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Comments: Ladies and Gentlemen, may my comment and those comments of other Americans who believe there needs to be a paradigm shift in our forest and grassland management to prevent annual catastrophic-mega-wildfires. Prior to the early Europeans who settled and cleared vast stretches of forest and grasslands, early indigenous people set fire ?? on the landscape to benefit the needs of those people. As centuries passed and Nation Building began people quickly lost sight of what the future of the natural environment would hold for us.

Due to the lack of the largest trees on Earth ??, along with ongoing drought conditions triggered by human induced climate change, we are facing a growing threat of catastrophic wildfires.

Our human impact is causing anywhere from 70-90% of all wildfires.

As a forestry professional and author of Axe-It-First, I remain concerned about the lack of forest and grassland management on public lands, particularly, the USFS. In order, to prevent annual catastrophic wildfires, we must be proactive in our efforts to reduce the high-density and flashy fuels that ignite and carry wildfires. I believe there must be a balanced plan to, first, maximize utilization that is focused to benefit the economy as we benefit the environment with habitat protection and the protection to human assets at risk. This can be accomplished through an accelerated timber sales before a wildfire destroys the resource.

First and foremost, the Federal Government needs to accelerate forest utilization contracts that embraces a broad spectrum of forest products that can be brought to market.

If we continue to fail, then we will see our resources destroyed and habitat loss accelerated and human infrastructure and assets at risk destroyed.

It's time for everyone to step up, including the federal government.

Let this be our opportunity for us to do the Right Thing!

Ron Rommel

ATTACHMENT: IMG_1221.jpeg - photo of book cover: "Axe it first - Preventing catastrophic-mega-wildfires, Ron Rommel"