2009 SFI ANNUAL CONFERENCE
“STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS AS A GUIDE FOR PRIVATE FOREST MANAGEMENT”

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Presentation Outline

1. Background on Lyme Timber
2. Background on LAFCo Property
3. Developing Forest Management Plan that meets SFI standard.
4. Assessment of our forest
5. Aligning forest management goals with NY SWAP
6. Scot Williamson, Wildlife Management Institute
7. How does it work?

Background

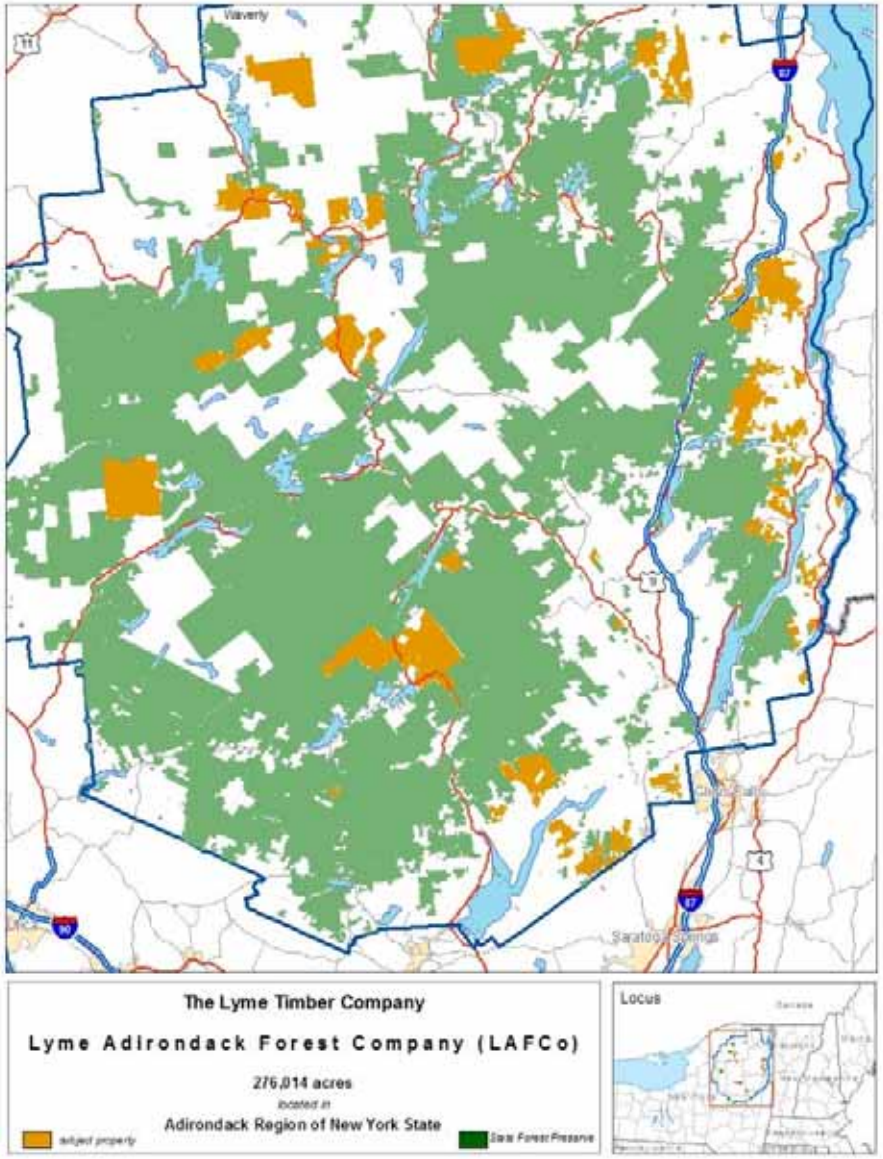
The Lyme Timber Company

- The Lyme Timber Company was founded in 1976 and invests in and manages timberland and rural real estate. Investments typically have a conservation focus or outcome.
- Lyme has completed more than 125 transactions over the past 33 years.
- Lyme's two recent timberland investment funds have invested in 688,000 acres of forestland located in New York, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Maine, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Virginia, Delaware, and Louisiana.

