

## **Appendix 18: Current Forest Condition of Bad Pond and Mosquito Pond Operating Areas**

These two areas were of concern from a planning team member as discussed in the mitigations sections of this document. Their concern was that the area was intact probable old growth forest and they did not approve of clear cutting in these areas. These areas suffered extensive blowdown 15-20 years ago. It is evident that they have not successfully regenerated to what should be a 20 year old forest stand. DNR believes that without management and reforestation they will remain in this condition for the foreseeable future. The areas fully resemble a harvested landscape in their current condition as evident in Bad Pond 3 photo. Unfortunately there are thousands of hectares of this forest condition in the central Avalon forest. Vast majorities are under protection in the ripple pond reserve and Avalon wilderness area meaning DNR has no ability to reforest these areas. This has drastic impacts from an ecological perspective in terms of habitat availability and suitability, carbon sequestration, and hydrological cycles. Rare lichen species will likely decline as a result of a loss of recruitment of host trees. In areas under protection the current condition will remain for a significant amount of time and possibly increase as fringe wood and edge wood continue to blowdown. In the event of a fire it's quite likely the fir dominated seed source would be destroyed and the ability to regenerate will be even more difficult. DNR's mandate is to manage forest on crown land where these areas exist our focus is on reforestation. It is DNR's belief that where possible it is better at this point to focus harvest on these areas than on intact green forest at this time. In this five year plan these areas are proposed for harvest so they can be reforested becoming productive, healthy, and diverse forests in the future.



**Mosquito Pond 1**



**Mosquito Pond 2**





**Bad Pond 1**



**Bad Pond 2**





**Bad Pond 3 – To the immediate left and in the background is quirks ridge which was in the same condition as bad pond. It was harvested in the last plan and is now fully planted. To the right is the current condition of the bad pond operating area.**



**Fox Marsh –Managed forests that were of similar condition to the above areas. This is the intent of management in the bad pond and mosquito pond areas.**