Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/5/2023 4:58:17 PM First name: Greg Last name: Van Scott Organization:

Title:

Comments: I fully support an action plan to diversify our GWNF and JNF lands. My concern is that as some cutting (particularily in Craig County...Tub Run being a good example) has taken ghe shape of large clearcuts. These cuts while in thenh run providing the sought diversity are in the short term problamatic as in the 2-5 year windo nothing but greenbriar and some scattered edge grasses grow. Previous cuts done as RGS projects (again using Tub Run as an example) although getting reabsorbed by old growth every year still hold pockets of ruffed grouse as intended unlike the surrounding areas. These cuts were small and simply done and made much better cover for all species present than 100 acre clearcuts could. I mention this strictly by way of example. Another concern of mine is edge cover and NATIVE food sources. While there are plenty of native flora species that could be established at the time of a cutting it seams many areas have either intentionally or otherwise introduced invasives without proper hedging and in the process filled the cuts with autumn olive and the like instead of maintaining a diverse edge to promote nesting and foraging. While anything and everything helps it is my less book-learned and more hands on eyes-on data (including 20 years of logs and thousands of miles on foot chasing grouse with a dog) suggests a few of these simpleer measures implemented in a few more areas might yield stronger results.