

# SOUTHEAST STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Review Draft



**March 9, 2015**

Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry



**State of Alaska  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry**

**Public Notice**

**Public Review Draft Southeast State Forest Management Plan**

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, gives formal notice under AS 38.05.945 that the Public Review Draft of the **Southeast State Forest Management Plan** is available for public review and comment through **April 30, 2015**. The Southeast State Forest (SESF) contains approximately 48,000 acres in 33 units that are located on 12 different islands and the adjacent mainland of southern Southeast Alaska. The island units are located on Dall, Gravina, Heceta, Kosciusko, Kuiu, Mitkof, Prince of Wales, Revillagigedo, Suemez, Tuxekan, Wrangell, and Zarembo islands. The mainland units are located in Bradfield Canal and surrounding Crittenden Creek located to the east of Wrangell Island. The primary purpose for the SESF is timber management (AS 41.17.200).

The public and interested parties are invited to review and comment on the draft forest plan. Comments should be mailed or delivered to the Division of Forestry, 2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213, Ketchikan, AK 99901. Comments also may be submitted by email to [dnr.forsesf@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.forsesf@alaska.gov) or by using the [online comment form](#) link on the SESF Planning webpage at <http://www.forestry.alaska.gov/stateforests.htm#sesf>. Comments must be received at the Division of Forestry office no later than **4:00 PM** on Thursday, **April 30, 2015**.

Public meetings will be scheduled in several communities during this public comment period; details will be announced later and posted on the state forest webpages.

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Copies of the Public Review Draft are available for review at the Division of Forestry at the above address and at the Craig, Ketchikan, Petersburg, and Wrangell Public Libraries. The draft plan and maps may be downloaded from the SESF Planning webpage at <http://www.forestry.alaska.gov/stateforests.htm#sesf> or at the division's What's New webpage above.

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, or special modifications to participate in this review may contact the number above.

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# CHAPTER 1

## ***Purpose of this Management Plan***

This forest management plan applies to those lands designated by the Legislature in 2010 and 2011 as the Southeast State Forest. The Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act directs the Department of Natural Resources to prepare a forest management plan for each state forest (AS 41.17.230). This plan will guide long-term active management of these forest lands and identifies the policies that will be followed. The forest management plan also addresses uses of forest land for nontimber purposes, including recreation, tourism, mining, mineral exploration and leasing, uses of fish and wildlife, and other uses as long as they are found to be compatible with the primary purpose of this state forest, which is timber management.

The plan is designed to provide management flexibility as conditions change and additional resource data becomes available.

## ***Establishment of the Southeast State Forest***

The Alaska State Legislature established the Southeast State Forest in 2010 from unencumbered state-owned lands where timber harvesting was generally allowed. In 2011, the legislature added more lands to the Southeast State Forest, increasing its size to 48,472 acres (AS 41.17.500). Prior to these lands being designated as a state forest, the Division of Forestry (DOF) managed an active timber sale program on many of its parcels according to provisions of area plans. The Southeast State Forest is the third component of Alaska's State Forest System. The other two are the Haines State Forest, established in 1982, and the Tanana Valley State Forest, established in 1983.

The primary purpose for this state forest is "timber management that provides for the production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources while allowing other beneficial uses of public land and resources" (AS 41.17.200(a)). The Division of Forestry will actively manage the Southeast State Forest as a "working forest" consistent with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. A "working forest" means utilizing forest resources to create jobs and support healthy communities through active forest management, while protecting fish and wildlife habitat, providing the public with recreation and other multiple use of state land, and maintaining public benefits such as clean air, land, and water. Public uses of

the state forest land and its resources, including timber, fish and wildlife, and minerals, will be restricted only when necessary (AS 41.17.200(b)).

The lands comprising the Southeast State Forest were selected to ensure these productive state timber lands remain in state ownership and continue to contribute to the long-term viability of the region's timber-based economy. The Division of Forestry will actively manage second-growth forest stands to provide more volume per acre on shorter rotations. The legislative designation of these lands as a state forest enables the division to justify making the long-term investments that are needed to actively manage this area as a sustainable and productive "working forest."

The *Southern Southeast Area Forest Inventory of State Forest and General Use Lands* provides a description of the conditions of state forested lands that the Division of Forestry uses when developing timber sales. In addition, this information is used to determine the Annual Allowable Cut or sustainable harvest in Southern Southeast Alaska. Finally, the inventory database is used to track reforestation and pre-commercial thinning activity on state harvested land.

## ***Organization of this Management Plan***

*Chapter 1* provides a description of the State Forest planning area, the use of the plan, and its relationship to other land use plans in the area.

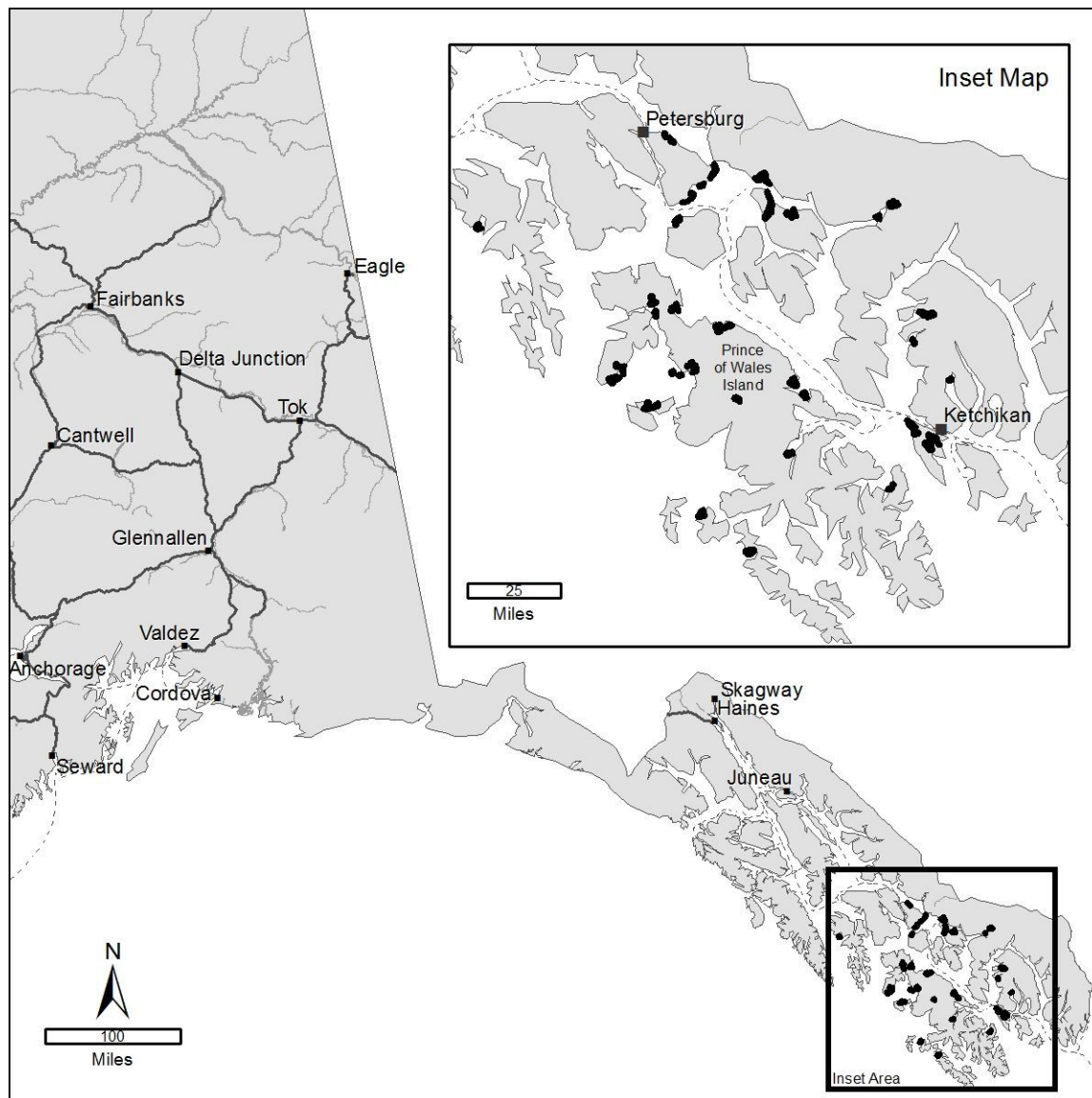
*Chapter 2* contains the goals, management guidelines, and a summary of how each of the major resources will be managed throughout the State Forest.

*Chapter 3* is a detailed description of the management direction for each of the Forest's management units. For each management unit there is a table of site specific information and other management or implementation direction that is appropriate to that unit. In addition, each of the management areas is depicted on Unit Maps.

*Chapter 4* discusses specific actions necessary to implement the plan.

Appendices provide detailed information on certain aspects of the plan, definitions of key terms and acronyms, a Land Classification Order, references, and a description of the timber sale process.

## Vicinity Map of Southeast State Forest



### ***Physical Setting***

The Southeast State Forest (SESF) contains approximately 48,472 acres in 33 units that are located on twelve different islands and the adjacent mainland of southern Southeast Alaska. The island units are located on Dall, Gravina, Heceta, Kosciusko, Kuiu, Mitkof, Prince of Wales, Revillagigedo, Suemez, Tuxekan, Wrangell, and Zarembo islands. The mainland units are located in Bradfield Canal and surrounding Crittenden Creek located to the east of Wrangell Island.

The Southeast State Forest is located within a temperate rainforest, with annual rainfall averaging more than 100 inches. The primary commercial tree species are western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*), yellow cedar (*Cupressus nootkatensis*), Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), and western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*). While forested areas reach from sea level to about 3,000 feet in elevation, most commercial timber stands are located below 1,500 feet. The region's maritime climate results in normal summer temperatures ranging from 40 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit and normal winter temperatures from 12 to 45 degrees.

The Southeast State Forest contains stands of mature old growth timber and variously aged stands of second-growth timber, some with stands more than 50 years old.

### ***Relationship of this Plan to DNR Area and Other Plans***

The Tanana Valley State Forest and the Southeast State Forest were created under the authority of the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (AS 41.17.400 and AS 41.17.500, respectively). The Haines State Forest was created under a different authority (AS 41.15.300). The Southeast State Forest significantly differs from the Tanana Valley and Haines state forests in the following ways. First, the overall extent and individual unit sizes of the SESF are much smaller – over 40 percent of the 33 state forest units are less than 1,000 acres in size. Three units are barely 300 acres and the largest is only 5,101 acres. Second, many of the SESF units are surrounded by Tongass National Forest lands. And third, the SESF was conceived and intended for very active timber production and silvicultural management activities such as pre-commercial thinning over the rotation period between harvests, consistent with AS 41.17.200. Therefore, the management plan for the SESF does not reflect the wider range of management intent required for the larger landscapes addressed by the other state forest or area plans. The guiding management philosophy and primary purpose for the Southeast State Forest is timber production. Timber production from state land is critically important in maintaining a viable timber industry in southeast Alaska.

### **Area Plans**

The Central/Southern Southeast Area Plan (2000), the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan (1985), and the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan Amendment (2008) provided interim management guidance for the Southeast State Forest pending adoption of

this forest management plan. Provisions of these area plans will no longer apply to the legislatively designated Southeast State Forest upon adoption of a forest management plan. However, these area plans are the basis for managing state lands located outside of the state forest boundaries. The primary purpose for the Southeast State Forest is timber management (AS 41.17.200).

