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First name: Sabine Last name: Schwarz

Organization: Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

Involvement with the Ruffed Grouse Society has convinced me of the benefits of forest management for young successional habitat. I have seen firsthand how important forest management is to the population of all species of birds including game birds. There are very successful programs in New England that have revived the wildlife in mature forests through selective clear cutting. Hiking through clear cuts only a few years after the cut is like stepping out of a quiet chamber into a jubilant colorful theater of life. While I am an occasional hunter, I mostly value this diverse habitat as a hiker or even just as I drive by. Given that proceeds from timber sales cover the cost of forest management in this way, this is the most logical approach to maintaining habitat for all species.