



Working with Landowners to Conserve Forest Habitats in the Rural Municipality of Belfast

Flight to the Future project funding is provided with financial support of the Forested Landscape Priority Place for Species at Risk program

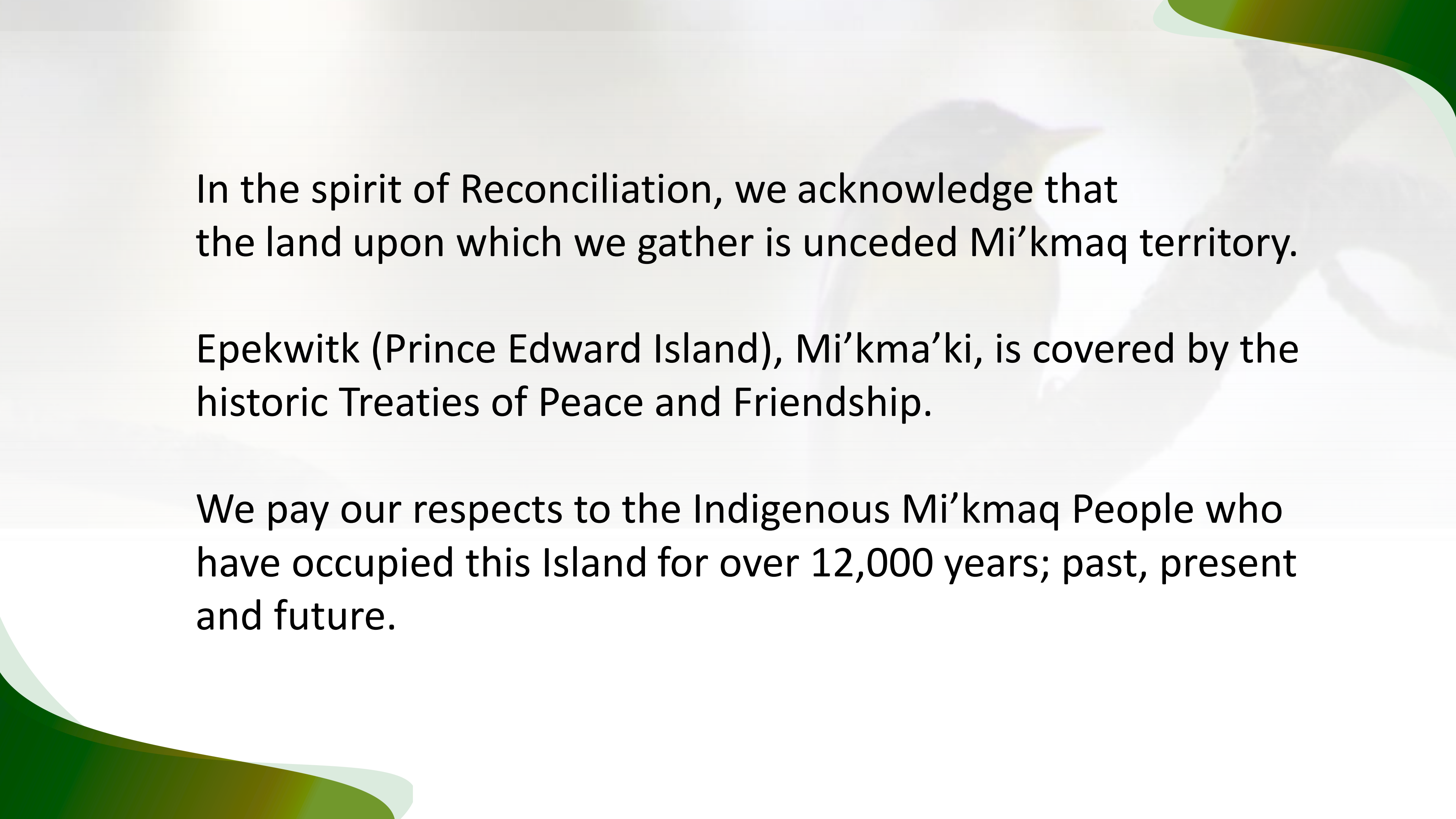


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In the spirit of Reconciliation, we acknowledge that the land upon which we gather is unceded Mi'kmaq territory.