#### *Central/Southern Southeast Area Plan (CSSEAP)*

The CSSEAP generally covers approximately 2.8 million acres in the area from Tracy Arm and Frederick Sound south to Dixon Entrance with the exclusion of Prince of Wales and the outer islands. The Central/Southern Southeast Area Plan covers those areas of state-owned lands outside of the Southeast State Forest boundaries.

#### *Prince of Wales Island Area Plan (POWIAP)*

The Prince of Wales Island Area Plan (revised October 1998) covers those areas of state-owned lands on Prince of Wales Island and surrounding islands not covered by the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan Amendment.

#### *Prince of Wales Area Island Plan Amendment (POWIAP Amendment)*

The Prince of Wales Island Area Plan Amendment (May 2008) covers those areas of state-owned lands on Southwest Prince of Wales Island and the outer islands, which are not included in the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan, including but not limited to Dall and Suemez islands.

## **Other Plans**

The Division of Forestry also reviewed two borough comprehensive plans during preparation of this state forest management plan: the *Ketchikan Gateway Borough Year 2020 Comprehensive Plan* and the *City and Borough of Wrangell Comprehensive Plan June 2010*. The Division of Forestry will adhere to city or borough plans during the timber sale planning process.

The *Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SATP)* and the *Statewide Transportation Improvements Program (STIP)* include proposed state road corridors that cross state forest lands, such as in the Bradfield Canal area. Existing state roads on Prince of Wales Island contribute to the transportation needs of the state forest. The Division of Forestry will review and consider the SATP and STIP during development of the state forest road system and timber sales.

## ***Application of Title 38 to State Forest***

The provisions of Title 38 apply to the Southeast State Forest, except that state land within the state forest may not be conveyed to a third party. In other words, legislatively designated state forests such as the SESF are considered partially withdrawn from the state public domain and general state land disposal laws. The legislation establishing the state forest system (AS 41.17.200-.230) restricts the application of Title 38's general land disposal laws; state forest land shall be retained in state ownership (AS 41.17.210(a)).

## ***Planning Process***

The Division of Forestry's Southern Southeast Area Office developed the forest management plan with assistance from other DOF staff and in consultation with Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff. Consultations [will be] were held with managers of the Neets Bay Hatchery to address the facility's water quality needs. As required by the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act, this plan [will be] was reviewed by the Alaska Board of Forestry prior to its adoption (41.17.230(c)). Public meetings on the draft management plan [will be] were held in Ketchikan, Craig, Thorne Bay, Wrangell, and Petersburg. Input received during public review [will be] was incorporated into the final plan and is summarized in the Issue-Response Summary in Appendix G.

## ***Plan Review and Modification***

The land use designations, policies, implementation actions, and management guidelines of this plan may be changed periodically as new data becomes available and as changing economic, social, and environmental conditions place different emphasis on public lands.

## ***Periodic Review***

Alaska Statute 38.04.065 describes the adoption and revision process for land use plans for state-owned lands. This statute directs the commissioner of DNR to follow "the principles of multiple use and sustained yield" and to "consider physical, economic, and social factors affecting the area." The Division of Forestry will address this in a balanced fashion with the goal of sustainably managing the Southeast State Forest as a "working forest." The division will consider other

multiple uses of these state lands during its management of the Southeast State Forest.

The Division of Forestry will coordinate the periodic review and revision of this plan when conditions warrant (41.17.230(b)). Plan reviews will include meetings with other agencies, local governments, adjacent landowners, interested groups and the general public. Periodic review and plan revision commonly occurs every 20 years; however, this management plan remains in effect until revised. Chapter 4 provides additional details on the process for plan review and revision.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### ***Forest-wide Land Management Policies***

#### ***Introduction***

The guiding policy for land management in the Southeast State Forest is recognition that the primary purpose for these lands is timber production as a working forest (AS 41.17.200(a)). Since these lands serve as an important source of timber for meeting the needs of the region, timber production is emphasized within this plan.

The policies in this chapter consist of goals and management guidelines. Goals are the general condition the department is trying to achieve, while guidelines are specific directives that will be applied to management decisions as resource use and development occur.

The recommendations that follow only pertain to state land within the Southeast State Forest. They do not apply to other State lands, private lands, Native allotments, or lands of the University of Alaska or the Mental Health Trust Authority, all of which may adjoin the state forest.

#### ***Forestry***

##### **Goals**

- A. To meet the primary purpose for this state forest, which is: “timber management that provides for the production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources while allowing other beneficial uses of public land and resources” (AS 41.17.200(a)).
- B. Actively manage the State Forest to provide for production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources through silvicultural practices. Ensure a high level of sustained productivity of timber by maintaining a mosaic of forest types and stand ages.
- C. Contribute to Alaska’s economy by providing raw material for a viable and stable timber industry. The strategy is to use the limited supply of state timber to provide job opportunities in Southeast Alaska.



- D. Provide a sustained yield of forest products for local, state, national, and international markets by offering sales of commercial timber.
- E. Provide revenue to the State of Alaska through the sale of public resources.

## Management Guidelines

- A. **Multiple Use Management.** Unless particular uses are specifically prohibited, all lands within the Southeast State Forest are intended to be managed for multiple use consistent with AS 41.17.060 while meeting the primary purpose for this state forest which is active timber production (AS 41.17.200(a)). The presence of other beneficial uses will be specified in the management statements and controlled by the management intent guidelines for each management area or unit in this forest management plan.
- B. **Sustained Yield.** The State Constitution (Art. VIII, sec. 4) and Alaska statutes (AS 41.17.220) require that the State manage its timber on a sustained yield basis. Areas identified as appropriate for timber harvest in the Southeast State Forest will be managed to ensure the perpetual supply of renewable resources, including timber (AS 41.17.060(c)(1)).

The amount of timber harvested each year will vary and may be more or less than the annual allowable harvest figure for the state forest. However, at no time will the total amount of timber harvested exceed the combined annual allowable harvest for a ten year period. In other words, if harvests in year one and year two are each five times the annual allowable cut for the state forest, there will be no harvest during the next eight years.

The Division of Forestry has updated the timber base using improved Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques. The timber base is the operable available commercial forest lands that are included in making the sustained yield or annual allowable cut calculations.

Based on the production capabilities of the land, forest managers will assure a sustained yield of a variety of wood products by regulating stand age classes in the commercial forest lands during the next 45 to 100 years, depending on site productivity and markets.

The annual allowable cut calculation is not a decision document but a technical calculation based on information from the management plan and forest inventory report. Revisions to the annual allowable cut will need to be made as changes in land ownership or designated uses occur.

- C. **Stand Management.** Stands will be managed to optimize timber production and wildlife habitat within the rotation.
- D. **Reforestation.** Reforestation in SESF will meet or exceed FRPA standards. Based on empirical knowledge of reforestation in southern Southeast Alaska, natural regeneration is sufficient to ensure successful reforestation.

When natural regeneration does not meet FRPA standards, then DOF will ensure reforestation standards are met by planting. The planting of suitable seedlings from appropriate seed source zones will be the artificial reforestation method used.

On more productive, lower operating cost sites, the Division of Forestry will consider more intensive management activities, such as planting spruce on low elevation sites, to achieve improved species composition while also addressing issues associated with climate change.

- E. **Timber Stand Improvement.** Pre-commercial and commercial thinning may be done in overstocked stands to adjust species composition, enhance growth rates and maintain wildlife habitat.
- F. **Timber Harvest.** The timing, location, harvest amounts and methods of timber harvests are controlled by state statutes and regulations. The Alaska Land Act (AS 38.05) and Regulations (11 AAC 71) provide policy and guidance for management of state forest resources. The Forest Resources and Practices Act (AS 41.17) and Regulations (11 AAC 95) provide additional policy and guidance for managing forest related activities. All timber sales in the Southeast State Forest are subject to public and agency review before sale and harvesting occur. A detailed description of DOF's commercial timber sale process is located in Appendix H.

Proposed timber sales of greater than 160 acres must be included in one of the prior two consecutive Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales (FYSTS) published by the Division of Forestry (DOF), with certain exceptions (AS 38.05.113(c)). The sale schedule is a scoping document and identifies the location, timing, and volumes of proposed timber harvests on state forest land managed by the Division of Forestry, or on other state land managed by DNR. Small sales of 10-160 acres, as a matter of DOF policy, are also listed in the five-year sale schedule at least once. There is a 30 day public and agency review period for this schedule.

Before timber sale decisions are made for specific locations in a planning area, DOF will prepare a Best Interest Finding as required under AS 38.05.035. This is the decision document that determines whether or not the sale is in the state's best interest and is subject to a 30 day agency and public review and comment under AS 38.05.945. The decision is appealable to the Commissioner of DNR within 20 days after the final decision for a sale is made. Prior to timber harvest, the Division of Forestry will prepare a Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) as required under AS 38.05.112. The Division of Forestry's policy is to provide this FLUP to the public and agencies for a 30 day comment period. The FLUP can be issued for public review at the same time as the Best Interest Finding. Site-specific guidelines for forest management activities, to insure compliance with the Forest Resources and Practices Act (41.17) and the Regulations (11 AAC 95), are addressed through the Forest Land Use Plan prior to offering timber for harvest. A Forest Land Use Plan and Best Interest Finding are not required for sales less than 10 acres in size; however the sales must still adhere to the Forest Management Plan's standards, guidelines, and management intent statements. All timber sales must be in the overall best interest of the state.

1. **Timber Harvest Stipulations.** All timber harvest operations will be conducted in accordance with the stipulations in the Forest Land Use Plan, the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and regulations (AS 41.17 & 11 AAC 95), the Alaska Land Act and its regulations (AS 38.05 & 11 AAC 71), and other pertinent state guidelines and laws.
2. **Protection of Fish and Wildlife Habitat.** Prior to harvest, DOF will consult with and give due deference to ADF&G and DEC on the effects of the proposed harvest on water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and make allowance for important fish and wildlife habitat, as provided under AS 41.16.060 and 41.17.098(d). Important fish habitat is defined as a waterbody supporting anadromous or high value resident fish, as defined in the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and consistent with the meaning of AS 41.17.060. Important wildlife habitat is defined as habitat supporting high value wildlife resources consistent with AS 41.17.060. Timber harvests of less than 10 acres in size are considered consistent with this guideline without consultation unless activities are proposed for which ADF&G has due deference as noted here.

Unless otherwise stated in Chapter 3, timber harvest adjacent to anadromous or high-value resident fish streams will be consistent with the requirements of the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act. No harvest

activities will be undertaken within 100 feet of an anadromous or high value resident fish stream except as provided by 11 AAC 95.275 and .355. Forest management activities between 100 and 300 feet of anadromous or high-value resident fish streams may occur upon approval in a FLUP after consulting and giving due deference to ADF&G (41.17.118(a)(1)(B)).

A timber retention area of not less than 330 feet will be left around each bald eagle nesting tree unless a site specific activity must be conducted within 330 feet of the nesting tree.

