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Comments: I am writing to express my opinion about proper management of old-growth trees in our national forests. My interest in this issue arises from my history as a back-country visitor to our forests since the 1960's: Coconino National Forest in Arizona, Chequamegon National Forest in Wisconsin, and many national forests in Colorado.

It is important to bear in mind that for many large, majestic species of concern, time from seed to old-growth is a multiple of the human life span. No person has the opportunity to experience first-hand what we lose of old-growth in the time it takes to grow one new old-growth tree.

Thus, a rate of loss of old-growth which might seem negligible over the span of one adult lifetime is appreciably larger over the life span of a single old-growth tree, and larger still over the history of the forest.

This is especially important to note when we remember how difficult it is to forecast what threats-introduction of alien pathogens, climate change, political pressures for "development"-our forests will face over the relevant time frame.

Our goal should be to preserve meaningful populations of old-growth of all species in perpetuity. To ensure that we achieve that goal, we need to maintain a healthy population of all species at all life stages.

In particular, a national standard for management of old-growth trees should not permit commercial logging of those trees.