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Comments: Old-growth forests definitions are abundant and have been vetted, while "mature" forest definition is less defined. In 1992, an Old-growth forests in the southwest and Rocky Mountain Regions workshop was held and the results captured in the Proceedings (General Technical Report RM-213. The suggested definition in the opening chapter is still valid and i suggest this definition is still appropriate.

Mature forests. Suggested characteristics: mature forests are dominated by mature trees. These trees have abundant fruit (often cone crops in the Western U.S.). Many trees do not produce abundant fruit until they are mature. DBH is not a determinant, but age is.

My other pressing comment is that the Pinyon-Juniper woodland type that is so abundant in the west be considered. While pinyon and juniper trees do not reach the height of Douglas Fir, etc., they are trees and old-growth and mature Pinyon-Juniper forests are critical to conserving a suite of birds. An excellent source of information for this is: "Ancient Pinon-Juniper Woodlands" edited by Lisa Floyd 2003.