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Comments: Greetings! Hopefully every one of your forest managers are also doing this exercise of defining what is mature and what is old growth forest?! Here in Vermont the staff continually refer to themselves as "experts", and I'd like to hear from them! To be sure they are self proclaimed experts at figuring out how to "treat" the forest to make it more healthy!!!

"Mature": When a stand reaches maximum mean annual increment. This is exactly when trees should now be left alone to grow older. It is "mature".

To make it simpler for you and for the public to understand, when a tree here in the NE reaches 80 yrs. old or older call it mature.

Yes, unfortunately here in Vermont, the Green Mountain National Forest managers are by far the biggest threat to mature forests in our national forest. And if mature forest is targeted for cutting, how will we ever get "old growth" forest??? So mature = 80 yrs. old! You have received plenty of documentation as to why 80 yrs. old makes sense. Thank you.