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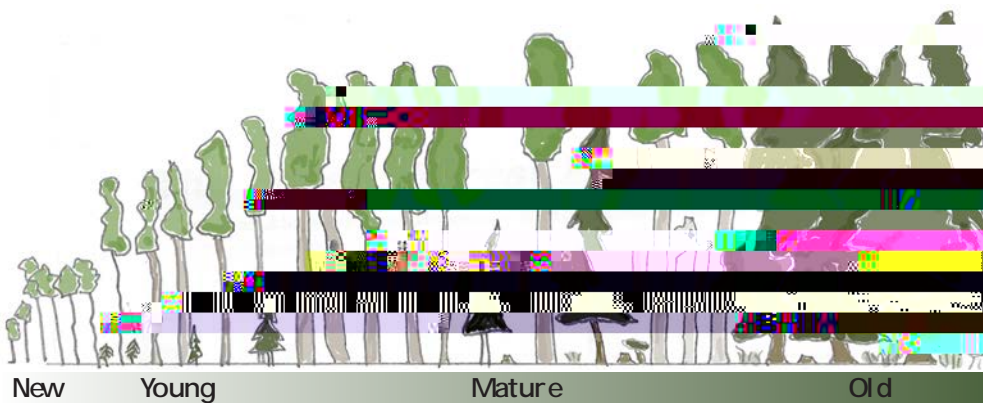
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Pruning for Defensible Space

Glen Holt, RREA forester

☒ We are currently in the middle of a fire season in Alaska. The fire season is typically from June to September, but this year it has started earlier and is expected to last longer. The fire season is a time when we need to be extra vigilant in our fire prevention efforts. One of the most important things we can do to reduce the risk of a fire is to maintain defensible space around our buildings. This means clearing away any flammable materials, such as brush, grass, and trees, that could catch fire and spread to the building. Pruning trees is a key part of maintaining defensible space. It helps to reduce the amount of fuel available to a fire and can help to prevent a fire from spreading to the building. In this article, we will discuss the importance of pruning trees for defensible space and provide some tips on how to do it correctly.

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This stand of spruce around an Alaska school was thinned and pruned.

The Spruce Beetle Outbreak

Glen Holt, RREA forester

Forestry Tools Increment Bore

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Forestry tools increment bore

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The Forest as Habitat

Glen Holt, RREA forester

As we move through the winter months, we often think of the forest as a place of quiet solitude. The trees stand tall and silent, their branches bare and reaching towards a pale sky. The ground is covered in a soft blanket of snow, and the air is still and cold. It is a time of rest and reflection, a time when the forest seems to hold its breath.

But the forest is never truly silent. Beneath the surface, a world of life is at work. The roots of the trees are busy exchanging nutrients and water, and the soil is teeming with microorganisms. The birds are nesting, and the animals are preparing for the coming spring. The forest is a complex and interconnected system, and it is this complexity that makes it so resilient.

As we look out over the forest, we are reminded of the power of nature. The trees have stood for centuries, and they will continue to stand for centuries more. They are a testament to the strength and endurance of the natural world. And in their presence, we find a sense of peace and a connection to something greater than ourselves.

The forest is a place of wonder and mystery. It is a place where the boundaries between the living and the dead are blurred. The trees are both the architects and the inhabitants of their own world, and they have created a habitat that is as diverse and rich as any other on the planet.

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...the forest is a mosaic of different types of trees and shrubs, and this diversity is what makes it so important for wildlife. The forest is a natural resource that we need to protect and manage for the future. It provides us with many benefits, including clean air and water, and it is a source of timber and other products. We need to make sure that we are using these resources in a sustainable way, so that they are available for future generations. This means that we need to take care of the forest, and to make sure that it is healthy and productive. We can do this by following best practices for forest management, and by working together to protect and restore the forest. The forest is a precious resource, and we need to take care of it for the future.

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This forest of aspen grew back well after cutting and it provides improved habitat for nesting ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare and browsing moose.

Featured Tree Species
The Pines of Alaska

