

Natural Resources & Training Lands Management Update

- Administration
- Fauna
- Flora
- Wetlands
- Wildland Fire
- Habitat / Lands
- Ecosystem / Climate Change
- Outreach



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- Administration: budgets, plans, programming
 - Environmental review: range design, training events
 - Major partnership efforts ongoing
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service and UMass Amherst species at risk collaborations
 - MassWildlife barrens and grasslands restoration
 - Southern Pine Beetle northeast working group and MA task force
 - Sandplain Grassland Network
 - North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange
 - Northeast Motus Collaborative

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- Bats: 5-year review in process; Northern Myotis changing to Endangered
- Moths: Long-term annual monitoring started May
- Butterflies: Frosted Elfin & Monarch surveys
- NE Cottontail: long-term monitoring, major data analysis with USFWS
- Birds: annual surveys for general birds and Whip-poor-will
- All taxa: emphasis on long-term data analysis and sharing



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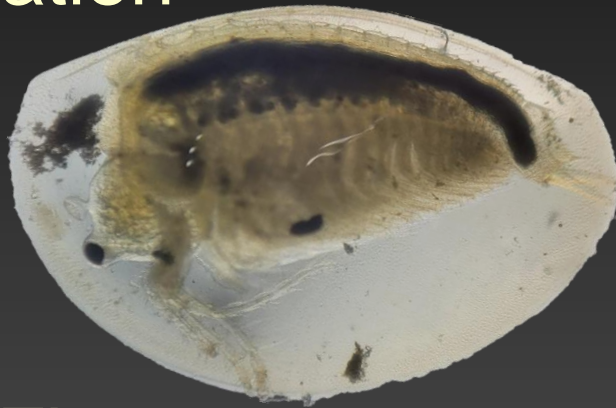
- Box Turtles
 - Hosting two graduate projects through UMass Amherst
 - Long-term monitoring/tracking
 - Hosted interagency turtle training with DFW & DCR
 - Planning level survey effort
 - Construction support

- Hunting
 - Youth and general turkey hunts April/May
 - Multiple deer hunts held in fall



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- Agassiz's Clam Shrimp
 - 5th year of annual monitoring
 - Developed overarching road maintenance and clam shrimp management plan/permit with MassWildlife
 - Coordination and planning for road maintenance priorities
 - In-house puddle improvement



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- Natural communities identification and mapping ongoing with US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - *Triosteum perfoliatum* (Broad Tinker's-weed) genetic study completed
- Rare plant monitoring
- Planning level survey for grassland associated federal & state species
- On-site expansion of rare plants (milkweeds and lupine)



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- Vernal pool creation planning
 - Road puddle survey and improvement



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- Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan update ongoing
 - Substantial program development
 - FY22 burning (as of early June)
 - 306 acres
 - 11 burn operations
 - 20 position task book evaluations for 3 agencies
 - FY22 goal for 25 burn days averaging 25 acres per burn



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- BA-3 barrens & maneuver restoration
 - Dig sites rehabilitation
 - RAW3/E3 restoration continuation, including frost bottom
 - C-13 shrubland restoration and C-14 shrub savannah continuation

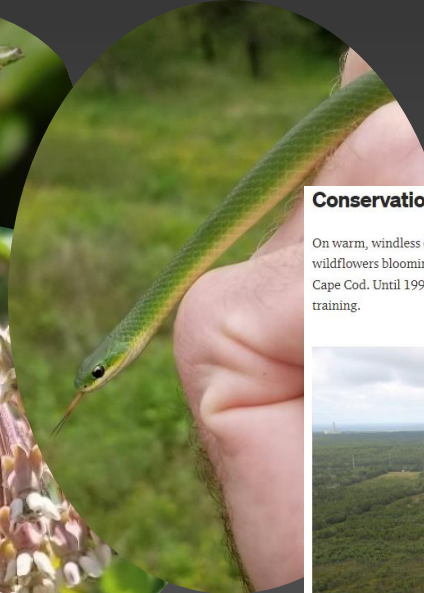


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- Ranges as wildlife and plant habitat: an often counter-intuitive, but important understanding for a pine barrens mosaic, Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve, and DoD Conservation



Conservation targets

On warm, windless days in late spring, small brown butterflies flit among yellow wildflowers blooming around earthen mounds within a secured perimeter on Cape Cod. Until 1999, those mounds held shooting targets for soldiers in training.



An aerial view of a retired shooting range at Camp Edwards — adjacent to an active one — that has been managed to provide a rare type of habitat. Massachusetts Army National Guard

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- Climate resilience and restoration planning with Woodwell Climate Research Center



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- Broad public outreach has been a dominant focus since summer 2021
 - Public tours of training site discussing conservation and integration with training
 - Upper Cape Naturalist Club presentations and walks
 - Massachusetts Butterfly Club
 - Public grassland bird tours (5 completed)
 - Numerous public meetings and clubs/group presentations on rare species and conservation



Don Schall



Photo: Erin Hilley