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Comments: The Forest Service has little control over climate change, wind-blown wildfires, drought, or insects, but what the agency does control is whether or not to allow logging or other disturbance in old growth forest areas. I urge that you use the Inventory to very clearly avoid any logging or other mechanical treatments in old growth forest areas that have not been entered up to this time so that they remain pristine.

I also urge that the Forest Service set a very firm limit on the size of large trees that can be logged on national forest lands so that large, old trees are truly protected from what the agency can control - which is cutting trees.

It may be that the size limit may need to vary so that in the Pacific Northwest no trees larger than 36" in diameter would generally be allowed to be logged, while in regions of the country where trees don't grow as large, the limit might be 30" in diameter.

In sum, use the inventory to protect from disturbance old growth forest areas that are presently not altered by past logging, and for the remaining forest areas, require a strict limit on cutting trees larger than a certain size, based upon the differences in how big trees grow in different parts of the county.

Thank you!

Nancy A. Oliver