Wisconsin Coverts Project
Promoting Woodland Wildlife Stewardship
Sponsors

- The long-term sponsors of the Wisconsin Coverts Project are:
  - Division of Extension at UW-Madison
  - Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology, UW-Madison
  - The Ruffed Grouse Society / American Woodcock Society

- More recently, we have received funding and support from:
  - Wisconsin Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) Implementation Committee
  - The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA)
  - Braun Woodlands
What is a Covert?

- “Covert” pronounced “kuh-vert” is a 14th century English word describing a dense thicket that provides shelter for wildlife.
- The Wisconsin Coverts Program aims to educate private forest owners about ways to protect, enhance, and create these valuable coverts.
The Wisconsin Coverts Project

- The WI Coverts Project started in 1994 and has consisted of 30 workshops to-date.
- The program is organized and led by the Extension Wildlife team in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at UW – Madison.
- Current state coordinator: Jamie Nack, Extension Senior Wildlife Outreach Specialist, UW – Madison.
What is the WI Coverts Project?

- A three-day, overnight, workshop (Thurs. afternoon to Sun. noon) for landowners who want to enhance their woodlands for wildlife.

- The program includes indoor, classroom sessions and outdoor field trips led by wildlife and forestry professionals from the Dept. Natural Resources, Extension, UW – Madison, The Ruffed Grouse Society, USDA Forest Service, private landowners, etc.
The WI Coverts Project

- The workshop has a strong emphasis on forest management, operating under the premise that good forest management = good wildlife habitat.
- Participants learn how to enhance their land’s wildlife abundance and diversity by actively managing their woodlands.
- Landowners are given a holistic perspective, one in which management for wildlife habitat is important, and is compatible with other goals such as recreation, aesthetics, and timber production.
The WI Coverts Project

- Landowners are provided with resources (e.g. websites, publications) to help them manage their woodlands.
- They also learn who to contact for their woodland wildlife needs: private, state, and university forestry and wildlife specialists.
- Finally, they get to share a weekend with like-minded people and the opportunity to learn from each other.
- At the end of the workshop attendees become “Coverts Cooperators”.
WI Coverts Cooperators

As Coverts Cooperators, attendees agree to:

- Develop or review a written wildlife and forest management plan for their land.
- Reach out and motivate other woodland owners in their communities, and be available to answer questions.
- Share resources provided by the Wisconsin Coverts Project.
Sample Workshop Topics

- Principles of wildlife management
- Management strategies for ruffed grouse and woodcock
- How to conduct a successful timber harvest
- The forest industry and the private landowner
- Invasive plant species management
- Large carnivore management
- Small mammal identification
- Forest songbird management
- Herptile management
- Wildlife damage management
- Creating a written wildlife management plan
- Working with the media and outreach efforts
Sample Field Trips

- Tour of the Northern Highland-American Legion state forest
- Wildlife inventory and monitoring workshop
- Tour of a well-managed, private property in the area
Who Can Attend?

- Any woodland owner or person responsible for managing a parcel of wooded land in Wisconsin (or the Midwest) may apply.
- Space is limited to approx. 25 landowners.
- There is no minimum acreage requirement; we are most interested in persons with outreach potential/influence in their community. We're looking for people who....
  - can find time in their busy schedules for the workshop and some outreach activities in their communities.
  - would like their woodlands to be healthy and productive.
  - care about woodlands and the wildlife that live within them.
How Much Does it Cost?

- It’s FREE!
- Expenses including lodging and meals are paid for by the workshop sponsors. All you need to do is provide your own transportation to and from the workshop location.
How Successful has the Coverts Project been in WI?

- Since 1994, 30 annual workshops have been held in WI.
- 770 Coverts Cooperators (representing 647 properties) have been trained.
- These Cooperators own or are responsible for managing 223,511 acres of woodlands in Wisconsin and neighboring states.
- WI Coverts Cooperators have reached out to more than 15,000 landowners accounting for an additional estimated 544,000 acres in WI.
- The total land base impacted through 26 years of the WI Coverts Project is estimated to be over 750,000 acres.
When and Where is the Workshop Held?

- The 2021 Wisconsin Coverts Project workshop will be held **August 12-15** at Kemp Natural Resources Station in Woodruff, WI.
How to Apply

**Applications are due June 15th of the workshop year**

- Applications are available on the Wisconsin Coverts Project website [http://fwe.wisc.edu/coverts](http://fwe.wisc.edu/coverts) or by contacting Jamie Nack.

- Return completed applications to:

  Jamie Nack  
  Wisconsin Coverts Project Coordinator  
  University of Wisconsin - Madison  
  Dept. of Forest and Wildlife Ecology  
  211 Russell Labs  
  1630 Linden Drive  
  Madison, WI 53706  
  Phone: 608-265-8264  
  E-mail: jlnack@wisc.edu
Want More Information?

- Check out the WI Coverts Project website at: [http://fwe.wisc.edu/coverts](http://fwe.wisc.edu/coverts)

- The website contains a brochure, application, typical agenda, a directory of WI Coverts Cooperators and much more.

- Contact Jamie Nack at: (608) 265-8264 or [jlnack@wisc.edu](mailto:jlnack@wisc.edu).