Epekwitk (Prince Edward Island), Mi'kma'ki, is covered by the historic Treaties of Peace and Friendship.

We pay our respects to the Indigenous Mi'kmaq People who have occupied this Island for over 12,000 years; past, present and future.

AGENDA

- 1** **Project Supporters and Funders**
- 2** **About the FLPP**
- 3** **Why it Matters? General Goals**
- 4** **BAWG's Efforts**
- 5** **What YOU Can Do (Landowners)**

PEI Forested Landscape Priority Place for Species at Risk Initiative (FLPP)

Joint initiative co-led by Environment and Climate Change Canada- Canadian Wildlife Service and PEI Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division

FLPP supporting the Belfast Area Watershed Group project “Flight to the Future: Working with landowners to Conserve Forest Birds in Rural Municipality of Belfast”

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Goals and Forested Landscape Priority Place Strategies by BAWG's "Flight to the Future"

Increase awareness of and engagement in forest biodiversity within BAWG and Rural Municipality of Belfast.

Better understand bird communities using Belfast and area watersheds.

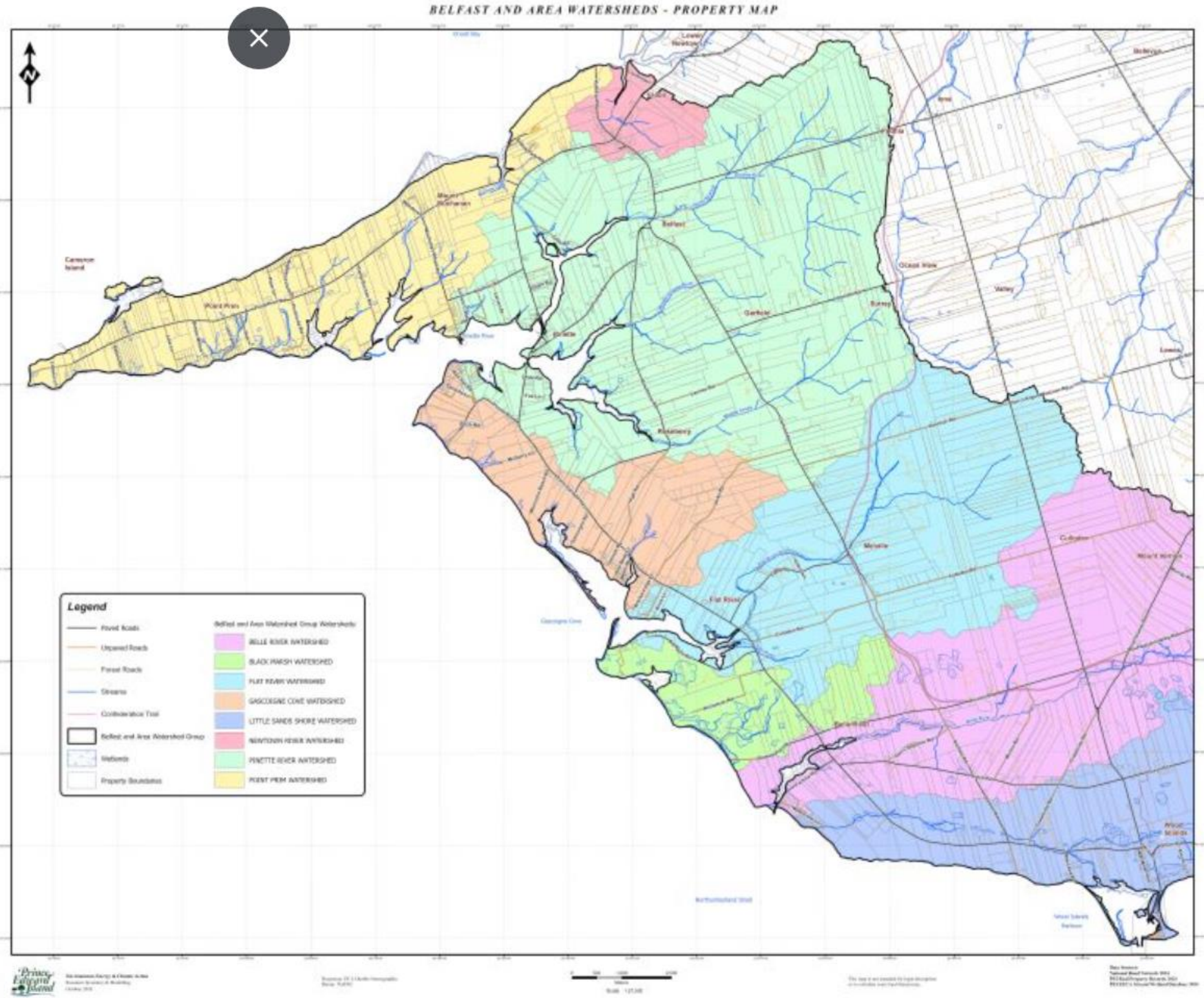
To raise awareness and educate private landowners on best practices for managing forest ecosystems that support species at risk and promote biodiversity to encourage conservation actions on private lands.



