

RUFFED GROUSE MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Raised by Working Group February 6, 2002

Population

- Need better population information. There seems to be a lack of research on grouse.
- Predation impacts, if any (coyotes, peregrine falcons, etc.)

Habitat

- Habitat loss from development, natural succession, etc.
- Regionally, Maine has better grouse habitat than states south of us. Habitat differences between northern and southern Maine is very evident. There is good habitat for both grouse and woodcock on industrial forestlands.

Management

- Need studies on timber stand improvement (TSI), herbicides, and silvicultural treatments and affects on grouse and woodcock.
- Research in the Great Lake's states is not necessarily applicable to Maine.
- Identify the environmental regulations that inhibit management of wildlife – i.e. wetland regulations that preclude certain management activities. What is the affect of the Forest Practices Act and reduced clearcutting?

Hunting

- Hunting impacts, if any – especially in northern Maine during the moose-hunting season. Can a study be done to document impacts?
- Need better harvest information.
- Concern that an 8-bird possession limit amounts to an 8-bird bag limit.

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Outreach

- Need public outreach to increase the understanding and awareness of grouse, its habitat and management requirements and to encourage off-road hunting.