



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**
NEW JERSEY

Dear Ms. Petzinger,

The Backcountry Hunters & Anglers New Jersey Chapter supports the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's plan to cut stand # 2 of Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area. These cuts will increase plant diversity and promote biodiversity, which sustains a complex and robust habitat that is beneficial to wildlife and resilient to climate change.

Implementing management of young forest habitat, which is not clear cutting, will be implemented by allowing 10-15 large trees to remain per acre as seed trees or shelterwood forest type. The purpose of young forest management is to regenerate patches of hardwood oak-hickory forest type as well as a variety of shrubs, sedges and forbs beneficial to all wildlife.

Previously managed stands have benefited strongly from these management practices. To date the number of bird species using managed sites during the breeding season more than doubled prior to management; 82 different bird species, 30 of which are Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) have been observed using at least one of the managed sites. The effort will aid in the recovery of the endangered Golden-winged Warbler.

In addition to helping birds, this habitat will also benefit a variety of mammals and reptiles that require open and/or young forest conditions during some stage of their life cycles and also helps to perpetuate native species dependent on natural disturbances such as fires, beavers, and hurricanes by replicating this with forest management.

Sincerely,

New Jersey Backcountry Hunters & Anglers New Jersey Chapter Board



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