The Potential Annual Yield

The present allowable cut on the national forests is primarily controlled by the volume of timber nature provided. This inventory plus growth on it must sustain the cut while new forests are being grown under management. The volume that can be grown in new timber crops on the areas being harvested is the key to the potential total annual production under sustained yield. This potential should be as high or higher than what nature provided. And if serious reductions in cut are to be avoided during the transition to managed stands, this potential cut is an upper limit on the allowable cut between now and when the managed condition is reached on all the commercial forest land.

The production from the new forest is determined by the soil productivity and the intensity of management. Several sources of information can be used to estimate the potential production from the national forests of coastal Alaska.

Page 16 of "Alaska's Forest Resource" states that "areas now being harvested should produce more than twice as much volume in the next rotation." Based on this, the potential would be:

Hemlock and Spruce:

Accessible	2 x 864	=	1,728	million board feet
Inaccessible	2 x 415	=	830	" " "
			2,558	" " "
Total Hemlock, Spruce & Cedar	2 x 1,336	=	2,672	" " "

Also on page 16 of that report, 578,000 acres of young growth are said to be presently growing 379 million board feet per year (International