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Comments: Working on a National Old Growth proposal should not be rushed into. Each geographic area of forest across the country's landscape is dynamic and unique. Different species grow at different rates and have different ages of maturity and the beginning of tree death. A "one size fits all" will not be beneficial to the forests or the environment.

We can show you 5" diameter trees here on the Olympic Peninsula that are over 75 years old. Are they healthy? No. They are crowded, covered with moss and/or lichen and are susceptible to bug infestation and disease. Is this the "old growth" the Service is trying to protect?

This proposal provides an opportunity to make our forests here in the Pacific Northwest healthy. The Forest Service knows that the greatest threat to old growth is wildfire, insect infestation, and disease. Science-based active management is the solution to move the Forest Service toward healthy forests that can withstand the rigors of climate change, fire, and disease. This will require action by the Service and goals with metrics should be included.

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