

APPENDIX R - SAN JUAN NATIONAL
FOREST OLD-GROWTH DEFINITIONS

The criteria used for the San Juan old-growth definitions by cover type are based the Region 2 Guidelines which were based on a publication called “Old-Growth Forests in the Southwest and Rocky Mountain Regions Proceedings of a Workshop”, March 9-13, 1992 Portal, Arizona, General Technical Report RM-213. On page 106 is the article Old-Growth Descriptions for the Major Forest Cover Types in the Rocky Mountain Region. On page 154 is the article “Old-Growth Forests of the San Juan National Forest in Southwestern Colorado”.

Table R.1 - Spruce-fir old-growth definition

Standard Attributes		Comments
Live Trees		
Minimum Age	200	
Minimum DBH (in inches)	16	DBH = tree diameter measured at 4 ½ ft above ground
Minimum Number of Large Trees per Acre	10	Large trees at least 16 inches DBH.
Decadence	1	Minimum of one dead or broken-topped live tree, and/or one rotten live tree per acre, at least 16 inches DBH.
Dead Trees		
Minimum DBH (inches)	10	
Minimum Height (feet)	10	
Number of Trees per Acre	2	Minimum per acre.

Table R.2 - Mixed conifer old-growth definition

Standard Attributes		Comments
Live Trees		
Minimum Age	200	
Minimum DBH (inches)	16	Smaller than Regional Guidelines definition due to different site potential on the San Juan Forest.
Minimum Number of Large Trees per Acre	10	Large trees at least 16 inches DBH.
Decadence	1	Minimum of one dead or broken-topped live tree, and/or one rotten live tree per acre, at least 16 inches DBH.
Dead Trees		
Minimum DBH (in inches)	10	
Minimum Height (in feet)	10	
Number of Trees Per Acre	2	Minimum per acre.

Table R.3 - Southwest ponderosa pine old-growth definition

Standard Attributes		Comments
Live Trees		
Minimum Age	200	
Minimum DBH (inches)	16	Smaller than Regional Guidelines definition due to different site potential on the San Juan Forest.
Minimum Number of Large Trees per Acre	10	
Decadence	1	Minimum of one dead or broken-topped live tree and/or one rotten live tree per acre, at least 16 inches DBH.

Table R.4 - Pure aspen old-growth definition

Standard Attributes		Comments
Live Trees		
Minimum Age	100	
Minimum DBH (inches)	16	
Minimum Number of Large Trees per Acre	20	Large trees at least 16 inches DBH.
Decadence	1	Minimum of one dead or broken-topped live tree, and/or one rotten live tree per acre.
Dead Trees		
Minimum DBH (inches)	10	Minimum per acre.
Minimum Height (in feet)	10	
Number of Trees Per Acre	2	

Notes: The San Juan does not have a definition for Pinon-Juniper Old Growth. Aspen is considered climax old growth if the stand meets the criteria and there is no conifer in the understory.