

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/5/2024 4:00:00 AM

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Comments: As someone who has been hunting and recreating in the DBNF since the late 70's I can attest to the continual decline of forest wildlife habitat due to an aging forest. When I was young it was nothing to see ruffed grouse, woodcock and even bobwhite quail in the Daniel Boone, along with a host of other species. Up until the mid 90's you could still find these creatures although not in the same abundance. In the early 2000's life circumstances caused me to have to give up grouse hunting along with most of my outdoor recreation in the forest. In 2022 my wife bought me a bird dog pup for my birthday and as I'm now retired I've taken up grouse hunting again. I took my daughter into the Daniel Boone on a hunt and was aghast at what has happened to that forest in the last 20 years. It is now what I consider a barren wasteland. We went on several outings in the past couple years without seeing any grouse and almost no other animals. It is the same age class of trees as far as you can walk. Why they quit cutting it is beyond reason in my humble opinion. I would like to submit that I am overwhelmingly in favor of the Stearns Management Project as well as any other project that will bring diversity to what used to be a priceless gem but is no longer

Sincerely

David Kruger