

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/24/2024 5:54:44 PM

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Comments: Hello,

I'm Zack Stoll, a former Wildlife technician, have work for USFS, USFW, Mass Audubon, and several other organizations. Though I no longer work with wildlife, I am an avid outdoorsman spending my time hunting, fishing, foraging, and just enjoying time in the outdoors. I have worked and recreated across the country in many different ecosystems.

I applaud your effort to protect old growth forest, trees, and ecosystems across our national forest system. They are a unique, beautiful, and awe inspiring. But equally important are early seral forest communities. As much wildlife depends on these early communities and forest disturbance as old growth forests. USFS should be managing early, middle, and old growth equally to provide habitat for species and life cycles, instead of creating even aged stands that become less than ideal habitat. Doing so optimizes carbon outcomes, habitat, and wildfire. The Forest Service must conduct more vegetation management on larger geographic scales to restore forest health and promote resilience, which includes an ecologically appropriate abundance and distribution of mature and old growth forests where those traits are lacking. Climate change, fire, drought are the leading threats to our current old growth and those factors need to be mitigated

Thank you