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Comments: I am opposed to the concept of burning eastern forests for their "health"

I recognize most foresters believe in fire as a tool to promote oak and hickory growth and remove "fire sensitive" trees to create more open space under the canopy. However i believe it was very rare for eastern forests to burn naturally, which would have been thru lightening strikes. How often have we had a significant natural forest fire in Indiana, none in my 70 year lifespan. The reason- our eastern forests are simply not prone to burn, they are too damp!

Most eastern forest fires were caused by man, ie indians precolonization.

I am also concerned that prescribed burning will kill multiple small animals including our increasingly rare eastern box turtles, various snakes, small rodents. It is unlawful to possess one eastern box turtle but the burning will kill potentially hundreds?

Let the forest manage itself, the healthiest forests are old growth forests untouched by man.

We should have more wilderness areas designated in indiana where forests can grow undisturbed by man.