A few thoughts on rotations:

The long & the short of it

Western Forest Economists conference

May 16, 2025

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NORTHWEST NATURAL RESOURCE GROUP
LEADERS IN ECOLOGICAL FORESTRY

The key question:

What are your objectives?

Standard operating practice:

From this...

... to this.

Depending on their objectives,
there are lots of reasons a landowner might do this!

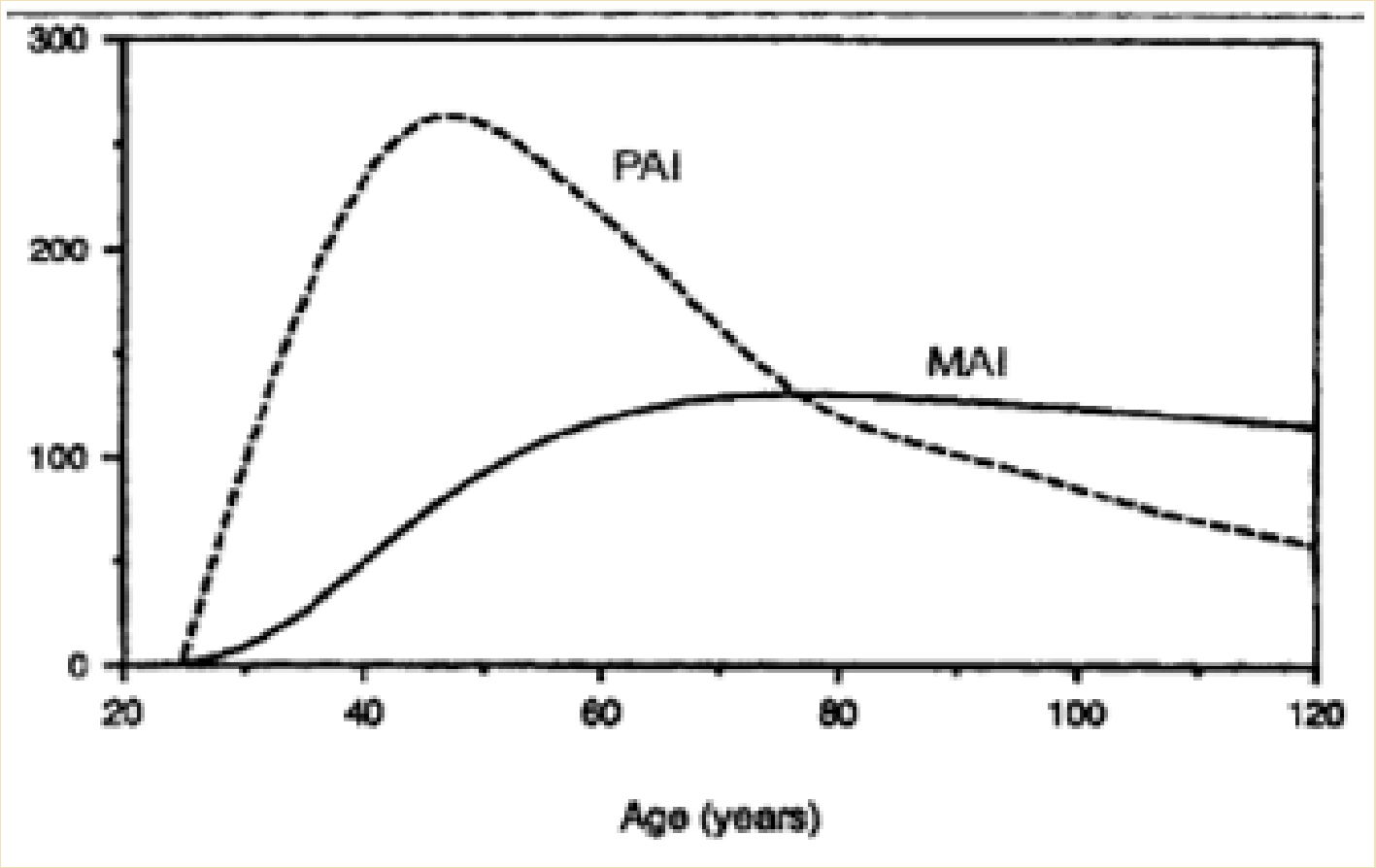
- Time value of money
  How you value it depends on your source of capital
  and how patient it is

- Longer rotations require intermediate entries
  Higher cost per ton or MBF of partial harvest

