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Comments: I am writing in support of the Ruffed Grouse project on the Sterns District. Early successional species both game and non-game have seen a dramatic decline in populations from habitat loss. Habitat loss is not from conversion to non-forest uses but to aging forests and silvicultural prescriptions that don't create early successional habitat, but appease the uninformed or indoctrinated public that considered logging is bad. The DBNF and other NF with their dramatic decline in harvesting in the last 30 years have contributed to the decline in early successional species and have contributed to some species now being considered species of concern, threatened or even endangered. The foresters in the DBNF have had their hands tied far too long, having to implement silvicultural prescriptions such as selective harvesting or single tree harvesting knowing that it was not in the best interest of the forest or the species that call them home.