

# American Woodcock Management Goal and Objectives 2002 – 2017

*Adopted by MDIFW Commissioner and Advisory Council  
February 26, 2004*

## **GOAL**

Increase the quality and quantity of American Woodcock habitat; increase the breeding population of American Woodcock; and increase the quantity and quality of American Woodcock hunting opportunity in Maine.

Population Objective: By 2017, increase the American Woodcock breeding population index to 3.5 males per singing ground survey route and then maintain the population at that level.

Habitat Objective 1: By 2017, increase and then maintain the quantity and quality of American Woodcock habitat in the industrial forest region of Maine by 100% from 2002 levels<sup>1</sup>.

Habitat Objective 2: By 2017, increase and then maintain the quantity and quality of American Woodcock habitat on suitable, state-owned wildlife management areas by 100% from 2002 levels.

Habitat Objective 3: By 2017, increase and then maintain the quantity and quality of American Woodcock habitat in the forest/agriculture/residential region of Maine by 50% from 2002 levels<sup>2</sup>.

Outreach Objective: By 2005, and in conjunction with partners, develop and implement a program to increase the awareness and understanding of American Woodcock, its habitat requirements, and its importance as a game species in Maine.

Hunting Objective 1: By 2003, work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to obtain additional hunting days to compensate for lost hunting opportunity as a result of Maine's prohibition on Sunday hunting.

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<sup>1</sup> Wildlife Management Districts in the industrialized forest region include WMDs 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 18, and 19.

<sup>2</sup> Wildlife Management Districts in the forest/agriculture/residential region include WMDs 3, 6, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30.

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Hunting Objective 2: By 2005, work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore the 1996 woodcock season framework of 45 hunting days, a 3 bird daily bag limit, and an October 1 season opening.

Hunting Objective 3: By 2003, establish a baseline of hunter satisfaction and by 2007, ensure that at least 75% of hunters surveyed rate their woodcock hunting experience in Maine as good or better.

