

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/29/2022 10:24:26 PM

First name: Andrew

Last name: Slager

Organization: First United Lutheran Church

Title:

Comments: As an elderly man of 70 I have had the opportunity to see and reflect on a good deal of what this beautiful country has to offer. As a child, I had the great good fortune to be reared by parents, who though they only had grammar school educations educated us in environmental concerns. Both were reared on small farms and were very environmentally aware. My fondest memories go back to those days of traveling throughout much of the South, Midwest and West and seeing so much open space, but much of that is lost forever due in large measure to the population doubling in my lifetime and urban sprawl. We desperately need to preserve and conserve what we can for our own psychological health and to counter climate change. We need the clean air and the clean water that come with conservation measures, not just for ourselves but also for animal life.

As an example of the effect on animal life, I submit my own experience. For 40 years I have been a serious birdwatcher and have seen at least a 30% decline in overall bird populations and a 75% reduction in some species that rely heavily on old growth trees, whether it be in rain forests, arid plains, swamps or moderate climates.

Please carefully consider ways to optimize what we have left of these magnificent old forests. Thanks.