



Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society
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August 8, 2019

Natural Resources Commission
Division of Hearings
Indiana Government Center North
100 North Senate Avenue, Room N103
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2200

Esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen of the Commission,

On October 31, 2018, the Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society (RGS/AWS) submitted a letter in response to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) Rule Ideas for the 2018 Got INput Period in support of adding ruffed grouse to the list of endangered species of birds in Indiana (312 IAC 9-4-14, repeal 312 IAC 9-4-10). We are now submitting this petition for administrative rule adoption (under IC 4-22-2), requesting the Natural Resources Commission expeditiously enact this rule change at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Got INput Rule Idea was based on a recommendation for listing that was prepared by the Indiana Nongame Bird Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). We fully concur with the TAC recommendation and recognize the robust scientific data and literature which have long indicated the precipitous decline in ruffed grouse throughout their historic range within the state of Indiana. The TAC recommendation and DFW data summaries and interpretation conclude that ruffed grouse historic distribution likely included all of Indiana, but populations have declined to less than 1% of levels observed as recently as the 1980s, with a trajectory towards state extinction in the absence of major management actions. Further delays place ruffed grouse at greater risk of these consequences.

RUFFED GROUSE  SOCIETY
Healthy Forests - Abundant Wildlife - Sporting Traditions

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RGS/AWS is committed to uniting conservationists to improve wildlife habitat and forest health. Both as a national organization representing 17,000 members and on behalf of our 157 Hoosier members, we respectfully request careful and appropriate consideration of this administrative rule adoption. We value the conservation partnership between RGS/AWS and DFW, look forward to assisting the Commission in this important deliberation, and remain devoted to working with DFW towards a positive future for conservation of ruffed grouse and associated forest wildlife.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry M. Seitzinger, ACF
President
Ruffed Grouse Society Indiana Chapter

Co-signed,

Brent A. Rudolph, Ph.D.
Chief Conservation and Legislative Officer
Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society

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