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Comments: I worked for the USFS for 33 years; twelve of those years I conducted Old Growth Inventory across the 2,000,000-acre San Juan National Forest in Colorado.

OLD GROWTH is NOT just old trees. It is entire ecosystems which contain large, old trees according to the growing capability of the site (based on moisture, elevation, etc.) Large dead standing trees and dead-topped trees are very important for wildlife and birds.

OLD GROWTH contains MANY organisms which are specific to that type of ecosystem; large organisms such as birds and mammals, all the way down to fungi, moss, and lichens, some of which take hundreds of years to move into a given area because their habitat requirements are so specific.

The old trees themselves contain a wealth of genetic information which may or may not be carried over to younger forests for many reasons. That genetic information is extremely valuable for study of climate change adaptability, both for the forests as well as the wildlife and birds in that old growth ecosystem.

These Old Growth ecosystems are NOT replaceable in our lifetimes and MUST be protected from logging and stand-replacing fires.

The world NEEDS Old Growth ecosystems. These important "cogs" in the wheel of life are absolutely a NECESSARY part of protecting our planet's future.