Project Importance

The majority of land on Prince Edward Island is owned privately. This gives private landowners a significant opportunity to contribute to conserving forest birds and their habitats.

BAWG's Forest Habitat Stewardship Program, provides participants with resources to implement best management practices (BMPs) to enhance bird habitats and forest biodiversity.



BIRD SURVEYS

Point-Count Surveys

Done early morning

All within the Rural Municipality of Belfast

Surveyed 11 properties accounting for a total of 20 survey points

Survey Highlights

Identified 31 different species of birds, 245 individual birds

Found SARA at 4 different sites (Eastern Wood Pewee)



Canada Warbler



Olive-sided Flycatcher

Found an uncommon species (Northern Waterthrush)

Several areas we surveyed had suitable SARA Habitat

- Eastern Wood Pewee
- Canada Warbler
- Olive-sided Flycatcher

© Dan Pancamo



NORTHERN PARULA

Setophaga americana

HABITAT

Breeds & nests in coniferous & deciduous forests

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

FOLIAGE GLEANER

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE

Contopus virens

HABITAT

Breeds on PEI in Mixed & deciduous forests with openings

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

AERIAL FORAGER

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

SARA: Special Concern

- Habitat loss & degradation
- Decrease in food (insects)
- Higher mortality during migration

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Listed as “vulnerable” on PEI

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH

Parkesia noveboracensis

HABITAT

Breeds in coniferous forests with standing or slow-flowing water

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND FORAGER

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND NESTER

NESTING BEHAVIOR





TREE NESTERS

© Iwolfartist

Can be anywhere along
the tree - depends on
species

Cedar waxwings

© Ron Knight





GROUND NESTERS

©Fredlyfish4

Often well-hidden
within dense
vegetation

Ovenbird

© Rhododendrites





CAVITY NESTERS

Some species create their own cavities, others move into pre-existing ones

Black-capped chickadee

©Iwolfartist



© Jshamgochian





SHRUB NESTERS

©Mike's Birds

Often well-hidden in
shrubs with dense
foliage

Red Winged
Blackbird



© Paul Danese





ENHANCE YOUR FOREST'S BIRD HABITAT: EFFECTIVE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS) FOR SPECIES PROTECTION

BMPS are recommendations designed to help manage your properties in ways that have been scientifically found to benefit and protect various species. Several BMPs can be used to help make your forest more "bird-friendly."



MAINTAIN A DIVERSE FOREST

When preserving an unbroken forest, it's important to maintain a variety of native trees, shrubs and wildflower of varying ages and sizes. This diversity not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of the forest but also provides a rich habitat for a wide range of wildlife, contributing to the overall health and resilience of the ecosystem.



