



A more hundred years ago, with growth forests similar to Black Forest and Mountain Appalachians. Today, more than 60 percent have been converted to cropland, used as an otherwise damaged and degraded. Black Forest represents one of the few ancient forests of the West and is considered both globally outstanding and critically endangered.

Black Forest was first identified by USFS, senior ecologist Ray Form in the spring of 1980 while inventorying natural areas in Pine Mountain in Merced County. The critically under-studied forest is classified as ecologically with several additional biological characteristics, including