

An aerial photograph of a forest. A central path of dead, brown trees runs vertically through the center of the image. The surrounding forest is mostly green, but shows some signs of stress or damage, particularly in the lower half. The image is partially obscured by a white diagonal shape on the right side.

# *The Copper Forest of Southern Oregon*

Rachel Lee Hall

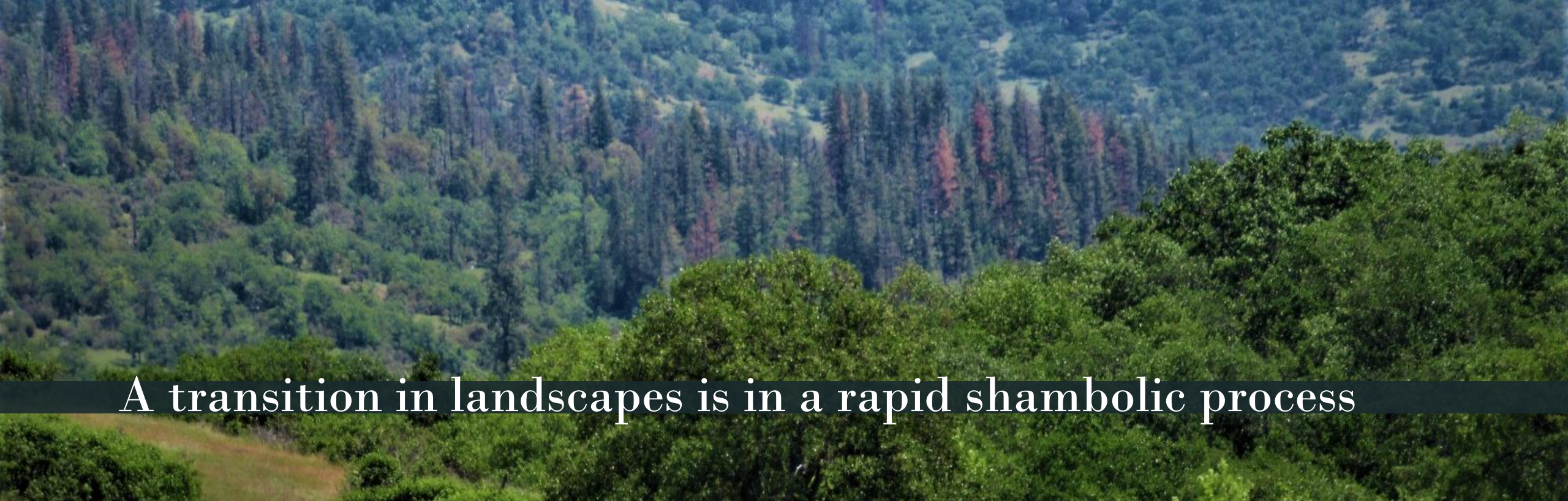
Rachel Lee Hall Forest Under Stress



# Forest Under Stress Southren Oregon

May 2023 *May 2023*  
*in Jackson County.*

Rachel Lee Hall Conservationist & Advocate for Forest  
All photos taken May 2023 in Jackson County.



*A transition in landscapes is in a rapid shambolic process*

## ***Rachel Lee Hall speaking for Forest Under Stress (FUS).***

***As a citizen advocate for the Forest in Southern Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, the thrust of FUS is to restore Active Forest Management to our federal lands.***

***Loss of forest resiliency resulted in a massive die-off of landscapes, notably conifers reaching into the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) as witnessed in these photos. The shotgun pattern of dead trees among the living reaches to the crown and is well established in the WUI.***