3. **Heritage Sites.** Areas of known historic, archaeological, or paleontological sites will not be disturbed. The Office of History and Archaeology shall, within the limits of staffing and funding, assess the extent and significance of the cultural resource and work with DOF to develop site-specific mitigation measures to protect the cultural site while allowing timber management to occur. DOF will also consult with local tribes, village corporations, Sealaska Corporation and the Sealaska Heritage Institute.
4. **Recreation and Scenic Values.** In determining the size and shape of cutting units, DOF shall make allowance for scenic quality in or adjacent to areas of substantial importance to the tourism and recreation industry (41.17.060(c)(6)).
5. **Steep and Unstable Slopes.** Forest management activities may not be conducted on slopes consistently greater than 67 percent, on an unstable slope, or in a slide-prone area unless approved in the FLUP. DOF shall consult with ADF&G and DEC on decisions involving timber harvest in areas steeper than 67 percent. Harvest operations will be designed to prevent mass wasting and to maintain water quality, soil productivity, tree regeneration, and fish habitat. DOF revised the Best Management Practices and amended the regulations for mass wasting in 2013 (11 AAC 95.220(a)(9)(A); 11 AAC 95.290(b); 11 AAC 95.340(d); 11 AAC 95.345(b)(4); 11 AAC 95.360(c)(6); AAC 95.365(a); 11 AAC 95.900).
6. **Logging Methods.** The use of cable or ground skidding systems for operations in the Southeast State Forest will be decided on a case-by-case basis consistent with the management intent and guidelines of this plan and the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Regulations. Ground skidding systems, including shovel, crawler tractor or rubber-tire skidder, or a similar machine will generally be restricted to slopes of 30 percent or less. Cable harvest systems are preferable on slopes steeper than 30

percent to minimize soil damage. Cable logging can also be used where wet ground or soil compaction limits the use of skidders.

## **7. Harvest Methods.**

- a. **Clearcut Harvesting.** Clearcutting will be the primary method of commercial timber harvest as it is the best method of encouraging natural regeneration. Soil temperatures are increased and nutrient cycling improved. Increased light favors spruce, a relatively shade intolerant species. Losses from windthrow are minimized and damage to residual trees is avoided. The system is also appropriate for stands infested with hemlock dwarf mistletoe or other diseases. For over-mature, decadent stands, the system is especially appropriate from a wood utilization, safety, and harvest efficiency standpoint.

Post logging treatments of clearcuts that support wildlife habitat should be considered when developing Forest Land Use Plans.

## **8. Utilization of Merchantable Timber.** Generally, utilization standards to be employed on the Southeast State Forest are as follows:

- a. Any live or dead spruce, hemlock, or cedar tree is merchantable which is 12.0 inches in diameter outside bark at breast height and contains at least one merchantable log (sawlog or utility) containing a minimum of fifty (50) board feet as defined in b and c below.
- b. A merchantable sawlog is defined as a log suitable for the manufacture of lumber in an amount not less than 33% of the gross scale.
- c. A merchantable utility log is defined as a log that does not meet the minimum requirements of a merchantable sawlog but is suitable for the production of firm usable chips to an amount of not less than 50% of the gross scale.
- d. Minimal merchantable piece size will be determined on an individual sale basis. Removal of utility logs will also be determined upon an individual sale basis.

## **9. Salvage of Damaged Trees.** Salvage sales are exempt from notice in the Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales. The size of the salvage harvest area is defined by the area affected by disease, windthrow, or insect infestation.

10. **Sale of Timber from Non-Timber Sale Activities.** Timber with commercial values should be salvaged from lands that are to be cleared for other uses such as mining, transportation or utility corridors, or other land conversion activities.

11. **Personal Use Timber.** The harvest of standing (live or dead) trees for personal use firewood or the harvest of any timber for lumber or other personal uses requires prior authorization from the Division of Forestry.

Permits are required for personal use firewood harvest on Southeast State Forest lands; the areas open to firewood harvest will depend upon timber sale and other activities. Permits may be issued for individuals to collect a maximum of ten cords per year of timber which is both dead and down for personal use firewood. The wood acquired under the personal use permit may not be sold, bartered, or used for commercial purposes.

12. **Road Standards for Forest Management Activities.** DOF will locate, design, and maintain timber mainline and secondary roads for forest management activities consistent with the standards contained in Article 3 of the Forest Practices Regulations, and taking the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan into consideration. Roads will be located, designed, and managed to maximize resource access while minimizing significant adverse impacts to the environment. To the maximum extent possible, roads shall be located outside of important fish and wildlife habitat. Forest roads are a valuable asset; road closures should only be part of the forest management strategy when necessary.

13. **Timber Sale Coordination.** DOF will coordinate its timber sale offerings with the timber sale offerings of other landowners or agencies when practical.

## ***Forest Protection***

### **Goals**

Protect valuable forest resources from wildfire, insects, disease, and other destructive agents.

## Management Guidelines

A. **Forest Pest Management.** A forest pest is defined as any insect, disease, or competing vegetation that is detrimental to the productivity of the forest stand.

1. **Methods.** The primary approach to pest control in intensively managed sites in the Southeast State Forest will be prevention assisted by suppression. Prevention will consist largely of stand manipulation (i.e. pre-commercial thinning, windthrow salvage, etc.) to maximize natural mortality of pests, thereby minimizing the need for suppression. However, silviculture, or other direct control measures, may be required in areas with high commercial or aesthetic values where failure to control could result in the loss of resource or aesthetic values.
2. **Detection.** An annual insect and disease aerial detection survey is conducted by the USDA Forest Service in cooperation with the Division of Forestry across southeast Alaska each summer. Survey data will be provided to Southeast State Forest managers. Ground checking of survey data will be completed as needed. Little damage was observed directly affecting units within the Southeast State Forest (SESF) in 2013, numerous damage signatures were observed on lands in the vicinity of the SESF. Vicinity in this analysis was defined as being within five miles of SESF units. The damage observed in the vicinity of the SESF includes insects, diseases, and abiotic factors.

In 2013, hemlock sawfly and cedar decline represented the majority of observed damage within the vicinity of the SESF. Other damage observed in the vicinity included conifer defoliation, spruce needle aphid, flooding/high water, and windthrow. The acreage of all damage mapped within the vicinity of SESF in 2013 amounted to less than 0.5% of the total land area in the analysis. Spruce beetle was not observed in this area in 2013. Note that many diseases are not readily visible from the air.

3. **Cooperative Research.** The Division of Forestry will work with other agencies and landowners to develop improved prevention and control techniques for insects, diseases, and competing vegetation while also seeking improved timber yields, species selections, and genetics that support reduced harvest rotation periods.

## ***B. Fire Management.***

1. **Forest Fire Protection Priorities.** Under the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan - 2010, the United States Forest Service (USFS) is the protection agency for Southeast Alaska, responsible for all fire suppression as identified in the Fire Management Plan. The Division of Forestry is the jurisdictional agency responsible for all fire management decisions after the initial attack period and will place the highest priority on continued suppression of wildland fires that threaten human life and physical developments consistent with the physical and economic capabilities of the State of Alaska.
2. **Fire Prevention.** The Division of Forestry, in conjunction with the USFS, will carry out prevention activities throughout the forest as needed during drier periods. During periods of high fire danger, use of open flames and timber harvest activities could be modified or suspended by the Division of Forestry.

## ***Transportation***

### **Goals**

- A. Develop a permanent transportation system to provide safe and economical access to the Southeast State Forest that serves the needs for lower cost timber harvest, as well as mining, public recreation, fire protection and other resource management activities within the state forest (AS 41.17.500(c)). Coordinate the development of the forest transportation system with adjacent land owners.
- B. When practical, the forest transportation system will support the state's regional transportation system as presented in the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan.
- C. Identify, develop and preserve marine transportation infrastructure to facilitate the long term economical movement of timber to market to include log transfer facilities (LTFs), rafting, log storage and mooring sites.
- D. Subject to available funding, public safety and environmental conditions, maintain state-owned timber access roads and bridges for public access.



## **Management Guidelines**

Design, construct, and maintain all roads with consideration for the environmental and safety values of the Southeast State Forest. No land classification categorically prohibits construction of roads for access purposes.

### ***A. Road Design.***

1. All active forest roads will meet DOF required construction standards. Roads constructed with public funding will meet applicable national and State standards and conform as much as practically feasible to AASHTO guidelines for Very Low Volume Roads.
2. All bridges shall be designed by qualified personnel approved by the State Forester or his designee. All bridges shall be regularly inspected. Those that do not pass legal highway loads and normal commercial forest traffic loadings will be repaired, replaced, or posted for reduced load minimums.
3. Roads will be designed to maximize resource access while minimizing adverse environmental impact.
4. Location and design of roads through critical fisheries and wildlife areas will be done in consultation and with due deference to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
5. Roads constructed within the state forest boundary for the purpose of accessing private ownership, mineral claim sites, material lease sites, etc. will be subject to approval or stipulations from the Division of Forestry and will at a minimum meet the DOF construction standards.
6. All roads will be designed and constructed using the Best Management Practices of the FRPA and regulations.

### ***B. Road Maintenance.***

1. The decision to close a forest road if timber harvest and forest management activity is not actively being performed will be included in the FLUP or addressed when a timber harvest is completed. Closure will be to Alaska Forest Practices standards at the end of harvest operations unless the Best Interest Finding and Forest Land Use Plan for the site identifies the road as beneficial to meet management goals

and the Area Forester determines adequate resources are available for maintaining the road to FRPA standards.

2. Active and inactive roads will be maintained consistent with the Best Management Practices of the FRPA and regulations.
  3. Roads whose continued use following timber harvest may significantly or adversely impact anadromous fish habitat will be repaired or closed unless advised otherwise by ADF&G.
  4. For purposes herein, properly closed may include, but is not necessarily limited to: removal of bridges and culverts, construction of water bars to control run-off, planting and seeding where necessary to reduce erosion potential and measures deemed appropriate to restrict vehicle access that could harm resources of the State such as forest soil and water quality (11 AAC 95.320. Road Closure).
  5. The primary method of maintenance of state-owned forest access roads, including bridge maintenance and replacement, is through services associated with timber sale contracts. Timber sale receipts may also be used to fund road maintenance.
  6. The DOF will cooperate in the development of road use and maintenance agreements with other land owners and agencies.
- C. ***Marine Transportation System.*** Present and future timber production from Southeast State Forest lands depends upon the efficient transfer of harvested timber from the uplands to ocean-based modes of transportation, such as log rafts, barges or ships. This plan recommends that key tidelands and submerged lands, many adjacent to SESF uplands, be considered for legislative designation as additions to this state forest, or be managed by DOF under provisions of Interagency Land Management Assignments (ILMA). Key tideland areas include log storage, both long-term and short-term (on land and in water), log transfer facilities (LTFs), rafting grounds, ship mooring buoys and other areas where harvested timber must cross state tidelands to reach processing facilities. A reciprocal road use agreement will help with implementation of this transportation system (see Appendix E).
- D. ***Protection of Cultural Resources.*** Known historic and archaeological sites should be avoided during construction of transportation facilities unless no other feasible alternative exists. The DOF will seek guidance on this issue from the State Historic Preservation Office.

