

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Post your favorite conservation quotes

Re: Post your favorite conservation quotes

Author: : SonofZ3

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Pcray:

Small clearings are also created by trees reaching maturity and falling. Or beaver dams flooding a wooded area and then receding. The only thing is that neither of those allow someone to make a profit, and take place over a longer period of time.

The basic ecosystem here has changed. Changed from a predominantly evergreen forest to a mixed deciduous forest ecosystem. That change does not mean it cannot exist without human intervention, it just means that it has changed. The "original" ecosystem all over the world was bare rock, and someone the planet filled with life without human monitoring! Its crazy, I know.

Let me try to work through this. You seem to be arguing that forest ecosystems that haven't been in place almost in perpetuity cannot live by themselves (because you don't have the stratification of differently aged trees). Then how can ANY system ever start without human monitoring? The concept of ecological succession, starting from bare rock, doesn't include human "management", and it works just fine. In many places in PA our current forests started, more or less, from bare ground succession.

Lets be honest here. Logging and clearcutting can improve the numbers of certain species, but that implies that species who use that sort of ecosystem are better than those that fill niches in unbroken woodlots. So yes, if you measure a healthy ecosystem by how many deer you have, clearcutting can be great.

I still maintain that through blow downs, mature trees dying, and especially fire, open areas occur naturally, but no one gets to line their pockets off of that.