

PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS AND ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

PROJECT TITLE: Woody Biomass Harvesting for the Management of Open Brushlands

Project Manager Qualifications

Primary Project Leader (A): Anna Dirkswager, Biomass Coordinator, MN DNR, Division of Forestry. Anna Dirkswager is currently the MN DNR's Woody Biomass Coordinator. Her responsibilities include (but are not limited to): working with stakeholders to aid in developing informed decisions about using woody biomass resources in a sustainable and efficient manner, guiding market development, building support for state and federal biomass energy initiatives, and educating managers, supervisors, and staff about the state's woody biomass resource and policy initiatives. Anna came to the DNR in January 2009 after completing a Master of Science degree in Natural Resources Science Management at the University of Minnesota, Department of Forestry. During her graduate studies, Anna worked extensively with Minnesota's loggers who harvest biomass to understand the constraints and opportunities associated with biomass harvesting.

Primary Project Leader (B): J. Wes Bailey, Wildlife Research Biologist, MN DNR, Division of Wildlife. Wes Bailey is a Research Wildlife Biologist with the Forest Wildlife Populations and Research Group. Wes supports the upland game bird research programs in Minnesota's forest landscape by assisting a Research Scientist in the planning, execution, and reporting of original research on grouse species (50% time) and the development of survey protocols and research that will assist Area Wildlife Managers evaluate the effectiveness of habitat management within their work areas (50% time). Wes' current research includes habitat use, nest-site selection, nest success, and survival of sharp-tailed grouse, greater prairie-chicken and sharp-tailed grouse habitat occupancy models, sharp-tailed grouse habitat selection and habitat connectivity models. Wes came to the DNR in October 2007 after completing a Master of Science degree in Wildlife Science at the University of Missouri, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. For his master's research, Wes determined factors affecting nest site selection and nest survival of Black-capped Vireos, an endangered songbird in Texas. Wes also assisted in developing and conducting research designed to compare methods for estimating density of forest songbirds from point counts for the Central Hardwoods Joint Venture.

Organization Description

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)'s mission is to work with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life. The department consists of several divisions based on the state's natural resources, including: Fisheries and Wildlife, Forestry, Lands and Minerals, Parks and Trails and Forestry.

The division of forestry aims to provide a long-term sustainable yield of forest resources from state forest lands; to improve the health and productivity of other public and private forest lands and community forest lands; and to protect life, property and natural resources from wildfires. Harvesting state brushlands can improve the stand's health and productivity while providing a long-term sustainable resource of woody biomass material.