

Working Group Updates

Resource Managers WG Update

No update. This group is under new leadership and will be meeting soon.

Communications WG Update

The Communications Working Group will be helping to put together an event this fall to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the safe harbor program which originated in the Sandhills sub-office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

RCW Recovery WG Update

The 2015 North Carolina Sandhills RCW monitoring effort is well underway and comparable to years past. We have documented a significant nesting effort to date within Fort Bragg (FB), Sandhills Game Land (SGL) and supporting sub-populations. Considerable data collection remains to evaluate regional nesting success. 2015 may be a potential year for double-brooding given the early nesting effort and the volume of groups nesting.

SANDHILLS EAST

Preliminary results of FB to Southern Pines Pinehurst (SOPI) intra-population translocation

- 7 juveniles moved to SOPI from FB in December 2014 (2 ♂/♀ pairs + 3 ♀)
- No evidence either pair remained in recruitment clusters
- 1 of 3 females brought to solitary male groups was retained in 2015
- High # nest failures documented in recipient focal area Country Club of NC (CCNC)

The SOPI Significant Support Population excluding Weymouth Woods State Nature Preserve (WWSNP) has surprisingly managed to retain between 40 – 42 potential breeding groups (PBG) on the landscape from 2008 to present. However, many SOPI groups that occupy clusters within golf courses and developed areas consist of a breeding pair (2 adults only) with no helpers. Larger group sizes are desired as helpers buffer territories from abandonment. Artificial cavity management, cavity restrictors and translocation are necessary measures used to positively affect juvenile recruitment and cluster occupancy.

MOOR Corridor (West End / Hoffman Rd)

- 5 PBGs at MOOR 3 (Yow), MOOR E02 (McKean), MOOR E01, E03 (Auman) and MOOR 35
- Solitary male group at MOOR 50 (Wilson)

THE 'GAP'

- BLUE TRACT : 8 to 9 PBG from 2014 to 2015 (budded group at BLUE 11)
- MCCAIN : 6 to 7 PBG from 2014 to 2015

SANDHILLS WEST

SEI, FWS and WRC are working cooperatively to maintain 100% census of RCW groups within the Sandhills Game Land (SGL) A-Block. Susan Miller and Caroline George (FWS), Gabriela Garrison and Nate Shepard (WRC), along with Andy Van Lanen (SEI) are collecting intensive demographic data within ~ 90 clusters.

MOOR 12 and 13 (SGL Horse Creek Tract) are both occupied by a PBG. MOOR 7 (SGL Y-Block) is occupied by a solitary male.

CAMP MACKALL stable at 14 PBG – this is a preliminary #.

Land Protection WG Update

No report received

Reserve Design WG Update

The Reserve Design Working Group put the finishing touches on the draft reserve design. Susan helped our working group send the draft to the Steering Committee for their review. We are looking forward to folks having a chance to read through and provide feedback. As always, we appreciate any help folks can give us in reviewing some of the areas in the reserve design identified as potential.