

# Joe's silvicultural rule of thumb

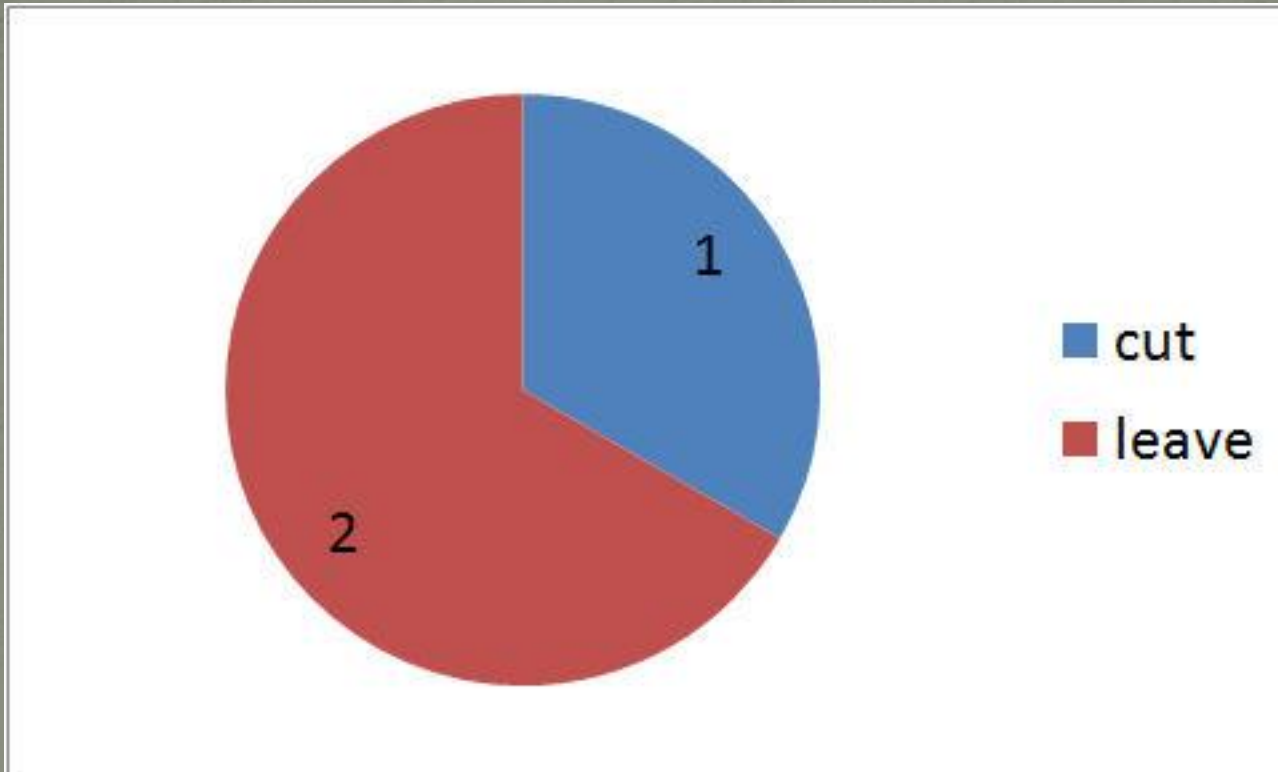
Cut a third of the volume every dozen to 20 years

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*“Shall we not have intelligence with the Earth for are we not partly leaves and vegetable mould ourselves?”*

Henry David Thoreau

For each unit of volume cut,  
twice as much is retained



Which third to cut?

The third of the volume with  
the least ability to increase  
value including ecosystem  
values

The one third rule can be applied to almost any forest - young, old, regardless of species and age mix and current conditions

Before each new cut begins, the volume and value of the forest should be higher than at the beginning of the previous cycle

So, over time, the forest accumulates an ever increasing “forest capital”

## The goal of the one third rule is to:

- Grow the forest so that it approaches old growth conditions
- But the forest will have numerous stumps of numerous cutting cycles
- It will have great economic, aesthetic and ecological value with great diversity
- The greater value that the forest attains and maintains is an indication of the overall quality of the “forest management”
- But from which value is periodically removed serving society
- To be morally legitimate- all kinds of values must be counted

Gould Farm, Monterey - a Forest Guild Model Forest  
An application of the one third rule



FSC certified clearcut in Savoy State Forest  
Didn't use the one third rule!

