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Comments: Concerning the new directive about old-growth forests, the most critical factor is to preserve mature forests as well, those stands which are nearing an "old growth" condition. No trees older than 80 years should be logged. Old-growth forests are sanctuaries for wildlife, especially for endangered species, they are essential to slow global warming, valuable as sources of clean water, and much less fire-prone than "managed" forests.

The days when the priority of the Forest Service was to "get the cut out" should be buried forever. Private lands have more than enough early seral habitat, and preserving the pitiful remnants of what's left needs to be the goal. Forests in Alaska should also be included in the directive.