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Comments: When considering Climate Change during forest planning, air and water quality become more important than timber production. As a nature-lover with a PhD in Biology, I feel that a healthy forest should be biologically diverse with a wide range of niches and a vast array of species of all sorts, from bears and birds to bugs and micro-fauna.

Fire, impacting not only visible life, but also myriad underground beings, can be a detriment to the health of forests of the Ozark Plateau. Most of the Ozarks are relatively free of historically frequent fires. Responsible low impact ground fires in the Ozark Forests temporarily expose the ground, but the canopy quickly closes. I suggest the USFS significantly reduce their use of controlled burning.

Off Road Vehicles destroy ground cover and vegetation, causing disproportionate amounts of soil erosion (considering the number of citizens served by OHV recreation). The Ozark National Forest is an incredible and irreplaceable resource that must not be squandered trying to fill a perceived need of a small minority.

Oil and Gas production should not be a priority on U. S. Forest Service land. Global climate change will force us all, sooner or later, to convert to alternative energy. Why not adopt a low carbon footprint and make the USFS a leader in selling carbon credits?

Soil erosion lowers water quality. Northwest Arkansas continues to experience population growth. Most NWA residents get drinking water from Beaver Lake, of whose watershed the ONF is the largest landholder. I urge you to embrace the realization that clean water, a resilient ecosystem, and pure air will become the greatest value of publicly owned land. Air quality is a serious concern when the forest is intentionally burned, and not only as it affects urban areas. Please consider all the animals and birds negatively impacted by poor air quality and habitat destruction from controlled burns.

Species extinctions have reached unprecedented levels in modern times. The Ozark National Forest represents some of the best large blocks of relatively undisturbed wilderness, so critical for survival of numerous endangered plant and animal species. Please leave the forest largely intact, with less disruption and more conservation.

Thank you for considering my comments.