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Organization:

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Comments: I hunted grouse in the Appalachian mountains of NC from 1995 to about 2008. During the firsts 8 years it wasn't uncommon to flush 10-15 birds a day in numerous places in Pisgah and Nantahala National Forest. But as the forest aged there were fewer and fewer birds. By 2005 it was unusual to flush more than 1 bird for every 2-3 hunts. And grouse are not the only birds or wildlife dependent on new forest growth. I've had several people tell me that there are certain birds that only thrive in old forest. But those same birds need the new successional forest to raise their young. To prioritize Old Growth over all other phases of forest life is very shortsited.