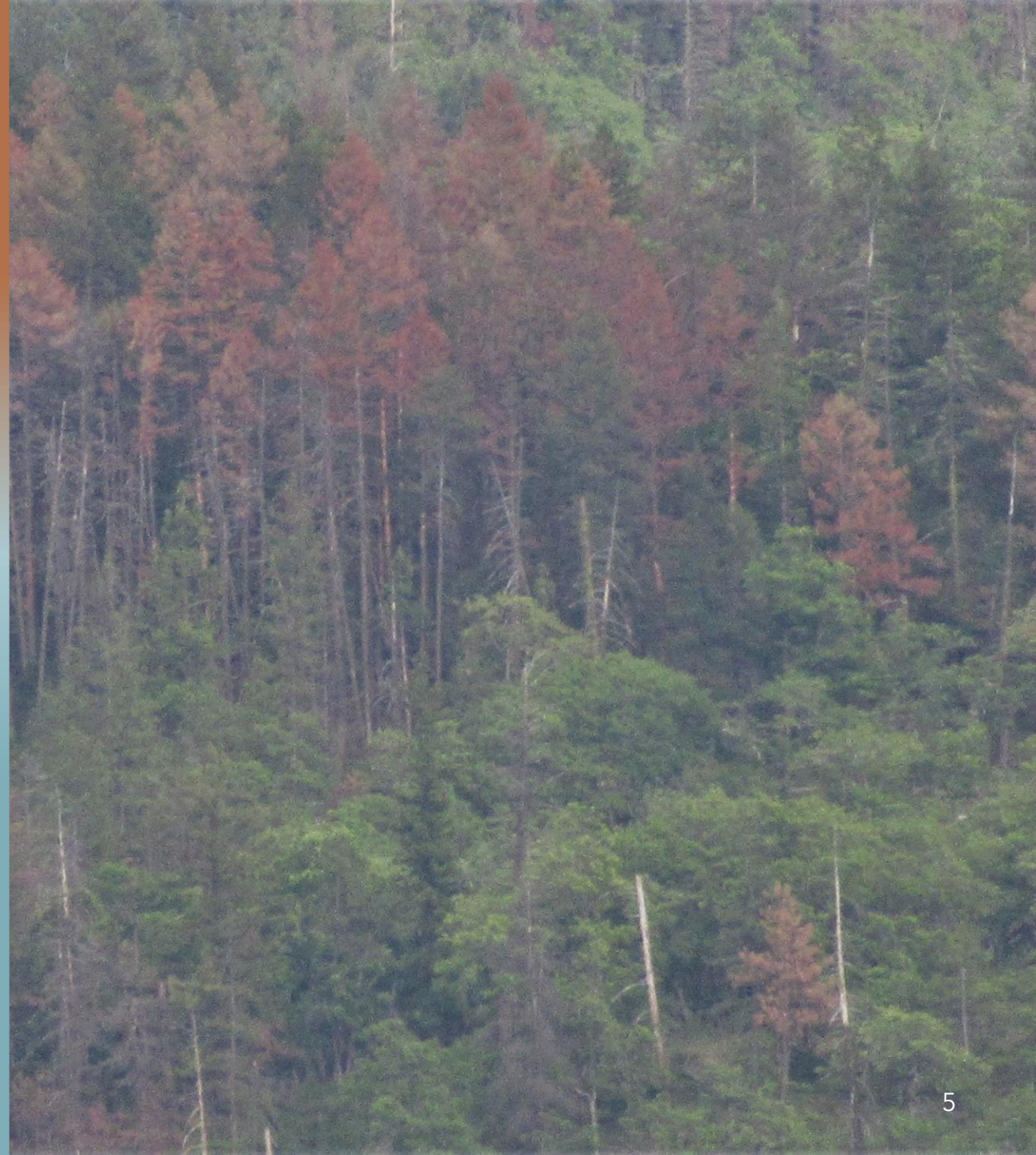


***A bird's eye view (woodpecker) of a rapidly unfamiliar environment***

***Near Ashland, Oregon***

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*The stages of stress, i.e.,  
coppering present in a variety of  
fall colors, until bleaching white  
during the process losing carbon  
storage, photosynthesis and ...*