TIMING OF ACTIVITIES:

To protect forest wildlife, it's best to avoid forest management activities between May and August, as this is the breeding season for many forest birds. By scheduling activities outside of this period, we can minimize disturbances to nesting birds and their young.



SEASONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

When conducting forest activities, it's important to wait until the ground has frozen to minimize soil damage. Frozen ground can better withstand heavy equipment and foot traffic, reducing the risk of soil compaction and erosion.



LEAVE SNAGS:

Retain standing dead or dying trees (snags), which serve as critical nesting sites for some birds. These snags provide valuable habitat for woodpeckers, owls, and other cavity-nesting birds, contributing to the biodiversity of the forest.



DOWNED TREES:

Leaving some fallen trees on the forest floor can provide habitat, food, cover, and nutrients for the soil. Fallen trees create microhabitats for various species, including insects, fungi, and small mammals, enriching the ecological complexity of the forest.

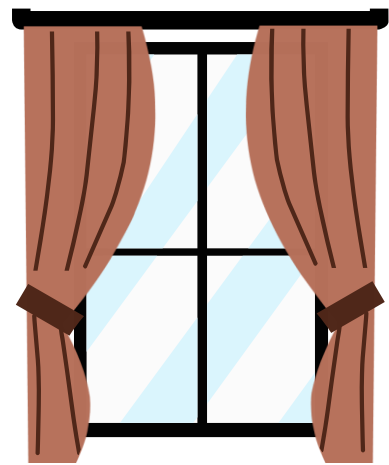


NATIVE PLANTING:

Planting native trees, shrubs, and flowers such as red oak, red maple, serviceberry, roses, and red-osier dogwood can significantly support local ecosystems. These plants are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions, providing food and shelter for native wildlife while enhancing the overall biodiversity of the forest.



B.M.P. S



WINDOW SAFETY:

To prevent bird collisions, make building windows visible to birds by closing curtains when not at home or using window stickers. These simple measures can reduce the risk of bird strikes and contribute to the protection of forest avian species.



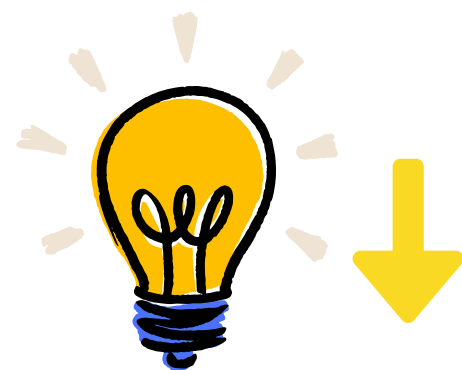
KEEP CATS INDOORS:

Preventing cats from roaming outdoors can significantly protect wildlife, especially birds and small mammals. By keeping cats indoors, we can reduce predation pressure on local wildlife and help maintain a healthier ecological balance.



RESPECT ACTIVE NESTS:

When encountering an active bird nest, it's crucial to remember that it's a home. To minimize disturbance and stress to the birds, it's best to maintain a respectful distance and avoid any activities that could disrupt the nesting site.



MINIMIZE LIGHT POLLUTION:

Turning off outdoor lights when not in use can help migrating birds navigate using the stars. Minimizing light pollution in and around the forest area can reduce disorientation and exhaustion in nocturnally migrating birds, ultimately supporting their safe passage.

SELECTIVE HARVESTING:

Instead of clear-cutting, opt for selective harvesting to maintain a multi-aged forest. This approach allows for the retention of different tree age classes, ensuring a more diverse and resilient forest structure.



AVOID INSECTICIDES:

Refraining from using insecticides is essential to protect wildlife and maintain the delicate balance of the ecosystem. By avoiding these chemicals, we can demonstrate our care and protection for all living beings within the forest.

Resources and Credits

Moldenhauer, R. R. and D. J. Regelski (2020). Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A. F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.norpar.01>.

Canada Warbler Photos

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