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To: [FAN Recipients](#)
Subject: FW: Appalachians Update - Forest Action Network

Forest Action Network

Appalachian Update

Tickets Now Available for the 2009/2010 RGS National Raffle

Tickets are now available for the 2009/2010 RGS National Raffle. The raffle winner will receive a Winchester Model 21 Baby Frame 28 gauge shotgun. This one of a kind gun features 28" barrels choked IC/M with two beads, a straight English stock crafted from AAA fancy feathercrotch walnut to a checkered butt, and a 14 1/2" LOP. The beavertail fore-end has an ebony insert in the tip. It has a single selective trigger and the RGS logo is hand-engraved in gold on the bottom of the receiver. The approximate retail value of this gun is \$28,000. Tickets are \$100 each with the winner drawn on June 30, 2010. To purchase raffle tickets, contact Mark Banker at 814-867-7946 or rgsbank@comcast.net, any RGS staff person, or go to www.ruffedgrousesociety.org.

Don't Miss Timberdoodle.org

Timberdoodle.org is a new website created by the Wildlife Management Institute that describes in detail woodcock management projects throughout the eastern U.S. Well-known outdoor and nature writer Chuck Fergus manages the information on the website and describes the various projects in his unique and effective style. The website not only describes the projects and provides pictures, but also gives specific direction to the sites for the curious land manager who wants to see what good woodcock management looks like. The curious hunter may also find the directions helpful.....

Pennsylvania Bill Would Allow Game Commission to Make the Call on Sunday Hunting

Pennsylvania is one of the handful of states that does not allow Sunday hunting. House Bill 779, very simply stated, would give the PA Game Commission the authority to make decisions about Sunday hunting as opposed to legislative action, which is what is currently required. If you live in PA, we encourage you to make your voice heard with your state representatives. PA is a state with a very large hunting population. Recent history would suggest that those hunters are not easily convinced to change their traditions, even if it means MORE hunting opportunities. The Society also would like to hear what you think about Sunday hunting in PA.

Two Timber Harvests Completed on Forbes State Forest

The Society has completed its first two timber sales the 2,300-acre Barron Tract of the Forbes State Forest, Somerset County, PA. The two cuts, one 85 acres and the other 65 acres, were done with grouse and woodcock in mind. The area has a healthy supply of grouse, so these fairly large patches of new habitat should mean some very good hunting in years to come.

The tract of land was purchased by the Western PA Conservancy from Lyme Timber Company two years ago and given to the DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Forbes State Forest. The timber rights, however, were conveyed to the Society for 15 years as part of an effort to emphasize habitat management on newly acquired state lands. Appalachian Forest Consultants are administering the sales on behalf of the Society, with more work planned for 2010. The Society was responsible for seeding the skid trails and log decks with RGS Grouse Trail Mix following logging. The Bureau of Forestry has worked extremely well with the Society to make the management go smoothly. More details of this project can be found at www.timberdoodle.org.

Michigan Preliminary Drumming Results for 2009

Since many of you travel to Michigan to hunt grouse, I wanted to pass this information along. Gary Zimmer, RGS Senior Biologist in Wisconsin, gets the credit for providing the info. In summary, last year and this year look pretty much the same.

Due to personnel limitations, the ruffed grouse drumming survey was not conducted statewide in 2009. However, 42 drumming routes were run in the Upper Peninsula. In 2008, 50 drumming routes were run in the Upper Peninsula. There was no difference in the average number of drums heard per route between 2008 (18.9) and 2009 (18). Because routes were not conducted in Ontonagon and Gogebic counties in 2009, results do not represent those counties.

Ruffed grouse populations have exhibited ten-year cycles in abundance over much of Canada, Alaska, and the Great Lakes states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan (Rusch et al. 1999). Many factors affect grouse populations including changes in habitat and food availability. It is unclear why the population cycles occur, but many theories have been proposed (Rusch 1989). The population in Michigan is expected to peak in 2010. Reported by Al Stewart and Val Frawley, MI DNR - 517-373-1263

Dan Holliman Joins RGS as NY/Northern PA Regional Director

Dan Holliman as the newest member of RGS' team of Regional Directors. Dan is from Syracuse, New York and has been an active member of RGS since 1996. He is also a member of the Conservation Alliance of NY – an umbrella group that represents sportsmen and women. He believes it is key for all RGS members, and potential members, to understand how vital it is to work toward making a difference in the legacy of hunting through active management of habitat.

As an avid hunter, Holliman is passionate about double guns, conservation and dogs. In his spare time, he trains his two English setters, Appalachia and Sierra. Enjoying the outdoors has been a life-long interest for Holliman. He anticipates sharing his passion for conservation by growing new RGS chapters. "I look forward to helping members and non-members alike understand the importance of young-forest habitat, not only for our sporting heritage, but also for many species of wildlife, like deer and songbirds. We must realize that the agenda goes beyond our immediate coverts," says Holliman. "The non-for-profit sector has an important voice in state and local policies that affect our natural surroundings throughout our nation."

Dan may be reached at rgsdan10@gmail.com.

To modify a phrase used most recently by Alan Jackson and Jimmy Buffet, "It's Grouse Season Somewhere". Many of you are on your way to those places or soon will be.

Good luck and have fun!

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