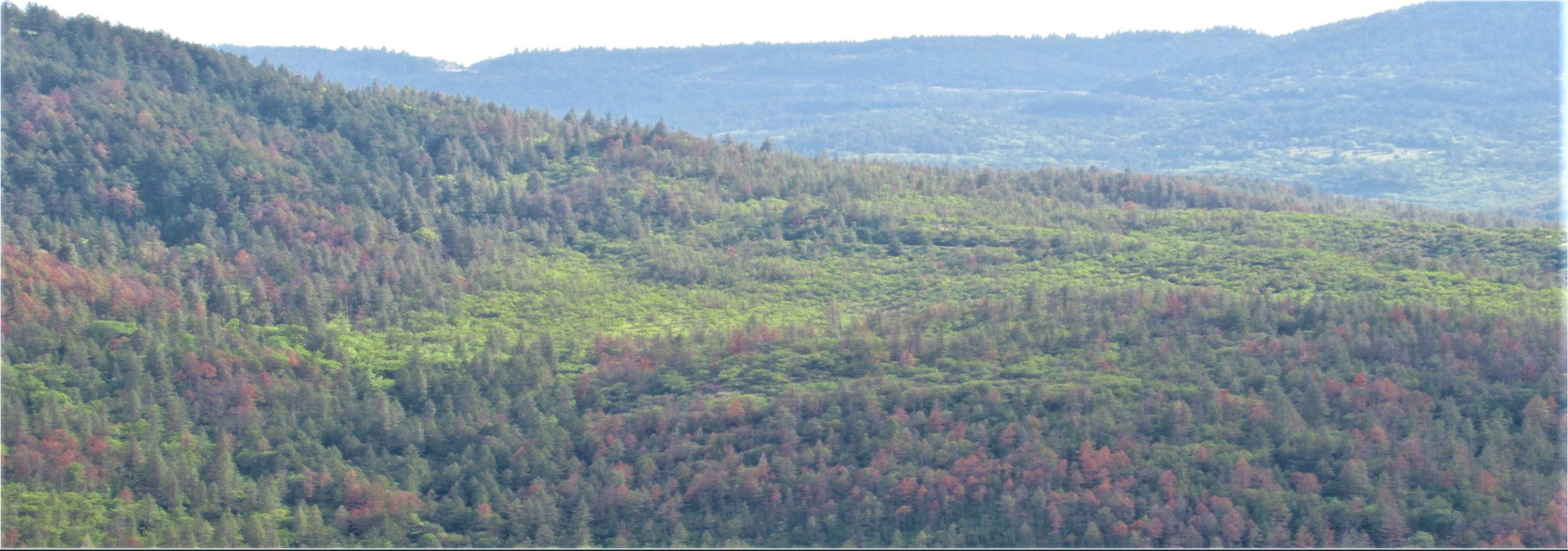


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# How we got here?

A crossroads occurred over 30 years ago when fire suppression combined with “lack of” sustained active forest management collided. Within 30 years this created a clogged competitive terrestrial story striving annually to broker moisture, nutrients, and minerals while filtered sunlight diminish to reach the clogged forest floor. The system that supported the terrestrial story was in jeopardy. The soil profiles were unable to broker the demands of the terrestrial story, subsequently putting the forest under stress. The outcome was loss of resilience in time of drought. R.L. Hall





*Primary Goal- Save what can be saved  
by treatment and secure the WUI.*

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# South towards Cascade-Siskiyou Wilderness

*Wildfires do not respect boundaries or ownership. The forest is fluid: however well documented and legally defended there are no lines. Nature will correct this imbalance by wildfires. The resulting landscapes will not be recognizable. R.L. Hall*



*The wind determines wildfire advancement and direction.  
Man contributes the absence of Active Forest Management.*

*This forest provides the fuel.*



**Hi Rachel,**

***The lighting was perfect to contrast the browned-out conifers you are speaking about, with the semi-green conifers. Each and every riparian zone, each tuck in the landscape, was a linear streak from mountain top to creek below, of brown.***

***Now that's not just in the forest, its in each and every riparian zone in Ashland, Phoenix, Medford, all through this valley too, corridors of standing dead fuel with continuous horizontal and vertical fuel.***

***You echo my thoughts and observations pretty much to a T!!! One wind event and you've got that Susanville/Lassen County 1,000,000-acre fire, seriously!***

