Forest Management Practices

Clearcutting
Clearcutting can be used to mimic a natural fire. All the trees in a small area are removed to create open areas that quickly sprout grasses and forage for animals. It’s an ecologically friendly way to manage redwood forests, since redwood grows best in open sunlight and sprouts from its own stumps. Clearcutting is strictly regulated in California.

Seedtree
Seedtree harvesting is like a clearcut, except that a few healthy trees are left standing to naturally reseed the area.

Shelterwood
Shelterwood harvesting leaves enough trees standing to provide protection and shade for delicate new seedlings planted on the site. When the young trees have grown, the older trees are removed.

Group Selection
Selective cutting removes individual trees in a cycle. Large trees are cut and smaller trees are left standing to reseed the area. When the small trees have grown large enough, they are cut and the trees that grew from their seeds are left to reseed the area, continuing the cycle.

Single Tree Selection
Strategically removing individual trees of different sizes helps maintain diversity. This harvesting technique is used mainly in watercourse and lake protection zones and areas with special considerations such as protected wildlife habitats and parks.