Background

Lyme Adirondack Forest Compan

- 2006 – Lyme Purchases 275,000 acres from IP in the Adirondack region of NY through subsidiary “LAFCo.
- Property is encumbered by a Working Forest Conservation Easement with NY State and Fiber Supply agreement with International Paper.
- SFI can be used to satisfy sustainable forest management requirement for both.



Development of Forest Management Plan

SFI Objective #4 2005-2009 standard

"To manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand and landscape level measures that promote habitat diversity and the conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic fauna."

Raises the following questions….

- How do we determine current conditions to develop a plan that meets all the indicators within objective 4 on a land base of this size and scattered nature?
- What is out there for research?
- Can we access NY's Natural Heritage Database?

Development of Forest Management Plan

Beginning of process lead to an idea….

Idea…

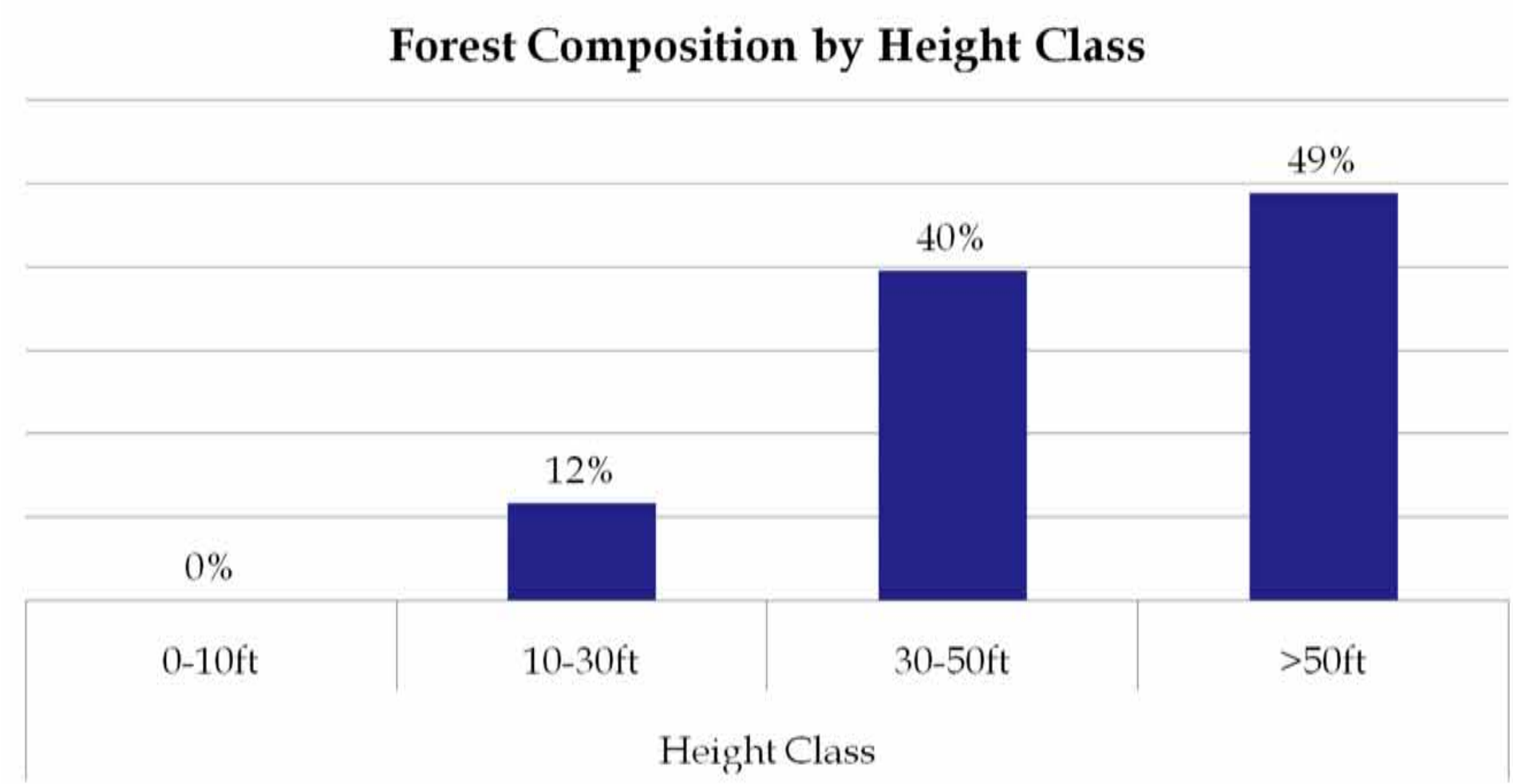
- Can we be proactive and implement timber harvesting and forest management in a way that creates habitat for species that are in decline and therefore align the goals of the SWAP with our forest management?

