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Comments: Hello, a few thoughts from a biologist after watching the webinar for FS employees:

-I think it would be important to step back and first focus on the objective(s) of the task at hand. Is it to manage for late seral forests into the future? Or to preserve the oldest trees? Or the largest trees? Or the ecosystem function of late seral forests? Or some other objective?

-I also think it would be good to present the history of the term "old-growth" when running these engagement sessions and as a foreword to this future working. Personally, the term seems archaic. It seems more like a political term these days, and brings connotations of conflict to mind during the timber wars.

-I also feel like the public assumes that old in old-growth = resilient. And while that may have held some truth in the past (although walking through old-growth redwood stands one will find evidence of large fires even under a coastal fog climate!), current and certainly future trends of old growth in the west should show fire, drought, and disease and ultimately fire as the biggest threat to our largest and oldest trees (sequoias, redwoods, bristlecone pines). The term old-growth carries heavy connotations of logging as the threat, very different times we are in!

-Interestingly, some of the oldest groves in the world, giant sequoias, have burned at high severity. Even the presidential grove in Sequoia NF/National Monument is almost entirely dead from recent fire. Is that burned part of the forest still old if all the large sequoias are dead?