

Forest Health

Comment # Comment

- 0038-004 4--Hand thin the decaying trees which provides more sun/rain for newer growth.
- 0038-006 6--No burning--it destroys good bacteria for depths up to 7 inches.
- 0065-002 We now know there is no "forest health problem - & that the "salvage" logging was a fraud to destroy our forests for the greed of timber corporations - & money for the NFS!
- 0120-003 (2) I hope a new plan will expedite the removal of the beetle infested trees in Moose Pass so we can regain our healthy forest!
- 0128-003 A specific timber concern that I have long had relates to the, areas infested by the spruce bark beetle. In my opinion, not only should the stands of trees that are infected or are dead be removed but individual isolated trees as well. I have observed that this is done even in the national parks. In my, opinion, here is an instance where public opinion should have little influence. The removal of trees that become a threat to the forest or to the public should not be a matter for public hearings.
- 0146-001 The new plan should emphasize specific actions to restore forest health, reduce the risk of catastrophic fire and maintain a multiple use mandate In which national forest policy has long been rooted. Support a management prescription to restore forest health through timber harvesting. - Spruce bark beetle activity In the Chugach continues to increase at alarming rates, consuming vast viewsheds and leaving once-healthy timber stands In a dead or dying state. Beetles have shown no respect for buffer zones, viewsheds or private property. Point out that logging of beetle-killed timber should be considered the first stage In a reforestation process that will lead to healthier forests
- 0146-002 The new plan should provide for a long-term timber supply and mandate modern silviculture practices to encourage natural regeneration. - The new plan should manage the forested portions of the Chugach toward a varied species composition and different age classes to reduce the risk of significant future beetle mortality and help restore
- 0172-001 The Plan should specifically address strong actions to be taken to save the forest from the ever expanding destruction caused by the Spruce Bark beetle. It is imperative that ongoing forest health be maintained through initiation of a long term timber harvesting schedule. The best way to realize value in those trees already killed is through the appropriate use of economically feasible selective logging. This will allow reforestation to occur much sooner in effected areas as well as slowing the spread of the beetle to healthy trees. The Chugach is far too valuable for us to continue to stand by and watch it be decimated by the beetle.
- 0249-001 start managing the timber resource of the forest & restore SBB impacted lands (long-term) -
- 0262-003 2) We will soon had a dead forest if we don't take action.
- 0262-007 1. A. Management direction of CNF. Response to Spruce Bark Beetle. Healthy Forest.
- 0262-008 2. A. A) Forest should be effectively managed, so we don't end up with a dead forest, either because of the spruce beetle, or because the growth is all mature or over-mature without renewal and new timber growth.
- 0264-001 1. A. RESTORE FOREST HEALTH. CUT OR BURN DEAD TREES. MANAGE VEGETATION. NON-HARVEST OF BEETLE KILLED TREES IS WANTON WASTE.
- 0264-005 3) FOREST HEALTH - BEETLES - NO LOGGING
- 0276-001 1. A. Wildlife diversity, esp. Brown Bears 2. A. Important to maintain forest health. Would feel personal loss if there were no more brown bears in CNF. 3. A. Safety - bear/people contacts. habitat - roads. Tourism
- 0282-001 How can we manage for something (forest health) if we cannot clearly define it? So we can manage our ecosystems wisely. . Easy, get parties around the table & make (ILLEGIBLE) F.S. responsible. Doesn't need any funding. None, except the desire by some to have forest health defined as the "(ILLEGIBLE) the mature trees". . Key to management of Forests on the Kenai, which are the only forest lands the Chugach is considering for (ILLEGIBLE)
- 0283-009 - The question of Forest health ... needs to be defined by someone besides a timber beast. - Unwise timber extraction is the biggest threat to healthy ecosystem on Chugach. Most (ILLEGIBLE) Economists Ecologists (ILLEGIBLE) Biologists (WLF, FISH) Social Sci Recreationists All IG's