With the Goal of……

- Managing our forest and associated habitats is a way that meets Objective 4.

Assessment of Current Forest

Conduct Assessment of current forest structure and habitat types.



Assessment of Current Forest

Review habitat needs for species of greatest concern as identified by NY DEC in SWAP.

Found that nearly 80% of declining Species of Greatest Concern require some form of early successional habitat.

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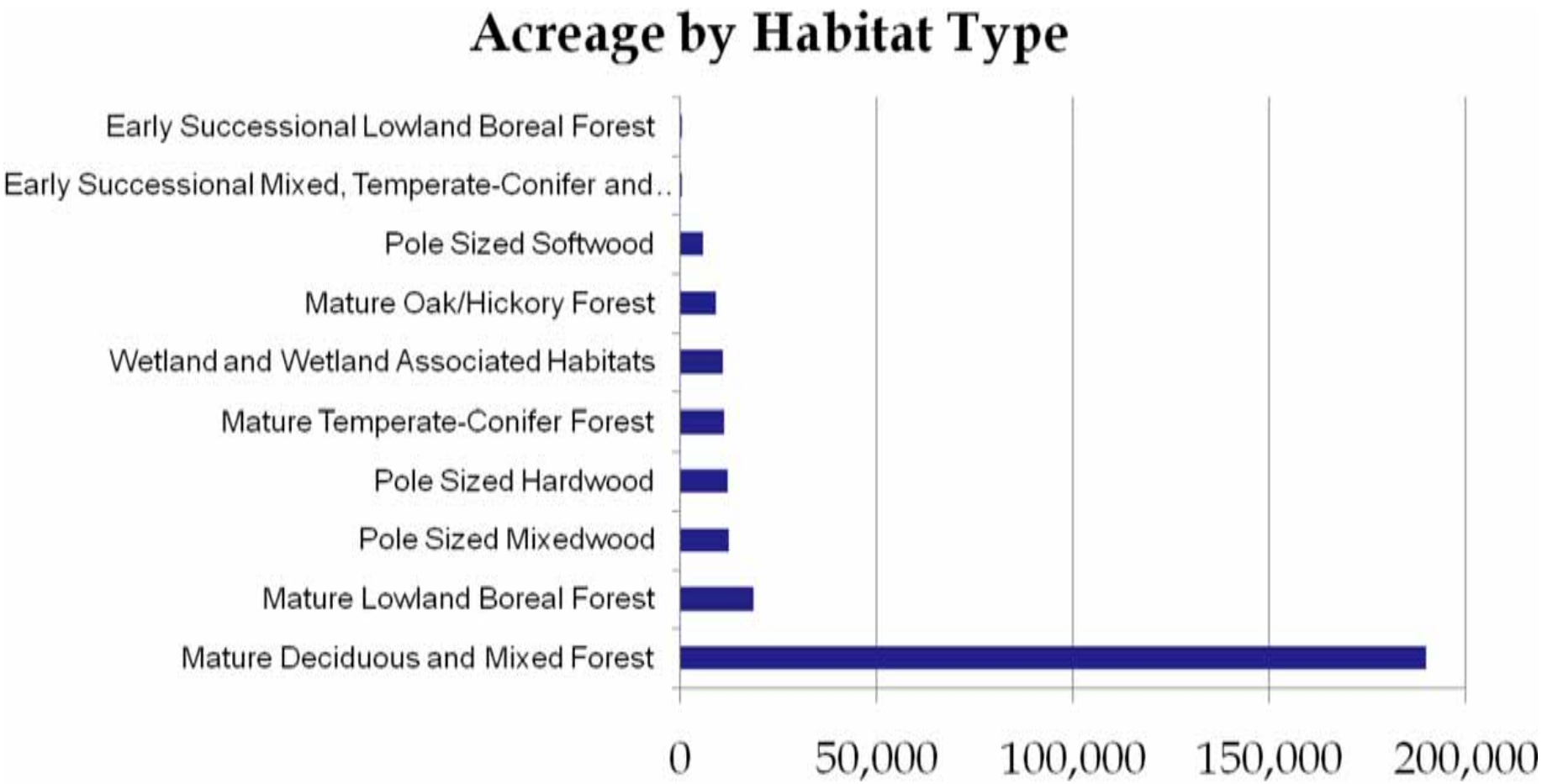


