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First name: Brad

Last name: Snyder

Organization: N/A

Title:

Comments: As a Science Teacher/Environmental Educator, Science/STEM Professional, and a Climate change/Biodiversity-Extinction Crisis/Environmental & Natural World Protections Advocate, I wholeheartedly urge the Biden administration to conduct a comprehensive inventory of mature and old-growth piñon pine and juniper forests on the Colorado Plateau during this first stage of implementing the president's executive order. It is important that ALL old-growth and mature forests, in dryland ecosystems as well as the better-known alpine and Pacific Northwest environments, are conserved for the benefit of wildlife, air and water quality, climate adaptation, mankind, and so much more!!

We MUST do everything we can to fight climate change and the Biodiversity-Extinction Crisis, including natural climate solutions, to benefit ALL life on Earth!!

The loss of species will eventually have a detrimental impact on mankind!!

We need a transformative shift toward an economic model where we value nature by restoring, conserving, and using it sustainably!! But there are some areas that are so special that they MUST be protected for eternity!!

Economic advancement cannot come at the cost of destroying natural resources!!

- Covering 15% of the land area in five states (Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah), piñon pine and juniper forests are subject to temperature extremes and limited moisture availability. These forests are often the sole woodland provider of wildlife habitat, vegetative cover, watershed protection, and traditional food and medicine gathering in dryland and arid BLM-managed lands across the West.

- Single-leaf piñon pine trees can reach ages of up to 600 years and juniper can reach ages of up to 1,600 years. These historic forests and associated undisturbed biological soil crusts store a disproportionate amount of carbon in dryland ecosystems and are more resistant to disruptions caused by climate change.

- Old-growth piñon-juniper forests are home to more than 70 bird species and are often the only suitable habitat for many of these species, whose populations are currently declining rapidly under intense pressure from climate change, development, and drought.

- Although they cover hundreds of millions of acres and provide irreplaceable habitat and ecosystem benefits, piñon-juniper forests are among the least studied and most ignored North American forest types. The BLM should ensure that its inventory and criteria for mature and old-growth forests include piñon pine and juniper forests, which are the largest forest type by acreage managed by the agency.

PLEASE, you MUST do all you can to restore and protect the natural world for the benefit of ALL generations!!

Thanks!