



FOREST AND WILDLIFE ECOLOGY NEWS



A Newsletter for Dept. of Forest and Wildlife Ecology Staff, Students, Alumni and Friends

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December 2014

Forestry grads bring talent, enthusiasm to WDNR forestry program

Forests are a big part of the Wisconsin landscape. In fact, about 16 million acres in the state are forested.¹ With that much forested land, it's not surprising that the forest products industry makes a significant contribution to our economy. Figures from the Wisconsin Economic Development Institute, Inc. for 2011 show that Wisconsin's forest products industries contribute 12% of the value of shipments in the manufacturing sector. Over 60,000 people are employed in the forest products industry, including logging and forestry support activities.²

In addition, it is hard to place a value on healthy forests that support wildlife and provide a recreational resource. With so much riding on the value of our forests, providing quality, trained staff to manage Wisconsin's forestlands is essential to their sustainability.

The Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology is proud of its forestry graduates. We are delighted to introduce five recent graduates of our forestry program. All are employed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). They are



WDNR forester Sadie Brown conducts a prescribed burn. Sadie and several other recent UW grads have taken positions with WDNR.

all talented, enthusiastic individuals who are excited about what they do and will no doubt make their marks in helping Wisconsin's forests and the forest industry thrive.

Sadie Brown

Sadie graduated in May 2014 from the UW-Madison with a degree in Forest Science and Environmental Studies and immediately started her position as a WDNR forester in Antigo, WI. She spends most of her time assisting private landowners with tasks related to the Managed Forest Law. This includes making site visits to help with mandatory harvests and reviewing management plans for the property. Sadie also assists with public land management (state and county) as well as wild-land firefighting. She recently

set up a state timber sale along the Wolf River, an area she has been assigned to manage. Thinking back to her college training, Sadie views her experience in Management Camp as a key element of her education and recommends it to all forestry majors. "The real world experiences I gained from this class helped me immensely in preparing for my current position," says Sadie. Overall, it's safe to say Sadie is pleased with her position at WDNR. "I have my dream job that is both rewarding and encourages me to grow with each new experience I encounter."

¹Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines, WDNR, 2003, p. 2

²Source: WORKnet, <http://worknet.wisconsin.gov/worknet/>

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Alumni Update

Jennifer Stenglein (PhD Wildlife Ecology 2014) has taken a position with WI DNR as a research scientist. She is coordinating an innovative project called "Snapshot Wisconsin" in which ordinary citizens around the state monitor and maintain trail cameras as a way to document wildlife activity. The project's goal is to have four cameras in every nine square miles. In the current pilot program 80 trail cameras have been set up in 11 counties. The cameras are motion activated. The images are saved to a small disk which can be retrieved and downloaded to a computer. Several F&WE faculty members are collaborating on the project. Phil Townsend, Ben Zuckerberg, Tim Van Deelen and Karl Martin were awarded a NASA grant to use remote sensing data to develop ways to make the trail camera information a more useful tool for wildlife management. Email: Jennifer.Stenglein@wisconsin.gov

Natalie Hunt (PhD 2014 Forestry and Environment and Resources) has accepted a postdoctoral research associate position at the University of Minnesota. She is working in Jason Hill's lab in the Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering. Email: hunt0416@umn.edu

Carolyn (Schmitz) Byers (MS Wildlife Ecology 2013) has taken an outreach and education position with Madison Audubon Society. Email: Byers.CarolynM@gmail.com

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Cody Didier



Cody works for the WDNR as a Forester-Ranger in Boscobel. His work takes him to several counties, including Crawford, Grant, Iowa, and Richland. After graduating from

UW-Madison with a forestry degree in 2006, Cody worked off and on as an LTE for WDNR since 2008. He began his current permanent position in May 2014. His current position is a mix of state and private lands forestry and wildland fire prevention and control. Day-to-day duties vary widely, ranging from landowner walk-throughs and consultations, setting up Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) jobs, state land forest inventory and timber sales, administering the Managed Forest Law program, and "a lot of training." Cody says he appreciated the balanced curriculum his education provided and the small class sizes that allowed him to get to know his instructors and classmates. Now many of those classmates are colleagues!

