



Backus Creek State Game Area Habitat Management

Contact: Roscommon DNR Operations Service Center 3,420 acres in Roscommon County
8717 N. Roscommon Road,
Roscommon, MI 48653 (989) 275-5151 [Link to area map](#)

This area is being managed for the features species listed below and may include the following habitat management practices:

Mallard:

- Maintaining a 50:50 ratio of marsh to open water condition: removing tree stubs, digging potholes, dredging channels, and maintaining ditch systems and culverts.
- Maintaining grasslands adjacent to wetlands: planting warm and cool-season grasses, applying herbicides, prescribed burning, mowing, and haying.
- Planting food plots (corn, buckwheat, oats, etc).
- Maintaining a good mix of seed-producing wetland plants: manipulating water levels, bulldozing, disking, and seeding.
- Controlling phragmites and narrow-leaf cattail: applying herbicides and prescribed burning.
- Maintaining water control structures and dikes: routine inspections of all structures, mowing, applying herbicides, removing brush, repairing pumps & valves, filling rodent burrows, replacing guard rails over dams, and removing debris.
- Providing and maintaining nesting tunnels.

Scaup:

- Managing wetlands: prescribed burning, applying herbicides, seasonally manipulating managed water levels.
- Controlling phragmites: applying herbicides and prescribed burning.
- Providing open water by maintaining water control structures: mowing, removing brush, and repairing pumps, valves, & gates.

Wood Duck:

- Maintaining forests in floodplains and lowlands and within 150 feet of wetland edge: single tree and group-selection timber harvests.
- Maintaining trees, shrubs, and emergent vegetation in wetlands.
- Maintaining the oak component near wetlands, lakes and rivers: promoting the regeneration of oak, and retaining a representation of mature acorn producing trees during harvests.
- Reserving large, dead, dying, and cavity bearing trees during timber harvests within a mile of wetlands, lakes, and rivers.
- Partnering with volunteers to build, install and maintain wood duck nest boxes.
- Controlling glossy buckthorn and phragmites: cutting, applying herbicides, and prescribed burning.
- Maintaining flooded marshes and swamps by maintaining water control structures and dikes: mowing, applying herbicides, removing brush, repairing chipped concrete and rodent burrows, replacing guard rails over dams, routine inspections of all structures, and removing debris.