

Dear Forests,

Out in the woods I feel at home. Trees supply us with beams, pencils, and paper. You provide habitat for animals. Forests produce oxygen by breathing in carbon dioxide and exhaling oxygen. I will protect you forever.

Thinning out the forest helps prevent beetle infestations, fighting for resources, and balancing small and large trees. We can make paper, cardboard, toilet paper, beams, and pencils. We make paper by mashing up small trees into a pulp. Then we roll out sheets of paper. Thinning the little trees in the forest helps the big trees grow. Thinning the forest helps the other trees get more water and space. Trees clustering is unhealthy for the forest. It causes trees to fight for water and it makes the trees easy targets for bark beetle infestations. The key to a healthy forest is space, water, and fresh moist topsoil.

Some trees like the Ponderosa pine can self-prune which means they can drop their lower branches when they can't reach the sun. It helps the tree protect itself against fire. Crown fires are when the forest fire has got to the top of the tree killing it. When a forest is spread out and not crowded, low fire can be beneficial to the forest's health.

I will help the forest by only cutting the small, crowded trees. I will help people to understand why a happy and healthy forest is important and that forest fire is beneficial for a healthy forest. A happy and healthy forest is important because we need fresh air and wood.

Sincerely,

Slocan Healy