- Concern for future of large-log markets and wildfire risk

The alternative:

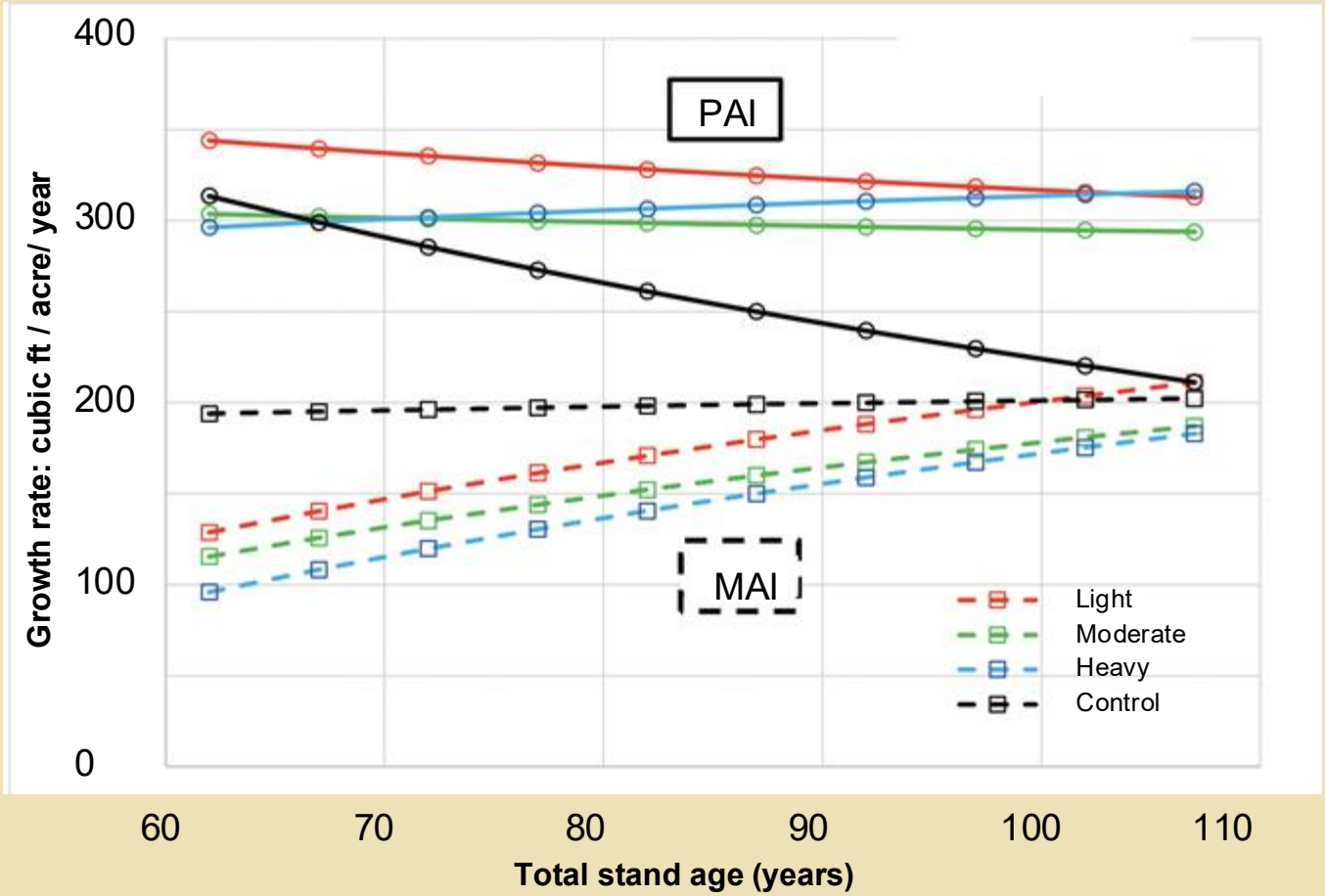
Making room for bigger trees


300
200
100
0
PAI
MAI
20
40
60
80
100
120
Age (years)

Growth of Managed Older Douglas-fir Stands: Implications of the Black Rock Thinning Trial in the Coast Range of Western Oregon

John Tappeiner, Darius Adams, Claire Montgomery, and Douglas Maguire

Journal of Forestry, 2022



Thank you!

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A Forest of Your Own:
The Pacific Northwest Handbook of Ecological Forestry