

Ecosystem Management

Comment # Comment

- 0054-003 Humans can not "manage" forests, fish or wildlife. They can only manage human behavior. Most life forms were doing better before humans arrived. As the human population continues to increase, open space with its fish and wildlife will be Alaska's most important economic resource.
- 0116-003 Ecological ecosystem management.
- 0208-001 Managed as an ecological system instead of on a site to site basis - this is a long term improvement. Ecosystem Management Will maintain health and natural resources into the future of the forest. A. Ecosystem management has been implemented in other forests - these could be used as models to follow. F.S. would be responsible, along with other agency biologists, for implementation Current mgmt practices are hard to change (ie old habits die hard). Possible lack of info on local system can make this improvement difficult to implement. - Dedication & positive changes by F.S. - gather necessary local info.
- 0229-002 More for concern & interest/talk w/others (ILLEGIBLE) Support of "big picture" of which is needed provides guidance to other agencies, user groups and even individual actions. Development of indicators is a substantive step in developing partnerships which are then key resources in maintaining ecosystem health in the forest. A circular & sustainable process. Attention (ILLEGIBLE) (ILLEGIBLE) goes to indicators & the overall health in view of competition between interests.
- 0246-001 Keeping the forest in as pristine a condition as possible.
- 0248-001 By clearly and explicitly following ecosystem management principles. By properly measuring the economic value of forest resources, including non-monetary values. It needs to get (ILLEGIBLE) in terms of job created and begin looking at (ILLEGIBLE) costs (jobs lost). My general concern is that CNF follow an ecosystem management approach.
- 0285-002 It is integral in the full ecosystem management perspective.
- 0293-003 Let's protect the Copper River Delta. I'd like to see lines of protection that enhance ecosystems, not just "areas." -
- 0369-001 1. A. Forest plan for the future that includes lasting ecosystems for future use.
- 0372-002 5. A. Other resources the forest managers need to be manage in such a manner to protect the long standing recreation opportunities the forest offers.

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0436-003

Implementing a Plan of Action to Provide for Regional Landscape Level Management. I am introducing an outline that provides a means of implementing regional plans for the management of forest resources based on objective forest conditions. This outline is intended to provide an overview of a means for cooperative development of management planning on a regional basis. The implications of adoption of such a cooperative plan are extensive and reflect on the heightened concerns being expressed throughout the region for a better, more effective means of conducting forest resource management to reflect the needs of the forest and society for a diverse, sustainable, and resilient forest capable of meeting a variety of needs for both today and the future. The responsibility for forest resource management involves a number of organizations. While it is their task to effectively manage their lands for management objectives, forest health and risks are factors that influence these lands on a regional basis which can negate or reduce the effectiveness of land management on smaller tracts of ownership. It is necessary that landowners both realize the importance of planning on a regional (landscape level basis) and have a means or decision-making process for implementation of such plans. Components of this outline:

