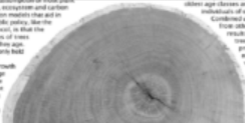


A common assumption of most plant physiologists, ecologists and carbon sequestration models that act in framing public policy, like the Kyoto Protocol, is that the growth rates of trees decline as they age. The commonly held concept of declining growth with tree age has become an important component of management plans and the basis



over the last 100 years, even in terms of the oldest age classes and the oldest individuals of each species.

Combined with evidence from other studies, these results suggest that tree-level

productivity does not always decline with age. In some tree communities the long-held view that growth rates decline as trees age, these results suggest that