Collin Buntrock



Collin began his position with WDNR in April 2014 as a Forest Products Services Specialist in Rhinelander. He completed both a BS in Forest Science (2012) and MS in

Forestry (2014). Collin provides utilization and marketing assistance to forest products companies, public and private foresters, and municipalities to help sustainably grow the forest products industry as well as Wisconsin's economy. "One day I may help a company forester find markets for their products, and the next day I may be teaching a lumber grading workshop or conducting a sawmill improvement study," says Collin. A key component of his experience at FWE was a trip to India and Turkey with Professor Scott Bowe and the American Hardwood Export Council to market U.S. hardwood products and strengthen exports from Wisconsin. "We met with overseas buyers and learned about global markets and consumer preferences in India and the Middle East," says Collin. "This experience helped me understand firsthand the significance of overseas markets on pricing, supply, and demand in Wisconsin and the U.S."

Chrissy Carney



Chrissy earned her BS in Forest Science with a conservation emphasis in 2011. She began her position as a Forester-Ranger in Keshena in May 2014. Chrissy

spends the majority of her time with private landowners in Shawano and Menominee counties who are enrolled in the Managed Forest Law Program. This assistance may include a simple telephone call, a site visit, editing or writing a management plan, setting up timber sales, planting trees, investigating tree damage and even investigating tree theft. She also responds to wildfires and conducts prescribed burns as needed. Some key advice that multiple faculty gave her was to get diverse experience in the field. She took that advice to heart. Prior to her position with the WDNR, Chrissy held positions in Idaho, Washington, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, Oregon, Florida, and

Forestry grads continues on page 3



News from the Chair



Bill Karasov

Forestry has a significant impact on Wisconsin, as reflected by employment figures, value of forest products, and recreational opportunities. Our department is proud that a good number of our recent graduates are among new forestry hires in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) (see our cover article by academic staff member and newsletter editor Mary Miron). Other alumni have been employed in this sector for many years and have achieved leadership positions. Our talented faculty members that lead in forestry instruction, research and extension are critical to continuing this record of involvement. Thus, we will greatly miss

Professor Tom Gower, who has taken a position elsewhere (pg. 4) and Professor Craig Lorimer who recently announced his retirement. Other faculty members, notably Professors Phil Townsend and Glen Stanosz, have generously temporarily stepped into the void to cover key courses this academic year. But the sustainable solution is to replace faculty members, which is always a budgetary challenge when the University is operating in the face of budget cuts. New talented faculty members that join us are able to thrive, as evidenced by the achievements of Assistant Professors Mutlu Ozdogan, Zach Peery, and Anna Pidgeon who were all recently promoted to associate professor with tenure (pg. 4). Another key retirement is that of Sheila Timme, a wonderful head administrator for our programs over many years (pg. 4). We salute and thank all of these people and others, including you, who support our continuing contributions to our state and society. We wish all of you the best during the upcoming holidays.

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Connecticut. "Gaining experience in different ecosystems with various agencies across the U.S. has made me a particularly well-rounded forester," says Chrissy. "It was great advice that was also very enjoyable to follow!"

Liz Wood



Liz graduated from the department with a BS in Forest Science and a certificate in Environmental Studies in 2013. She

worked in two LTE positions with WDNR prior to taking her current position in May 2014 as a Forester-Ranger and County Forest Liaison in Crandon. Liz has a variety of responsibilities divided roughly equally among fire responsibilities, county forest management, and private lands forestry. She says that a "typical day" doesn't seem to exist. She currently is focusing on setting up timber sales on county forestlands. Other days you might find her writing planting plans, conducting forest health checks for private landowners, working with the local fire departments, and participating in forestry and fire training. Liz notes that her participation in the Forestry Club helped hone her forestry skills as well as network with classmates and other folks in the forestry world.

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Alexander Rahmlov (BS Forest Science 2011), former Forestry Club president, reports that he entered graduate school at Texas A&M university this fall. In addition, he reports that an article he co-authored with Weimin Xi, UW-Madison, and others was recently published in the journal *Society and Natural Resources*. The article is titled "Challenges to Sustainable Development in China: A Review of Six Large-Scale Forest Restoration and Land Conservation Programs. Email: alexrahmlov@gmail.com

Karl Martin (BS Wildlife Ecology 1991) is now the program director for the Community, Natural Resource, and Economic Development program area at the UW-Extension. In his new role he will provide leadership and coordination for all extension programs designed to support community-based needs, including economic development, leadership training, public policy, natural resources education, and land-use planning. In addition to his BS degree from UW-Madison, Karl has a PhD in forest ecology and a MS in wildlife science from Oregon State University. Email: Karl.Martin@ces.uwex.edu

Tim Beyer (BS 1984, MS 1989 Forestry) has taken a position with the Minnesota DNR as Natural Resources Program Consultant. Email: Tim.Beyer@state.mn.us

In Memorium

Scott Melvin (PhD Wildlife Ecology 1982) passed away on July 11, 2014. He was Senior Zoologist, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and Adjunct Professor, Department of Environmental Conservation, University of Massachusetts.



