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Clearcuts and roads are not inherently bad. They can be done poorly and cause erosion and sediment problems and damage the forest, or they can be done properly and cause regeneration of shade intolerant species of trees and shrubs. At the same time they also create habitat for animals like grouse and rabbits and these animals provide a food source for predators such as bobcats and hawks. This is more biodiversity not less.

The beautiful and very valuable forest we have today is the result of massive clearcutting done about a hundred years ago. That clearcutting was done irresponsibly and with total disregard for environmental values but the forest was still able to recover.

Larry Schultz
Pres., North Central Forest Landowners Assoc.

The Pennsylvania Biodiversity Listserve encourages open discussion about biodiversity issues in the state. It is hosted by the Allegheny Institute of Natural History, University of Pittsburgh-Bradford and is moderated by the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership. The opinions expressed in messages are those of the authors and NOT the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership.