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Comments: LET NATURE BE: Humans cannot manufacture old growth forest. The best way to restore old growth forest within the HNF and many other eastern national forests is for the Forest Service to simply leave mature forests alone and study them to gain a better understanding of how mature eastern hardwood forest returns to the old growth condition and how old growth forest will respond to climate change.

STOP BURNING CENTRAL HARDWOOD FORESTS: Tell the USDA that it must restrain the Forest Service from its plans to conduct prescribed burns throughout the HNF and other eastern national forests until it has established a scientific, factual record that fire was a significant natural disturbance agent in the central hardwoods and should not allow prescribed burning otherwise. The map below of areas prone to fire disturbance in the U.S. demonstrates that Indiana is in the heart of the region least prone to fire.