

# Update on Canada's Strategy to Develop a National Monitoring Program for Birds in the Boreal Forest

Presentation to Boreal Partners in Flight, Alaska  
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Canada

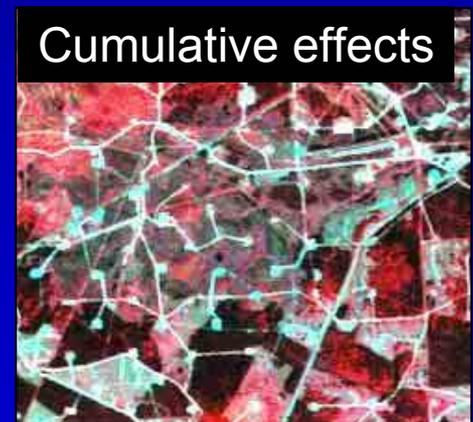
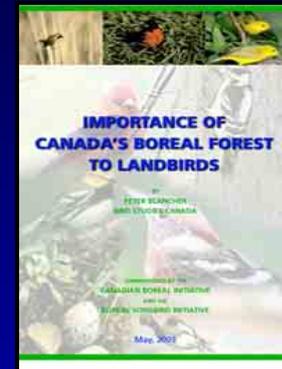
# Issue and Background – Same Old...

*“Canadians lack the information necessary to effectively manage and conserve many bird species in the boreal forest”*

- Boreal forest is important for birds: 1-3 billion landbirds, 100 million shorebirds, 12-14 million waterfowl
- Threats to boreal forest from resource extraction, permanent loss to agriculture, climate change, etc
- Current low ability to measure population trends of many boreal birds

**EXCEPT:**

- Growing on the **public attention boreal**



# Public interest translating into action in the boreal forest...

- **New NGOs such as Boreal Songbird Initiative**
  - Conservation Management Framework
- **Forest industry seeking certification and compliance**
  - Potential Change to MBA for incidental take and requirement for conservation planning
- **Foundation-supported research**
  - Million-dollar project in Ontario by BSC
- **Increased interest from tri-lateral planning**
  - PIF Continental Plan

# Why Monitor?

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- Early warning signal for risks such as *climate change* and *impacts of resource development*
- Allow governments to meet commitments
- *Allow industry to satisfy legal requirements or maintain social license to resources*
- Provide foundation for strategic scientific research
- Allow assessment of success of conservation actions
- Contribute to ecologically sustainable resource extraction

# History

- Persistent biologist-level support and calls for monitoring of boreal forest birds for years
- Recent escalation of other, non-biologist driven support for monitoring boreal birds
- Whitehorse meeting, fall 2002
  - Build some internal momentum
  - Reaffirm notion that others want CWS to lead
- Western Boreal Conservation Initiative, April '03
  - Our region given national lead for boreal issues

# Recent History

- September '03: National strategy drafted to put into approval process
- October '03: Review by technical staff
- November '03: Approval and endorsement by regional management
- December '03: Presenting strategy to CWS national executives
- Feb/March '04: Approval?
- April 2004: formal program birth?

# What are we actually proposing?

- Currently the document is actually a “proposal for a new program” within CWS
- Therefore requires approval at our national executive level
- Would result in creation of a new, national program that could grow and develop



