

WHY DO FOREST ANIMALS LIVE WHERE THEY DO?

Different forest animals prefer different types of habitat, depending on the kind of food and shelter they need. Some prefer the vegetation associated with young, open forests. Others need features such as snags or fallen logs, which are commonly found in older forests. Some animals are found in forests of any age. As forests age and the habitat structure changes, the resident wildlife will change too.

Animals inhabit young, middle-aged or older forests, depending on their food and shelter needs.



The northern spotted owl prefers older forests

YOUNG, OPEN FORESTS

Young, open forests occur following disturbances such as fire or logging. Shrubs, grasses and young trees emerge first.



Who's here: mountain bluebird, black bear, American goldfinch and others

MIDDLE-AGED FORESTS

The trees in a middle-aged forest have outgrown weaker trees and other vegetation. The canopy is open enough for the growth of ground vegetation that some animals prefer.



Who's here: long-toed salamander, Roosevelt elk, Pacific tree frog and others

OLDER FORESTS

Older forests have large trees, a complex canopy, a highly developed understory of vegetation, and fallen logs and snags that provide habitat for some animals.



Who's here: hoary bat, Douglas squirrel, marbled murrelet and others

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