**Tim**

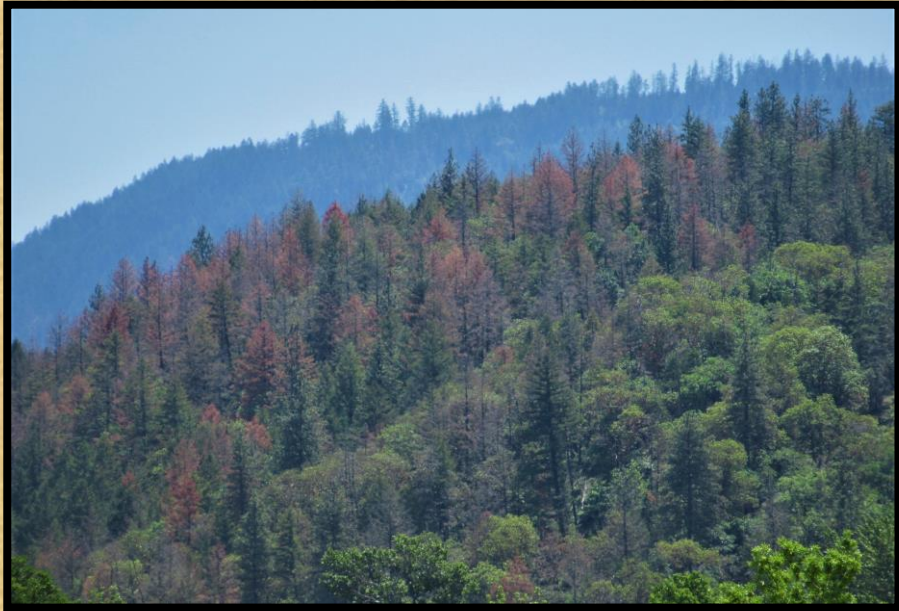
Tim Dedrick is a colleague and Rogue Valley resident. Employed by USDA Forest Service working his first wildfire in 1978 at the age of 16 for the CDF in Yreka CA. Since that time, Tim worked 32 seasons in wildland fire as an NWCG qualified firefighter. His primary occupation was Civil Engineer and secondary occupation each fire season was a Handcrew Boss and an Engine Boss, leading both 20-person fire handcrews and engine modules.

