

How do you regard a dying tree?

There is no need to turn away.

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Remember the 350 million piñon pines that died twenty years ago as bark beetle populations

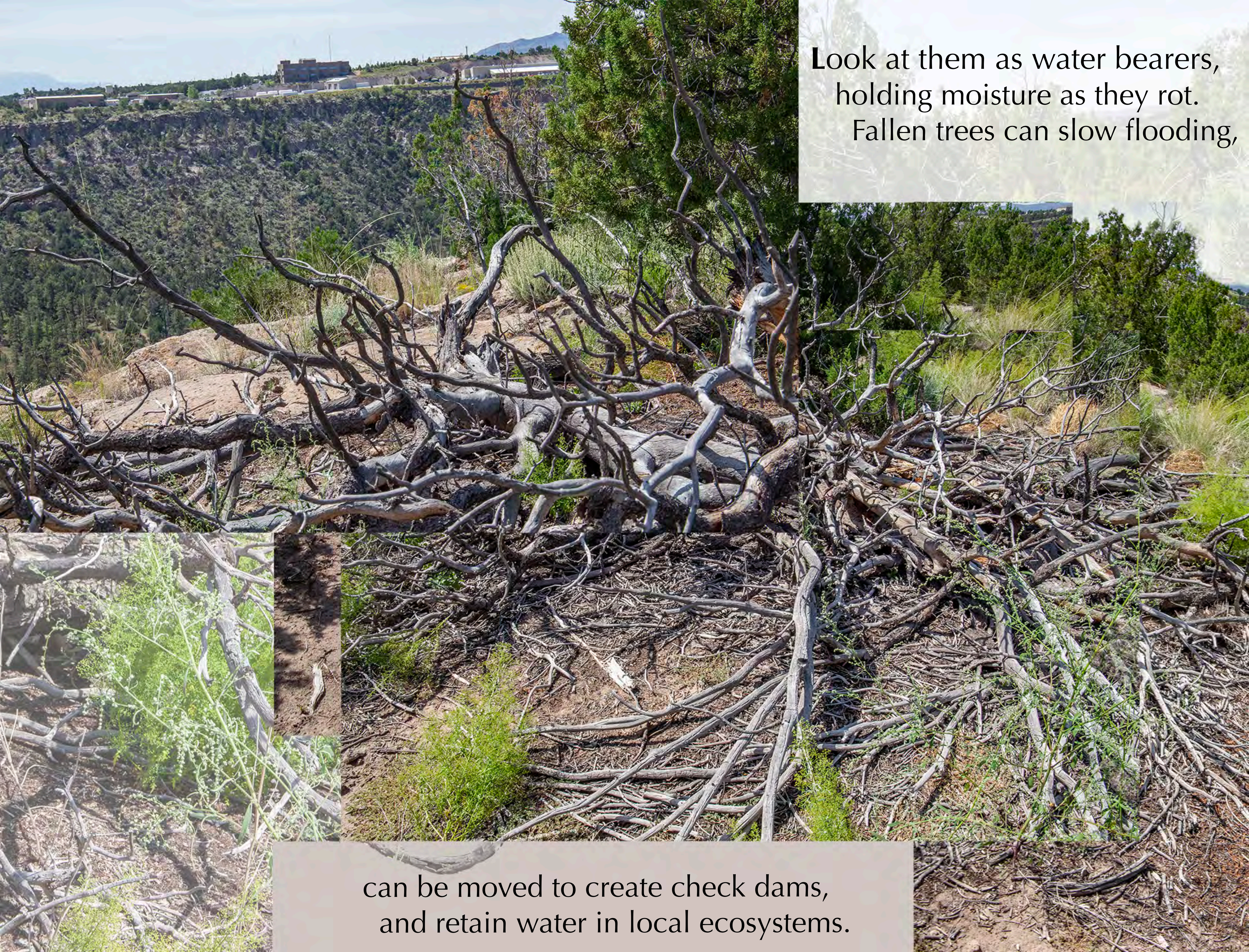
skyrocketed due to drought and a warming climate.

Look at them even now as vital members of communities. Snags for birds, homes for wildlife. Once they've lost their needles, dying trees need not be seen as fire hazards, as they are less flammable than living trees.