Comment # Comment

- 0297-001 I'd like to inquire about the most recent planning exercise that was undertaken by the Chugach National Forest staff. I'm referring to the recently completed salvage timber sale planning process. I understand that some 5.6 million dollars was spent and the entire plan was then abandoned, making this exercise for all intents and purposes, a total waste of time and, of course, money. Would you please let me know if this is correct and what the Forest intends to do about this? Regarding the CLMP Revision process, it seems to me that the focus of this effort should be to specifically define the mission of the Forest and then fit a cost-effective management team to this mission. In this era of scarce financial resources the idea of planning for planning's sake and serial planning (i.e., immediately following one large scale planning exercise with another as has been the case on the Tongass) is unacceptable. I am aware of the federal laws that require the National Forest system to undertake plan revisions every five years. I am also aware that the requirement does not stipulate that each revision process last 58 months.
- 0297-003 The forest has done a terrible job in dealing with forest health issues, dilly-dallying and stalling for more than a decade, and, as previously mentioned, abandoning a half-hearted, less than mediocre salvage plan that cost over 5 million dollars. The planning team is now, it seems to me, at a crossroads. The opportunity is at hand to restore multiple use management to the Forest, come to grips with the forest health issues and create a plan that utilizes the sum of the talent that you have on staff at the S.O. level and on the Ranger Districts. Or, you can ignore the multiple use mandate, continue the current course and complete the process of turning the Chugach into a recreation-only forest. The risk of this second course is that the Alaska congressional delegation and the citizens of Alaska may quickly realize that the current staff on the Forest is not needed to operate what amounts to a very extensively managed N.R.A. You will then be faced with massive staff reductions and the citizens of Alaska and the rest of the country will have lost the economic benefits which can flow from a properly managed, multiple-use national forest.
- 0326-002 The rhetorical question in the preplanning material asking if commercial timber harvest is still appropriate in the Chugach is outrageous when large areas of the Chugach National Forest are either dead, dying or threatened by bark beetles. Besides the economic waste, dead forests may also have adverse effects on recreational as well as on fish and wildlife. Economic developments through natural resource extraction are multiple uses that should not be
- 0326-007 Timber cutting is a legitimate activity, especially for beetle infested timber that has economic value remaining. The Forest Service is perfectly capable of getting it cut without long term damage to the environment or fish and wildlife. For older beetle killed forests with little or no economic value remaining, fish and wildlife, Forest renewal and forest health considerations become paramount, and best management practices invoked to accomplish those objectives.
- 0333-001 The new plan should emphasize specific actions to restore forest health, reduce the risk of catastrophic fire. Support a management prescription to restore forest health through timber harvesting.
- 0333-003 Spruce bark beetle activity in the Chugach continues to increase at alarming rates, consuming vast viewsheds and leaving once-healthy timber stands in a dead or dying state. Beetles have shown no respect for buffer zones, viewsheds or private, property. Point out that logging of beetle-killed timber should be considered the first stage in a reforestation process that will lead to healthier forests faster than if nothing is done.
- 0336-001 Much has changed since the last Land Management Plan was completed for the Chugach National Forest Not only has the public perception of what constitutes forest land management changed, but the natural evolution of the forest has continued as well. During the interim period Congress and the State legislature have set aside vast areas within Alaska where virtually all development is prohibited. Likewise during that period the institutional philosophy of the Forest Service has shifted dramatically toward resource observation and away from resource management. Such a shift is highly detrimental to the overall health, productivity and contribution that the National Forest lands can, and should, make towards both a well balanced economy and "Alaskan" lifestyle. The forest is a dynamic entity and will not remain as it is at any point in time for very long.
- 0337-005 My sincere hope is that we can be proactive in restoring the forest health and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire. We need to get back to the basics and dedicate our efforts toward developing an asset as opposed to fostering a
- 0370-019 1. A. Managing the forest is a good thing, however [many of the unmanaged areas around Cooper Landing have great green new spruce regeneration] (ILLEGIBLE) in near back country OK, let mature, nature (ILLEGIBLE) in back country. Use Fire Look at USPWS management, and what works for them, even if their (ILLEGIBLE) are diff. there are lessons to be learned. Actually you're doing pretty good, actually very good. The eastern Kenai was defined with grace, and true multiple use for this whole century. The salvage Logging was a BAD issue and not handled well.
- 0384-006 2) Increased use due to Whittier Road. 2) Increased use - concern for non point source pollution from increased
- 0397-005 1. A. Use prescribed Fire & Wildfire burning within prescription as the primary agent of forest regeneration on Seward Ranger District. This would work in the long term
- 0397-006 2. A. For reasons of forest health, and to discharge your responsibility to deal with a problematic fuel load. The fire ecology of the Kenai Peninsula demands more fire.
- 0397-009 5. A. It helps solve the roading problem. It deals with Forest health which you said you had a big interest in when you planned to log.

