

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/29/2022 4:00:00 AM

First name: Samuel

Last name: Hurley

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The very few remaining patches of old growth forest that we have in this country should absolutely be preserved. The difference between old growth and second growth forest can be startling and makes a real difference. This should definitely be a priority.

This is especially urgent for our dryland pinyon and juniper forests however. Vast swaths of this important habitat are being purposefully eliminated with "masticators" - at taxpayer expense right now!

This is being done solely to benefit the cattle and sheep herders that have overgrazed so much of our public land so grievously.

The claim that this is being done in order to to benefit sage grouse is absolutely cynical and false.

I personally have seen huge areas of what once was prime recreation and wildlife land absolutely ravaged by this terrible policy.

Some of these trees are ancient and can live up to a thousand years. However, these important native trees are being cleared, ground up and left to rot. All so they can run a few more cows or sheep on that land.

Most people do not realize how old some of these pinyon juniper forests are and that many are, in fact old growth forests. They are just smaller trees because they are living in a very harsh arid environment.

There are many creatures like the Pinyon Jay that only live there.

It is absolutely heartbreaking to see these areas being destroyed - by our own government at taxpayer expense.

Please do something to stop the destruction of this endangered habitat.

ATTACHMENT: Your tax dollar at work.PNG Image of bulldozer among down treesPinyon and juniper are native trees. They belong here. In many areas they are the only trees that can grow. They support a range of wildlife and create excellent areas for camping.