

2009 Summary of Cruise Ship Visual Emission Monitoring by USFS Rangers in Tracy and Endicott Arms



In the summer of 2009, cruise ships visited Tracy and Endicott Arms 200 times. Of those, 196 visits were by six primary companies (Norwegian Cruise Lines, Princess Cruise Lines, Royal Caribbean International, Regent Seven Seas Cruises, Holland America Line, and Silver Sea Cruises).

USFS rangers attempted a total of 22 visual emissions readings for the season (11% of 200 ships). Due to weather, cruise ship schedule deviations, and other factors, eight readings were cancelled. As a result, rangers performed a total of fourteen official readings (7% of 200 visits).

Of fourteen official readings, rangers reported three readings of interest. In other words, 21% of official readings were readings of interest. All three readings of interest were from one ship, the Norwegian Star.

The following shows the number of USFS readings per cruise line:

- Rangers achieved six official readings on Norwegian Cruise Line ships (27% of overall attempted reads, 43% of official reads).
- Rangers attempted to read Princes Cruises ships five times, with three official readings (23% of attempted reads, 21% of official reads).
- Rangers attempted to read Royal Caribbean International ships five times, with three official readings (23% of attempted reads, 21% of official reads).
- Rangers attempted to read Holland America Line ships six times, with two official readings (27% of attempted reads, 14% of actual reads).

No attempts were made to read ships from Silver Sea Cruises or Regent Seven Seas.

The Forest Service values its partnership with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). DEC funded Method Nine Visual Emissions training for two rangers, and DEC staff were generous with their time and expertise while assisting rangers with visual emissions issues.

Visitors to the Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness continue to approach the Forest Service with questions and complaints about visual emissions from cruise ships. To answer the concerns and protect wilderness character, the USFS will continue using EPA Method Nine visual emissions monitoring protocol in the 2010 summer season. Toward further improvement, we will adopt the quality assurance techniques and protocol outlined by EPA in Method Nine Section 3.12.