



Do You Have These?

This year was predicted as a high impact Gypsy Moth year. Parts of Northern PA have entire hillsides defoliated. Those species most impacted include: Oak species, Aspen (left photo), Willow, Apple, Plum, Service Berry, and some Hickories as an incomplete listing. Species less preferred include Magnolia, as seen in the far right photo, Tulip, Ash, Black cherry, and some Maples such as silver, and sugar.



What will the effect of this non-native forest

pest be on the local areas? Will the trees die?

Will the open canopy initiate growth of shade-intolerant (sun-loving) vegetation? Will this act as a timber harvest? How will this impact ruffed grouse habitat?

Single year defoliation will not kill the trees unless they are stressed from drought or weakened from other disease prior. Multiple year defoliations will be detrimental to a forest canopy and possibly the midstory (10-20 ft. height range of vegetation). The sunlight may initiate the growth of ground cover or regeneration of woody stems, but this new regeneration may not be of a desirable species. If trees leaf twice in one year the sunlight will have a minimal effect and any regrowth or sprouting of regeneration will most likely disappear with the presence of overstory / midstory shade similar to pre-defoliation conditions.



Forest Plan Revision of Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests North Carolina

RGS members and friends supporting habitat management within these National Forests have made their voices heard! As a result of your commitment to habitat and attending the first two rounds of public meetings the issue of Early Successional Habitat and Young Forest Habitat has been identified as the number one public concern. This is not only a reflection of RGS members attending these meetings, but the high level of understanding of forest management and ecology you have shown. Those members were effective in presenting individual perspectives when the opportunity was provided. The USFS has also received submitted written comments from those unable to attend.

Many of our members participate in multiple conservation organizations but it has been my observation that the RGS logo has been far more abundant at these meetings than our other cooperative partners. If RGS is going to assume the lead of conservation organizations throughout the Planning process I feel we have the leadership and commitment in North Carolina to continue our push. This is just the beginning but the Planning Team and other user groups know that RGS is a player not a bystander. The Process is long and we need to maintain our momentum.

THE NEXT STEP: local input in focal areas

I am asking those most familiar with the Pisgah and Nantahala to work at identifying areas of interest RGS can use as focal areas for habitat management. Include the location, what you feel needs to be done, current conditions and past management history that you are aware of. Send me your information and any other materials you might have such as photos, past hunting success, personal views on the area etc.

This does not mean RGS would strictly be pursuing these areas for management. Some may be good candidates for designated areas for timber management / grouse focal areas, and we also want to avoid losing areas to other designations restricting management if they currently or have the potential to hold birds.

For more information and to view the materials provided at the meetings follow the link <http://www.fs.usda.gov/nfsnc> , scroll down to SPOTLIGHTS and click the heading 'Nantahala / Pisgah National Forests Plan Revision. Materials are highlighted on the right, under quick links.



American Woodcock Population Status Report 2013. USFWS

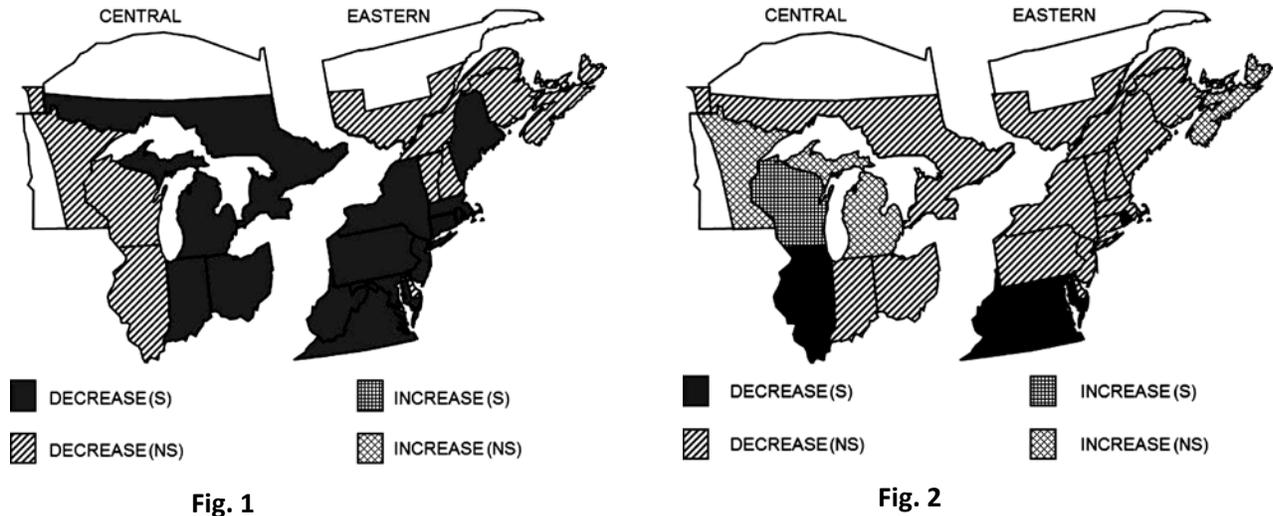


Fig. 1: Long-term trends in the number of American woodcock heard on the Singing-ground Survey, 1968-2013. Note, no state or province has a significant or non-significant long-term increase.