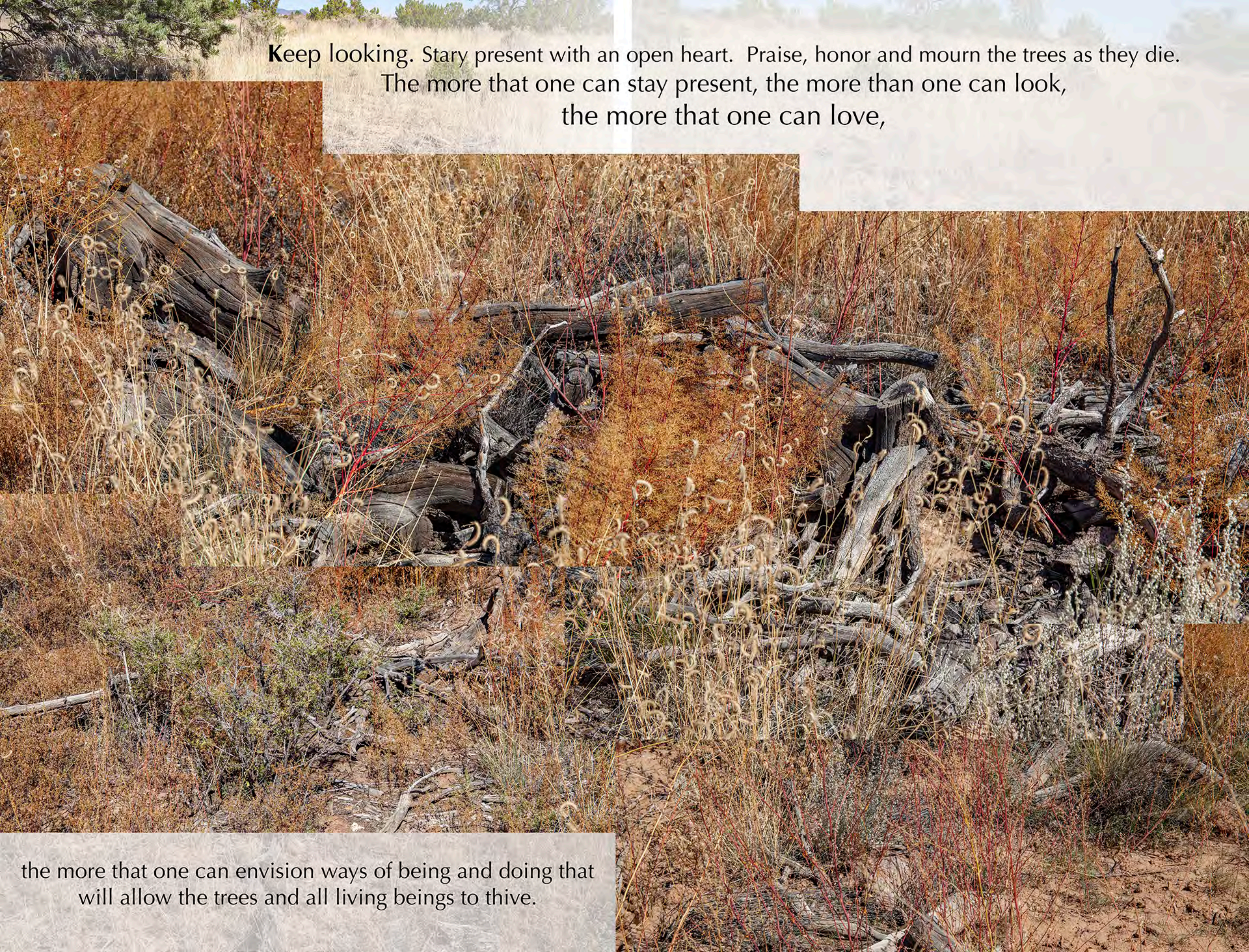
Look at them as laying themselves down for the next generation that will grow from the soil created as they decompose.





Look at them as water bearers,
holding moisture as they rot.
Fallen trees can slow flooding,

can be moved to create check dams,
and retain water in local ecosystems.



Keep looking. Stay present with an open heart. Praise, honor and mourn the trees as they die.
The more that one can stay present, the more that one can look,
the more that one can love,

the more that one can envision ways of being and doing that
will allow the trees and all living beings to thrive.