremy mentioned discussions on saltmarsh sparrow and oyster reef restoration
 - Opportunity exists
 - Ben Nauman has discussed this
 - Saltmarsh sparrow habitat has been worked on with easements
 - Clarifying guidelines
 - Which guidelines to use

Statewide Funding Pool for Wildlife

- Combining sub-accounts into one large pool
- Are there required statewide initiatives
 - 10% of EQIP funding should go to wildlife conservations (under farm bill)
 - Should be distributed nationwide not just based by state
 - Set aside accounts help meet that 10%
 - Pollinator
 - DWA
- Intent is to have a wildlife funding pool that operates statewide
 - Wildlife sub-committee is supportive of this idea
 - Important for us to be involved in the ranking questions discussion
 - May make one initiative the priority
 - Some advantages to priority sub-accounts are that it does allow some stuff to be
 - AOP may remain separate
 - Pollinators may remain separate

Technical Service Providers

- Agency should do all they can to maintain capacity for wildlife
 - Agency should improve planning activity for wildlife
 - Wildlife CAP is now DIA-144
- David-has a client sign up with a CSP contract
 - 1,300-acre property in Millinocket
 - Enhancements-wildlife habitat management plan for upland habitat

- FMP can recommend forest practices that they are not certified for
 - Approval can be done by DC of TSP
- Steve concerned that NRCS forestry TSP can manage for wildlife but wildlife can't manage forestry
- Do all wildlife TSP's really need to be a CWB?
 - Is this the best process?
 - CWB protocol is difficult to attain-which isn't necessarily a bad thing, but might not be necessary

Miscellaneous notes

- Lisa recommends that NRCS follows guidance from biologists and ecologists when a practice is near a natural resource feature vs meeting minimum standards if the guidance is above those standards to best minimize impacts to a public resource using public dollars.
- Any recommendations for wildlife practices that do not require tree cutting that you think should be exempt should be listed

New topics

- PFAS-what are the implications? (Steve Young)
- Deer Wintering Areas (David Irving)
 - Working with landowner who has no DWA mapped in Waldo County
 - Textbook scenario for managing for early successional habitat
 - Client applied for patch cut and strip cuts -applied for NRCS app
 - Feels like sometime DWA nearby was used against a project happening outside of the mapped DWA even in an organized town
- When rejection happens on wildlife project due to resource concerns it may be beneficial to reach back out to the TSP
- Comments from agencies and standards should be adopted (feedback for both IFW and NRCS)