

## 2018 MSGS Brush Cuts – By Jodie Provost

The MN Sharp-tailed Grouse Society (MSGS), MN Prairie Chicken Society (MPCS), DNR and USFWS cordially invite you to join us at the 2018 Brush Cuts spearheaded by MSGS. Please join the flocks for camaraderie, fresh air, good food, and habitat enhancement for prairie chickens and sharp-tailed grouse. MSGS's newly designed "Team Firebird" t-shirts will be available for \$20, so bring your wallet.

**NW MN Brush Cut, March 3** - We will meet at **D & R Café in Bagley at 8 am** for a breakfast buffet of the works with coffee provided by MSGS and MPCS. After foraging we will head out to **Larix WMA** where DNR Wildlife staff will guide us in hand cutting trees such as tamarack from wetland/brushland habitat. Give Jodie Provost a holler (office 218-429-3052, cell 218-838-3553, [jodie.provost@state.mn.us](mailto:jodie.provost@state.mn.us)) if you have questions and to **RSVP by February 23**, so we can get a head count and ensure adequate eats.

**NE MN Brush Cut, March 24** - We will meet at **Cassidy's in Hinckley at 8 am** for a breakfast of french toast, sausage and coffee provided by MSGS before proceeding to **St. Croix State Park** to enhance savanna restoration sites. DNR Park staff will lead the effort. Give Jessica Piispanen a holler (office 612-713-5142, cell 612-749-2286, [jessica\\_piispanen@fws.gov](mailto:jessica_piispanen@fws.gov)) if you have questions and to **RSVP by March 16**, so we can get a head count and ensure adequate eats.

Grilled burgers, a side and dessert will be provided at both events for lunch. Please come dressed properly and bring a water bottle. Layers are good for shedding as we warm up. Warm, dry footwear is also important. If we get deep snow, snow shoes can be very helpful. Hand saws will be provided, but please feel free to bring your own hand saws and nippers if you have them, to ensure enough tools for all. For safety, no chain saws are allowed, other than by trained DNR personnel.

All attendees will be signed up as volunteers for the day, and all students will receive a one-year, free, MSGS membership. Also, the **MSGS Golden Saws, Traveling Trophy Awards** will again go to the colleges bringing the most students to each event. The more people that attend and put in sweat equity, the more volunteer power MSGS can show as match to its Expedited Conservation Partners Legacy grant. It would help greatly and be much appreciated.

We've been having a great time and improving habitat at these events for many years. Look forward to catching up with old friends and making new ones. See ya' there!



Vermillion Community College proudly shows their Golden Saw Award from the 2017 NE MN Brush Cut.