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Subject: southern forests

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I would like to see our southern forests return to a more natural state. All one variety of pine is not a natural state for the forest. During last years ice storm, I volunteered on trail clean ups in Arkansas. The trees that had fallen were pine, not the hard wood native to the region.

I would like to see the forest service shift more toward managing for recreation because it has a lower impact on the forest than managing for wood. With recent cuts in the forest service budget, I would think that managing for recreation would create more of an incentive for volunteers with the forest service. People are more likely to want to build trails in areas that are pristine and not silted up because of logging up stream.

Southern Forests do not need to have any more pine plantations planted in them. If you want to manage a pine plantation, go work for a paper mill.

Thank you.

Laura Clift

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