RUffed grouSe
Ecology and Habitat Management

Dan Dessecker    Ruffed Grouse Society
Young forest habitat
Nesting Habitat – Variable
RUDDED GROUSE POPULATION
Wisconsin

Drums per Stop

YEAR

1965 70 75 80 85 90 95 2000 5 10
Aspen = Ruffed Grouse
Ruffed Grouse Fall Population Density by Forest Type (Data: WI DNR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forest Type</th>
<th>Grouse/100 acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aspen-Birch</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fir</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Hrdwd.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Aspen Forest Habitats

![Graph showing the decline of Aspen Forest Habitats in Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin over time. The y-axis represents million acres, and the x-axis represents years from 1945 to 2005. The graph indicates a significant reduction in Aspen Forest Habitats across all states, with Minnesota showing the steepest decline.]
Young Forest Habitats
(1 – 20 years old)
1985 - 2005

% CHANGE

STATE

MN WI MI IN OH WV PA NY VT NH MA ME
Even-age Habitat Management
Acres Treated per Year
National Forests in the Eastern US
Private Forest: Tracts < 100 Acres
USFS FIA Data
Breeding Bird Population Trends
Eastern United States 1980 – 2009 (USFWS BBS Data)

- Young Forest - Shrub Breeding Habitat:
  - Red = Decreasing: 34%
  - Green = Increasing: 8%
  - White = Stable: 58%

- Mature Forest Breeding Habitat:
  - Red = Decreasing: 39%
  - Green = Increasing: 30%
  - White = Stable: 31%
Songbird Response to Silvicultural Treatments

- Prairie warbler
- Eastern Towhee
- Yellow-breasted Chat
- Indigo bunting

Treatments:
- Clearcut
- Group selection
- Mature
- Shelterwood
- Single-tree
“There are two kinds of hunting, ordinary hunting, and ruffed grouse hunting.”
Aldo Leopold – A Sand County Almanac

1,000,000 hunters
~ $500 per hunter
Trends in Hunter Numbers
United States

Million Hunters

Small Game
Pheasant
Turkey

1985
2005
Perception is the Only Reality
RGS works to promote a better understanding of the role of forest management in the conservation of forest wildlife.

Talk to your neighbor.
Questions??