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Comments: Old growth and mature forests are known for their rich biodiversity. As a wildlife rehabilitator and educator, I promote the protection of old growth and mature forests. We have seen a decline in various species of wildlife due to habitat loss and fragmentation. In the case of the Eastern Box Turtle, a woodland creature who is unable to swiftly fly or run to other possible habitats, habitat loss/fragmentation has been a factor in the significant population decline of Eastern Box Turtles in many eastern US states. Our children and grandchildren have less opportunity to enjoy seeing this once-familiar neighborhood reptile. In order to provide Eastern Box Turtles with the habitat they need to survive and flourish, we must protect our old growth and mature forests.

IMAGE ATTACHED: Box Turtle in woody debris