Description of the Environment (The Ecosystem Diversity Matrix): The USFS; has developed a mapping of forest areas in Alaska by Ecological Units. These Ecological units subdivide into finer habitat type classifications which can provide a basis for management planning and create an Ecosystem Diversity matrix. Establishing a forest inventory of habitat types which are based on identifiable site parameters is the first step. Forest canopy structure for each habitat type can vary depending on historical events including insect and disease incidence and fire. Research must provide forest growth and yield information for these habitat types. Wise management of the forest on a regional basis will require providing a balance of the forest structures within these habitat types. Failure to provide this balance can contribute to the long-term health decline and reduction of a diverse, and sustainable forest on a regional basis. A process has been developed for the balanced distribution of stand structures within habitat types as was recently outlined by Dr. Bob Pfister from the University of Montana. This process could be successfully developed as part of a region-wide natural resource management plan. Necessary information for each habitat type classification. Tree species and canopy structure for a given habitat type. (small tree single story, medium tree multi-story, etc.) Associated Stand Hazards Associated Site Productivity Classes Access Class Condition Classes (heavy insect activity, heavy disease, heavy fire risk, diverse vigorous stand, stagnated stand, wind damage) The Process of Integrating Landscape Ecology and Natural Resource Management. (The Decision-making process) Once the Ecosystem Diversity Matrix is completed, we can proceed with development of a process by which we can integrate landscape ecology with natural resource management. In order to integrate ecosystem management into a natural resource management plan it will be necessary to develop working groups dedicated to various natural resources such as vegetation, wildlife, society needs, and landscape level processes and provide a - framework for their cooperative effort. This can be facilitated by organizations such as the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The integration of these groups will be further augmented with the utilization of a calibrated forest planning model such as Forest Vegetation Simulator Growth and Yield Model. The Alaska Cooperative Extension in cooperation with the USFS is seeking to develop a calibrated Stand Prognosis Model for the South-central and Interior forest region of Alaska. This model could become a valuable tool in the process of management planning integration. Tools For The Decision-Making Process: Ecosystem Diversity Matrix (identified above) Vegetation, Wildlife, and Landscape level processes working groups Human Dimensions Group (derived from a cross-section of the public and developed through the Cooperative Extension Program) Stand and Forest Growth and Yield Modeling Integration Planning Process to incorporate working group inputs Forest Natural Resource Management Plan: Piecing the complex Ecosystem Diversity Matrix together over time in order to provide a healthy forest through ecosystem management on a landscape level (such as is being conducted by the University of Montana for the Bitterroot Ecosystem Management Research Project). The silvicultural practices to promote and sustain a forest condition include a variety of tools including prescribed burning, natural processes, and various timber harvesting options. It is essential to realize that the bottom line is the maintenance of a long-term sustainable, healthy, and diverse forest condition. During the application of this decision-making process in Montana, it was found that using this approach rather than one aimed at a target commodity output actually achieve a combination of goals including better public

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support for harvest activities since the public is the body to decide the forest condition for which they want managed. The decision-making process will be aided by a decision-making body derived from the public that are trained by third party specialists in order to empower them to participate in constructive dialog on future forest conditions and process to achieve those conditions. In addition to the efforts to develop effective natural resource management plans for Alaskan forest areas it is also necessary that we do a better job of educating the public about ecosystem management. Examples of alternatives that could be supported to assist this process include efforts by the State of Alaska Dept. of Nat. Resources under support of the USFS to provide for Project Learning Tree in the public schools. Another recent example is the 4-H Forest Ecosystem Natural Resources Education Project developed by Julie Riley of the Alaska Cooperative Extension (ACE). This outline was presented to provide an opportunity to see a new horizon for Natural Resource management and with a hope that decision-making for the future forests for Alaska will be made in a manner to be looking to a future condition rather than simply attempting to correct past errors and which reflects the needs and desires of society. Bob Wheeler Recommendations for Action by the University of Alaska Fairbanks The University is poised in a position whereby it can participate in a substantial way in the development of forest management activities pertinent to the needs of Alaskans and the nation. Looking at the activities that are being conducted by other universities such as the University of Montana it becomes clear that a sense of purpose or mission orientation would greatly assist with the identification of the University and recognition of its involvement in natural resource management and serve as basis for arguments for further financial support. Alaskan Forest Ecosystem Oriented Research (AFEOR): The mission of this program would be largely to provide needed research on forest management activities that would become integral parts of the ecosystem management approach to providing desired forest health conditions. As part of this program, it might be considered to develop a Center for Social Dimensions Involving Boreal Forest Management which could be developed through our Resource Management Department. The following recommendations are made with the intent of designing a comprehensive regional forest management program oriented around ecosystem management (forest management prescriptions that promote ecosystem values) to be applied on a landscape level or regional basis. The University will want to work closely with forest landowners and managers to assure that the goals of management are being met by the applied research being conducted. With the closure of the Institute of Northern Forestry, the University of Alaska Fairbanks is the primary institution that can conduct this needed component of the overall management of regional forests oriented towards providing long-term sustainable, vigorous, and diverse forests. In order to achieve these goals it will be necessary that regional planning be done cooperatively with landowners and managers, the university, and the public. Through this cooperative agreement, activities such as research needs regarding habitat units and natural resource management prescriptions would be identified and conducted. For the UAF this would entail not only research on growth and yield under different stand management prescriptions such as partial cutting or stocking level reductions but also regeneration considerations from fire prescriptions, the development and application of the computer Forest Vegetation Simulator Growth and Yield Model, the development and application of an Integration model to coordinate Landscape Ecology with Natural Resource Management, the application of GIS and GPS to facilitate management decisions for ecosystem management applied on landscape level, development of a program to educate and empower a body of public representatives to provide a means of meaningful dialog with natural resource managers about social values that will guide the decision-making process to determine social needs and values for jobs, natural resource access and management input, and to provide public school educational programs designed to improve understanding of forest ecosystem. It would also be of interest to conduct research on the effects of large scale forest mortality on carbon cycling.

