



Groups of trees with interlocking crowns provide important habitat for wildlife, including different squirrel and bird species.

Foresters and researchers use a variety of methods, such as measuring the diameter of trees, to study current and historic forest conditions.

These forests provide sustainable recreation opportunities by reducing the risk of high-severity fires.

Fire managers plan prescribed fires to minimize the smoke impact on communities, helping to reduce the large smoke events that are associated with uncontrolled high-severity fires.

Orange-colored bark and large bark plates are signs that a tree may be very old (more than 150 years).

Thoughtful consideration of treatment impacts and benefits to many wildlife species are incorporated into planning forest treatments

Standing dead trees and logs lying on the forest floor provide important habitat and food for wildlife.

Thinning operations remove smaller trees that have grown in the absence of natural fires. In addition to reducing the risk of the trees dying in a high-severity fire event, this allows remaining trees to grow larger and more fire-resistant.

Openings are often productive areas for biodiversity – hosting a number of different grass and wildflower species that provide food and habitat for numerous insect, bird, and mammal species.

Fresh, short stumps are signs of recent thinning. Tall, decayed stumps are signs of early logging that occurred during the late 1800's or early 1900's. Historic logging operations used large 'cross-cut' saws that left tall stumps behind.

The grassy understory fuels of historic forests were critical for carrying low-intensity ground fires. A primary goal in forest restoration projects is to bring back the native grasses and wildflowers.

Restoration Leads to a Healthier Forest

Mechanical thinning of small trees and reintroducing low-intensity fire is the best way to restore and maintain ponderosa pine forests so they may be enjoyed by future generations. These treatments protect communities and restore forest ecosystems by lowering the risk of severe wildfires. The results are improved wildlife habitat, watershed function, and recreational opportunities.