



Global Vocabulary LLC

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## IDIOMATIC PHRASES 2

Avoided—shied away from [circumvented, evaded]

Burn up—incinerated itself

Effective—smooth operation

Equivalent to—synonymous with, tantamount to

Managed—presided over

Progressive—forward looking

Rejects—generally renounces

Rapid increases—exponential leaps

### Ancient Trees

The U.S. Forest Service, a forward looking, natural resource conservation-minded governmental agency, presides over approximately 25% of federal lands and is charged with protection, management and use of the nation's forests, rangelands, and aquatic ecosystems. A large percentage of its budget is used to fight forest fires, which have had exponential leaps in recent years in California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. While the Forest Service generally renounces secrecy, the agency has shied away from providing the exact location of "Methuselah", a tree believed to be nearly 5,000 years old to protect it from vandalism.

Sadly, "The Senator", a 3,500-year-old bald cypress tree located in the swamplands of Central Florida was burned up on January 16, 2012. Since the tree burned from the inside out, firefighters originally believed the tree's demise was caused by a lightning strike. "The Senator," however, was destroyed by an arsonist, who documented the fire on her laptop and cellphone. This evidence was equivalent to a confession and led police and prosecutors to a smooth operation as she was arrested, convicted, and incarcerated.



U.S. Forest Service patch

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Forest\\_Service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Forest_Service)



"The Senator" in 2011

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Senator\\_\(tree\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Senator_(tree))

Fill-in the blanks with words from the Word Bank.

Word Bank: avoids—effective—incinerated—manages—progressive—rapid increases—rejects—synonymous with

The U.S. Forest Service, a [1.] \_\_\_\_\_, natural resource conservation-minded governmental agency, [2.] \_\_\_\_\_ approximately 25% of federal lands and is charged with protection, administration and use of the nation's forests, rangelands, and aquatic ecosystems. A large percentage of its budget is used to fight forest fires, which have had [3.] \_\_\_\_\_ in recent years in California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. While the Forest Service [4.] \_\_\_\_\_ secrecy, the agency has [5.] \_\_\_\_\_ providing the exact location of "Methuselah", a tree believed to be nearly 5,000 years old to protect it from vandalism.

Sadly, "The Senator", a 3,500-year-old bald cypress tree located in the swamplands of Central Florida was [6.] \_\_\_\_\_ on January 16, 2012. Since the tree burned from the inside out, firefighters originally believed the tree's demise was caused by a lightning strike. "The Senator," however, was destroyed by an arsonist, who documented the fire on her laptop and cellphone. This evidence was [7.] \_\_\_\_\_ a confession and led police and prosecutors to an [8.] \_\_\_\_\_ prosecution as she was arrested, convicted, and incarcerated for her crime.

Answer Key: [1.] progressive, [2.] manages, [3.] rapid increases, [4.] rejects, [5.] avoids, [6.] incinerated, [7.] synonymous with, [8.] effective