Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/18/2024 4:00:00 AM First name: CHRISTOPHER Last name: JAMES Organization:

Title:

Comments: It is imperative that for balance and benefit to all wildlife species that the forest management plan for the National Forest System focus on obtaining and maintaining an equally balanced variety of forest age class. Early successional growth that results from taking out some of the old growth forest provides a very important of plant biodiversity that then provides the habitat for biodiversity of insects and animals. Young growth forest also sets in motion a plan of obtaining a forest systems of all classes as it matures over time and sets in motion a constantly regenerating system. An overbalance of old growth forest is a bad for the population of many other species. If we as the managers of our National Forest continue to overly focus on maintaining old growth forest and less young regenerating forest then we could permanently lose some of these insects, birds and mammals that just cannot exist without the habitat that it is proven that they need. It is possible and necessary to have a healthy forest system that includes types of habitats that benefits all wildlife and most importantly we can do it in a way that is ecologically sound. This can be done with responsible active forest management by timber harvesting and accepting the benefits of wildfires.