

# *Insects & Disease*

## *Comment # Comment*

- 0020-002 Harvest all Beetle killed trees as soon as possible This is only good conservation of our resources.
- 0023-002 Using dead beetle kill spruce OK but not a necessity. Good to leave some standing for wildlife use. Rather seem them be utilized than to stand & rot.
- 0023-003 My understanding is that live spruce are potentially a higher fire hazard than dead spruce because of the pitch content of live trees.
- 0024-007 7) Minimal tree cutting. Even beetle killed trees.
- 0030-002 2) There happens to be a bark beetle problem here on KP - and how do we stop it? Moose Pan looks sick. How's this for an idea: clear cut a wide transverse swatch here in the Valley - thusly removing susceptible trees, then the next spring when the litter buggers are hatching out - set a blaze to the currently infected timber and try to halt the spread.
- 0042-001 Plan ahead for such disasters as the Spruce Bark Beetle and eradicate the problem when it begins instead of allowing further infestation as has been done during this spruce beetle infestation.
- 0047-001 I want to see you be "pro-active" Dead trees are just that Dead. If someone wants to buy and utilize them, that is good! The Forest is not "Dead." By your actions (the revised Forest Plan) we can speed up the natural process so the Forest will recover, be more Diverse Biologically - support more critters - be healthier and more resistant to insects & disease - other mosaic - more fire included where appropriate. Multiple use and many users. Don't let the non use fanatics steer you toward Preservation over conservation. Good Luck.
- 0053-001 I would like to see the USFS harvest some of the dead spruce.
- 0066-001 (1) A healthy forest is vital for the long term and I really would like to see more of the beetle killed trees in the Moose Pass area harvested or just put a little road into some of the areas and allow more firewood cutting.
- 0076-001 (1) Use best scientific data available (2) Determine impacts to non-timber resources (aesthetic quality, wildlife habitat, hydrology) caused by spruce beetle infestations.
- 0079-004 Harvest spruce bark - but revegetate - plant new seedlings. Six mile Maintain Seward Hwy for scenic beauty
- 0081-001 I support harvesting as many beetle killed trees as is economically feasible. I expect that this be done with all due concern for the existing ecosystem.
- 0088-001 At present I have no comments except to say I do not approve of the way the Spruce beetle problem was handled. I feel that when the problem started the beetle should have been sprayed to keep it from spreading. The beautiful spruce trees in our yards are now in jeopardy.
- 0095-001 At this point in time, i feel it is imperative that we harvest as much of the trees killed by the Spruce Bark Beetles as possible, within the scope, of course, of economic feasibility. This is an important resource that should not go to waste. It is my understanding that the damaged trees will deteriorate quite rapidly after a few years making them worthless for almost any kind of use. In the event that is the case, I feel time is of the essence for their harvest, notwithstanding the objections and complaints from the rabid anti-resource development and/or environmental NUTS!
- 0120-003 I hope a new plan will expedite the removal of the beetle infested trees in Moose Pass so we can regain our healthy forest!
- 0125-001 Get a move on... Remove dead trees to rejuvenate the forest. Science is factual. Don't listen with an ear that some interest groups "speak" for the "public" I too am part of the public. Move accessible dead trees. Provide ILLEGIBLE
- 0126-001 Part 3 You asked for topics which I felt should be addressed in the Revision Process. I feel that increased timber production should be addressed. The Chugach is one of the largest forests in the United State, but contributes a fraction of the timber needed for our state or national needs. A real pest management control program should be put into place. As managers you need to do what you know is best for the land, not what a few well funded radical groups want you to do. Your job is to manage the forest, not play politics.
- 0127-002 (2) We need to log the primrose/Snow River area, but the bunny huggers will sue and litigate to the point of letting those trees before a fire hazard 5 to 10 years in the future

