Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/24/2023 4:11:31 PM First name: Luke Last name: Francis Organization: Title: Comments: Thank you for taking my comments,

The fact that the Forest Service is intentionally skirting around an environmental assessment, leaving open which areas can or cannot be logged to be determined AFTER the project is approved, is complete negligence and reeks of ill will and money grabbing. It makes no sense that this can be called a habitat enhancement project when no environmental assessment has been considered.

The mission of the Forest Service states their purpose is "...to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations."

How can this be true? How can you sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests if you are clearing areas of land that have already been heavily logged for almost ten years?

How can sustaining the diversity of the forest be true if you continue to rob habitat for the ruffed grouse, an already "species of concern" whose population has declined 99% in the last 40 years?

How will the needs of the present, and especially the future, be met when we continue to rob it of biodiversity and the habitat we need to maintain a healthy, diverse, and productive environment?

We can all see past the ruse of the Forest Service, and quite frankly, offensively, they believe they can pull a fast one by calling this project a "habitat enhancement."

Do your job correctly, complete an assessment, and uphold your mission statement. Your duty is to the commons and the public, not the loggers and businessmen paying people off for short-term financial gain.

It makes no sense, so please stop trying to justify it.