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- 0439-005 The balance of the ecosystem must be protected. You can do this now. Timber giants who log our resources have nursed at the gov't breast so long./ They don't know any other way to rip off the taxpayer. Do this plan correctly and the rewards will be for generations future visitors.
- 0443-003 The main thing we want out of the forest plan revision is a guarantee that ecologically significant portions of the national forest will be protected for the long term. We think of ecological significance in terms of sufficient diversity of native flora and fauna, and sufficient quantity of land to maintain healthy populations in the face of human pressures, non-human cycles/disturbances, and the likelihood of global climate change. We want these protected areas to include low elevation native forest-- we are not satisfied with what has become a standard "protect the rocks, ice, and tundra" scenario. We assume that protection on an ecological level, rather than merely a scenic level, would require protecting entire watersheds, which in many cases would require cooperation between the USFS and other land owners. We would like the USFS to use the revision process to initiate this kind of cooperation, recognizing that national lands are often the last refuge for wide ranging wildlife and mature native forests.
- 0479-001 In summary, The Wilderness Society views the Chugach National Forest as a unique forest ecosystem for a variety of reasons, including its location, size, varying terrain, ecology, ecosystem types, wilderness and wildlife, impacts and demands for uses.
- 0485-010 Alaska remains the last frontier and it must remain that way. To this, I stress the need for protection of as much land and waterways as is possible. I urge you to help prevent the destruction of the pristine character of Alaska, and maintain Alaska as our last frontier for the enjoyment of current and all future generations.
- 0495-008 6. Provide permanent protection status for all of the Chugach Forest, and expand it's protection into Copper River Delta for all of it's established species of wild life as well...
- 0495-009 7. No mining claims should permitted without a detailed oversight plan, environmental assessment studies and a review of watershed impact analysis.
- 0781-011 ACE would like the Forest Service to replace the piecemeal approach to the forest, which divides it along lines of so-called forest health (and practices such as salvage logging), with long-term sustainable forest practices that view the forest ecosystem as a whole. Additionally, ACE would like to see the Forest Service utilize prescribed burns in this holistic view, rather than as another separate category of so-called treatment.
- 0805-002 Preserve current character of Prince William Sound.
- 0820-012 ACE concurs with several organizations who suggest a new definition of this controversial and rhetorical model. ACE would like the Forest Service to focus on "forest ecology" or "natural forest cycles," thereby promoting a holistic, rather than political, approach to the forest. This move toward a biologically sustainable definition will help in also addressing issues such as insect infestation and disease. Insects and disease are part of "natural forest cycles" and ACE would like to see the Forest Service treat them as such in the revision process.
- 0820-013 ACE would like the Forest Service to look at issues related to global climate changes and past human-related activities that may have a role in current spruce bark beetle cycles in order to holistically address the issue. For example, both Bradley dam and the intertie currently in use are projects which left slash piles behind and may have contributed to the current levels of spruce bark beetle activity. Additional human interference may not have the end result desired. In fact, some studies indicate that salvage logging may slow forest recovery cycles (as reported in Beschta, R.L. et al., 1995).