- E. ***Curtailling Public Access.*** Access to public lands may be curtailed at certain times to protect public safety, to allow special uses, and to prevent harm to the environment. Examples of conditions that may justify limiting public access are fire management, limited or no maintenance funds to maintain access to FRPA standards, timber harvest operations, and high soil moisture content when traffic may cause extensive damage to roads and trails.
- F. ***Non-Timber Road Construction.*** Construction of roads for access to privately-owned land, state land, federal land, municipal land, or valid mining claims or leases will be considered on a case by case basis per Alaska statutes and regulations regarding access rights. DOF will coordinate with DMLW during the processing of permit requests for public right-of-way easements for non-timber road access across state forest lands.

## ***Water Quality and Quantity, Wetlands, and Riparian Areas***

### **Goals**

- A. Improve, maintain or cause minimal adverse impact to existing stream and overall drainage conditions, including those associated with karst areas.
- B. Maintain or exceed surface and groundwater quality standards set by the Department of Environmental Conservation.
  - 1. Minimize the amount of point and non-point source pollution, including untreated storm water, siltation from road construction and timber harvest activities, and hydrocarbon contamination from fuel storage tanks as well as roads and highways.
  - 2. Manage public use activities to ensure the protection of habitat areas, riparian areas, and wetlands important to habitat or hydrologic functions.
- C. Preserve and protect riparian areas, especially those determined critical to the maintenance of fish and wildlife or important recreational or scenic areas.
- D. Preserve and protect riverbank vegetation identified as essential to habitat functions.

## Management Guidelines

- A. ***Water Quality on Commercial Forest Land.*** In areas of timber harvest, maintain water quality, drainage patterns, wetlands, and riparian areas by deliberate design and location of roads, location and placement of culverts, and design and layout of harvest areas per FRPA and BMPs. Particular care will be taken to protect public drinking water sources located within the state forest and meet the Source Water Protection Requirements of the Alaska Drinking Water Regulations (18 AAC 80).
- B. ***Wetlands and Riparian Areas.*** Structures, recreation facilities, timber harvest areas and road/bridge projects should be sited, designed, and developed so that impacts to riparian areas and wetlands essential to water quality, hydrologic and habitat functions within the Southeast State Forest are minimized or, if possible, precluded. Structures and facilities shall not be sited within the stream areas defined by ordinary high water. Article 2 of the Forest Resources and Practices Act (AS 41.17.115-119) describes riparian management standards that apply to activities in order to protect these important areas.
- C. ***Diversion, Channelization, and Dam Construction.*** Diversion, channelization, or dams that will alter the natural hydrological conditions and that have a significant adverse impact on important riverine habitat should be avoided.
- D. ***Stream Bank Management.*** Maintain water quality by protecting the integrity of stream banks when carrying out management responsibilities.
- E. ***Karst Areas.*** Unique karst systems will be taken into consideration during timber sale planning to mitigate potential adverse impacts on associated high quality underground water systems.
- F. ***Cooperation with other Landowners.*** Participate with other landowners in cooperative watershed management programs designed to maintain the water quality of local streams and rivers.

## ***Cultural Resources***

### **Goals**

The Alaska Historic Preservation Act establishes the State's basic goal: to preserve and protect the historic, prehistoric, and archaeological resources of Alaska (AS 41.35.010).

### **Management Guidelines**

- A. ***Cultural Resource Identification.*** Identify and determine the significance of cultural resources on state forest land through the following actions:
  - 1. Cultural resources surveys conducted by the Department of Natural Resources or other qualified personnel.
  - 2. Research about cultural resources on state land by qualified individuals and organizations.
  - 3. Cooperative efforts for planned surveys and inventories between state, federal, and local or Native groups.
- B. ***Cultural Resources Protection.*** Protect significant cultural resources through the following actions:
  - 1. Review proposed land uses and construction projects for potential conflicts with cultural resources values.
  - 2. Cooperate with concerned government agencies, Native corporations, statewide or local groups, and individuals to develop guidelines and recommendations on how to avoid or mitigate identified or potential conflict.
- C. ***Cultural Resources in Timber Harvest Areas.*** The Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) will review proposals for timber management activities through the interagency review processes for the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales, Best Interest Findings, and Forest Land Use Plans for individual sales. Areas of known historic, archaeological, or paleontological sites will not be disturbed. Timber operations will not occur within 300 feet from the boundaries of known sites unless the OHA determines, in consultation with the Division of Forestry, that certain activities can occur without significantly impacting the cultural resource. The OHA shall, within the limits of staffing and funding, assess the extent and significance of the cultural resource and

work with the Division of Forestry to develop site-specific mitigation measures to protect the heritage sites while allowing timber management.

- D. **Report Cultural Sites When Found.** The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) is an inventory of all reported historic and prehistoric sites within the State of Alaska and is maintained by the Office of History and Archaeology. The AHRS is used to protect cultural resource sites from unwanted destruction. By knowing of possible cultural remains prior to construction, efforts can be made to avoid project delays and prevent unnecessary destruction of cultural sites. The AHRS is not complete or static, so heritage sites when found will be reported to the OHA.

## ***Fish and Wildlife***

### **Goals**

The Southeast State Forest contains valuable habitats for fish and wildlife species that support the economy and lifestyle of southeast Alaska residents. The management of the forest will minimize adverse impacts on these resources and their uses.

- A. Maintain the fish and wildlife resources that support commercial, recreational, and subsistence activities.
- B. Maintain the level of water quality through sound land management, stream bank management, and silvicultural practices.
- C. Maintain the existing diversity of fish and wildlife habitat through coordinated interagency management, habitat enhancement, site rehabilitation and research programs.

### **Management Guidelines**

- A. **Mitigation.** When issuing permits and leases or otherwise authorizing the use or development of state forest lands, the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the departments of Environmental Conservation and Fish & Game will impose stipulations or measures needed to protect fish, wildlife, or their habitats. The costs of mitigation relative to the benefits to be gained will be considered in the implementation of this policy.

All land use activities will be conducted with appropriate planning and implementation to avoid or minimize adverse effects on fish, wildlife, or their habitats, and their uses by the public.

DNR and the appropriate agency or agencies with jurisdiction will enforce stipulations and measures, and will require the responsible party to remedy any significant damage to fish, wildlife, or their habitats that may occur as a direct result of the party's failure to comply with applicable law, regulations, or the conditions of the permit or lease.

When determining appropriate stipulations and measures, DNR, in consultation with other departments will apply, in order of priority, the following steps. Mitigation requirements listed in other guidelines in this plan will also follow these steps:

1. Avoid anticipated, significant adverse effects on fish, wildlife, or their habitats through siting, timing, or other management options.
2. When significant adverse effects cannot be avoided by design, siting, timing, or other management options, the adverse effect of the use or development will be minimized.
3. If significant loss of fish or wildlife habitat occurs, the loss will be rectified, to the extent feasible and prudent, by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected area to a productive state.
4. Replacement or enhancement will only be required by DNR if it is determined to be in the best interest of the State either through the AS 38.05.035(e) or permit review process. ADF&G will clearly identify the species affected, the need for replacement or enhancement, and the suggested method for addressing the impact. Replacement with or enhancement of similar habitats of the affected species in the same region is preferable. DNR will consider only those replacement and enhancement techniques that have either been proven to be, or are likely to be effective and that will result in a benefit to the species impacted by the development. Replacement may include structural solutions, such as creating spawning or rearing ponds for salmon, creating wetlands for waterfowl; or non-structural measures, such as research or management of the species affected, or legislative or administrative allocation of lands to a long-term level of habitat protection that is sufficiently greater than that which they would otherwise receive.

- B. ***Permits, Leases, and Plans of Operations for Facilities.*** Commercial and industrial facilities, transportation facilities, and pipelines will, where feasible, require setbacks between these facilities and adjacent water bodies to maintain stream bank access and protect adjacent fish habitat, public

water supplies, and public recreation. The width of this setback may vary depending upon the type and size of the facilities, but will be adequate to maintain access and protect adjacent waters from degradation below the water quality standard established by DEC. Adjacent to designated anadromous fish spawning habitat, this setback will, to the extent feasible, not be less than 100 feet landward of ordinary high water mark.

Where it is not feasible to maintain a setback adjacent to fish habitat, public water supplies, or recreational waters, other measures will be implemented to meet the intent of this guideline.

- C. ***Structures and Activities in Fish Habitat.*** To maintain migration of juvenile fish, DOF will, to the extent feasible, require stipulations that structures in fish habitat be built to minimize impacts on fish migration. Written authorization issued by ADF&G, is required prior to any in-water work in anadromous fish streams.
- D. ***Water Intake Structures.*** When issuing water appropriations for waters providing fish habitat, DNR will to the extent feasible and prudent, require that practical water intake structures be installed that do not result in entrainment or impingement of fish and will maintain instream flows needed to sustain existing fish populations. The simplest and most cost-effective technology may be used to implement this guideline.

Water intake structures should be screened, and intake velocities will be limited to prevent entrapments, entrainment, or injury to the species of fish present. The structures supporting intakes should be designed to prevent fish from being led into the intake. Other effective techniques may also be used to achieve the intent of the guideline. Screen size, water velocity, and intake design will be determined in consultation with ADF&G.

- E. ***Management of Areas Adjacent to Anadromous Fish Streams and Waterbodies for Non-Timber Activities.*** Only activities which are or can be made compatible with the objectives of protecting, maintaining, or enhancing anadromous habitat are to be authorized in the zone occurring from 100 feet away from ordinary high water mark.
- F. ***Alteration of the Riverine Hydrologic System.*** To the extent feasible, channelization, diversion, or damming that will alter the natural hydrological conditions and have a significant adverse impact on important riverine habitat will be avoided.



- G. **Soil Erosion.** Soil erosion will be minimized by restricting the removal of vegetation adjacent to water bodies and by stabilizing disturbed soil as soon as possible.
- H. **Sedimentation.** Activities that could generate sedimentation in excess of state water quality standards will be managed to ensure compliance with those standards.
- I. **Hatchery and Aquatic Farm Source Waters.** To preserve the quality of a hatchery's water supply, uses will not be located on state forest land where they would risk reducing water quality below that needed by the hatchery or aquatic farm. The Division of Forestry will consult with hatchery and aquatic managers during the timber sale planning process to identify and provide for the mitigation of any risks or impacts to their operations.
- J. **Threatened or Endangered Species.** All land use activities will be conducted consistent with state and federal Endangered Species Acts to avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of threatened or endangered species of animals or plants; or to provide for their continued use of an area and to avoid adverse modification or destruction of their habitat. Specific mitigation recommendations should be identified through interagency consultation for any land use activity that potentially affects threatened or endangered species.
- K. **Eagles.** Activities that potentially affect bald eagles will be consistent with state and federal policies, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 as amended and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines, published in 2007 by the USFWS, include general recommendations for land management practices that will benefit bald eagles. Contact USFWS when undocumented eagle nest trees are found on state forest lands.
1. *Siting Facilities to Avoid Eagle Nests.* Facilities determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to cause significant disturbance to nesting eagles will not be allowed within 330 feet of any bald eagle nest site, whether the nest is currently active or not.
  2. *Activities Disturbing Nesting Eagles.* Consult the 2007 National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines (or later additions) when developing project-specific recommendations.