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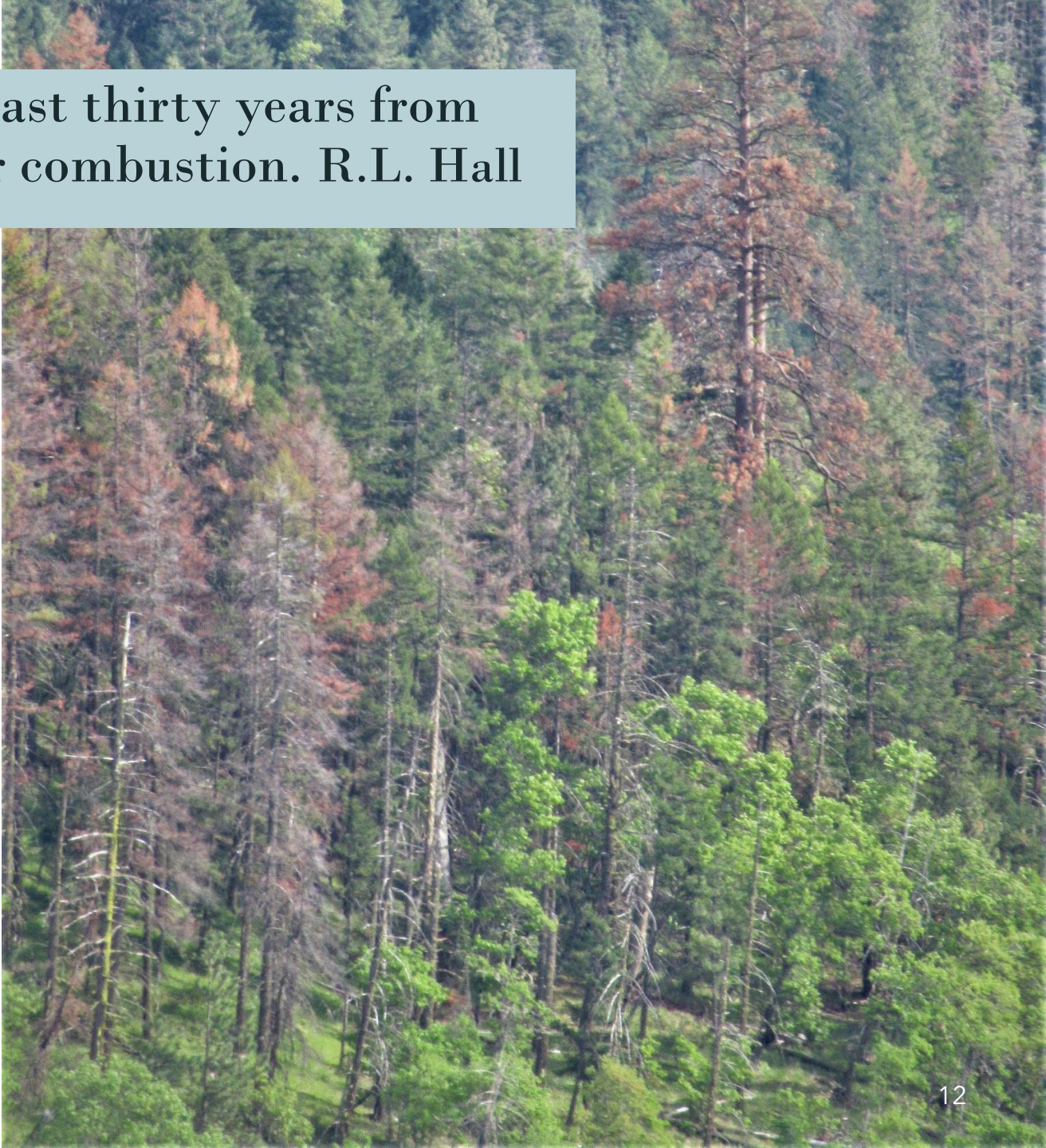
Tim was a primary fire Wildland Captain B for the California Dept of Forestry & Fire Protection (CDF) as a Crew Boss of a 17-person incarcerated crew.



A thermal bomb awaits ignition. Tim Dedrick.



A transition in landscape occurred in the last thirty years from the past resilient to the present primed for combustion. R.L. Hall





***There is a major hydrological imbalance below ground in a “duel for life” to secure annual moisture to sustain the burgeoning terrestrial story with moisture, nutrients, and minerals as the forest biotic factors of drought, heat, and excessive vegetative competition over the last thirty years created stress in all facets of forest resiliency to survive drought conditions. This imbalance was caused by the demands of competitive vegetative mass on the forest floor reaching to the terrestrial story, in large due to lack of Active Forest Management. The situation is dire. The forest is a stage set for crown fires, once rare. R.L. Hall***

*The transition of landscape change without treatment is formidable for nature and man. This event will be unheralded for all organisms above and below ground and is forthcoming shortly.*



**Coppering leads to ghosting corresponding to a standing dead forest primed for ignition by nature or man. This process is a forfeiture of photosynthesis, green carbon storage, thriving habitat, an end of various Eco systems, massive toxic smoke cover, explosive carbon release and a disturbing change in landscapes.**

