

Early Successional Habitats

In recent years the Partners program has increased the focus on early successional habitats. We have conducted some of this work since our earliest days, focusing on field borders, but now we are spending a considerable amount of time on larger projects designed to enhance habitat for Ruffed Grouse, American Woodcock, Golden-winged Warbler, Eastern Cottontail, Appalachian Cottontail, and related species. We are partnering with the Ruffed Grouse Society, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, The Wildlife Management Institute, Woodcock Limited of Pennsylvania, and others to establish demonstration projects throughout Pennsylvania. Projects that we have in the works are Bald Eagle State Park in Centre County, M. K. Goddard State Park in Mercer County, and Forbes State Forest in Westmoreland County. One advantage of this partnership is that it permits us to use equipment and fencing crews during the winter months when fencing becomes difficult due to frozen ground.





Habitat Team manually cutting borders for early successional habitat.



An aspen regeneration cut. The trees were cut with a Caterpillar track loader purchased with funds from the R.K Mellon Foundation.