**RE: SRB Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project 11/29/19**

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the SRB Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project. The Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) fully supports the proposed actions described in the EA.

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The level of integration of multiple silviculture systems and combination of tools available is one of the most inclusive designs I have had an opportunity to review. Merging the silviculture methods used with the project objectives, forest health and resiliancey needs, and future timber resource considerations should be the underlying factors in the this design. Given the completeness of the effects documentation I conclude that this was the scenario.

Merely implementing vegetative management does not equate to practicing silviculture. Integrating the where and why with the IDT is exactly how these projects need to develp. I applaud the cohesiveness this proposed project relays.

The figure indicating the positioning of vegetative treatments including silviculture systems indicates to me the USFS personnel have a deep understanding of the creating of complexes of habitat. These complexes are benefit nearly all fauna within the DBNF and will have regional impacts for many migratory species. Connectivity / travel corridors are as important for contiguous mature forest as they are in disturbance ecology.

The only objection I have with this proposal is the overall size of the project area being rather small. This proposal incorporates the necessary disturbance and appropriate methods to demonstate species impacts, therefore I would suggest to use this proposal as a template for future projects in expanding the occurance of young forest habitat across the DBNF.

Feel free to contact me for any necessary clarification or further discussion pertaining to the above documentation. I look forward to continued engagement in the implementaion of this project.

Professionally



Linda D. Ordiway PhD