- L. ***Habitat Manipulation.*** Habitat manipulation through water control, timber management practices, or other measures may be used to improve habitat for certain fish and wildlife species where ADF&G determines that it is beneficial to the species or habitat and DOF determines that it is compatible with the primary purpose for this state forest.
- M. ***Protection of Fish and Wildlife Resources – Transportation Facilities.*** Important fish and wildlife habitats such as those mapped as crucial, riparian areas, wildlife movement corridors, important wintering areas, and threatened or endangered species habitat should be avoided in siting transportation routes unless no other feasible and prudent alternatives exist. Location of routes and timing of construction will be determined in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game.
- N. ***Black Bear, Marten, Deer, Wolf, and Waterfowl Habitat.*** During the Best Interest Finding and Forest Land Use Plan processes, DOF will coordinate with ADF&G to address important bear, marten, wolf, Sitka black-tailed deer, moose, elk, and waterfowl habitat (41.17.098(d)). DOF in cooperation with ADF&G may apply more detailed habitat protection through the Forest Land Use Plan process. Concentration areas and seasonal use patterns for these species are to be supplied by ADF&G as part of the preparation of the Forest Land Use Plan.
- O. ***Management of Invasive Plant and Animal Species.*** The Southeast State Forest will manage its lands and waters to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native plants and animals, consistent with the requirements of 11 AAC 34. The Southeast Soil and Water Conservation District is implementing an Invasive Plant Program that is focused on controlling invasive plant infestations through the practice of Integrated Pest Management. Contact them for more information.
- P. ***Conflicts with Traditional and Other Uses of Fish and Wildlife.*** The harvesting of subsistence resources such as fish and wildlife is an important part of local residents' uses of the forest area. DOF decisions should carefully consider the effects of proposed timber sales or silvicultural projects on these resources and uses, and seek to avoid or minimize any adverse impacts. Other non-timber activities or uses that are not compatible with traditional uses of fish and wildlife should be made compatible through the use of stipulations.

## ***Material Sites***

### **Goals**

Make available sufficient, suitably-located materials sites to meet the area's long-term economic needs for materials resources when consistent with the primary purpose of the state forest.

### **Management Guidelines**

- A. ***Preferred Material Sites.*** When no other viable options exist within a reasonable distance from a proposed public project, DOF will consider a request for a material sale within the Southeast State Forest. DMLW will administer material sites that are not timber-related. The use and expansion of existing upland material sources is preferred. Using materials from wetlands, lakes, and active or inactive floodplain rivers or streams should be avoided unless no feasible public upland alternative exists. As a general policy, sales or permits for gravel extraction will not be permitted within 100 feet of known fish spawning areas and without review by ADF&G.
- B. ***Maintaining Other Uses and Resources When Siting and Operating Material Sites.*** Before materials are extracted, the manager will ensure that the requirements of the permit or lease adequately protect other important resources and uses.

## ***Subsurface Resources***

### **Goals**

- A. Develop mineral resources to contribute to the mineral supplies of the community, region, state, and nation when consistent with the primary purpose of the state forest.
- B. Contribute to the local, regional, and state economy by developing mineral resources which will provide stable job opportunities and stimulate growth of secondary and other primary industries.
- C. Aid in the development of infrastructure where feasible to support the mining industry.
- D. Protect the integrity of the environment and affected cultures to the extent feasible when developing mineral resources.

## Management Guidelines

Mining and material extraction in the Southeast State Forest are governed by statutes and regulations described in the publication, “State of Alaska Mining Laws and Regulations” (DNR, 2014). All activities of this type in the state forest must follow these processes and adhere to the results of the permit (or other authorization) review processes. Regulatory and statutory authorities exist to manage these types of activities and impose stipulations necessary to achieve adherence to these authorities as well as the management requirements of the Forest Plan. Rights to locatable minerals in the land covered by Leasehold Location Order #XX within the Southeast State Forest may be acquired only under the leasehold location system, AS 38.05.205, and may not be acquired by locating a mining claim under AS 38.05.195. The forest also remains open to other forms of subsurface development, such as geothermal, coal, oil and gas.

- A. ***Mineral Exploration.*** By statute, exploration for locatable minerals is allowed on all state lands except those specifically closed to location. A land use permit is required under most circumstances. Hand prospecting and exploration activities generally do not require a permit. DNR may determine that some forms of access will not be allowed in specific areas to avoid resource damage.
- B. ***Consolidation of Mining and Timber Access.*** Where feasible, consolidate timber and mining access, both on land and for marine transport. Consolidation should lower costs to all users and avoid unnecessary impacts to other resources by minimizing roads and stream crossings.

## Recreation and Scenic Resources

The Southeast State Forest will be managed for multiple use, consistent with the primary purpose of the establishment of the state forest, which is timber production (AS 41.17.200). The statute recognizes the importance of the “continuation of other beneficial uses including traditional uses and other recreational activities”. The Forest will be retained in state ownership and managed to allow a range of activities to occur per AS 41.17.060 (c), including public recreation and access. Preference will not be given to one recreational use over another by restricting particular recreation uses, unless necessitated by timber management or harvesting activities. The Southeast State Forest will be managed to allow people to pursue recreational activities that would otherwise be allowed under 11 AAC 96.

## Goals

Provide recreation opportunities on land and water areas within the state forest.

## Management Guidelines

- A. **Public Access.** Access to the state forest shall be provided to the public, but may be limited or curtailed at certain times to protect public safety, allow special uses, and prevent harm to the environment. Examples of conditions that may justify limiting public access are fire management, timber harvest operations, and high soil moisture content when traffic may cause extensive damage to roads and trails. Statutes address restrictions of easement and right-of-way use (AS 38.04.058) and restrictions of traditional means of access (AS 38.04.200). These and subsequent statutes and regulations must be considered when contemplating use restrictions.

Use levels on public access routes within the state forest may vary. Consideration should be given to use and development of facilities if needed and if funding is available.

- B. **Coordination with Other Landowners.** Recreation management, including the location and management of recreation facilities, will take into account the current and likely management by public and private landowners on nearby or adjacent lands.

1. The Division of Forestry shall coordinate with Division of Mining, Land and Water and the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation where general state land adjoins the state forest, or where there is another need to coordinate state recreational management.

- C. **Private Recreation Facilities and Uses.** Private recreation facilities are considered not compatible with the primary purpose of the state forest and are not allowed within the SESF.

Private uses for profit making, or private not-for-profit recreation operations, including uses associated with tourism, may be authorized if consistent with the primary purpose of the state forest and the following conditions are met:

- significant public access or recreational opportunities will not be lost or blocked by the operation, or reasonable alternative access to areas that otherwise would be blocked can be provided;
- the amount of use shall be consistent with the land use classification and management intent statement for the applicable plan unit;

- the proposed use shall not create significant adverse impacts to sensitive fish and wildlife populations, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and quantity, wetlands or sensitive riparian areas, or those resources identified as important for protection in the management intent statement in the plan subunit, or management measures shall be developed to ensure that any such impacts are precluded or mitigated;
- the use shall be located, designed, and operated to preclude or minimize conflicts with recreational, subsistence, and traditional uses.

**D. *Distribution of Recreational Activities throughout the Forest.***

Dispersed recreational activities are intended to be distributed throughout the state forest. Dispersed recreation activities include both personal and commercial use as well as both motorized and non-motorized forms.

Because the pattern of recreational activities is likely to change somewhat over time, the Division of Forestry will periodically re-evaluate recreational activities within the state forest. The Division of Forestry will coordinate with the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation in the preparation of this analysis.

- E. *Traditional Uses and Modes of Transportation.*** Traditional means of access as well as access to traditional use areas will be maintained in the state forest as defined under AS 38.04.200. This statute, which is applicable to the state forest in addition to general state lands, states that DNR may not manage state lands or waters so that a traditional means of access for traditional outdoor activities is to be restricted for the purpose of protecting aesthetic values, except under certain limited conditions. Traditional means of access means those types of transportation for which a popular pattern of use are developed. Traditional outdoor activities include those types of activities that people use for individual, family, or community life patterns. These management restrictions protect personal use, either motorized or non-motorized. They do not extend to commercial uses of any kind. Accordingly, once patterns of 'popular use' have been established within the state forest, DNR cannot prohibit these uses if the use is of a personal (non-commercial) type.

- F. *Scenic Values.*** Allowance shall be made for scenic quality in or adjacent to areas of substantial importance to the tourism and recreation industry (AS 41.17.060(c)(6)). Vegetation that obscures scenic vistas may be managed to facilitate viewing.

- G. ***Private Remote Cabins.*** Remote cabins or similar types of private residential facilities on state lands are prohibited in the forest.
- H. ***Trapping Cabins.*** Consistent with AS 38.95.075 and 11 AAC 94.010, the Division of Forestry will participate with DMLW in the review of trapping cabin permit applications or renewal requests, and concur with stipulations if an application or renewal is not found incompatible with the primary purpose for this state forest and the management plan allows cabins within that particular unit of the state forest. Trapping cabins may not be permitted where they may affect current or future timber harvest or management activities within the Southeast State Forest. In this plan trapping cabins are not permanent facilities.

## CHAPTER 3

This chapter contains site specific information and management intent for the 33 units that comprise the Southeast State Forest.

There are two components to the land management policies for the SESF. First the general standards and policies for land management identified in Chapter 2 which apply to the entire forest. Second, the site specific information for each unit listed in this chapter. Consideration should be given to each unit's site specific information when developing timber sales. This consideration will at times include consultation with other land owners and state and federal agencies. Information provided in this Chapter for a specific unit is more descriptive in nature than prescriptive. This method provides timber sale planners with the ability to adapt a timber sale to actual on the ground conditions or over time to changing conditions without the need to modify the management plan itself.

Unit management principles are based on the following key concepts founded within current State statutes and Regulations. These principles are:

It is the policy of the State to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest. (Article 8, Section 8.1 Alaska Constitution)

The primary purpose of a state forest is timber management that provides for the production, utilization and replenishment of timber resources. (AS 41.17.200)

A state forest shall be managed under the sustained yield principle. (AS 41.17.220)

To the extent they are found to be compatible with the primary purpose of a state forest; consider and permit nontimber purposes including recreation, tourism, mining, mineral exploration, mineral leasing, material extraction, use of wildlife and fish, other agricultural activities and traditional uses. (AS 41.17.230)

Within a state forest, riparian standards may not exceed the standards established for state lands under AS 41.17.118(a). (AS 41.17.118(b))

Timber harvesting is restricted to areas where reforestation techniques will produce a sustained yield of merchantable timber. (AS 41.16.060(c)(4))



Allowance shall be made for scenic quality in or adjacent to areas of substantial importance to the tourism and recreation industry. (AS 41.16.060(c)(6))

Allowance shall be made for important fish and wildlife habitat. (AS 41.16.060(c)(7))

Regulations (11 AAC 95) that implement and interprets the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (AS 41.17) involving forest management activities such as road location, construction and maintenance; timber harvesting; log transfer, sortyards and storage facilities; reforestation; prevention and suppression of insects and diseases; salvage logging; vegetative management and fire management may be adopted to accomplish the purposes of the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act. (AS 41.17.080)

