



***FOREST ACTION NETWORK (FAN)
MID-ATLANTIC AND SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN REGION
FEB. 2013***



Forest management results in recreation opportunities to the multiple users of OUR National Forests including increasing wildlife encounter opportunities, photography, bird watching, non-motorized activities, and YES hunting is recreation.

Young regenerating forests are needed within the Appalachian bird conservation region (BCR 28) to benefit not only those species nesting in this habitat but forest interior birds as well. This habitat is used post-fledging (after leaving the nest) and during migration as stop-over sites for foraging and cover.



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This type of habitat was listed as one of the top 20 most endangered types by a published report in June 2011 by the American Bird Conservancy. The two main threats to this habitat are urban sprawl and LACK OF FOREST MANAGEMENT. With a growing population urban sprawl is difficult for us to reverse, but WE can influence the LACK OF FOREST MANAGEMENT.

**GET INVOLVED WITH NC US FOREST SERVICE
PLANNING**

Nantahala – Pisgah Forest Plan Revision Initiation

The Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests in NC are beginning the lengthy process of FOREST PLAN revision (4 years allowable). RGS will be engaged in this process from the beginning. Initial focus within these forests is that of recreation and not on the primary function of the National Forest system. Together we can take advantage of this opportunity to influence the direction of the new Plan.

US Forest Service Mission

'The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.'

***SILVICULTURE IS THE FOREST MANAGEMENT PROCESS EMPLOYED
IN MAINTAINING FOREST HEALTH, DIVERSITY AND PRODUCTIVITY.***

***VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT = TIMBER MANAGEMENT = WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT.***



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ASHEVILLE, N.C. – The U.S. Forest Service National Forests in North Carolina has established the dates for all six district public meetings as part of the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests management plan (the Plan) revision.

Meetings will run from 6-9 p.m. The following dates and locations have been confirmed:

- **Cheoah Ranger District:** Feb. 21 at the Graham County Community Center in Robbinsville;
- **Appalachian Ranger District:** Feb. 25 at Mars Hill College, Broyhill Chapel, in Mars Hill;
- **Tusquitee Ranger District:** March 4 at the First Baptist Church in Murphy;
- **Grandfather Ranger District:** March 12 at McDowell Technical Community College, Room 113, in Marion;
- **Pisgah Ranger District:** March 18 at the Transylvania County Library in Brevard;
- **Nantahala Ranger District:** March 19 at the Tartan Hall in Franklin.

This first round of meetings is designed to explain the Plan Revision process. It is important that RGS has a face and a voice from the initial meetings throughout the process. These meetings ‘set the stage’ for the direction of the Plan as Alternatives are being formulated from the needs expressed by the interest groups present. They identify the key players to the USFS and to familiarize participants with other groups engaged in the new revision. This Plan when completed will direct the management for the next 15 yrs. in the Pisgah-Nantahala National Forests.



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All meetings will follow the same agenda, thus if you are planning to attend, one meeting will provide you with the information needed. The information shared by the USFS will include what they are doing now (current forest conditions inferring number of wildlife openings, or acres and location of differing forest age classes) and a schedule of forest events relative to the plan revision in the form of a timeline. This is the first stage of the process called Assessment. There will also be 6-10 listening stations with rather broad categories to gather FS information and perhaps leave a comment regarding the topic.

There may or may not be an opportunity for public comment within each meeting time. If there is an opportunity, comments at this point in the process can be very general or for those with more personal knowledge of these Forests more specific. Initial concerns should have a 'local' flavor and may include the following at varying degrees of specificity as previously mentioned:

GENERAL TOPICS TO CONSIDER FOR COMMENT

- Identify specific areas that you have personal knowledge of that you would like to be placed under a particular management prescription designation.
 - This could include the identification of potential ruffed grouse management areas for designation in the new plans.
- Identify areas within the forest that are a source of user conflict that in your opinion should be managed differently in order to rectify.
 - Riparian areas can be managed for wildlife habitat to ensure a lasting integrity
 - <http://nrs.fs.fed.us/fmg/nfmng/docs/mn/Riparian.pdf>



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- <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/1383>
- <http://coveeta.uga.edu/publications/10473.pdf>
- Remind the FS that Hunting is a recreational activity to be considered with as much emphasis as biking, hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, and spiritual renewal within our Forests.
 - USFWS 1991-2006 hunting and fishing trends (published in 2010) show nearly ½ decline in small game hunters in NC. Similar downslide in 2011 report.
 - <http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/upload/FWS-National-Preliminary-Report-2011.pdf>
 - This current report does not list by state or region
 - <http://digitalmedia.fws.gov/utills/getfile/collection/document/id/860/filename/861.pdf>
 - More detailed and much larger. Table C-2 of interest to South Atlantic Region.
 - 2010 -2011 5,398 grouse hunters / 2011-2012 3,932 grouse hunters NCWRC statistics
 - <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Hunting/SeasonsLimits/HarvestStatistics.aspx>
- Timber revenue can supply funding and be a tool to be used for the newly emphasized Non-native and Invasive Plant and Integrated Pest Management issues and program.
- Considerations of additional Wilderness Area nominations and designation of new Old Growth stands with silviculture limitations or even unsuitable



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for timber designations need to be offset by additional ASQ and/or lands considered suitable for timber and added to the appropriate management area designation.

