Storing more carbon in western Cascades forests could benefit some wildlife species, not others

Nick Houtman : 4-5 minutes : 11/17/2016

New research suggests the western bluebird is one species that may not be favored by forest management approaches that reduce timber harvesting. Credit: Oregon State University

Forest management policies that aim to store more carbon in the Pacific Northwest may benefit some wildlife species more than others.

According to a recently published analysis, increasing carbon storage could lead to more favorable conditions for northern spotted owls, pileated woodpeckers, olive-sided flycatchers, Pacific marten and red tree voles. These species may benefit from management policies that favor less intensive logging and longer periods between tree harvests.

However, mule deer and western bluebirds may not fare so well. Both species rely on open, early successional forests that could become less common under management policies that reduce harvesting.

The analysis of timber harvesting, wildlife habitat and the amount of carbon stored in