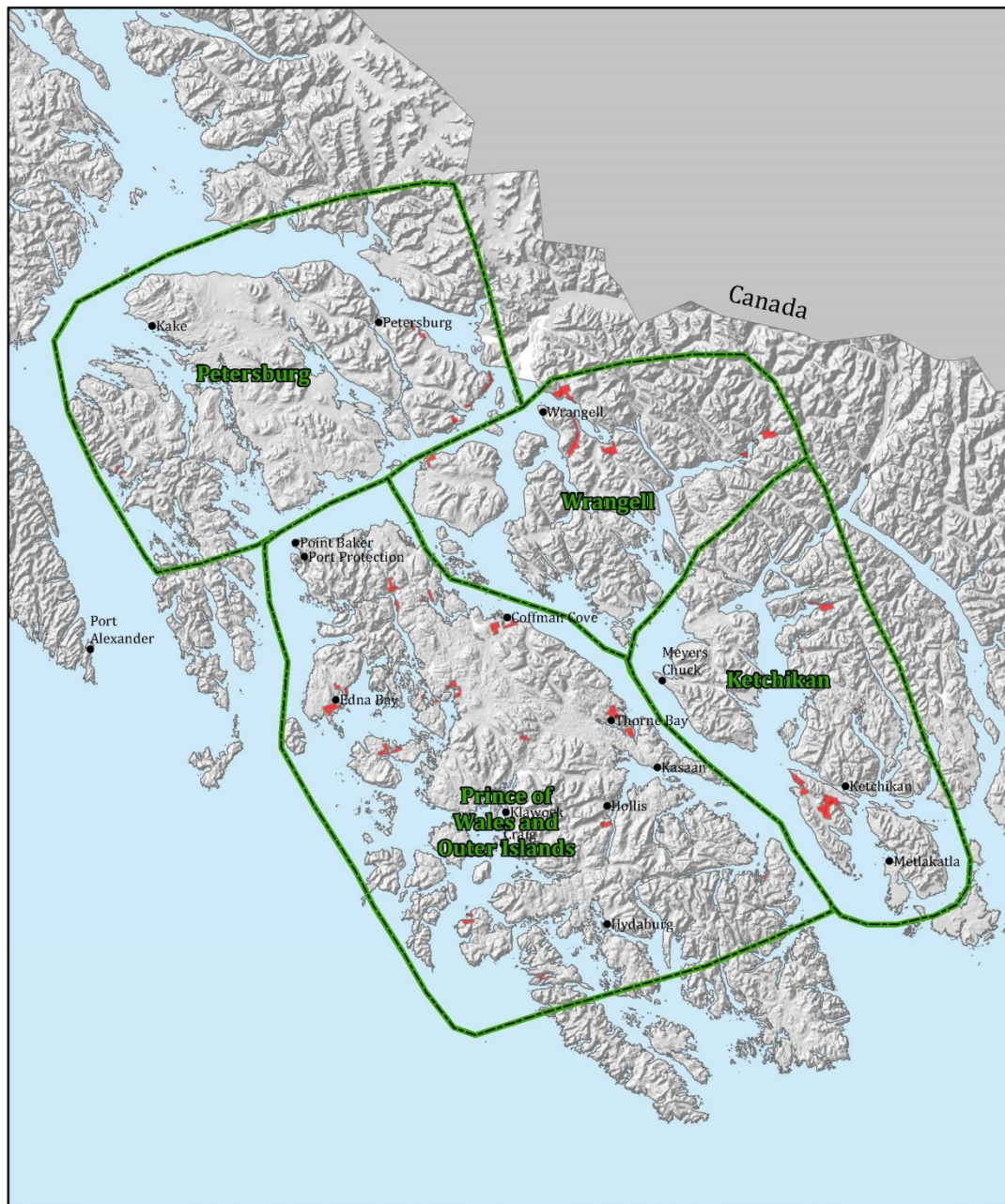
It is suggested that unit information contained within Chapter 3 be used in the following manner during the timber sale planning process.

When preparing the Preliminary Best Interest Finding (PBIF) for a timber sale, the planning Forester should consult the unit description to assess if there are specific attributes within the unit that need special consideration. The PBIF should include sections on these attributes, providing the public and agencies an opportunity to express their concerns, views and mitigation regarding the subject. When developing the Final Best Interest Finding, the planning Forester should first consider then address the comments received during the comment period. The Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) for the sale will then disclose how the attribute of concern will be handled during forest management activities.

As an example; a unit of the SESF has a recreation spot of substantial importance in the southwest corner of the unit. The PBIF will mention that a proposed timber sale is planned to occur within the same vicinity. Public and agency comments suggest that a buffer to lessen visual impacts to the recreational area be considered. Comments might even suggest a buffer of 1000 feet in size. DOF in the Final Best Interest Finding will state that a buffer will be used to reduce visual impacts to the recreation site. The FLUP when issued will state that a buffer of variable width will be used to reduce the visual impacts of timber harvest on the recreation site. The width of the buffer will conform to ground conditions with the edge of the buffer stopping at the top of the ridgeline adjacent to the site. If scenic value is not listed as an attribute within the unit, the planning Forester need not ensure that the public is made aware within the PBIF. This does not mean that the DOF should not or does not have to consider scenic values if comments regarding such values are received.

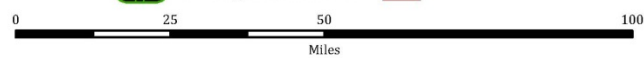
As additional information is gathered about specific uses, concerns or attributes; such information should be incorporated into this management plan. Such incorporation of acquired knowledge does not require the management plan to be amended or revised.

The SESF is divided into four management areas which generally correspond to an island or other geographical location. The management areas are broken into units or sub-units where appropriate to describe specific management direction for areas that vary in character, location, or management intent. The map on the next page depicts the four management areas and 33 units of the state forest.

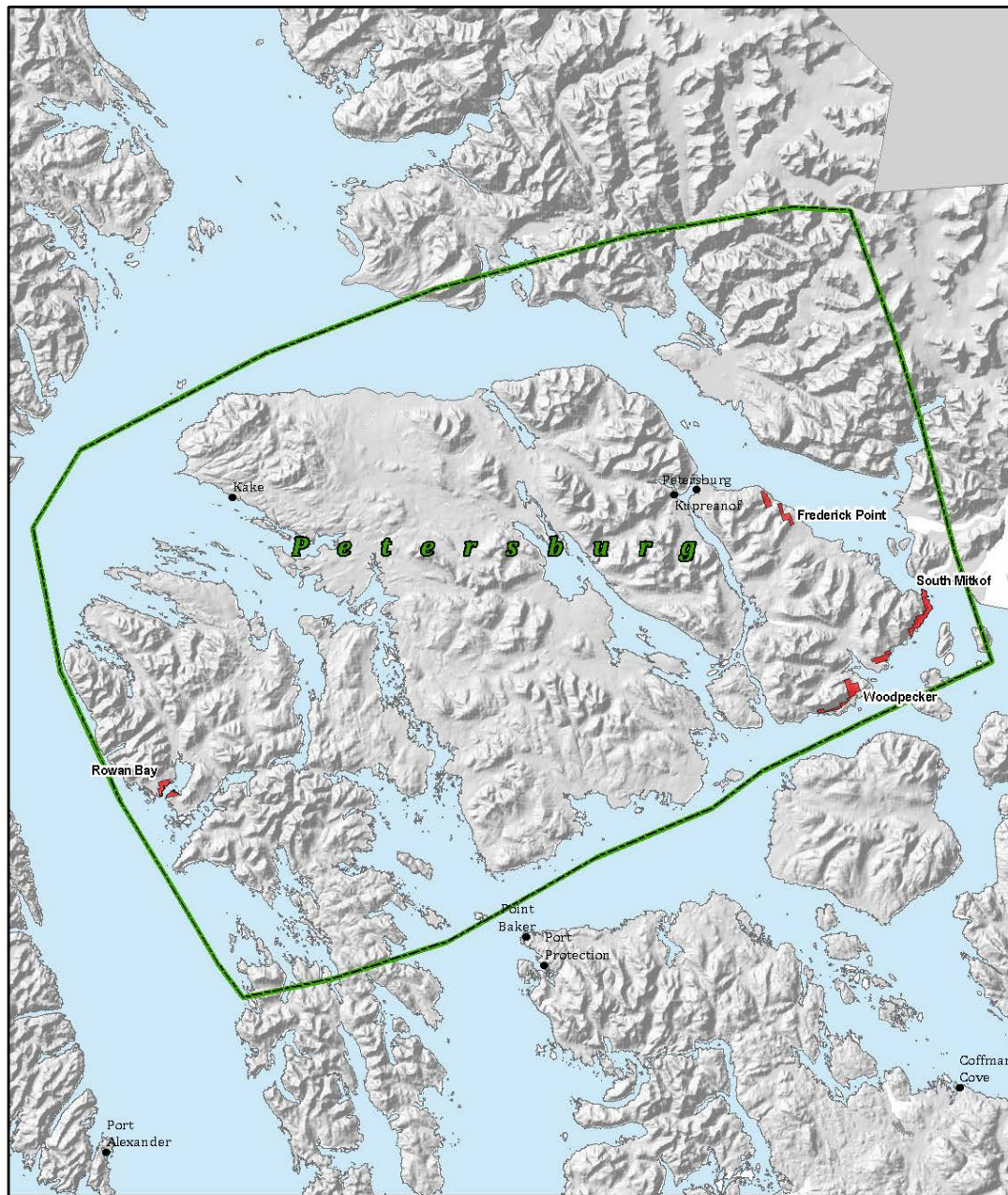


### Southeast State Forest

Management Areas  State Forest

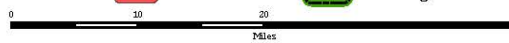






### Southeast State Forest Petersburg Management Area

■ State Forest    □ Management Units



## ***Petersburg Management Area***

The Petersburg Management Area includes four state forest units: Rowan Bay on Kuiu Island and the Frederick Point, South Mitkof, and Woodpecker units on Mitkof Island.

### **Rowan Bay Unit**

Unit: Rowan Bay Sub-Units: Rowan Bay North & Rowan Bay South Management Area: Petersburg Location: Kuiu Island	Total Unit Acres: 664
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Predominately Old growth with approximately 88 acres of Young Growth.	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: There are no roads within this unit. An existing USFS LTF is located in Rowan Bay near the north Rowan Bay sub-unit.	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: None needed.	
FISHERIES: Several small anadromous streams are located within the Rowan Bay North sub-unit (#109-52-10030 and #109-52-10040).	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: AHRs reports prehistoric heritage sites exist in area including the prehistoric Rowan Village.	
SCENERY: No Concerns	
RECREATION: No Concerns	
GEOLOGY/SOILS:	
WILDLIFE: Within the Rowan Bay North sub-unit, consider deer winter habitat range on south facing slopes below 800 feet in elevation.	

### **Frederick Point Unit**

Unit: Frederick Point Sub-Units: Frederick Point North & Frederick Point South Management Area: Petersburg Location: Mitkof Island	Total Unit Acres: 890
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition:	
TIMBER/YARDING:	

TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Blind Slough or Woodpecker Cove
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: A USFS Road Use Permit may be needed for the following NFS road: 6235000
ACCESS: Access across SESF lands to private lands is an allowed use in this unit.
FISHERIES: Upper reaches of Cabin Creek (#108-50-10050) located in Frederick Point North. Unnamed stream (#108-50-10040) in Frederick Point South sub-unit.
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.
SCENERY: No Concerns
RECREATION: No Concerns
GEOLOGY/SOILS:
WILDLIFE: No critical wildlife habitat areas are present.

