

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/1/2023 8:31:46 PM

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Comments: The Forest Service Plan of 2006 contains objectives such as Goal #2: To increase late successional and old growth habitats.

Yet the TGIRP has a focus of increasing early successional habitats. So the 2006 plan and the TGIRP are at odds with each other.

Old Growth habitats already exist in great proportions in the TGIRP areas. It simply does not make sense to destroy current mature habitat to create early successional habitat that won't be viable for another 30 years or so. We do not have 30 years to spare at this point of climate change to achieve the ideal forest composition. When an old tree dies naturally, the space it occupied is then available for new early growth. That happens naturally. The added benefit is that as the old tree decays, it adds to the habitat of creatures, to the soil composition and to carbon storage in the soil. When the tree is harvested, the mycorrhizae networks in the ground are compacted and compromised, leading to less water absorption and nutrient density of the soil. The tree's occupants are robbed of a home, whether standing or decaying on the ground, biodiversity is altered. The alternative is to let the forest manage itself, as it has been doing for hundreds of years.