Comment # Comment

- 0398-002 Forest Management: One of the original mandates of the national forest system is to provide a reliable source of timber to a domestic forest products industry. Yet the Forest Service, in its first newsletter on the revision process, asked the question, "is commercial timber harvest appropriate on the Chugach National Forest?" This question gives, the public the impression that timber harvesting, commercial or otherwise, is a discretionary activity of the national forest system. Timber harvesting is not discretionary, no more so than habitat preservation and recreation. The new plan should emphasize specific actions to restore forest health and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire. Logging of beetle-killed timber should be considered the first stage in a reforestation process that will lead to healthier forests faster than if nothing is done. The new plan should provide for modern silviculture practices to encourage natural regeneration. Forested portions of the Chugach should be managed toward a varied species composition and different age classes to reduce the risk of large beetle infestations in the future and help restore long-term forest health. An annual commercial timber harvest must be provided in the new plan to improve the supply of raw materials to local communities and industry. A program of scheduled timber sales should be provided for under the new plan to meet a predetermined allowable sale quantity.
- 0399-003 Consequently, when considering the issue of commercial timber harvest in the Chugach Forest, land management officials should be mindful not only of the unfortunate consequences of the political decisions regarding the Tongass Forest, but also of the urgent need to act promptly to restore the health of the Chugach forest by allowing the harvesting of the beetle infested timber. This harvesting, along with reforestation, could be accomplished without appreciable environmental damage, while providing jobs and preventing total economic loss of the affected timber.
- 0400-004 The plan should consider the health of the entire forest ecosystem, not just the "health" or economic value of standing trees. The plan should reject definitions of "forest health" that focus on whether standing trees are infested by insects or are past optimum harvest age. In preparing the plan, the Forest Service should conduct a "GAP Analysis" covering the entire region, not just lands inside forest boundaries. The analysis would create an inventory of regional diversity, identify ecologically significant lands and recommend changes agreement needed to protect those ecological
- 0404-004 Forest Health EKPEAA believes that much of the recent disagreement over salvage logging is a result off adhering to an inappropriate definition of forest health. We need a new definition of forest health. Here's a suggestion: "a condition of forest ecosystems that sustains biodiversity and natural ecological complexities, has the capacity for renewal, and the capacity for recovery from a wide variety of disturbances within the natural range of variability in perpetuity." 1 This definition focuses on ecological limits and removes the notion of human utility as the dominant measure of what's good about a forest. Additionally, the term "forest health" should be replaced with the more accurate and less misleading term "forest condition".
- 0407-002 2. Another mandate of the National Forest System is to maintain appropriate forest cover with species of trees, degrees of stocking, rate of growth, and conditions of stands designed to secure the maximum benefits of multiple use sustained yield management. Given the current condition of the spruce stands in the CNF, how will the plan address the mortality caused by the spruce bark beetle? These stands have been and continue to be in imminent danger from attack by the bark beetle. This situation has been largely ignored in the past. The plan should address this situation with silvicultural measures designed to restore and maintain forest health in order to benefit the other
- 0412-003 We can cite the Tongass National Forest as a prime example of undue restrictions and mismanagement which ultimately resulted in the closure of a mill and the loss of scores of jobs. Consequently, when considering the issue of commercial timber harvest in the Chugach Forest, land management officials should be mindful not only of the unfortunate consequences of the political decisions regarding the Tongass Forest, but also of the urgent need to act promptly to restore the health of the Chugach forest by allowing the harvesting of the beetle infested timber. This harvesting, along with reforestation, could be accomplished without appreciable environmental damage, while providing jobs and preventing total economic loss of the affected timber.
- 0413-001 Since the last Land Management Plan was completed for the Chugach National Forest there has been a steadily accelerating decline in the health of the forest your agency is charged with managing. As an integral part of the revision process for the Chugach National Forest Land Management Plan I urge you to adopt a pro-active management posture with respect to timber resource salvage and controlling forest pests in the future. It is imperative that your agency cut through all the political rhetoric and predictions of dire environmental disasters (always stated as fact by the preservationists - but never has any single one of them come about) and get back to the basics of truly being a "land manager". I appreciate the opportunity to provide my input.
- 0431-001 The revised plan should provide for restoration and maintenance of forest health, and for multiple use of the Forest's resources. At present the Forest is deteriorating from spruce bark beetle infestation. Although such outbreaks are cyclical, the present one is highly serious, and covers tremendous areas. It is continuing to spread rapidly. The affected trees must be harvested. By affected trees, I intend not only the beetle killed trees, but also nearby trees that are at high risk from the insects. After harvesting, the Forest should be reforested under scientific silvicultural.