*“It’s [almost] a whole new baby...”*

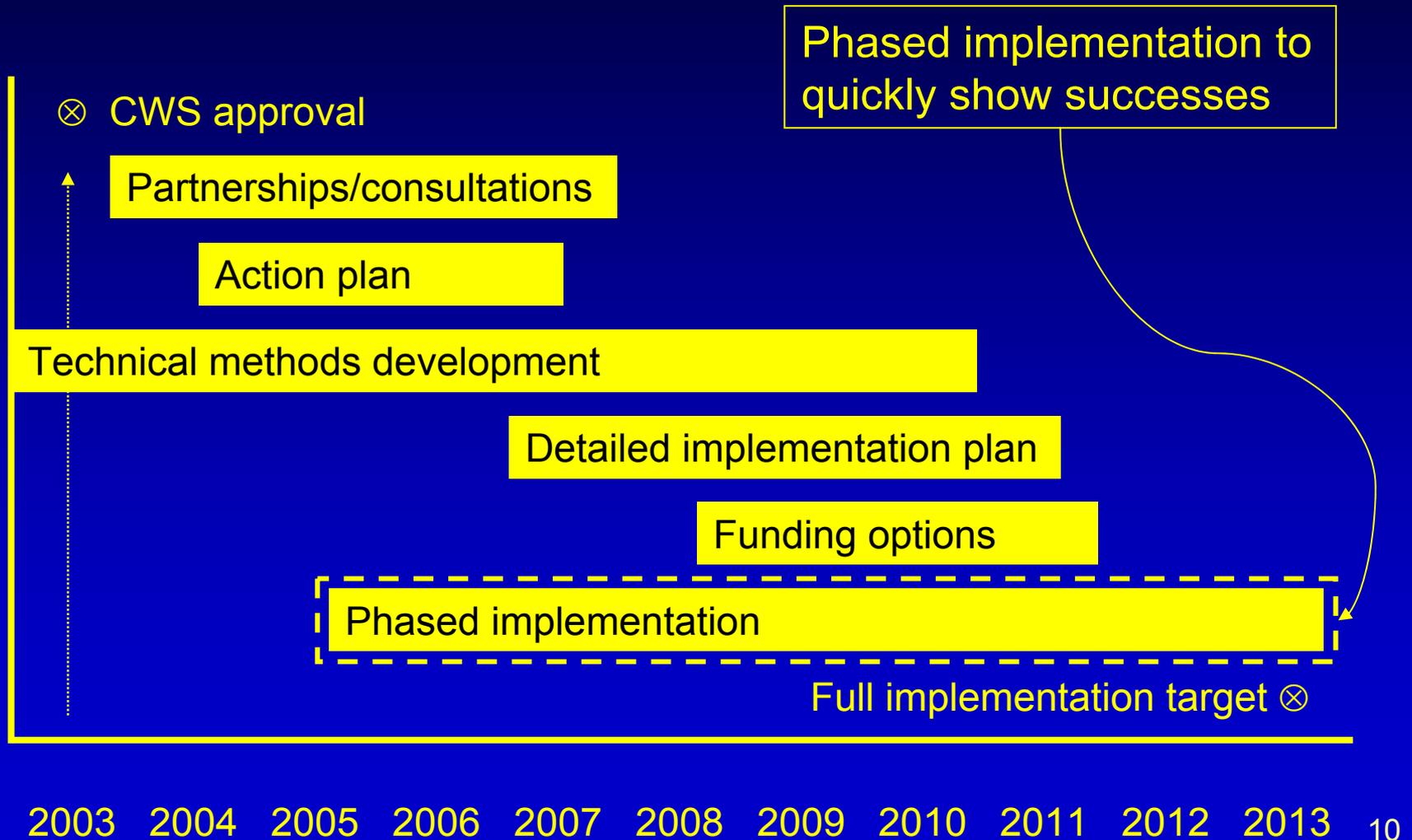
# Proposed Strategy - Principles

Purpose: to define a strategic vision

- Partnerships are key
- All-bird
- Set explicit goals and objectives
- Integration of research and monitoring
- Integration of existing surveys
- Development of new surveys
- Phased implementation



# Estimated timing





# CWS Investment

## Short term

- Commitment of 2 staff from PNR to lead development
- Other CWS staff time on working group
- Existing budgets
- Requests to Western Boreal Conservation Initiative

## Long term

- Ongoing staff time requirement
- Likely request for new funding, dedicated staff
- Emphasis on sustainable partnership support
- Need for innovative funding and money management



# Next Steps

Following endorsement by CWS:

- **Consultation and partnership**
  - Identification of the needs of all partners
  - Establish national “steering committee”
- **Development of a “National Plan for Monitoring Birds in the Boreal Forest”**
  - Goals and objectives related specifically to management issues
  - Assessment of limits of existing monitoring
  - Description of new surveys required
  - Early technical development (sampling/statistical design)
- **Identify areas for early success**