Department News

NSF Funds Karasov research

NSF has awarded Bill Karasov a \$500,000 research grant to fund his project titled, "Molecular mechanisms of dietary modulation of intestinal enzymes in birds." The grant will allow him to study the flexibility of digestive enzymes in bird intestinal tracts. The results should help scientists predict how well birds can adapt to diet changes due to habitat alterations or climate change.

Gower takes position in North Carolina

We sadly bid farewell but offer best wishes to Tom Gower, who has taken a position at North Carolina State University. Gower is the new head of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources in the College of Natural Resources at NCSU. Tom is a successful forest ecology researcher and instructor. Staff and students alike will miss him.

Intensively managed, certified sustainable

In conjunction with the biennial meeting of the Woody Crops Operations Working Group meeting in late July, Glen Stanosz visited the most intensively managed, SFC certified sustainable tree farm in North America. Greenwood Resources produces hybrid poplar sawlogs and biomass on thousands of acres in the desert of eastern Oregon. Water from the Columbia River is supplied to rapidly growing poplar clones by drip-irrigation using 19,000 miles of plastic tubing. Harvested logs are delivered to a sawmill located right in the middle of



Mutlu Ozdogan



Zach Peery



Anna Pidgeon

Three receive tenure

Congratulations to Mutlu Ozdogan, Zach Peery, and Anna Pidgeon, who were recently promoted to associate professors with tenure. All three teach in the department and have active research programs. Ozdogan specializes in remote sensing, land-use/land-cover change and hydrology. Peery's research interests are directed toward conservation biology, wildlife population dynamics, and molecular ecology. Pidgeon's research focus is avian ecology and landscape ecology.

the tree farm. Chips from biomass trees grown in 2- to 3-year rotations between rows of sawtimber trees can be used for manufacture of ethanol or other chemicals, to be used in place of those derived from petroleum.

Timme retires as 'HUB' administrator



Sheila Timme has announced her retirement from her position as administrator of the Russell Labs Administrative Center (HUB). She took on this challenging role in 2008 when the