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- 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
- 0152-001 Dear Chugach National Forest, My brief comments for your revision issue: Yes, Logging of beetle killed timber. Seems like common sense for us to focus on this right now.
- 0154-001 (1) Dead and dying trees in the large areas of spruce bark beetle infestation should be harvested. This action would be the first step in a reforestation project. Such reforestation should be conducted under scientific silvicultural
- 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.
- 0183-003 Due to the beetle epidemic on the Kenai you should have an increased salvage program to minimize losses. This epidemic on the Kenai is not natural as claimed by the non-development proponents. It is due to intensive protection from fires which have not allowed the forest to renew itself. You can provide jobs, help stem the epidemic, and renew the forest by having an accelerated salvage program. A salvage program is actually too late. You need to be converting high risk stands to young vigorous stands before the beetles move in. There can be both economic benefit and all other resource uses to satisfy everyone if you do your job as required in National Forest mandates.
- 0188-003 Finally, we hope you take the spruce bark beetle "Lemon" and make lemonade by allowing harvesting of the dead trees before they rot. Why not! Best of luck in your efforts. Hope our comments will be helpful.
- 0189-002 We believe that this is a mistake that is evidenced by the recent history of the Chugach. There have been very few timber sales proposed and many of those that have been considered have been withdrawn because of protests by environmental and wildlife groups. It is a well known fact that older spruce are more susceptible to beetle infestation than are younger trees. The absence of a continuing harvest has increased the number of older trees in the forest and contributed to the rapid spread of the beetle. Forests are a renewable resource. Managed forests will renew themselves after a harvest, keeping a desirable mix of age classes. Unmanaged forests are not eternal. Especially in the boreal forest, they are subject to removal by fire. Standing dead trees could make a fire widespread and catastrophic, possibly destroying the seed source and converting the overstory to grass. This is quite likely what made the Caribou Hills near Homer a grassland and may be in the process of doing the same in the old beetle kill near Tyonek. We believe that harvest is an essential part of management of the Chugach and ask you to continue to
- 0204-003 Spruce Bark Beetle Logging should continue, but only after a cost-benefit ratio can be established to make it profitable for the U.S.F.S. as well as the logging contractor. (I've seen where the road costs exceeded the harvest)
- 0255-001 Historic fire-suppression & "management" has created enviro. ripe for beetles & fire danger.
- 0262-007 A. Management direction of CNF. Response to Spruce Bark Beetle. Healthy Forest.
- 0264-005 FOREST HEALTH - BEETLES - NO LOGGING
- 0293-001 I would like to applaud your decision to not salvage log the Chugach.
- 0295-003 FOREST MANAGEMENT -- The CNF is not being actively managed at this time. The FS should employ proven silvicultural techniques and scientific forest management to restore Forest health including timber harvest and controlled burns. White spruce and Lutz spruce are important indicator species of forest health in the CNF. Spruce bark beetle kill is decimating the spruce Forest, meanwhile the harvesting of dead and dying trees has been halted. Logging of beetle killed timber must be a first step leading to a healthier forest. An annual commercial timber cut must be allowed in the Forest to maintain a healthy forest and a healthy Forest Products Industry. The CLMP should establish an annual schedule for timber harvest, including a schedule of specific sales which it must adhere to. It is worth noting that the present Forest Plan included annual timber harvest quotas, but very little logging actually took place because the line officers did not propose sales. The new CLMP should contain a provision for specific sales to be made on an annual basis Logging roads should be retained, not obliterated, to provide access for forest

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- 0296-003 Practical use of beetle-kill timber should be promptly implemented. If the current plan is not working, then a revised plan with incentives to promote this use should be implemented.
- 0301-002 Timber Harvest: It is pathetic the amount of timber harvested off this forest. The Chugach has an allowable cut of millions of board feet but has basically not harvested any. An aggressive timber sale program with sales that can be economically logged needs priority. This is a national forest, timber harvest is the major reason for its
- 0305-001 It is very important for the Chugach to begin immediate implementation of a salvage program to utilize beetle killed timber and also to improve forest health.
- 0307-002 Also we would like to know how this plan addresses fire management and the spruce bark beetle infestation. Our concerns may be from a distance in location, but your plan would involve us due to how water flows, fire can roar over mountains, and beetles can cover large forest areas. If you can please assist us with this requested information, we would gladly provide you our comments on your plan.
- 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.
- 0336-003 The spruce bark beetle epidemic is a prime example of what happens when no active forest management is allowed. the salvage of dead and high risk trees should be of paramount concern to both your agency and that segment of the public truly interested in conservation of the Nation's resources.
- 0337-002 My second major concern relates to the huge amounts of beetle-killed timber throughout the Chugach National Forest and particularly on the Kenai Peninsula. Accordingly, I urge that logging of beetle-killed timber be considered as the first stage in a reforestation process that eventually will lead to healthier forests. When it comes to addressing the spruce-bark beetle infestation problem, we have failed to reach a mutually acceptable corrective policy for entirely too long. The time has come for all interested parties to reach a consensus on means for managing the forest so that we ultimately will have a varied species composition with different age classes.
- 0367-002 3. A. Removal of spruce kill and what it will do to the Peninsula 4. A. Locals
- 0374-004 Spruce bark beetle
- 0375-008 Spruce Bark Beetles 4. A. Too many layers
- 0392-003 Need better vegetation map that shows specific spruce bark beetle range in entire - CNF - introduction of "Exotics" - suck as planting rings where there are not natural
- 0479-046 Forest Health and Spruce Bark Beetle: In the past few years, salvage logging has been proposed on the Chugach to address so-called "forest health." Forest health has been defined by the former Chief of the Forest Service, as, ". . . a desired state of forest health exists where extant biotic and abiotic influences do not threaten resource management objectives now or in the future -- including ecosystem functions" (Thomas 1995). TWS does not find "forest health," as defined by Thomas, to be an acceptable term upon which to base forest management decisions. TWS would like the Forest Service to move away from using this narrow and controversial term (and the concepts heretofore developed around "forest health") in the revision process, and instead approach forest resource management from a more holistic perspective, where "ecology" and "natural forest cycles" have some value within Forest Service terminology and policy-making. We would like to suggest the Forest Service use the term "forest ecology" in place of "forest health." Allowing "natural forest cycles" and "forest ecology" to have value in Forest Service terminology and policy-making is not only consistent with the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), but is especially important to TWS when addressing aspects of the Chugach National Forest such as the spruce bark beetle. We would like to see the Forest Service discuss the spruce bark beetle as a natural and inherent part of spruce forests, whose prevalence is affected by climactic conditions and stages in forest succession. When addressing the spruce bark beetle in the revision process, we would like the Forest Service to address long-term, ecosystem-based solutions for the spruce bark beetle, and not turn to logging as the only "cure" for the spruce bark beetle. Pacific Northwest scientists have released reports and recommendations which suggest that salvage logging may well slow the recovery of beetle infested forests (Beschta, R.L. et al., 1995, and the Eastside Forests Scientific Society Panel, Washington and Oregon). Given that salvage logging may well slow the recovery of beetle infested forests, TWS would like the Forest Service to turn its attention to alternatives other than salvage logging in recovery efforts regarding the spruce bark beetle, such as prescribed fire.
- 0490-011 Salvage logging is important to the curtailing of the Spruce Bark Beetle infestation. The removal of the Dead Trees and the replanting of the areas will enhance the Repair of the Damage to these areas. The faster we an get started on this the sooner we can again see Beautiful forests!

