

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 1:23:41 AM

First name: Victoria

Last name: Fox

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have worked in natural resources for the past 10 years of my career since graduating from university with my degree in restoration ecology. I am a former botanist, and now work as a wildlife biologist. The state of our forests is direct and immediate concern, not only for my ability to recreate on our natural lands, not only to utilize our public natural resources for sustenance (mushrooms, berries), but also for my career and my living. As the forests become increasingly degraded due to disturbance, human impacts and climate change, our wildlife populations continue to degrade as well. I am fearful that there will be a time when the species that I currently study (northern spotted owls, red tree voles, marbled murrelets, etc) become so far and few between that they cease to exist in our forests. How can I expect to remain employed as a Wildlife Biologist when the wildlife I am called to protect no longer inhabit our region? Will I need to move, or follow another career path when my skills are no longer necessary? Please consider protecting the old growth forests for the wildlife, and for those of us who make studying these species our literal bread and butter.