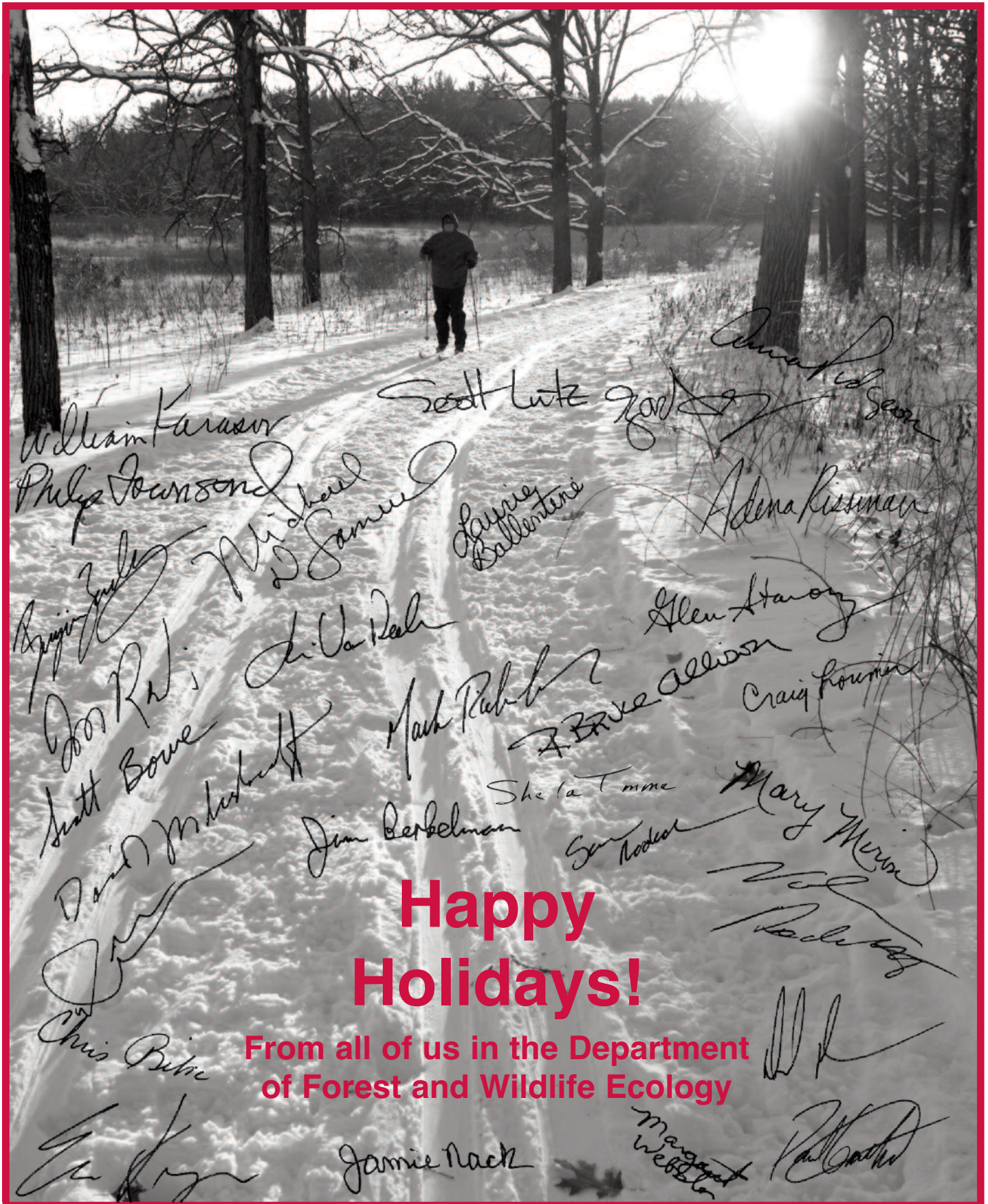
financial, human resources and support services were merged under one administrative umbrella for the three departments housed in Russell Labs—Forest and Wildlife Ecology, Entomology and

Plant Pathology. Prior to her position in the HUB, she was department administrator for Forest and Wildlife Ecology from 1998-2008, and held positions in the Water Resources Center and Madison Academic Computing Center (now DoIT) between 1969 and 1998. In total, Sheila served in positions at the UW-Madison for 45 years! We wish her the very best in retirement.

Van Deelen co-teaching a MOOC

Tim Van Deelen will be co-teaching a massive open on-line course (MOOC) titled "The Land Ethic Reclaimed: Perceptive Hunting, Aldo Leopold, and Conservation." The course, co-taught with Paul Robbins and Janet Silbernagel, begins January 26, 2015, and will cover a range of topics related to wildlife conservation. For further information, visit:

<http://moocs.wisc.edu/mooc/landethic/>



Happy Holidays!

From all of us in the Department
of Forest and Wildlife Ecology



News from the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

by Jade Arneson

The UW Madison Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society welcomed the academic year with new and enthusiastic officers: Victoria Fuller, President; Hannah Butkiewicz, Vice President; Lucas Olson, Secretary; Daniel Erickson, Treasurer; Antonio Del Valle, Outreach Coordinator; Kyle Andreska, Social Coordinator; Jade Arneson, Marketing Coordinator; and Mary Schneider, Webmaster.

This fall, club officers have organized a number of hands on opportunities for our members. These include saw-whet owl banding at Linwood Springs Raptor Research Center, monarch butterfly tagging at Goose Pond, seed collection with Prairie Enthusiasts, removal of buckthorn with Friends of the Lakeshore Preserve, a social with the Forestry Club, and burning of invasive honeysuckle at Pheasant Branch Nature Conservancy.

Most notably, five student chapter and TWS members were chosen to represent the UW during a Quiz Bowl competition in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the Annual Wildlife Conference. It was a long, 12-hour drive out, but well worth it given the many opportunities to network with professionals and gain exposure to new thoughts and practices within the wildlife field. We had many opportunities to learn, connect, and engage with other per-



Pictured above are the Quiz Bowl team members who represented the club at the The Wildlife Society annual conference in Pittsburgh. Kneeling is Daniel Erickson and L to R standing are Victoria Fuller, Gina Lehner, Caroline Tappe, and Jade Arneson.

sons attending in ways that helped propel us forward and motivate us.

