Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/28/2022 4:10:42 PM First name: Carol Last name: Hinkelman Organization: Title:

Comments: America's mature forests are vitally important as carbon sinks that fight climate change and as wildlife habitat for our fast disappearing wildlife species. Time is running out to prevent the worst effects of climate change and preserving forests is one of the easiest things we can do in this battle. We are also in a time of great loss of biodiversity and conserving forests as wildlife habitat is also crucial.

Millions of acres of Pinon-Juniper forest are perfectly adapted to the harsh dry climate of the Southwest so they are especially important to wildlife. There are no other species that can replace them in this unprecedented period of drought. These ecosystems have evolved over millions of years and nothing we can do will work as well in these challenging conditions.