

Boreal Waterbird Project - Update

Originated in response to concerns that (1) bird atlas methods were designed for terrestrial species and (2) existing waterbird surveys not designed for secretive/species

Waterbird abundance and trends inferred from these sources potentially unreliable

R. Zimmerling perfects new protocol for detecting waterbirds (in press) and begins to request funds from Forest Ecosystem Science Co-op (FESC) for full blown field study

Zimmerling leaves, T. Nudds agrees to inherit project as PI

Proposal rewritten to (1) directly link policy concerns with science and (2) add "armchair ecological" component to design lay of field study

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Project in 4 parts:

1. Natural disturbance emulation? Pattern *and* process.
2. Scale dependence of results on question of riparian retention.
3. Assessment of potential umbrella/focal species for future waterbird assessment.
4. Field survey to ground-truth models from parts 1 and 2 and to compare to atlas data.

Proposal for 3-year project to FESC 10th Anniversary Fund submitted Fall 2007.

Proposal accepted Winter 2008 (~\$68K) with restrictions on spending until all 3 years funding in place.

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Decision on spending restriction appealed Spring 2008 to permit hiring postdoctoral fellow to begin research and assist with further proposals using FESC to leverage other funds. Appeal granted pending revise proposal and timelines. New proposal pending.

Appropriate postdoctoral candidate available Fall 2008 found and hired.

First informal face-to-face of entire project advisory team week of 07 April 2008 in Sault Ste. Marie during Forest Bird Workshop. Identified key existing waterbird surveys and confirmed availability for analysis (waterfowl plots, transects, OBA) and potential other funding sources.