My name is Sallie Thoreson and I live in Western Colorado. I am on Leadership Teams for my local Audubon Society and Great Old Broads for Wilderness chapters. My husband and I like to hike, ski, birdwatch and wildlife watch in our amazing public lands near our home.

Also, one of my favorite places to visit is Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding National Forests. I envision a world where generations to come can visit areas that are protected for wildlife and climate resiliency.

That is why I applaud the proposed rule making of the US Forest Service. The National Forests hold the keys to protecting places like the Greater Yellowstone Area and the wildlife there.

I am concerned about reports on logging of mature and old growth forests, including clearcutting, just outside of Yellowstone in the National Forest. This shows a disregard for the habitat of grizzly bears, wolves and other wildlife species. Also, science has shown that mature and old growth forests have tremendous ability to absorb and store carbon. This example shows why we need a balanced Rule by the Forest Service to ensure that conservation of habitat and animal species AND climate resiliency are provided the values they deserve.