

# Old-Growth and Second-Growth Forests Defined



## Old-Growth Forests

Forests that were never directly affected by intensive human land use, such as the uses implemented by Europeans.

## Second-Growth Forests

Forests that are not old growth; these are forests that established and grew following intensive human land use. Second-growth forests are not age specific, and can be classified into one of three categories:



### Young Forest

A second-growth forest that is dominated by a mix of shrubs, tree seedlings, tree saplings, and herbaceous plant cover. Young forests are approximately 0-20 yrs old.



### Maturing Forest

A second-growth forest that does not have young forest utility or old-forest characteristics. Maturing forests are in between young and old forests.



### Old Forest

A second-growth forest that exhibits a critical mass of old-growth characteristics. Old-growth characteristics may be achieved through both passive and active management.



CT DEEP FORESTRY  
DIVISION WEBSITE  
SCAN CODE TO VISIT



RESTORING OLD-GROWTH  
CHARACTERISTICS BROCHURE  
SCAN CODE TO DOWNLOAD

