

Regeneration

Comment # Comment

- 0098-001 Increased timber harvest and reforestation of timber areas.
- 0336-002 The present overall character of the forest can only be maintained through application of an active timber management program. Such a program includes vegetative manipulation through such means as prescribed burning, selective timber harvest and clear cutting. Different tree species require differing conditions for regeneration. If the goal is maintain the forests present species mix and composition, management activities must be planned and executed to allow that to happen.
- 0397-008 4. A. Leaders in the FS seem to regard logging as the best way to regenerate. The obstacle arises because the public doesn't like logging. Overcome the impasse by explaining fire to the public and getting pro- fire leaders.
- 0400-012 - Fire protection: The plan should recognize that fire is an integral part of the region's ecology and promotes forest regeneration. Fire management and suppression should concentrate on defense of inhabited areas. Backcountry areas should be reclassified to allow less intensive responses to wildfires. The forest service should map areas of high fuel load and identify places where all-out suppression is not necessary to protect public safety.
- 0479-049 In addition, we would like the Forest Service to advocate for more forested areas away from private land to be classified as "moderate" or "limited" in the Interagency Fire Management Agreement, and we would like to see this change in policy reflected in the Chugach Forest revision process. The Interagency Fire Management Agreement is geared toward fire suppression, which may be appropriate close to private lands, but is not necessarily appropriate in the backcountry. We understand the boundaries for the various fire protection zones within the agreement are being redefined at this time. Allowing fires to bum, where they do not threaten communities or private property, will be the best way to help regenerate the
- 0492-006 As many areas as possible need to be harvested and replanted. The majority of the population of South central Alaska believe that harvesting and replanting is best management practice.
- 0781-008 regeneration in Alaska is a slow process to begin, with. When coupled with a policy of a five-year window for replanting once a logging operation is complete, one must question whether or not regeneration is actually promoted. Additionally, sites vary immensely due to local ecological considerations and making general predications and forecasts is inappropriate. One clear example of this is at mile twelve along the Hope highway. This clear-cut was defaulted on by the first timber operator and eventually finished by a second some eight years later. Five year's time from the completion of the job has not yet expired and reforestation has not yet taken place. Another example is that of Kern Creek. This area was logged some 15 -- 20 years ago and left to natural regeneration. The area has been "colonized" by alders. To date, conifers have failed to grow back within the site. These cuts, then, are both within legal limits for regeneration although it is certainly arguable that neither have promoted regeneration nor improved forest health.
- 0781-010 Additional human interference may not have the end result desired. In fact, some studies indicate that salvage logging may slow first recovery cycles (as reported in Beschta, R.L. et al., 1995).

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- 0820-010 The Forest Service has indicated its desire to work with vegetative mapping to better understand on a cumulative level what the lands in and around the forest now represent. We encourage this level of analysis and would like to see regeneration addressed as part of this process. In northern climates, such as Alaska, regeneration standards set for the Service as a whole are inappropriate. Regeneration is much slower in Alaska and ACE would like the Forest Service to acknowledge this fact when addressing cumulative impacts for logging proposals. ACE would like to see the Forest Service address regeneration in Alaska specifically in its draft alternatives.
- 0820-011 Forest Health/Insects, Disease/Salvage Logging: 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. The latter is questionable, as regeneration in Alaska is a slow process to begin with. When coupled with a policy of a five-year window for replanting when a logging operation is complete, one must question whether or not regeneration is actually promoted. Additionally, sites vary immensely due to local ecological considerations and making general predications and forecasts is inappropriate. One clear example of this is at mile twelve along the Hope highway. This clear-cut was defaulted on by the first timber operator and eventually finished by a second some eight years later. Five year's time from the completion of the job has not yet expired and reforestation has not yet taken place. Another example is that of Kern Creek. This area was logged some 15 - 20 years ago and left to natural regeneration. The area has been "colonized" by alders. To date, conifers have failed to grow back within the site. These cuts, then, are both within legal limits for regeneration although it is certainly arguable that either have promoted regeneration or improved forest health.
- 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.