

WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY FORESTRY

Improve forest resilience while retaining habitat.

Every forestry treatment changes cover, forage, nesting sites, travel routes, and dead wood. Wildlife-friendly forestry identifies important features before work begins and carries them forward within a safer, healthier, and more diverse forest.



Habitat is a pattern of living trees, dead wood, shrubs, openings, water, and connections across the surrounding landscape.

● KEEP STRUCTURAL VARIETY LAYERS, PATCHES, AND EDGES

Different species use different parts of the forest.

- ✓ Retain a mix of tree sizes, ages, species, groups, openings, shrubs, and ground cover.
- ✓ Protect mature seed trees, mast or berry plants, dense cover, and known nesting or den sites.
- ✓ Use irregular treatment edges and connect habitat features where practical.

● RETAIN DEAD WOOD WISELY

SNAGS, LOGS, AND CAVITIES

Dead trees remain part of a living forest.

- ✓ Keep suitable snags and down logs where they do not create unacceptable safety or wildfire exposure.
- ✓ Favor a range of diameters and decay stages, especially cavity-bearing trees.
- ✓ Move trails or work zones when a small change can preserve a valuable feature safely.

● TIME AND MONITOR WORK REDUCE DISTURBANCE

Season and sequence can protect active use.

- ✓ Survey for active nests, dens, roosts, and sensitive habitat before work.
- ✓ Adjust timing, buffers, and routes to current wildlife and agency requirements.
- ✓ Return after treatment to watch forage, invasive plants, regeneration, and habitat use.

✓ START HERE

- ✓ List wildlife goals and known species or habitat features.
- ✓ Map water, nests, dens, snags, logs, cover, openings, and travel corridors.
- ✓ Overlay fuels, hazards, access, and tree-health priorities.
- ✓ Set retention, timing, and monitoring measures in the prescription.

▲ THE RAVEN WORKS PERSPECTIVE

Wildlife-friendly forestry is not the absence of management. It is management that recognizes habitat value, preserves useful complexity, and uses thoughtful timing and placement to achieve several goals at once.

Notice habitat. Retain complexity. Work at the right time.

Sources: Colorado State Forest Service forest-wildlife and stewardship guidance.

◎ IN THE FIELD

Three scales help protect habitat:

FEATURE

A cavity tree, log, shrub patch, seep, or nest can deserve specific protection.

STAND

Groups, openings, canopy layers, and edges shape daily cover and forage.

LANDSCAPE

Connections to neighboring habitat influence movement and long-term value.