

Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup> 2011

## First step in forestry process

VicForests is coordinating the mechanical disturbance of harvested areas in East Gippsland to assist with the regeneration process.

Jean-Paul Morice, VicForests' Senior Forester – Regeneration in East Gippsland, said the use of machinery to disturb the soil after harvesting is known as 'rough heaping'.

"This mechanical disturbance helps to create a seed bed on the ground by removing left over debris, bracken and grass to expose the soil underneath," Mr Morice said.

"Specialised equipment is used to allow seeds to fall directly onto the soil and establish more effectively.

"Rough heaping is one of two methods used by VicForests to prepare sites for re-seeding, along with regeneration burns.

"Mechanical disturbance work is done in areas where regeneration has proved to be difficult or where the terrain and conditions are unsuitable for a regeneration burn to take place," he said.

Approximately 640 hectares will be mechanically disturbed in East Gippsland this year as the first step in preparing areas for VicForests' 2011 Regeneration Program.

"This work will prepare harvested areas for regeneration and is scheduled to coincide with the best possible conditions for re-seeding to take place," Mr Morice said.

"Once this work is completed these areas will be ready for both aerial seeding and for the hand planting of seedlings grown from seeds native to the local region.

"VicForests maintains responsibility for all harvested areas until they are successfully regenerated and ensures the forest fully re-establishes following its harvesting operations.

VicForests is currently calling for tenders to undertake rough heaping/mechanical disturbance work in East Gippsland with eleven lots available for tender ranging in size from 4ha to 99.7ha.

Tenders will close at 5pm, Monday 7th February, 2011 with Request for Tender documents are available from the VicForests website -

[www.vicforests.com.au/tenders.htm](http://www.vicforests.com.au/tenders.htm)

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