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**Please read:**

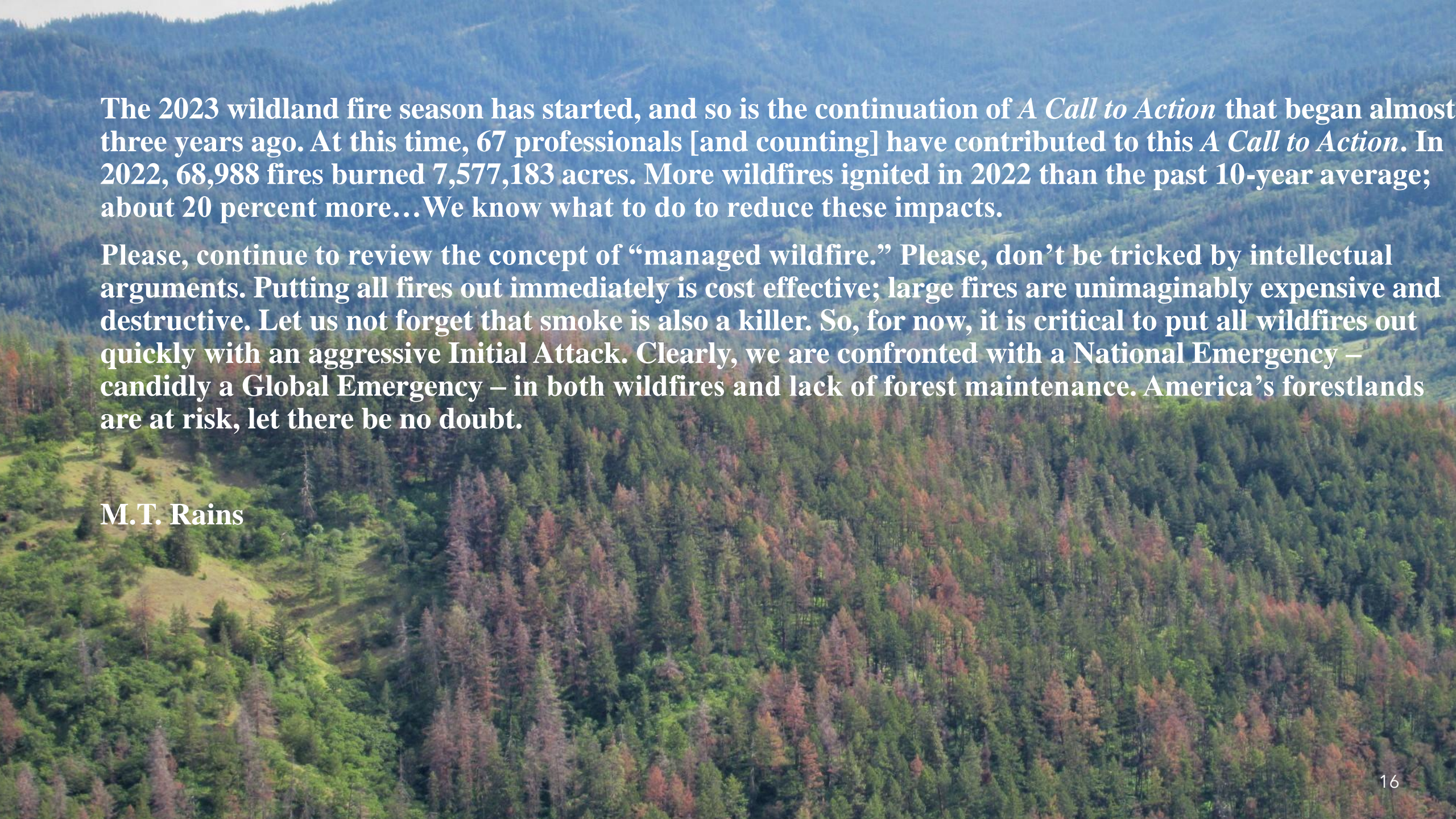
## **What Do You Want From Your Forest.**

*Interview with Honorable Randy Moore Chief, U.S.D.A. Forest Service May 6, 2023*

**Jim Petersen, Founder and President  
The non-profit Evergreen Foundation**

<https://www.evergreenmagazine.com/conversation-with-randy-moore/>





The 2023 wildland fire season has started, and so is the continuation of *A Call to Action* that began almost three years ago. At this time, 67 professionals [and counting] have contributed to this *A Call to Action*. In 2022, 68,988 fires burned 7,577,183 acres. More wildfires ignited in 2022 than the past 10-year average; about 20 percent more... We know what to do to reduce these impacts.

Please, continue to review the concept of “managed wildfire.” Please, don’t be tricked by intellectual arguments. Putting all fires out immediately is cost effective; large fires are unimaginably expensive and destructive. Let us not forget that smoke is also a killer. So, for now, it is critical to put all wildfires out quickly with an aggressive Initial Attack. Clearly, we are confronted with a National Emergency – candidly a Global Emergency – in both wildfires and lack of forest maintenance. America’s forestlands are at risk, let there be no doubt.