Comment # Comment

- 0434-001 1. Forest Regeneration and Forest health I am deeply concerned about the lack of management prescriptions being applied on the National Forest to restore forest health In the wake of the largest spruce beetle epidemic on record, A disproportionate share of the white and lutz spruce forest under federal management is being deforested by default through federal Inaction. The conversion to grassland due to lack of affirmative action on the part of the Forest Service is contrary to the principles of sustainable forestry. The Forest Planning team should model the future forest conditions several decades ahead and provide maps showing future expected forest conditions under various management alternatives. Only then can an informed public understand the management implications of the current direction the Forest Service is taking with its hands off management philosophy.
- 0436-001 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. On December 3 and 4th 1997 a conference was held on the campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The focus of this conference was to develop a better understanding of the role the University of Alaska Fairbanks can play In support of the forest products Industry In Alaska. Speakers for the conference came from several agencies and organizations both from within and outside Alaska. 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 dependency must 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. Recent research has Indicated that forests in Alaska Including the Chugach National Forest are experiencing serious forest health problems and Indications are that there has been a serious decline In overall forest health. Dr. R. A. Werner (USFS Research Entomologist) reported in 1996 that, "Deteriorating forest health is causing unprecedented damage to the boreal forests of Alaska." Numerous references indicate that increased stress within our forests, attributed to Increasing temperatures and drought, have substantially contributed to a general condition of poorer health within Alaskan forests. Poor forest health produces considerable problems for the sustained production of a variety of products and values from our forests. Concern for the long-term production of these products and
- 0436-002 A decision to lock much of the land in a roadless category and efforts to limit management of these forests will have long-term health and productivity implications for the forests of today and those of the future.