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- 0820-014 ACE would like the Forest Service to replace the piecemeal view of the forest which divides it along lines of so-called forest health and practices such as salvage logging with long-term sustainable forest practices that view the forest ecosystem as a whole. Additionally, ACE would like to see the Forest Service utilize prescribed burns in this holistic view, rather than as another separate category of so-called treatment.
- 0838-002 I am intending to provide a vision of how a change can be achieved that would change present and future management practices in order to produce a change in the average forest health condition and prevent the continued cycling of catastrophic losses from major change events stemming from forest condition factors such as overstocking, excesses in distributions and the preponderance of older, less vigorous age classes, and lack of stand structure and species diversity.
- 0838-004 During the conference, four separate speakers, myself included, spoke about ecosystem management and the need to provide for a new focus on management of the forest resources in order to promote a condition that would reflect a vigorous, sustainable, and diverse forest with less propensity for major catastrophic events. One that is not bug-proof but rather is bug-resistant. It was emphasized that having a healthy and sustainable forest is dependent upon also having a healthy forest products industry. A healthy forest products industry assists with the application of various stand management prescriptions that can help assure long-term forest health and sustainability. It is also necessary to understand that burning the forest further contributes to the release of greenhouse gases through oxidation of bound carbon compounds and their release back into the atmosphere. Recent multi-national negotiations to reduce greenhouse emissions calls for better alternatives than burning large areas of forest land. Scientists such as the late Carl Sagan wrote that if we are to begin to make progress in reductions of greenhouse emissions from the standpoint of forest management, it is essential that we provide for healthy vigorously growing forests and limit the amounts of sequestered carbon being returned to the atmosphere. Harvesting and utilization of forest products such as lumber provides for the retention of sequestered carbon. The burning of forests in tropical and sub-tropical countries has been a key issue in the debate over greenhouse gaseous emissions. The future of the world, with an ever increasing human population demands and associated resource
- 0838-005 1 dependency, requires that land resource managers be increasingly concerned about management of both land and atmospheric resources. There are those who would say that insects, diseases, fire, and weather damage are natural factors of change and are agents of restoration ecology rather than forest decline. However, the effects of past management, both locally through practices such as fire control, and international effects such as global warming, have artificially influenced the future of these forests in spite of attempts to allow a natural course of events to occur. Problems with natural catastrophic events in our forests on the scale occurring throughout Alaska dictate that we will see long-term changes in forest structure and vegetation and likely long-term effects on wildlife habitat. And if proper management is not taken we will very likely see a recycling of catastrophic event patterns. We are now at a point where serious and long-lasting decisions need to be made about the future forests of our region. This will take foresight, planning, and management, . . . management for a forest condition rather than commodity outputs. As Leroy Kline of the Oregon Department of Forestry stated, "There is a great tendency to fix past mistakes. However, unless more effort is devoted to looking forward toward prevention rather than backward toward correction, we will continually be trying to catch up." This is where ecosystem management as a tool or process for landscape level planning on a regional basis can be effective.

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- 0838-008 The responsibility for forest resource management involves a number of organizations. While it is their task to effectively manage their lands for management objectives, forest health and risks are factors that influence these lands on a regional basis which can negate or reduce the effectiveness of land management on smaller tracts of ownership. It is necessary that landowners both realize the importance of planning on a regional (landscape level basis) and have a means or decision-making process for implementation of such plans. Components of this outline: Description of the Environment (The Ecosystem Diversity Matrix): The USFS has developed a mapping of forest areas in Alaska by Ecological Units. These Ecological units subdivide into finer habitat type classifications which can provide a basis for management planning and create an Ecosystem Diversity matrix. Establishing a forest inventory of habitat types which are based on identifiable site parameters is the first step. Forest canopy structure for each habitat type can vary depending on historical events including insect and disease incidence and fire. Research must provide forest growth and yield information for these habitat types. Wise management of the forest on a regional basis will require providing a balance of the forest structures within these habitat types. Failure to provide this balance can contribute to the long-term health decline and reduction of a diverse, and sustainable forest on a regional basis. A process has been developed for the balanced distribution of stand structures within habitat types as was recently outlined by Dr. Bob Pfister from the University of Montana. This process could be successfully developed as part of a region-wide natural resource management plan. Necessary Information for each habitat type classification. Tree species and canopy structure for a given habitat type. (small tree single story, medium tree multi-story, etc.) Associated Stand Hazards Associated Site Productivity Classes Access Class Condition Classes (heavy insect activity, heavy disease, heavy fire risk, diverse vigorous stand, stagnated stand, wind damage)
- 0860-065 The Forest is managed in a way that replicates natural processes (i.e. ecosystem management.)
- 0863-012 Our definition of EM does not focus on retaining our ecosystems simply as they are now but focusing on idea of integrated resource concerns, mimic natural processes.
- 0864-002 Code Effect Ecosystem Management Cause agency Coordination Designating Land Use within ecosystems management process (E.I.-watershed analysis and more public and interagency interaction).