## South Mitkof Unit

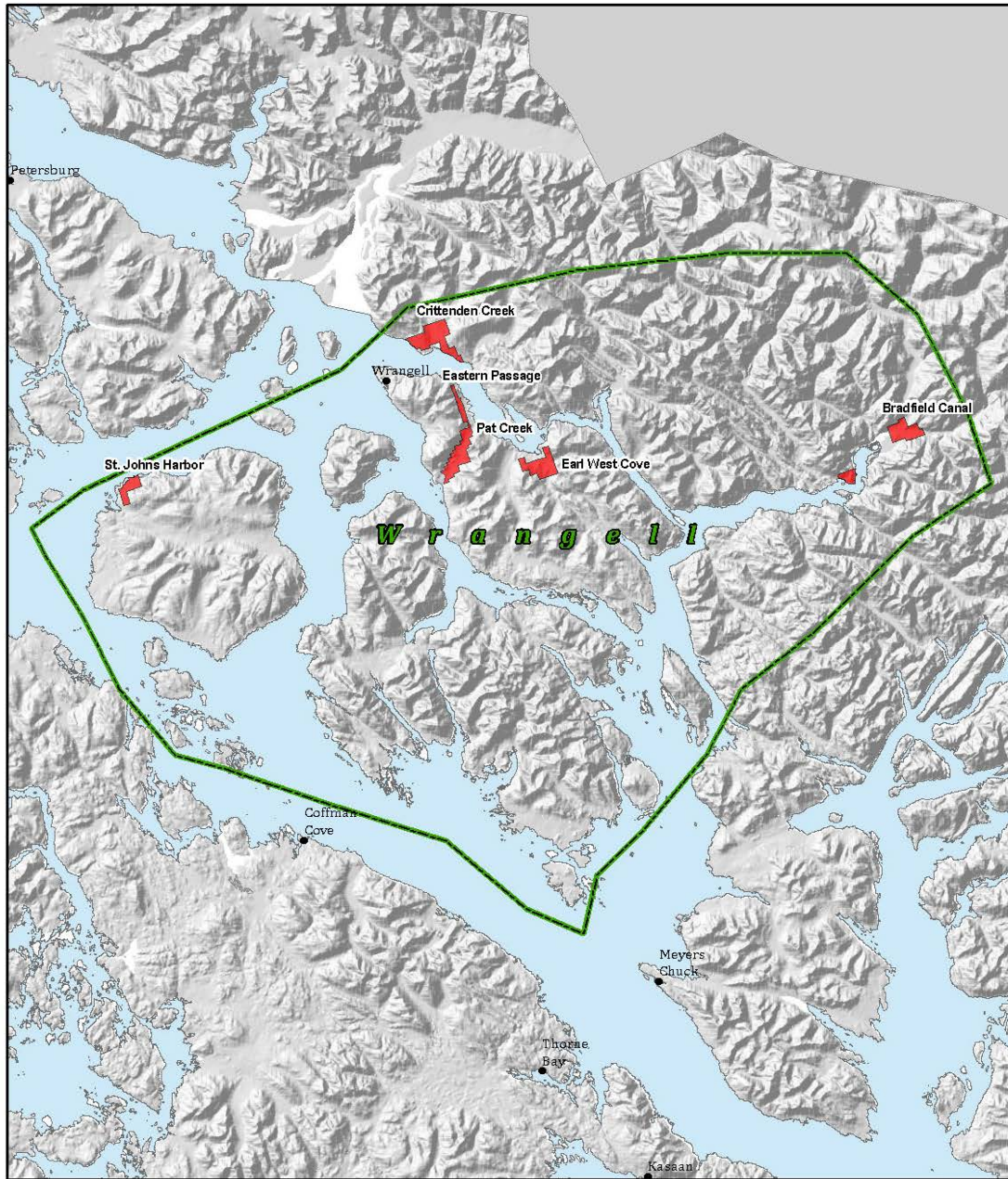
Unit: South Mitkof Sub-Units: South Mitkof & Favor Peak Management Area: Petersburg Location: Mitkof Island	Total Unit Acres: 1,758
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition:	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Blind Slough or Woodpecker Cove	
USFS EASEMENTS: NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROADS: 6221000, 6222000, 6223000, and 6224000 and the LTF at Blind Slough.	
FISHERIES: No known fish streams.	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.	
SCENERY: Consider visual buffering near Ernie Haugen Public Use Area.	
RECREATION: Near the Ernie Haugen Public Use Area.	
GEOLOGY/SOILS:	
WILDLIFE: Consider deer winter habitat range on south facing slopes below 800 feet in elevation.	

## Woodpecker Unit

Unit: Woodpecker Management Area: Petersburg Location: Mitkof Island	Total Unit Acres: 1,155
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: Contains old growth and young growth stands	
TIMBER/YARDING:	

TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Blind Slough or Woodpecker Cove.
USFS EASEMENTS: NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROADS: 4008300, 6245000, 6283000 and 6285000. An Easement was also retained for the LTF at Woodpecker Cove.
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: A USFS Road Use Permit may be needed for the following NFS roads: 6245000 if wood is hauled out of the Woodpecker unit of the SESF.
FISHERIES: No known fish streams.
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.
SCENERY: Consider buffering areas known for high use as camping sites.
RECREATION: High use camping area
GEOLOGY/SOILS:
WILDLIFE: Consider deer winter habitat range on south facing slopes below 800 feet in elevation.





**Southeast State Forest**  
Wrangell Management Area

State Forest Management Units





## ***Wrangell Management Area***

### **Bradfield Canal Unit**

Unit: Bradfield Canal Sub-Units: Bradfield East & Bradfield West Management Area: Wrangell Location: Mainland	Total Unit Acres: 2,533
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: Larger sub-unit (Bradfield East) of this unit contains older stands of young growth. Bradfield West contains old growth stands.	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: There is an existing marine access facility (MAF) near the Bradfield East sub-unit. Check DOT&PF's Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SATP) for status of proposed "Bradfield Canal Alignment" public road linking central/southern southeast with Canada. Bradfield West sub-unit contains no roads.	
USFS EASEMENTS: Two unnumbered roads; East Fork Road and North Fork Road.	
FISHERIES: Bradfield East sub-unit contains the Bradfield River (#107-40-10530), the East Fork of the Bradfield River (#107-40-10530-2002), the North Fork of the Bradfield River (#107-40-10530-2003) and Hydro Creek (#107-40-10537).	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.	
SCENERY: No concerns	
RECREATION: Guided bear hunting area.	
GEOLOGY/SOILS:	
WILDLIFE: Consider deer winter habitat range on south facing slopes below 800 feet in elevation.	

### **Crittenden Creek Unit**

Unit: Crittenden Creek Management Area: Wrangell Location: Mainland	Total Unit Acres: 3,146
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: Old growth	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: No existing roads within unit. A proposed LTF site is located outside of the SESF to the east of Babbler Point.	
USFS EASEMENTS: None	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: None needed.	

ACCESS: Access across SESF lands to private lands is an allowed use in this unit.
FISHERIES: Crittenden Creek (#107-40-10050) and East Crittenden Creek (#107-40-10060).
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.
SCENERY: Consider visual buffering to protect recreational values of Mill Creek state Park.
RECREATION: Mill Creek State Park located near the southern end of this unit.
GEOLOGY/SOILS: Mineral Closure Order 278 affects Crittenden Creek, all of sections 9, 14, 15, 24, and part of 25.
WILDLIFE: Consider deer winter habitat range on south facing slopes below 800 feet in elevation.

### Earl West Cove Unit

Unit: Earl West Cove Management Area: Wrangell Location: Wrangell Island	Total Unit Acres: 2,297
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition:	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Pats Creek or Earl West Cove	
USFS EASEMENTS: NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROADS: 6265000	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: A USFS Road Use Permit may be needed for the following NFS roads: 6265000 and 6270000 if wood is hauled out of the Earl West Cove Unit.	
ACCESS: Access across SESF lands to private lands is an allowed use in this unit.	
FISHERIES: Earl West Creek (#107-40-10780) and three cataloged tributaries.	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.	
SCENERY: Note recreation use near local fishing location.	
RECREATION: Local fishing hole near where Earl West Creek is crossed by the FSR # 6265	
GEOLOGY/SOILS: USFS retained control over the 5.47 acres rock pit located in Sec. 8.	
WILDLIFE: No critical wildlife habitat areas are present	

### Eastern Passage Unit

Unit: Eastern Passage Management Area: Wrangell Location: Wrangell Island	Total Unit Acres: 630
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition:	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Pats Creek	

USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: See Wrangell Island Road Use Agreement.
ACCESS: Access across SESF lands to private lands is an allowed use in this unit.
FISHERIES: One unnamed stream (#107-40-10910).
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.
SCENERY: No concerns
RECREATION: No concerns
GEOLOGY/SOILS:
WILDLIFE: No critical wildlife habitat areas are present.

