From: <u>Joseph Lehmann</u>

To: FS-comments-southern-cherokee-watauga

Subject: [External Email]Pond Mountain Project on the Cherokee National Forest

Date: Saturday, February 4, 2023 12:21:24 AM

[External Email]

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Hello -

As a member of the national board of directors of the Ruffed Grouse and American Woodcock Societies, I strongly encourage you to include active forest management (i.e., regeneration treatments through commercial timber harvesting) in the Pond Mountain Project to create 8% early successional forest in management prescription 8.C and the maximum amount of early successional habitat allowed in management prescription 4.A and 4.F as outlined as objectives in the Forest Plan.

Ruffed Grouse and American Woodcock are species of greatest conservation need and would benefit immensely from the early successional forest habitat that could be created with this project.

Thank you for everything you can do to support our beloved native upland bird species!

- Joseph Lehmann

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