



November 30, 2022

Shannon Lott
MI DNR Acting Director
Department of Natural Resources
Executive Division
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909

Subject: Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center Military Land Use Expansion Proposal

Dear Director Lott,

The Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society have long appreciated our working relationship with Michigan DNR and hope to continue partnership with you long into the future. Of course, we won't agree on every issue and the current topic of Camp Grayling may be one such departure.

Our members and staff recognize the many economic, recreational, social, and aesthetic values within Michigan's publicly accessible forests. We also understand the pressures that multiple use of these lands can bring and how you must balance various uses. RGS & AWS has been represented at public meetings and requested information on how the proposal would affect access, how the land was acquired, and what funds have been used in its management for public access and habitat conservation. However, answers to these key questions affecting our public lands have gone unanswered. We believe that investments in public use of these lands must be honored; otherwise, contributors should be compensated for loss of recreational opportunity.

While RGS & AWS support our armed forces and recognize it may be necessary for Camp Grayling to expand in order to provide safety and security, we do not understand the full scope of this proposal relevant to changes in access and hunting opportunity and are opposed to the plan as it stands.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Michigan National Guard, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and our conservation partners during this process to find an acceptable solution. If you or staff have any questions regarding these comments, please do not hesitate to contact our regional staff.

Kindest Regards,

Benjamin C. Jones

President and CEO
Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society