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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a life long resident of the northeast Georgia mountains and a graduate of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College with a degree in wildlife and forestry management; I have preached for this type of management and effort for the last 20+ years. I grew up hunting and fishing in the Chattahoochee National Forest along side of men many years my senior. I can remember hearing tales of hearing grouse drum in the spring woods was a common rather than a rare event as it is today. Tales of coveys of quail, folks of turkeys, and grouse strutting on any given gravel road you choose to ride along. As a boy I can remember seeing and hearing some of these events with my own eyes, but time has went on and the clear cuts and select cut of the past has again grown into old mature oak/hickory forest with very little understory or accessible brows and the 5-10 year succession periods have gone by the wayside. I have watched wildlife Populations decline drastically as grouse, quail, woodcock, turkey, rabbits, and a number of other small game greatly depend on the thick understory of a regenerating timber harvest for survival. Almost all wildlife thrive in such a habitat using it for brooding, cover, and as a food source; albeit some need it more than others. I for one am extremely glad the Forest service is at least trying to do something in an effort to restore this nitch in the ecosystem and hopefully restore the wildlife populations now before it is too late.