



BLUE OAK WOODLAND FACT SHEETS

Scientific Values of our Ancient Forests

Blue Oaks: the largest old growth forest in the Unites States

“Recent images from space satellites reveal hundreds of little known primeval forests and stands of ancient trees scattered all across the USA....According to David Stahle a forest scientist with the University of Arkansas, there are still trees that are thousands of years old, the last relics of the great forest primeval that has been heavily disturbed or completely destroyed by man. According to Stahle, the largest old growth forest left in the Unites States consists of ancient blue oaks covering more than 4000, square miles of the California foothills”.

Scientific Significance

The presence of living records of the past – primarily through tree ring data – offer invaluable sources of information about a whole range of topics from human archeological studies, to climatology, geomorphology, and wildlife and vegetation. For example, the rings of the California blue oaks dating from 1604, show that the San Francisco Bay became saltier during dry years when less fresh water flowed into the streams feeding the Bay. The most extreme salinity recorded in the last four centuries was during the California drought of 1976-77.