Comment # Comment

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 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

Comment # Comment

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

- 0444-002 Forest Health EKPEAA believes that much of the recent disagreement over salvage logging is a result of adhering to an inappropriate definition of forest health. We need a new definition of forest health. Here's a suggestion: "a condition of forest ecosystems that sustains biodiversity and natural ecological complexities, has the capacity for renewal, and the capacity for recovery from a wide variety of disturbances within the natural range of variability in perpetuity." This definition focuses on ecological limits and removes the notion of human utility as the dominant measure of what's good about a forest. Additionally, the term "forest health" should be replaced with the more accurate and less misleading term "forest condition". Monitoring programs A detailed and reliably funded research, evaluation and monitoring program should be in place for any action on the forest. No action should occur without a
- 0446-006 6. Forest Management. The forest should be managed to prevent additional destruction by the spruce bark beetle. Beetle damaged timber should be logged and an annual commercial timber cut should be allowed to maintain a health forest and a healthy forest products industry.
- 0448-005 Logging should be allowed in locations where harvesting timber is more than a marginal activity and/or it could improve the forest environment.
- 0450-001 1. Restoration of Forest Health. The Chugach timber staff should develop scientifically defensible silvicultural prescriptions to expedite establishment of a viable commercial, forest. The developed should include clear cuts, scarification, planting, and thinning activities. Every effort should be made to minimize the number of acres that begin the successional process in the grass stage. While this is the nature course for reforestation after a catastrophic
- 0452-001 I have personally observed the effect of salvage logging in proximity of the Trail River Campground on the North shore of Kenai Lake and heartily endorse its continuance and expansion. Where logging has occurred, there is a healthy growth of seedlings which will in time restore the area affected by the forest fire and beetle kill. This is not the situation where logging has not taken place. The visual impact of the salvage logging that has taken place is 100% favorable. To let the dead trees continue to stand is both an eyesore and a waste of natural resources.
- 0459-001 FOREST HEALTH:: The Spruce Bark Beetle epidemic has been multiplying over the past decade to the extent that it is becoming a safety hazard to those individuals and communities in the Chugach area. While we understand that forest management includes conservation of said forest, we would hope that the plan would also include the use of timber harvest as a means to offset the potential hazard of fires in the area. It should be noted that the use of timber harvest in the area serves two purposes: to offset the threat of catastrophic fires and maintain the multiple use mandate for which the National Forest System was originally mandated. Timber harvest also gives professional foresters a management tool to aid in controlling the growing spruce bark beetle epidemic. Without such management of these areas and maintaining various species and age classes, the reforestation process cannot begin nor sustain
- 0460-001 As the Chugach National Forest proceeds with the Land Management Plan revision process, I urge you to adopt a pro-active forest management posture. The health of the forested areas within the Chugach National Forest is deteriorating rapidly. Only a scientifically applied, active land management program can maintain the health of the
- 0483-004 Now plans are under way to expand this type of activity (logging) under the guise of forest health and ecosystem management without performing any extensive, meaningful cumulative impact studies.
- 0635-001 Regrettably I don't have/take time to be an active environmentalist "politically" although I live a lifestyle very friendly to planet earth. A big concern of mine that I perceive to not be addressed is the fact that for eons of time trees have died and fallen in virgin forests to fertilize soil for new life. It's difficult to traverse a virgin forest, and with development and the beetle kill, we sanitize forests by burning wood waste which leaves chemicals but no humus-or we take everything "to the dump." It takes 1000 years to make an inch of topsoil. Could we at least chip waste and use a fire retardant or composting enhancer? And how about promoting zero population growth?
- 0673-001 It is extremely important to preserve because of global warming, for forests are carbon sinks. It is equally important to preserve biological diversity so that species can survive - including our own.

