Special Ecosystem Components

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?
0136-003	No logging within 1 mile of any waterway
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 There have been very few timber sales proposed and many of those that have been considered have been withdrawn because of protests by environmental and wildlife groups.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,
0371-004	riparian,
0462-007	CNF Mngt. Plan should be written to cooperate with the Kenai River Special Mngt. Area Plan and protect the Kenai River drainage. Many of the critical head waters, lakes, marshes, etc. vital to the health of (over) the Kenai River are in CNF. No logging should occur within the Kenai River drainage.
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.
0467-020	Degradation of wetlands caused by heavy equipment impacting vegetation and impairing natural drainage patterns resulting in a loss of nesting and foraging habitat for migratory birds and other species are of great concern to Service. These alterations can result in permanent or semi-permanent hydrologic changes and loss of functional wetlands characteristics. Degradation or loss of limited types of wetlands (i.e., fens) can have a drastic change to other adjacent habitats (i.e., fish habitat). The Forest Plan should outline how Executive Order 11990, as amended, will be met to avoid to extent possible the long- and short-term impacts associated with destruction or modification of wetlands. Removal, storage, reutilization, and/or disposal of overburden removed during road construction should be outlined in the Forest Plan. Reporting of cubic yards of material removed, acreage impacted, and acreage rehabilitated, should be part of ongoing planning and monitoring. The Service encourages the Forest Service to consider compensatory mitigation to offset unavoidable adverse impacts to wetlands which remain after all minimization efforts have been met (NEPA Section 1508.20). This approach also embraces positive stewardship of
0475-001	They [forested wetlands] regulate water flow, protect coastal areas by buffering storm effects, improve water quality, and provide important habitat for fish and wildlife. Recent estimates indicate that the United States has lost over 40% of the inventoried wetlands. This piecemeal alteration and destruction of wetlands is devastating. The Forest Service should remove all forested wetlands from the timber base.

Comment #	*Comment*
0475-002	Riparian zones adjacent to unconfined alluvial flood plain channels, alluvial fan channels, and glacial outwash channels should also not be subject to cutting [timber harvest].
0475-003	Saltchucks provide important habitat for fish & wildlife. Saltchucks have an exceptionally prolific biotic capability due to the way they trap a rich mix of nutrients. There is a high diversity of species found near saltchucks. These areas and adjacent forest wetlands are important to many nonconsumptive forest users. The same characteristics that lead to the trapping of nutrients in saltchucks, and thus to their richness and productivity, also lead to the trapping of pollutants carried downstream by rivers. Thus saltchucks are highly susceptible to human-induced perturbations. The Forest Service should likewise remove these areas from the timber base.
0475-008	This[copper river delta] is an area of immense natural beauty and abundant wildlife. The Delta is a fragile ecosystem that should be permanently protected.
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
0821-021	This is particularly true for riparian areas and the Forest's many rivers and streams. In order to attain meaningful protection of fish and wildlife, watershed analyses must be completed prior to approval of logging, mining, and road-building. Watershed analyses be comprehensive, utilizing the most current scientific information about watershed conditions, resources, and processes. Access.
0836-022	3 Aquatic vegetation (sea grasses) occurring within the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries are important to a variety of aquatic species. The Plan should identify areas supporting significant sea grass resources and describe what measures will be taken to protect these areas. Degradation of wetlands caused by heavy equipment impacting vegetation and impairing natural drainage patterns resulting in a loss of nesting and foraging habitat for migratory birds and other species are of great concern to Service. These alterations can result in permanent or semi-permanent hydrologic changes and loss of functional wetlands characteristics. Degradation or loss of limited types of wetlands (i.e., fens) can have a drastic change to other adjacent habitats (i.e., fish habitat). The Forest Plan should outline how Executive Order 11990, as amended, will be met to avoid to extent possible the long- and short-term impacts associated with destruction or modification of wetlands. Removal, storage, reutilization, and/or disposal of overburden removed during road construction should be outlined in the Forest Plan. Reporting of cubic yards of material removed, acreage impacted, and acreage rehabilitated, should be part of ongoing planning and monitoring. The Service encourages the Forest Service to consider compensatory mitigation to offset unavoidable adverse impacts to wetlands which remain after all minimization efforts have been met (NEPA Section 1508.20). This approach also embraces positive stewardship of public lands.