

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/3/2022 2:11:41 PM

First name: James

Last name: Dvorak

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Increasing forest age class and structural diversity is a fundamental to the survival of many species of wildlife including Ruffed Grouse. Ruffed grouse population abundance has declined 71% since 1989 in the Southern Appalachians. The loss of young forests is the primary driver of this decline. There are currently only 1.3% young forest conditions across the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests in North Carolina.

Diverse forests are more resilient to disturbances that are increasing with climate change, including catastrophic wildfire events, drought, pests, and diseases. Since this project will consume resources for many years, it is important to get the planning done correctly - please consider additional timber cutting to provide more young successional forest.