Comment # Comment

- 0701-001 Use fire to regenerate forests.
- 0705-003 The watershed analysis is essential to the health of our salmon streams.
- 0764-001 Once a forest reaches it full growth it begins to die and is weakened so it can't resist rot & beetles. By using the land you create new growth, more food for the wildlife, create a food chain for the predators,
- 0777-028 The Chugach National Forest Must Protect Resource Values to Provide a Reliable Source of Timber One of the original mandates of the National Forest System is to provide a reliable source of timber. In order to do this, the Chugach National Forest must protect the basic health of resource values located on National Forest lands. The Chugach National Forest has performed neither of these responsibilities well.
- 0779-001 Code me pro-fire. Fire can clear a path out of the dilemma that the beetle has imposed on land managers. You know that the epidemic has become too widespread to halt. You know that forests need regenerating and you know the potential for destructive wildfire. The FS failed to achieve enough public support for logging as the response to beetles. If properly explained, fire will garner public support and will enable you to reach your stated goal of forest health. Part of your explanation to the public should include distinguishing between the inhabited front country and
- 0779-002 The public did not allow you to use beetles as a can opener to road and log the backcountry. It will allow you to prescribe fire there to regenerate forest health. The public also demands that you protect the inhabited front country
- 0781-018 In determining an appropriate level of logging on the forest, ACE would like the Forest Service to utilize the "forest ecology" concept laid out in the Forest Health section of this document.
- 0781-007 The USFS definition of forest health is a "condition of forest ecosystems that sustains their complexity while providing for human needs." We appreciate the first half of this definition as it is biology-based. However, the last clause, providing for human needs, does not address actual forest health - it effectively transforms a natural forest into a tree farm. In this scenario, if forests are not producing for human needs (often interpreted to be wood fiber) they need to be coaxed to do so; they are in ill health and need treatment. Hence, large-scale logging is "prescribed" to eliminate the so-called unproductive beetle-killed spruce and promote regeneration.
- 0781-009 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. 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 on the Kenai, both Bradley dam and the intertie currently in use are projects which left slash piles behind and may have contributed to
- 0800-002 Forest Health Forest health problems continue to appear across the CNF. With leadership, imagination and creativity, existing problems can be addressed and future problems avoided through management on those parts of the forest that will allow such management. The consequences of doing nothing can be seen over large areas of he CNF.
- 0804-004 I believe that the long- range health of Alaska's economy is tied to the health of the land itself.
- 0809-001 For this reason, we offer the following recommendations for consideration prior to release of a final CLMP.
FOREST HEALTH: The Spruce Bark Beetle epidemic has been multiplying over the past decade to the extent that it is becoming a safety hazard to those individuals and communities in the Chugach area. While we understand that forest management includes conservation of said forest, we would hope that the plan would also include the use of timber harvest as a means to offset the potential hazard of fires in the area. It should be noted that the use of timber harvest in the area serves two purposes: to offset the threat of catastrophic fires and maintain the multiple use mandate for which the National Forest System was originally mandated. Timber harvest also gives professional foresters a management tool to aid in controlling the growing spruce bark beetle epidemic. Without such management of these areas and maintaining various species and age classes, the reforestation process cannot begin nor sustain
- 0809-006 The Chugach National Forest must apply proven forest management practices to its timber resources to improve the supply of raw materials to local communities and industry and to improve and restore the basic health of the forest.
- 0809-010 It should be noted that we support forest management as a tool that takes both the health of forested area and the socio-economic health of surrounding communities into account prior to making long term forest decisions. The preferred alternative should provide significant timber harvest as a means of such forest management.
- 0811-002 It should be noted that the use of timber harvest in the area serves two purposes: to offset the threat of catastrophic fires and maintain the multiple use mandate for which the National Forest System was originally mandated.
- 0811-003 Chugach Land Management Plan Scoping Page 2 Timber harvest also gives professional foresters a management tool to aid in controlling the growing spruce bark beetle epidemic. Without such management of these areas and maintaining various species and age classes, the reforestation process cannot begin nor sustain itself against future

