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First name: John

Last name: Wilson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I write to express some concerns with the "Stearns Ruffed Grouse Habitat Management" project proposal." According to the proposal, the Forest Service plan will commit to "ongoing, sustainable

forest management that increases critical young forest habitat to give local grouse populations

the chance to increase to recreational levels not seen in a generation and provide benefits to other

wildlife that use the same habitat conditions." I am concerned about the focus on grouse populations as being measured by "recreational levels" and the treatment of other wildlife as of interest only if they "use the same habitat conditions."

The Forest Service's focus on young forest habitat fails to recognize the need for many wildlife species to have access to late successional and old-growth forest types. I understand that the National Old-Growth Amendment provides protections for mature, current, and future old-growth, and this project should not lead to the loss of potential OR existing old-growth. Old-growth should not be prescribed for logging in a counterproductive effort to provide specialized habitat targeted at a single species.

Furthermore, I understand that the project area includes historic, botanical wooded grassland communities, and that rare plant species either have been found or are likely to be found in this area. The Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves should be engaged to survey these plants, and the Forest Service should use this information in developing its final plans. Healthy wooded grasslands should be a key outcome of the project.

I hope that this information is used to ensure that the Daniel Boone National Forest has a strong, up-to-date plan that ensures logging is not allowed where it may conflict with the National Old-Growth Amendment and ensures collection and application of updated data and strong scientific foundations.