- Restoration efforts need to be classified such that not all result in ESF creation acreage tallies.
- Revisit forest placed restrictions on timber management within areas consistent with steep slope designation.

RGS WILL BE PROVIDING MORE SPECIFIC TALKING POINTS AND MEETING UPDATES AS THE PROCESS CONTINUES.

To view the current Forest Plan visit: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/nfsnc>

On the left panel select: ***Land and Resource Management***

Then select: ***Planning*** in drop down panel on left.

Then select the appropriate ***Forest Plan***

**2013 RGS National Raffle Tickets Available
Now**

Purchase your tickets by calling RGS HQ at (888) 564-6747 or contacting Linda Ordiway at 412-720-6034 or lordiwayrgs@gmail.com until 5 pm Eastern DST June 27, 2013. The donation is \$20.00 per ticket; with up to 10,000 tickets to be sold. Four winners will be drawn on June 28, 2013.

Four chances to win. WINNER'S CHOICE! - First winner selects choice of 4 prizes, second



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winner selects from remaining 3, etc.

Prizes to include:

First prize: Orvis Uplander Deluxe; a 20-gauge over-and-under with 28" barrels, which will be produced in a limited edition of 10. \$7,995 value. **Orvis Company, Donor.**

Second prize: South Dakota pheasant hunt at Pine Shadows Daybreak lodge near Frederick. During the 2013-14 season, two people will enjoy three days and four nights hunting pheasant on Orvis-endorsed wingshooting grounds. All meals, lodging, ammunition, dogs, guides, and bird-cleaning included as well as airfare up to \$1,000; upon arrival, transportation to and from airport and hunting grounds provided. The value of this package is over \$7,000. **Pine Shadows Daybreak, Hunt Donor.**

Third prize: Kansas quail hunt with certified Orvis wingshooting guide Steve Grossman. Two hunters will spend three days and four nights during the 2013-14 season in southcentral Kansas near Medicine Lodge, hunting wild bobwhite over English setters on over 22,000 acres - including open prairie, river bottoms and draws of cedar. Two hunters per guide, double guns only and fresh dogs will be on the ground all day long. All meals and airfare up to \$1,000 is included. The value of this package is \$5,800. **Double Gun Bird Hunts, Hunt Donor.**

Fourth prize: Attendance for two people at the **2013 National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt** in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Three days/4 nights October 8-11, 2013 at the Sawmill Inn, Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Deluxe, guided hunt includes double occupancy lodging at the Sawmill, Outdoor Festival at the local gun club and two full days of grouse and woodcock hunting with experienced guides and trained bird dogs. All meals, bird cleaning, transportation to and from hunting areas, many extras and airfare up to \$1,000 are included. The value of the hunt is \$3,450. The winner of this prize has the option of waiving the hunt in lieu of \$2,500 cash - your choice!

All raffle participants will receive a free issue of *Orvis News*. Winners responsible for applicable taxes.

RGS NAMES NEW EDITOR: MATT SOBERG

Ruffed Grouse Society President and Chief Executive Officer John B. Eichinger announced on



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Wednesday that Matt Soberg was chosen as the new editor for the *Ruffed Grouse Society* magazine.

“Matt was the best candidate due to his combination of outdoor writing skills and upland hunting experience. With a true passion for the outdoors and conservation, he has the knowledge and insight necessary to effectively communicate our mission,” according to Eichinger.

Soberg expressed gratitude and appreciation for being chosen: “I am extremely honored to be selected as the new editor and am excited to get started. The *Ruffed Grouse Society* magazine is a well-respected and effective voice for the organization. It communicates the true beauty of ruffed grouse and woodcock conservation, habitat and hunting through quality writing and photography. I support the society’s objectives and am thrilled to help us reach our goals.” Soberg’s career includes a Juris Doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and sociology from the University of Minnesota. He was a law firm partner before publishing and editing the *Minnesota Sporting Journal*. His writing was previously published by the *Ruffed Grouse Society* magazine, and he has experience as a regular outdoors columnist and fishing correspondent. He is a gun dog owner and grew up hunting ruffed grouse and woodcock in Central Minnesota.

Soberg will start by editing the Spring 2013 issue of the RGS magazine.



This species is looked at as a trash shrub by many landowners but as most of us are aware it is a critical source of food for not only ruffed grouse, but utilized by wild turkeys, pileated, downy and hairy woodpeckers, just naming a few, throughout the winter months.

Staghorn sumac: *Rhus hirta*



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RGS CAT MULCHER IN VA

With the assistance of VDGIF personnel, one of the RGS machines is currently in VA for extended work on their WMA's and within the Jefferson National Forest. Other logistic assistance in this cooperative effort was from Cully McCurdy the NWTf Regional Biologist.

2013 State Drummer Fund Proposals are coming and those receiving funding will be listed in the next edition of FAN.

Contact me for any habitat concerns or issues within your area you feel needs attention and we will work together in addressing them.

If you are not currently receiving this FAN directly and wish to, send me an e-mail to be added to this list.

Thank you

lordiwayrgs@gmail.com

412.720.6034

Linda D. Ordiway PhD
Regional Biologist



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The Ruffed Grouse Society is the one international wildlife conservation organization dedicated to promoting conditions suitable for ruffed grouse, American woodcock and related wildlife to sustain our sport hunting tradition and outdoor heritage. For information on the Ruffed Grouse Society, please call 888-564-6747 or check out the RGS website at www.ruffedgrousesociety.org