

WHY DO FOREST ANIMALS LIVE WHERE THEY DO ?

Different forest animals need different types of habitat to meet their food and shelter needs. Some prefer the vegetation associated with young, open forests. Others need habitat features like snags or fallen logs found in older forests. Some animals are found in forests of any age. As forests grow from young to old, the resident wildlife will change as the habitat structure changes.

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

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



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

