BICKNELL'S THRUSH
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR HABITAT IN BIRD CONSERVATION REGION 14

Introduction

The Bicknell's thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) is locally common to uncommon in BCR 14. It requires high elevation stunted spruce/fir forests for nesting and cover. It has also has been reported to occur in low elevation coastal softwood areas, particularly in maritime Canada. It is listed as a "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" in the Wildlife Action Plan of at least one State in BCR 14. Its population may or may not be declining however since its habitat availability is limited and fragile, it is a species of concern.

Habitat Needs

This bird nests primarily in dense, stunted spruce/fir, including the Krummholz zone, found typically near high elevation treeline.

Its territory size ranges from two to five acres in size.

Habitat Management Practices

The habitat management objective for this species is to preserve as much of the high elevation spruce/fir in its existing condition as possible. This means keeping human disturbance levels at a minimum.

Soil series include Berkshire variant, Glebe, Hermon variant, Monadnock variant, Ricker, Saddleback, Sisk, Stratton, Surplus. These soils are classified as Important Forest Soils Group IIA.

Recommended Silvicultural Treatments

In general, cutting operations above 3000 feet should be discouraged. If cutting is deemed necessary then the following guidelines should be followed. (see "Good Forestry in the Granite State" pages 167 to 169 for details):

Direct management so that it maintains or increases the softwood component
Maintain a structure that contains at least 60 percent of the harvest area in trees with diameters of four inches or more.
Leave ten percent of the area uncut.
Allow no more than 30 percent of the cut area to be in a size class of less than four inches.
Plan to extend rotation ages by thirty percent or more with corresponding extended entry times
Operate only when erosion control can be maximized. This may result in operations that only take place on frozen ground and use current methods to minimize soils compaction as well as erosion.