Comment # Comment

- 0811-012 It should be noted that we support forest management as a tool that takes both the health of forested areas and the socioeconomic health of surrounding communities into account before making long-term decisions
- 0812-019 Salvage timber harvest retractions have contributed to the decline of forest health, furthered the spread of spruce bark beetle infestation, and ignored catastrophic levels of forest fire fuels. Active management of Chugach National Forest timber resources must be emphasized in revision alternatives. Adequate amounts of timber must be made available for harvest that will slow the spread of beetle infestation and salvage large quantities of dead and dying
- 0817-011 Forest Ecology The plan must address the bark beetle infestation and management across the forest and Kenai Peninsula. Fire ecology and management must also be incorporated into this evaluation. The Forest Service should bring together experts in forest ecology to discuss the relationship of fire, insects, and natural succession of the forest. What is the natural role of fire and insects in the ecology of the Chugach Forest and how should the forest be managed to maintain forest diversity and ecological processes across the forest in time and space?
- 0817-026 Landbirds (hummingbirds, woodpeckers, and passerines): Recent work by the Boreal Partners in Flight working group has identified species of priority conservation concern in southcoastal Alaska. Of 16 high priority species in the region, 12 are associated with coniferous forests. Two of these species, Rufous Hummingbird and Olive-sided Flycatcher, are listed as species of moderate priority on WatchList 1996. Little is known about the effects of landscape-level forest changes on populations of landbirds. Damage by bark-beetles and timber harvest outside of Forest boundaries might affect landbirds. For Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers however, some natural forest disturbance might be necessary for persistence of their populations.
- 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.
- 0826-002 2. Forest health is a big problem on the forest and will likely be for some time to come. The plan needs to address what comprehensive pest management techniques will be utilized to mitigate or restore the areas of the forest that have been impacted by the spruce bark beetle. Restoration of damaged ecosystems have become an accepted practice in the Pacific Northwest where funding and staff resources are being allocated to salmon and stream restoration projects. I think a similar program needs to be developed for areas of the forest that have been impacted
- 0836-012 The use of helicopter logging should be evaluated for all or part of harvests. Helicopter yarding reduces need for new roads, reduces disturbance of soils with MM indexes, reduces impacts caused by sediment loading of streams, reduces road related landslides, and protects/minimizes impacts to wetlands and fish and wildlife habitat.
- 0836-015 Mitigation plans should be encouraged forest-wide that address clean-up measures and timeframes for restoration actions to be accomplished for such effects as bark accumulation, mooring of logs, non-point surface drainage (i.e., bark leachate), erosion and sedimentation, improper disposal of solid waste materials (i.e., pipes, cables, oil drums, plastics), and chronic petroleum product spills.
- 0837-021 Forest Management The revision of the CNFP should concentrate on forest health.
- 0837-023 Forest harvest for the purpose of supporting a timber industry is an important consideration but should not be the focal point of the forest management effort. Nonetheless, the issues of forest management exist, focusing on vegetative management to achieve the other objectives in the CNFP or to resolve forest health problems. The following have been identified as issues that need particular attention in the update:
- 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
- 0838-006 Recent research has indicated that forests in Alaska including the Chugach National Forest are experiencing serious forest health problems and indications are that there has been a serious decline in overall forest health. Dr. R. A. Werner (USFS Research Entomologist) reported in 1996 that, "Deteriorating forest health is causing unprecedented damage to the boreal forests of Alaska." Numerous references indicate that increased stress within our forests, attributed to increasing temperatures and drought, have substantially contributed to a general condition of poorer health within Alaskan forests. Poor forest health produces considerable problems for the sustained production of a variety of products and values from our forests. Concern for the long-term production of these products and protection of resources on adjacent ownership should be a guiding principle for the Chugach National Forest. A decision to lock much of the land in a roadless category and efforts to limit management of these forests will have long-term health and productivity implications for the forests of today and those of the future.

Comment # Comment

- 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)
- 0860-088 Healthy forest: balanced economic development with conservation Managed by passionate land managers
- 0860-122 Clean water, flowing clear and free Most areas managed for preservation Healthy green forest and diverse use
- 0860-139 Massive areas of dead trees and fire

