Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/6/2025 11:27:49 PM

First name: Todd Edward

Last name: Bak Organization:

Title:

Comments: The removal of swaths of forest habitat threaten a tremendous range of plant and fungi and mammal and bird and reptile and insect and freshwater fish species dependent upon forests for nutrients and biothermal regulation and shelter but the absence of root systems which bind typically nutrient-rich soils and help prevent flooding and erosion will result in the probability of an increased frequency of flooding events which will contribute to an increased intensity of erosion. Without tree shade natural waterways as well as topsoil will be exposed to more solar radiation which will contribute to higher water and surface temperatures and increased warming trends. Fewer trees mean less opportunities for prey to evade predation. With fewer feeding options in an absent forest prey will decrease and hunting opportunities will diminish. Fewer trees mean slower warmer streams with fewer freshwater fish who need cool shaded water for camouflage and shelter and opportunities for reproduction. Fewer trees and the compromised ecological integrity of forests means fewer hunting and fishing opportunities for humans as well as animals and fewer forests means fewer opportunities for human beings to appreciate the beauty of nature's wild places as well.