Development of Landscape Level Goals

Scot Williamson, WMI

Guidance for Landscape Level Goals

State Wildlife Action Plans

- Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Act – State Wildlife Grant Funds
- Mandate each State to create “State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)
- List of “Species of Greatest Conservation Need”
- Threats, Strategies to Recover

Can Sustainable Forestry meet the needs identified in SWAPs?

New York SWAP Example

"Early successional forest and shrubland habitats are in serious decline throughout the watersheds… There is a critical need to increase active management for these habitats and the species that rely on them. A serious threat to these habitats and the species that rely on them is the lack of adequate management due to misconceptions about the benefits of sustainable forestry practices for wildlife. A variety of silvicultural techniques should be used to increase habitat and structural diversity across the landscape. Habitat management methods should include both even-aged and uneven-aged (at various levels of intensity) silvicultural techniques. Silvicultural methods need to be properly planned and implemented using sustainable forestry" (NY SWAP-- page 341).

Guidance for Landscape Level Goals

In Eastern US and Upper Great Lakes, SWAPs identify >100 species that require Early Successional Habitat (ESH)

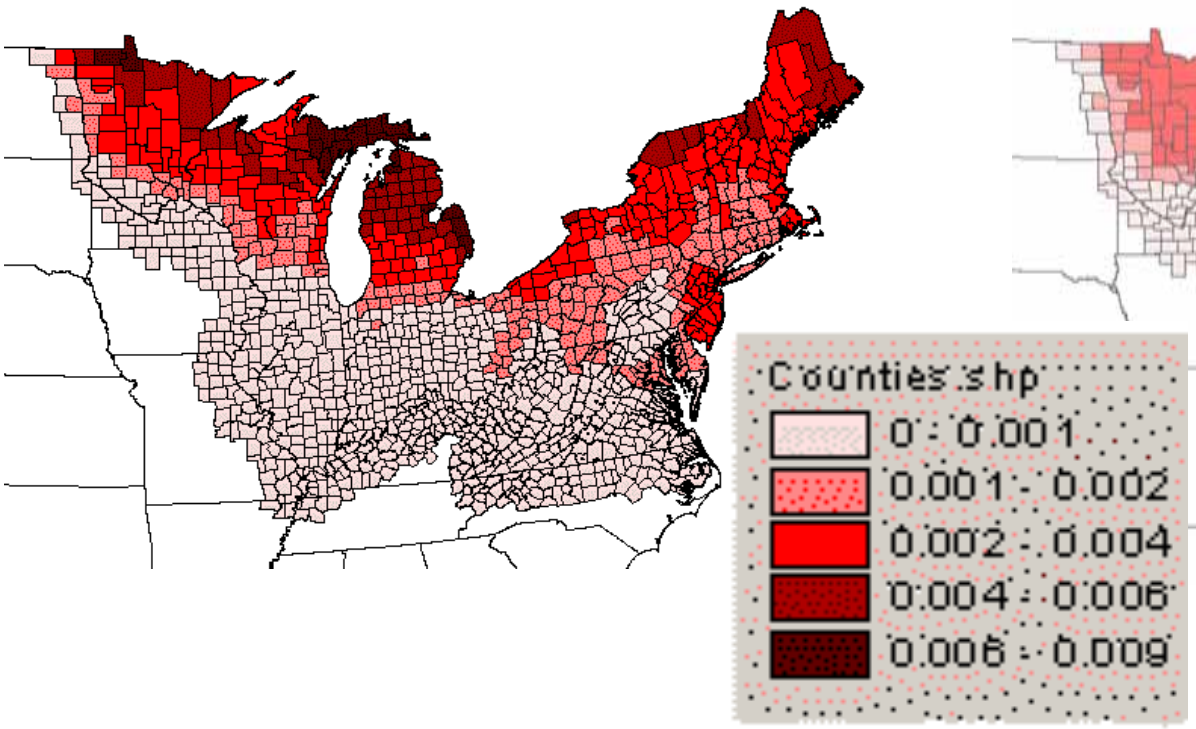
- What SGCN Species Can Be Representative of the ESH Guild?
- What Species Has a Scientifically-based Plan to Establish ESH Goals?
- What Species Has a Long-term Population Survey to Monitor Success?