Fig. 2: Ten-year trends in the number of American woodcock heard on the Singing-ground Survey, 2003-2013.

Cooper, T.R., and R.D. Rau. 2013. American woodcock population status, 2013. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland. 16pp.

USFS reports are available at:

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewsPublicationsReports.html>

'We need what I have often called an ecological approach to the management of our resources and we do not have that now. We have the inertia of past habits, unsustainable habits.'

-Maurice Strong – born 1929 Canadian Oil entrepreneur



U.S. Supreme Court Reverses Devastating Decision to Forest Wildlife Habitat

Coraopolis, PA – The Ruffed Grouse Society applauds the U.S. Supreme Court in its decision to reverse a 9th Circuit Court ruling to further regulate forest management -- Decker v. Northwest Environmental Defense Center, U.S. No. 11-338 (March 20, 2013) -- a judgment that was potentially devastating to forest wildlife habitat. The reversal makes a strong statement against additional and unnecessary permitting of forest management practices and is good news for forest wildlife.

In 2010, the 9th Circuit Court in California ruled that rainwater runoff from forest roads caused by timber harvest and other forest management activities was an “industrial pollutant”, and therefore subject to permitting regulations under the Clean Water Act authorized by the Environmental Protection Agency. This overturned 35 years of existing harvesting practices and regulatory interpretation.

If allowed to stand, the decision would require that all landowners, including private individuals, spend considerable amounts of time and money to apply for appropriate permits through the EPA. This process would greatly discourage private individuals from implementing management practices on their lands. Such a decision would drastically reduce the habitat availability for ruffed grouse, American woodcock and other forest wildlife that thrive on the young forest habitat created only through forest management. Undoubtedly, the regulations would expand to a nationwide mandate.

Because of the potential negative impacts on forest habitat development, the Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) filed an Amicus Curiae brief with the Supreme Court prior to its decision. Oral arguments were heard in December 2012, and the final decision came down March 20, 2013.

The Supreme Court determined that the EPA has been historically consistent in interpreting its own rule to not require such permitting for forest road runoff, and therefore, the agency’s interpretation should receive deference unless plainly erroneous or inconsistent. In addition, multiple states have existing best management practices for addressing rainwater runoff on logging roads, so additional federal regulation would simply be duplicative or counterproductive. The attorneys general for 31 states joined with RGS to file briefs with the Supreme Court in opposition to the 9th Circuit ruling.

Regional Dunning Counts will be available on RGS website soon...
www.ruffedgrousesociety.org



Tick Borne Disease Update Available

The University of Minnesota Extension and Department of Forest Resources recently [updated their tick-borne diseases](#) page to include a very good UMN Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative presentation on risks from Lyme and other tick-borne diseases.

Gary Zimmer – RGS Senior Biologist Selected to Wisconsin Natural Resource Board

The announcement of Gary's appointment to a 6 yr. term, which began on May 1, serves as yet further reinforcement of the veneration RGS has within our respective regions. This appointment demonstrates Gary's astuteness of ecological and management issues affecting the RGS mission, and ability to work constructively with cooperating agencies and organizations in the implementation and development of effective solutions. Congratulations to Gary as he assumes this responsibility and continues to provide leadership to the RGS Biological staff as our Senior Biologist.

TruckVault to Support RGS Again – Vote Often!

TruckVault Cares ... for conservation, canines & kids 4th annual initiative, the third involving RGS, is ready for takeoff. [Voting](#) begins June 25 and every vote counts to determine the percentage of the \$10,000 that RGS will receive. Add the [TruckVault Cares...](#) and [TruckVault Cares Facebook](#) pages to your Internet browser home pages and vote every day.

Scott Linden's TV show Wingshooting USA will launch the [promotion](#) on July 1. Major sponsor of the promotion TruckVault is joined by Filson, Happy Jack, Royal Flush Adventures, Webley & Scott, Kent Cartridge and Pursuit Channel to offer the money to the organizations and prizes to the voters. Thank you to all of the sponsors.

New this year is an effort to mobilize even more support (and funds) via Facebook. In addition to simply "Liking" the TruckVault Cares Facebook page, everyone is encouraged to vote for their favorite group there in addition to the voting at the TruckVault web page. It allows each voter to spread the word on Facebook by clicking on "**Share**" and "**Rally**" buttons generating even greater reach. Use both methods for voting - there are separate prize packages on each.

Spring / Summer FAN
2013



Mid-Atlantic
S. Appalachian Region

New RGS Email Addresses

RGS now has a corporate e-mail domain effective for all staff, ***ruffedgrousesociety.org***. Placing the RGS staff person's first name and first letter of their last name followed by the corporate connection will put you in touch with your desired party! My new e-mail is lindao@ruffedgrousesociety.org. Please update your address books to reflect these changes as soon as possible in order to keep in contact with us.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments:

Linda D. Ordiway
Phone: (412) 720-6034
E-mail: lindao@ruffedgrousesociety.org

Established in 1961, The Ruffed Grouse Society is North America's foremost conservation organization dedicated to preserving our sporting traditions by creating healthy forest habitat for ruffed grouse, American woodcock and other wildlife. RGS works with landowners and government agencies to develop critical habitat utilizing scientific management practices. For information on the Ruffed Grouse Society, please call 888-564-6747 or check out the RGS website at www.ruffedgrousesociety.org.