

FOREST TYPE: SPECKLED ALDER

SPECIES LIST

Asterisk denotes Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Hyperlinks take you to recommendations specific to the species.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Marbled salamander	Gray tree frog
Jefferson salamander	Bullfrog
Blue-spotted salamander *	Green Frog
Northern dusky salamander	Wood frog
Four-toed salamander	Pickerel frog
Two-lined salamander	Spotted turtle *
Mud puppy	Wood turtle *
Eastern spadefoot toad	Northern redbelly snake
Eastern American toad	Common garter snake
Northern spring peeper	

Birds

American black duck *	Nashville warbler
Wood duck	Yellow warbler
Hooded merganser	Palm warbler
Great blue heron	Northern water thrush *
Green heron	Louisiana waterthrush
Least bittern *	Common yellowthroat
Sora *	Song sparrow
American woodcock *	Lincoln's sparrow
Alder flycatcher *	Swamp sparrow
Willow flycatcher	White-throated sparrow
Least flycatcher	Sedge wren *
Purple martin *	Northern cardinal
Tree swallow	Red-winged blackbird
Northern rough-winged swallow	Rusty blackbird *
Winter wren	Common grackle
Blue-winged warbler *	Pine grosbeak
Wilson's warbler	American goldfinch
Canada warbler *	

Mammals

Water shrew *	Gray fox
Pygmy shrew	Raccoon
Northern short-tailed shrew	Fisher
Star-nosed mole	Ermine
Meadow vole	Long-tailed weasel
Southern bog lemming *	Mink
Meadow jumping mouse	Beaver
New England cottontail *	River otter

[Moose*](#)
[Hoary bat*](#)
[Indiana bat*](#)
[Little brown bat*](#)

[Northern long-eared bat*](#)
[Red bat*](#)
[Silver-haired bat*](#)
[Tri-colored bat*](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations are designed to optimize wildlife habitat conditions within this forest type. Other silvicultural options may apply, but they won't necessarily optimize potential habitat conditions for the full range of wildlife species that can occupy this type.

Alder is an important habitat type that can be managed in conjunction with adjacent forest types or on its own. As alder ages it becomes more and more horizontal and its habitat value declines. Young vigorous alder has dense vertical stem density, which is important to a variety of species for nesting, brood and feeding cover. Alder is a nitrogen-fixer—soils under alder stands will be enriched over time. Alder sprouts vigorously when cut and the sprouting usually comes from the stumps not the roots. It also regenerates from seed.

To regenerate alder, cut 50- to 100-foot-wide strips through the alder stand. Allow spacing for three more strips between each of the first strips. Adjacent strips are cut every 5 years setting the alder stand on a 20-year rotation. The first cutting phase can be accelerated if the majority of the stand is the horizontal stage.

The most efficient way to regenerate alder is to use a machine such as a brush hog, hydro-axe or a brontosaurus. The soils where alder occurs are usually wet, so regeneration with these machines should be conducted when the ground is either frozen or in a very dry condition to avoid excessive soil disturbance. Hand-cutting is an option when soil conditions will not allow for machinery use. A skidder or a small dozer could also be used to shear off alder stems in winter conditions. In all cases, do not cut stems to ground level. Leave 4 to 6-inch stumps to allow for sprouting.

Avoid management operations during the nesting season, usually from April to the end of June. These months are also some of the wetter ones and machinery use would usually be precluded during this time period.