Another event on our calendar is our annual Game Dinner fundraiser Dec. 5. There is always a variety of food and fun.

Forestry Club News

by Donnie Radcliffe

This fall, the Forestry Club has been busy setting the agenda for the year and participating in professional development events. Several speakers have made presentations to the club, including persons from the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, the International Internship Program, and the Department of Natural Resources Private Forestry Team.

This October, the Forestry Club sent 10 members to the Society of American Foresters (SAF) National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. Members participated in a quiz bowl, attended technical talks, and networked with foresters from across the country. They were able to sneak away for a half day to hike above the city, and were treated to some beautiful views of shrubby oaks in fall colors.

This November, 13 students traveled to La Farge, Wisconsin to take the level one chainsaw safety class. There they learned about basic chainsaw maintenance, use of safety equipment, and proper cutting techniques. Our next event is the annual Christmas tree sale, on December 5th – 7th at the Stock Pavilion.



Forestry Club member Andy Ciurro gets hands on experience at the level one chainsaw safety class, hosted by the Kickapoo Woods Cooperative. Instructor Nathan Stanford, on the right, provides guidance.



Student News

Chris Latimer honored by Madison Audubon Society

Congratulations to Wildlife Ecology PhD student Chris Latimer, chosen as this year's Madison Audubon Conservation Scholar. In a letter to Latimer, the Madison Audubon Society notes that he was selected on the basis of his "innovative graduate research project studying the impacts of winter weather and landscape factors on winter bird foraging behavior using smart feeders [wired to collect data] and PIT tags [tiny transponder tags taped to a bird's leg band]." Latimer was honored at the organization's October meeting and awarded a \$100 scholarship.

Follow these links for more news



MOOC by Tim Van Deelen: The land ethic reclaimed: Perceptive hunting, Aldo Leopold, and conservation. <http://moocs.wisc.edu/mooc/landethic/>



Global warming a welcome mat for small birds keen to winter up north -- news article in Wisconsin State Journal reporting on research by Benjamin Zuckerberg. <http://go.wisc.edu/25w4m9>



New state map takes shape in Madison. Mutlu Ozdogan assists in project to update land cover map. <http://go.wisc.edu/7kf879>



To save a species, scientists trick jays with an egg bait and switch. Reported by NPR News on research by graduate student Elena West <http://go.wisc.edu/s93zm2>

Forest and Wildlife Ecology Fund

We invite you to join us in our efforts to provide support for important department priorities. Donations to the Forest and Wildlife Ecology Fund are used to support activities such as student travel to professional meetings, help cover the costs of the summer field camp, and host special lectures.

I/we would like to donate to: ☐ General FWE Fund ☐ Graduate Student Travel Fund

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Donations may also be made online at: <http://forestandwildlifeecology.wisc.edu/alumni>

FOREST AND WILDLIFE

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RESEARCH CAPSULE

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QUESTION

What is driving the northward shift in
showshoe hare distribution in Wisconsin?

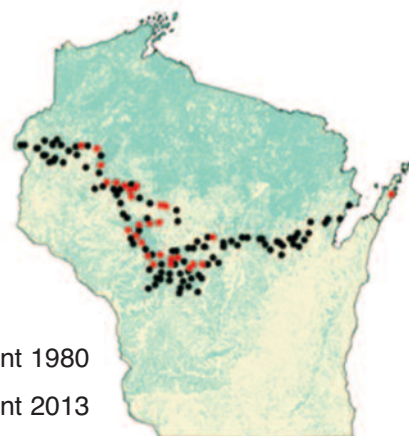
PROJECT

In collaboration with the WDNR, we performed snow tracking surveys at historic locations at the southern edge of snowshoe hare range to quantify the environmental variables associated with their extinction and persistence.

FINDINGS

Of 134 historical locations revisited, we only detected hares at 29 locations, and found that hares were more likely to go extinct in areas with shorter duration of winter snow cover. Projections of their future range indicate that snowshoe hares will continue to shift north in response to declining snow cover.

L. Scott Mills research photo



Hares present 1980



Hares present 2013