

Keeping Our Forests Healthy
By Christen Bailey

There are many problems that can be dangerous for forests, such as fires, diseases, and pollution. This is how I would solve them: I would keep the forests fairly thinned, so it is less likely for the forest to catch fire or disease. If lightning strikes one tree, it will stay on that tree, and it will be harder for fire to spread. If one tree is diseased, it won't spread to other trees if they are not touching.

I would also clean up broken branches on the ground and stuff that is not supposed to be on the ground, so that plants can grow easier without that stuff being in the way. I would also cut down the sick trees, so more trees won't catch the disease, and it would help with thinning out the forest.

If there was a stream or river, I would make sure it was safe to drink so that the animals who drink it won't get hurt or die. Crop dusters and other chemical-spraying farm equipment could cause pollution in the water. It could kill fish or anything that lives in or drinks the water.

If it is a national forest, there would most likely be trash on the ground. I would pick up the trash, so the forest wouldn't get polluted. I would also ask people to stay on trails when they hike, so it doesn't cause erosion. Sometimes in national forests, the animals are friendly. I would ask people not to touch the animals, so the animals or the people don't catch diseases.

If the trees aren't close together, I would plant new trees where needed or where one died. I would pick weeds that might be dangerous for the trees,

plants, or animals and fertilize the soil. I would not cut down healthy trees unless they are too close together. I would also make sure that when I walk through forests that I try not to step on plants unless it's grass or something like that. I hope that we can help our forests stay healthy and clean.