American Woodcock

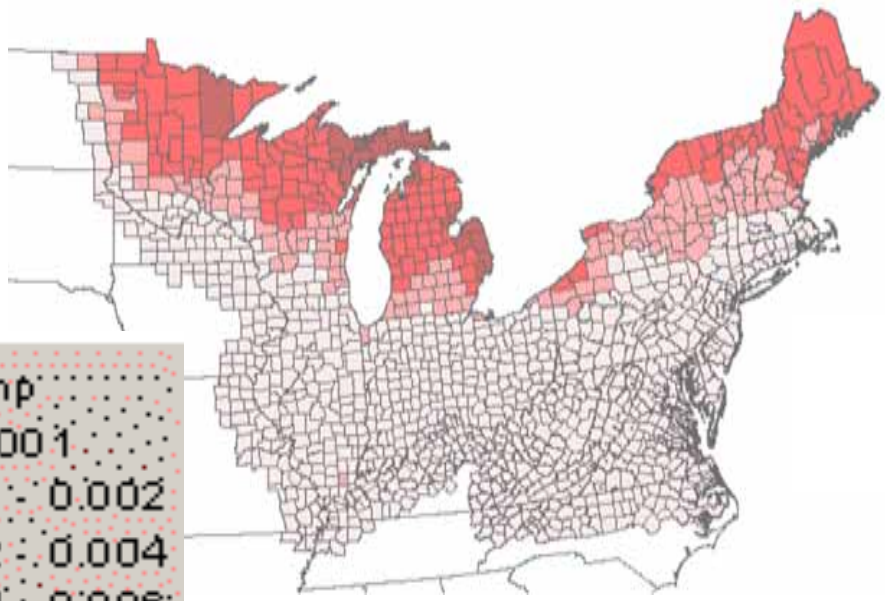
- Woodcock Require a Variety of Early Successional Habitats
- Woodcock Conservation Plan (2007)
- Woodcock Singing Ground Survey Since 1966 Monitors Breeding Population in U.S. and Canada

Changes in American Woodcock Abundance

1970's



2000's



Unpublished Singing Ground Survey Data

John Sauer, USGS

American Woodcock Conservation Plan

- Establishes Targets for ESH
- Halt decline of AMWO by 2012
- Achieve Populations Similar to 1970s by 2022

Regional Woodcock Initiatives

- Large Public/Private Partnerships
- Develop Best Management Practices
- Create Demonstration Areas
- Monitor Response of Woodcock
- Outreach to the Public

Lyme Adirondack Forest

Co-locate Habitat Biologist with Forestry Staff
NYDEC State Wildlife Grant Funds/Private Match
Provide Technical Field Assistance
Monitor Response of Woodcock and Other ESH Species

Benefits

- Clear Integration of SWAP priorities (ESH and Other) into private land management
- Recognition that SFI Standard can be used to assist in recovery of Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- Advance acreage goals of national bird plans
- Forest Products Industry critical provider of ESH

Questions