M.T. Rains





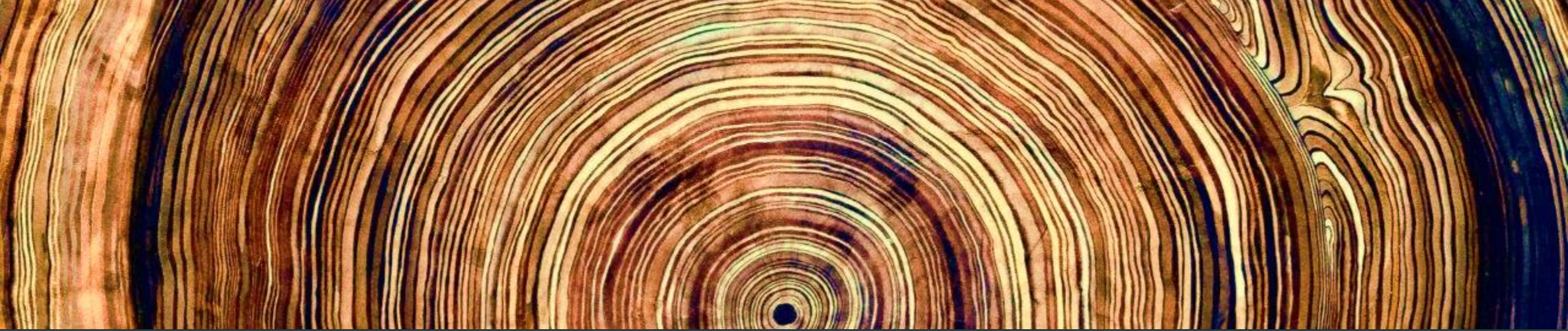
*Remember, the forest is more than just trees.*

*M.T. Rains*

*A Call to Action suggests, “...A dominant Forest Service goal in 2023 and ahead, should be to put out all unplanned wildfire ignitions within 24 hours, no exceptions.” This stance would help ensure expenditures are within Appropriation Law and help de-incentivize the concept of a Fire Industrial Complex. Thus, the notion of “managed fire”, at least for the foreseeable future, would be stopped NOW.*

**THE SUMMARY:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18W8c8qHCPVUKTnlvBhUbGyM04MBiQBNp/view?usp=sharing>

**M.T.Rains was with the United States Forest Service for almost 50 years, starting out as a wildland firefighter in California and rising to Deputy Chief. As a Senior Executive in the agency for over 30 years, Michael was often called upon to lead special projects and represent the Forest Service and Department of Agriculture in matters outside his normal duties. His leadership helped advance land management and science processes across America, improving the lives of people and their communities in both rural and urban areas. Accomplishments include the agency lead for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; USDA lead for the “Impacts of Wildfires on Communities and the Environment” (aka, the National Fire Plan); and, framework design and implementation of the Living Memorials Project in response to the events of September 11, 2001. A Presidential Rank Award winner in 2012 for distinguished public service, he retired from Federal service in 2016. In 2017, Michael received both the Humboldt State University Distinguished Alumni Award and the America's People's Choice Award for the Urban Waters Federal Partnership. His commitment to contemporary conservation and service to others continues. Since retirement, he has written extensively about the lack of forest maintenance that contributes to large, intense wildfires. He is the primary author of the “Call to Action.” Michael is a Registered Professional Forester for California and resides in Pennsylvania.**



**Thank you. I end with a colleagues' wise words.**

**As I have said so many times: I agree that fire [i.e., “managed fire”] can be a good forest maintenance tool. But, NOT NOW. The land conditions will not allow it. Therefore, for the foreseeable future, only prescribed fire should be used. Unplanned wildfires should be put out immediately, no exceptions.**

**Do not be tricked by the intellectual argument that fire is a good maintenance tool!**

**M.T. Rains**

**View world premiere film: Forest Under Stress, Produced by Rachel Lee Hall**

**<https://wetheforest.com/pages/forest-under-stress>**