

If I Were in Charge...

If I were in charge of the forest, I would protect it as well as I could.

I would hire people to pick up trash in the forest. There would be no automobiles in certain areas. I would protect streams and lakes by not letting four wheelers drive in the creeks and leak gas in them. If people were camping by a lake or creek, I would not let them dump trash in the water. I would protect all of the endangered species by capturing some of the game and breeding them, then setting them free.

Logging is good because it thins out areas so more food can grow for the animals, because sunlight gets to it. If a fire is set in an area and its never been logged, it would burn rapidly because every tree is touching another. There are, also, a lot of dead trees in an unlogged area. After logging, more trees get light. I would have loggers leave a 30 foot buffer strip by streams so they stay shaded. There is more oxygen in cold water than in warm water so the fish would be healthy.

I would plant trees in logged over areas so they could grow up to be logged again. Then I'd replant it so it could be like a cycle.

My Dad is a logger. He runs a feller-buncher. This is part of a new low impact way of logging. It grabs the trees with pinchers and saws them off, then it picks them up and lays them in piles for the skidder. The skidder picks them up and moves them to the log landing where they are processed into logs and shipped by trucks to the mills. The mills then process them into useful things that we use like paper, lumber and many other products. Through keeping the forest clean and with regulated logging practices, I am keeping the forest and the land healthy for animals and for jobs.