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- 0495-004 Salvage logging should NOT be permitted in any form because it interrupts the natural quality of the forest, and only serves to provide increased distribution of infestation material as logs are dismembered, cut into smaller pieces to be moved through other portions of the forest. There is a natural cycle of GROWTH-DECAY-GROWTH-DECAY that needs to take place, and while a cycle in taking place it strains the overall quality of the forest to impress upon it the economics of clear-cutting currently affected areas.
- 0550-001 8) Recommend an effective plan to eradicate the spruce beetle and an ecologically sound plan to harvest spruce beetle killed spruce trees.
- 0695-001 There is too much logging & road building occurring now all over the Kenai Peninsula because of bark beetles. It is best to let the forest resupply itself naturally.
- 0705-004 A beetle-killed forest is still a forest. It does not need our salvage logging. Besides there is new information about the use of older beetle killed spruce that can be used for value added local artistry work.
- 0736-002 Yes - log insect infested timber!
- 0772-001 Spruce beetles are nature they have been around as long as spruce trees. Stop using it and listening to people (corp.) that use that as an excuse to destroy!
- 0775-010 Do not use bark beetles as an excuse to log - no salvage logging.
- 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
- 0784-002 Dealing with the spruce bark beetle infestation is one of my main priorities for the Kenai Peninsula and logging of beetle-killed timber should be the first stage of a reforestation process. This tactic will help create a healthier forest faster than if nothing is done.
- 0811-001 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.
- 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
- 0820-020 Although over 90% of the fires started within the Chugach are caused by humans, ACE recognizes the beneficial role fire can play in forest ecology. ACE also recognizes the destructive potential of fires in inhabited areas affected by spruce bark beetles. Although ACE believes the forest will regenerate fine on its own, we recognize there may be some areas where fire would be of benefit. ACE would like to see the Forest Service analyze fire potential as its primary agent of forest regeneration on the Kenai Peninsula, where the vast majority of human inhabitants live within the forest. The Copper River area has seen a significant increase in beetle activity over the last few years.
- 0821-017 The "forest health" approach of salvage logging to "solve" the spruce bark beetle infestation must be rejected. There is no evidence that logging slows the spread of spruce bark beetles nor is it the best alternative for forest regeneration. The Forest Plan is an excellent opportunity to gather the best scientific information on the spread and control (if possible) of spruce beetles, the effect of beetle-killed trees on forest biodiversity, the role of spruce beetles in the forest ecosystem and opportunities for considering non-logging approaches for human safety and
- 0822-004 The health of the timber stands on the Chugach, particularly on the Kenai Peninsula are of great concern to many people in southcentral Alaska. The Chugach National Forest must institute forest management prescriptions to restore the health of those white spruce stands that are being decimated by the spruce bark beetle. Areas deforested by the beetle infestation must be replanted and timber stands that are threatened with infestation must be allowed to be harvested commercially prior to being killed by the insects. Areas on the Kenai Peninsula that are being actively managed for forest products are regenerating quite successfully back to white spruce. Those areas hit by the bark beetle are coming back as grass lands with losses in old growth characteristics, wildlife habitat and recreation value. It is ironic that twenty years from now the only green forest remaining on the Kenai Peninsula will be those areas

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- 0826-002 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
- 0837-024 Land use designations should allow for optimum flexibility in addressing insect and disease infestations.
- 0837-026 Additionally, the results of the newly initiated insect infestation study for the Kenai Peninsula should be integrated within the CNF revision. It is to be finalized by June, 1998. This study will provide a unique opportunity for the major public land owners in the peninsula (Borough, State, US Forest Service) to develop an common understanding of the infestation problem, how it may affect the holdings of each entity, and how each agency can contribute to an integrated solution to this pervasive problem.
- 0860-026 Harvest beetle kill before its too late
- 0860-047 Allow beetle kill to rot
- 0860-094 Allow beetle to run its course and salvage small portion
- 0860-105 Prudent harvesting of beetle killed timber
- 0860-126 Worst Spending millions trying to control the beetle
- 0860-132 Beetle infestation rampant