

OHIO DIV. of WILDLIFE: GROUSE HABITAT VIDEO

A Project to Save Grouse and 60 Species of Declining Wildlife

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This 5-minute video demonstrates the urgent need to pass HB 1483.

The following short (5-minute) video demonstrates the need to pass HB 1483 and is the key toward saving more than 60 species of rapidly declining Pennsylvania wildlife. Every legislator, sportsman, and citizen should view this video. Other state wildlife agencies such as Arkansas, Minnesota, and in this case, Ohio, "can see the forest for the trees". The Pennsylvania Game Commission has failed to even recognize the crisis, and lacks the ability and the will to resolve it. HB 1483 will accomplish in Pennsylvania what other states that understand this simple concept can only dream of achieving.

- **Please watch this 5-Minute Video entitled "Wildlife in Decline, Preserve Our Legacy"**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYGQVIODiqQ&feature=em-subsub_digest

To add with the video, the following three paragraphs are from the second menu item on the newly created *Friends of Pennsylvania Wildlife* website: <https://www.friendsofpennsylvaniawildlife.org>. Every legislator, sportsman, and citizen of the Commonwealth should read this concise website.

One of Six Major Benefits of HB 1483 (copied from the 2-page report entitled "Benefits of HB 1483"):

(2) Wildlife Habitat / Grouse and Other Species of Game and Nongame Wildlife. In addition to benefitting white-tailed deer, HB 1483's vast habitat enhancement system will create early successional forest stands on 4,800 square miles of public forestlands. The American Bird Conservancy identified "early successional forests" of the Northeast as one of the Top 10 threatened habitats in the United States. HB 1483 will especially benefit grouse populations, surpassing even those recommendations of the Ruffed Grouse Society. According to PGC's grouse biologist, Lisa Williams, "*Sightings this year were the fewest ever. If there's any good news, it's that grouse populations appear able to withstand illness if there's enough good habitat spread over a wide expanse.*" "*That is not how things have to be*", said Dan Dessecker, conservation policy director for the Ruffed Grouse Society. "*This is not rocket science. If you have young forests, you will have grouse. Pennsylvania doesn't,*" he said. PGC has failed for decades to cut mature timber as habitat for deer, grouse, and other wildlife. Our forests are now 80-120 years old with closed tree-tops that are blocking sunlight from reaching the forest floor.

Pete Sussenbach, director of PGC's bureau of habitat management, said, "*Right now we are heavily skewed toward that 80- to 120-year-old age class. There's just not a heck of a lot of those early successional forests out there. A dot of it here and there isn't going to do much. The problem is only expected to get worse.*" "*Grouse aren't going to disappear completely in the meantime*", concluded PGC's Lisa Williams.

The future success of our State Bird depends on passage of HB 1483. Habitat will be greatly improved for myriad other species of game and nongame wildlife from snowshoe hares, bats, and songbirds to pollinators such as honeybees and Monarch butterflies. There will be no public costs incurred from habitat enhancement operations. **There is no provision that is more important to deer, grouse, and other forest-dwelling wildlife than HB 1483.**

- **A 2nd 13-minute video by the Ruffed Grouse Society punctuates the critical need for HB 1483:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taFNXt1vAMk&t=68s>