



News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest



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Price Co. Struttin Toms and Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest Team up for Turkeys

Park Falls, Wis. June 19, 2006 - The Park Falls Ranger District and the Price Co. Struttin Tom's have initiated a new conservation partnership to enhance habitat for turkeys on national forest lands in Price County. Turkey populations continue to increase across Northern Wisconsin including the National Forest, providing new hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities to Forest users and visitors. This year with approximately \$5000 of financial assistance from the National Wild Turkey Federation through the Price County Chapter, the Forest Service will be conducting habitat enhancement at the Riley Wildlife Management area on the Park Falls District.



Struttin Tom's Chapter presenting check to Dan Eklund, Chequamegon-Nicolet Wildlife Biologist

This 4000 acre wildlife management area currently sustains wild turkey populations that benefit from the open/shrub land habitat management the Forest has been implementing. With the financial assistance from the Struttin Tom's as a new conservation partner, the Forest will be conducting approximately 300 acres of roller chopping of young willow and alder shrubs in preparation for prescribed fire to maintain the open/shrub land habitat community. This habitat work will improve foraging and brood rearing habitat for turkeys in this area and enhance turkey populations on the District. This work will also benefit the small population of sharp-tailed grouse at the Riley Wildlife Management Area. This population is one of the last ten remaining in Wisconsin. Sharp-tailed grouse require large areas of open or brushy habitat like what will be created/maintained through this partnership.

In addition to the Riley Wildlife Management area project, the Chapter and the Park Falls District are also working to identify and conduct habitat management for turkeys on other portions of the District. This work would be conducted by Price Co. Chapter members coordinating with District Wildlife Staff to improve brood rearing and foraging habitat.