**Spruce Grouse Project Progress Report for Research**

**Conducted in Baxter State Park During 2014**

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Having received permission to continue our research efforts in the Scientific Forest Management Area (SFMA) during 2014, we conducted spruce grouse surveys in two previously established sites: MSW12 (MUID 8042) and MSW13 (MUID 12045). We conducted occupancy surveys for male spruce grouse using cantus calls in MSW12 on May 16, 23, and 25, (no grouse detected during the surveys), and in MSW13 on May 13, 16, and 23 (1 male detected on May 16). We were unable to capture and band the only male that responded during those surveys. Both stands were again surveyed for female spruce grouse during June and July, with surveys occurring in MSW 12 on 23 June and 15 July, and in MSW 13 on 23 June and 1 July. No grouse were detected during those surveys.

Although 2014 was the last year of Stephen Dunham’s M.S. project, Dr. Daniel Harrison and Dr. Erik Blomberg have received additional funding to support a Ph.D. student, Joel Tebbencamp, who plans to continue demographic and genetic studies of spruce grouse in north-central Maine. Joel’s official project did not begin until fiscal year 2015 but it was clear that we would need a greater number of captured and radio-marked birds for his project’s goals to be accomplished. Because we observed a large number of birds on the roads during the later summer and fall of past years, we decided to attempt to capture grouse observed during road surveys. This effort, which began in September of 2014 included the roads of the SFMA and consisted of surveys during early morning and late afternoon to observe and capture grouse. Three captures were made within the SFMA using the previously approved methods used during occupancy surveys. In tota,l three grouse were captured, equipped with necklace-mounted radios, and were monitored for survival within the SFMA (Table 1, Figure 1).

We would like to express our gratitude to the members of this committee and to both the former and current resource managers in the SFMA for their logistical support and friendly assistance during Stephen Dunham’s M.S. project.

**Table 1. Locations of spruce grouse captured in Baxter State Park’s SFMA during fall 2014 and subsequently monitored for survival.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Age and Sex** | **Northing** | **Easting** | **Status** |
| 27-Sept. | Adult Female | 5115785 | 494646 | Died prior to 21 January 2015 |
| 4-Oct. | Hatch Year Male | 5109260 | 505999 | Alive as of 21 January 2015 |
| 13-Oct. | Hatch Year Female | 5112919 | 503800 | Alive as of 21 January 2015 |

**Future Plans:** Dr. Blomberg and Dr. Harrison will be submitting a proposal to Baxter Park during winter 2015 to continue and expand demographic studies within the SFMA. Stephen Dunham’s M.S. thesis will be completed during 2015 and an electronic and paper copy will be provided to Baxter State Park.

**Figure 1. Locations of spruce grouse captured within the SFMA portion of Baxter State park during fall 2014.**