

Old Growth/Rainforest

Comment # Comment

- 0028-005 Remember, ancient forests are complete ecosystems, and your Forest is one of these. Honor it.
- 0054-007 Old growth forests must be retained for those who come after us. There is no substitute for the conditions found under such forests that provide habitat for life forms visible only under a microscope.
- 0130-002 Only less than 10% of our old growth forests remain. Excessive clearcutting has devastated most of our National Forests and must cease now. Only dead trees from fire, insect or disease should be cut. Cutting any live trees under the guise of "salvage cutting" must cease. All values of our National Forests should be given equal weight such as wildlife habitat, fish spawning streams, watersheds, recreational pursuits climatic influence instead of the 99% priority on timber harvest. I have been a forester in private, state and federal employment from June 1930 to the present and I hope the U.S. Forest Service will wake up to the realization that some standing trees may be more valuable left standing than converted into pulpwood and saw timber. Will the U.S. Forest Service continue on the policy of only "tree farms" until the public rises in wrath against this fallacy?
- 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 There have been very few timber sales proposed and many of those that have been considered have been withdrawn because of protests by environmental and wildlife groups.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
- 0322-004 And to ILLEGIBLE growth, and include in a National Old Growth Preservation System. So establish and designate, the Chugach National Preserve and Wilderness, with the Wilderness to include 6,836,000 acres.
- 0371-003 old growth,
- 0467-006 The old-growth forest associated species should be identified, and impacts associated with removing old-growth forest and fragmenting large old-growth blocks should be discussed in detail. The Forest Plan should include ample old-growth retention blocks, The Plan should address retention areas to be managed to maintain the uneven-age structure of old-growth habitat components required to maintain population levels of old growth dependent wildlife. These retention areas are critical in conserving old-growth habitat. The HCAs should be identified and strategically placed to ensure long-term maintenance of viable populations.
- 0821-013 Lands acquired through the Exxon Valdez Trustee Council habitat protection process must be evaluated for their wilderness suitability. Sierra Club advocates preserving large blocks of unroaded lands and old-growth forest to support well-distributed, viable populations of native species. Wilderness recommendations must include lands within Prince William Sound, the Kenai Peninsula, and the Copper River Delta, particularly the Bering and Martin River