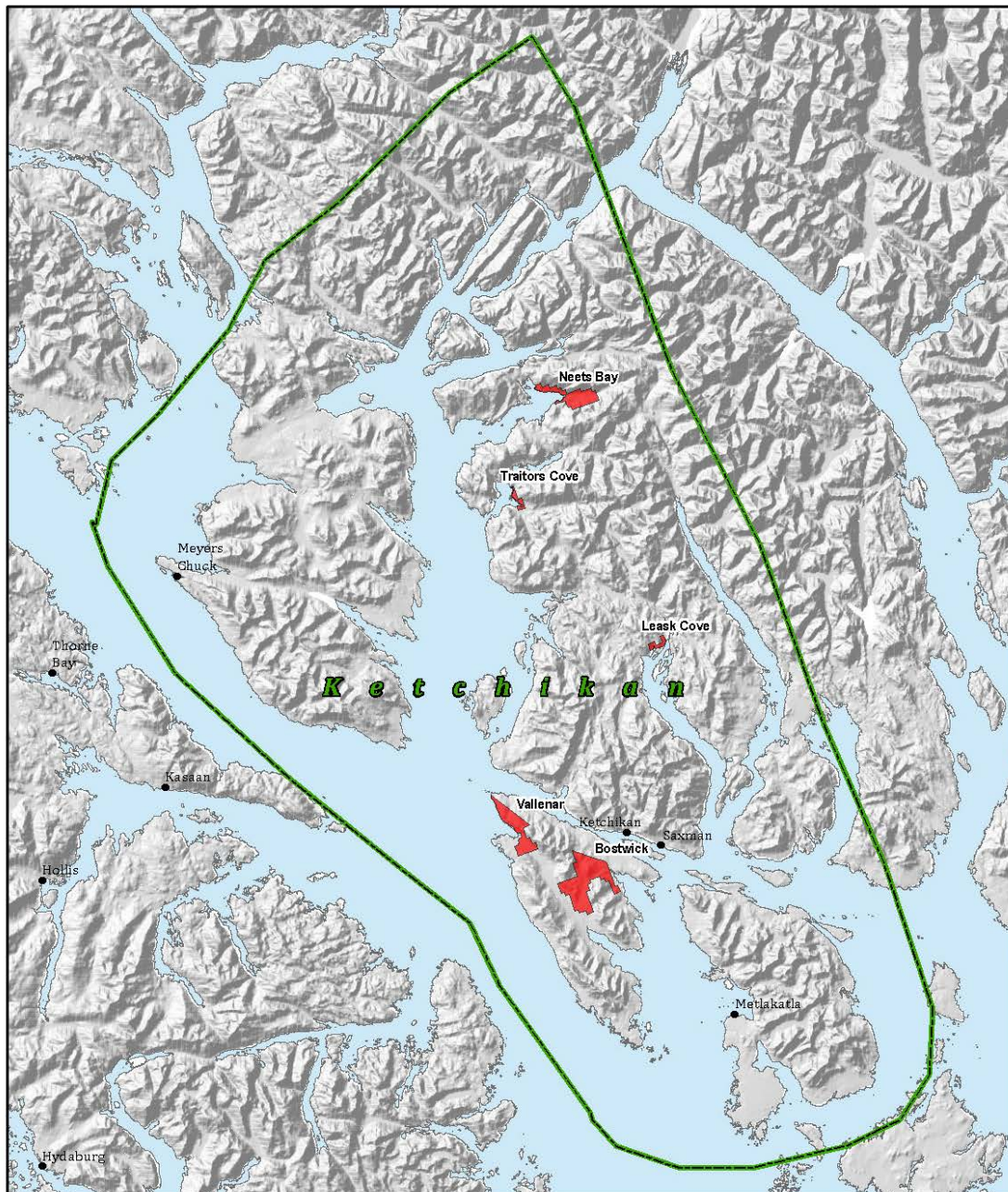
## Pat Creek Unit

Unit: Pat Creek Management Area: Wrangell Location: Wrangell Island	Total Unit Acres: 2,592
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: Extensive young growth stands approximately 30-40 years old	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Pats Creek	
USFS EASEMENTS: NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROADS: 6259000	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: See Wrangell Island Road Use Agreement.	
ACCESS: Access across SESF lands to private lands is an allowed use in this unit.	
FISHERIES: Pat Creek (#108-10-10050), one unnamed stream (#108-10-10050-2047), and six cataloged tributaries associated with these two streams.	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.	
SCENERY: Consider visual buffer near Pats Lake.	
RECREATION: Pats Lake near the western boundary of the unit.	
GEOLOGY/SOILS:	
WILDLIFE: Consider deer winter habitat range on south facing slopes below 800 feet in elevation.	

## Zarembo Unit

Unit: Zarembo Management Area: Wrangell Location: Zarembo Island	Total Unit Acres: 1,114
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition:	
TIMBER/YARDING:	

TRANSPORTATION: LTF: St. Johns Harbor
USFS EASEMENTS: NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROADS: 6590000
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: A USFS Road Use Permit may be needed for the following NFS roads: 6590000.
ACCESS: Access across SESF lands to private lands is an allowed use in this unit.
FISHERIES: Small anadromous stream in northeast portion of unit (#108-30-10150).
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.
SCENERY: No concerns
RECREATION: No Concerns
GEOLOGY/SOILS: USFS retained control over a 5 acres rock pit in Sec. 4
WILDLIFE: Elk present.



**Southeast State Forest**  
Ketchikan Management Area

■ State Forest    ■ Management Units



## ***Ketchikan Management Area***

### **Bostwick Unit**

Unit: Bostwick Management Area: Ketchikan (Gravina-Revilla) Location: Gravina Island	Total Unit Acres: 5,101
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: Existing managed young growth stands are less than 10 years old. Areas of old growth timber are also present.	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Gravina Island Industrial Complex	
USFS EASEMENTS: None	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: None needed.	
FISHERIES: Bostwick Creek (#101-27-10360) and Bostwick Lake (#101-27-10360-0020). Cataloged streams (#101-27-10610 and #101-27-10620-2001), Blank Inlet streams.	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.	
SCENERY: Consider buffering if recreation development occurs	
RECREATION: Potential for low-impact recreational development adjacent to Bostwick Lake	
GEOLOGY/SOILS: Rock generally of poor quality for road construction.	
WILDLIFE: Wolf den in area.	

### **Vallenar Unit**

Unit: Vallenar Management Area: Ketchikan (Gravina-Revilla) Location: Gravina Island	Total Unit Acres: 2,398
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: Unit contains ~660 acres of older (50 yr. +) young growth.	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Gravina Island Industrial Complex	
USFS EASEMENTS: NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROADS: 8110	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: None needed.	
ACCESS: Access across SESF lands to private lands is an allowed use in this unit.	
FISHERIES: Vallenar Creek (#101-29-10060). Possible small anadromous tributaries to Vallenar Creek.	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.	

SCENERY: No concerns
RECREATION: No Concerns
GEOLOGY/SOILS:
WILDLIFE: Multiple eagle trees located along shoreline between Vallenar Bay and Vallenar Point.

## Neets Bay Unit

Unit: Neets Bay Management Area: Ketchikan (Gravina-Revilla) Location: Revilla Island	Total Unit Acres: 2,133
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition:	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: Marine Access Facility in conjunction with the hatchery.	
USFS EASEMENTS: NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROADS: 8000000, 8000690, 8400000	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: None needed.	
FISHERIES: Neets Bay Hatchery, Neets Creek (#1001-90-10100) and Neets Lake (#101-90-10100-2004-0010).	
EASEMENTS: The Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) holds an easement (ADL 106907) for a waterline from the Neets Bay Hatchery to Bluff Lake.	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.	
SCENERY: Consider impacts to commercial bear viewing area	
RECREATION: Commercial bear viewing occurs at and adjacent to the Neets Bay Hatchery area.	
GEOLOGY/SOILS:	
WILDLIFE: No critical wildlife habitat areas are present.	
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Neets Bay Hatchery; there is a water intake structure on Bluff Lake at the head of Neets Creek that provides water to the Neets Bay Hatchery via a pipeline (ADL 106907).	

## Leask Cove Unit

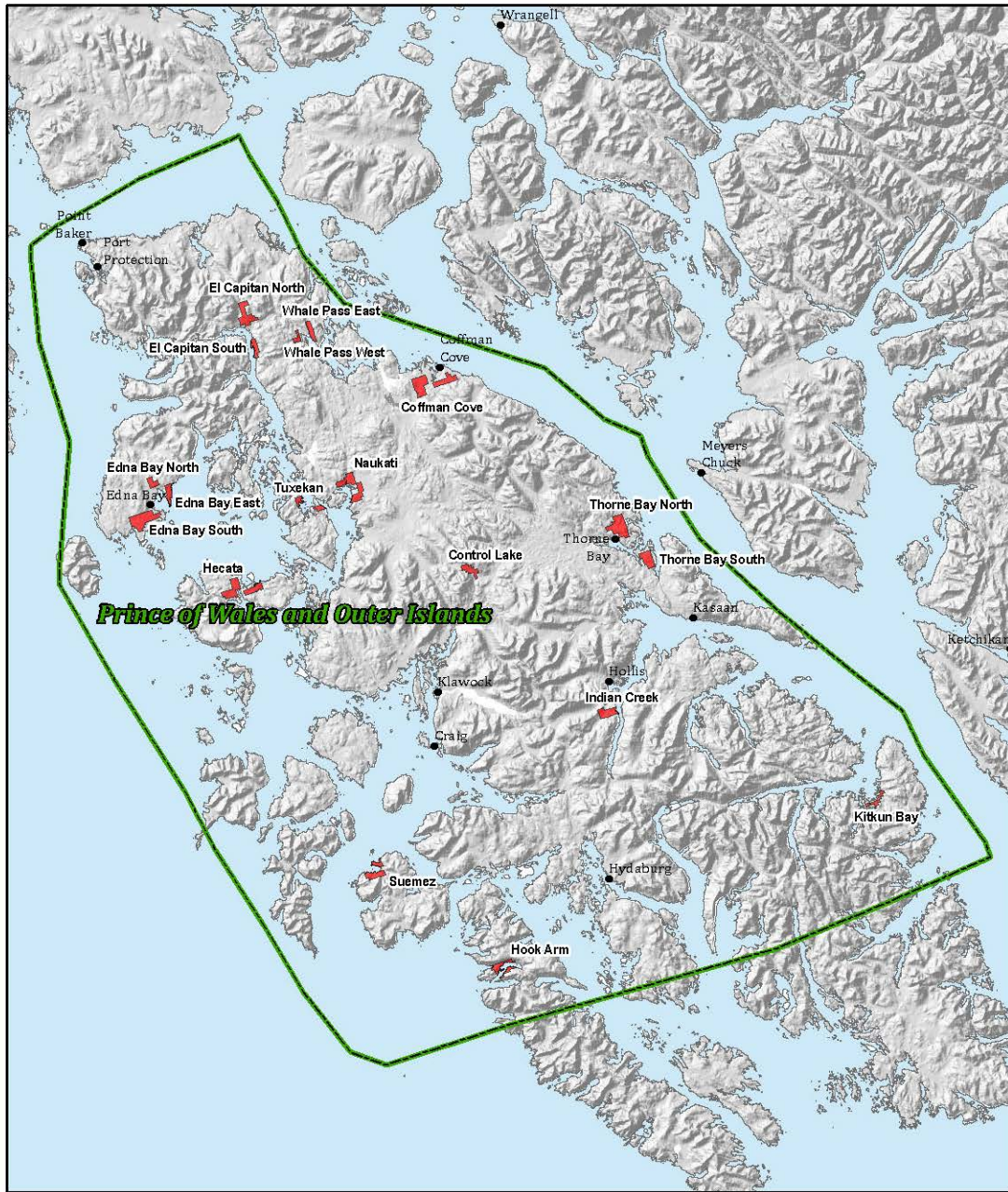
Unit: Leask Cove Management Area: Ketchikan (Gravina-Revilla) Location: Revilla Island	Total Unit Acres: 326
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: XX acres of older (45 yr. +) young growth.	
TIMBER/YARDING:	

TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Leask Cove (Alaska Mental Health Trust)
USFS EASEMENTS: None
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: None needed.
ACCESS: Access across SESF lands to private lands is an allowed use in this unit.
FISHERIES: (#101-45-10340 and #101-45-10360)
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.
SCENERY: No concerns
RECREATION: Remote subdivision parcels located near southern boundary of unit.
GEOLOGY/SOILS:
WILDLIFE: Consider deer winter habitat range on south facing slopes below 800 feet in elevation.

### Traitors Cove Unit

Unit: Traitors Cove Management Area: Ketchikan (Gravina-Revilla) Location: Revilla Island	Total Unit Acres: 314
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: 288 acres of older (50 year old +) young growth.	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Marguerite Bay	
USFS EASEMENTS: Pending Action – No roads reserved at this time.	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: None needed.	
FISHERIES: Margaret Creek (# 101-90-10390)	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.	
SCENERY: Consider impacts to wildlife viewing and nature tours.	
RECREATION: Guided wildlife viewing and nature tours in area; high use area by tourist industry.	
GEOLOGY/SOILS: The Teller Mine gold prospect is located in the northern portion of Section 21 within the state forest ( <a href="http://mrdata.usgs.gov/mrds/show-mrds.php?dep_id=10209533">http://mrdata.usgs.gov/mrds/show-mrds.php?dep_id=10209533</a> ). The Ekblad gold prospect site (id=10307641) is located in Section 21 just north of the Teller Mine.	
WILDLIFE: No critical wildlife habitat areas are present.	





### Southeast State Forest Prince of Wales and Outer Islands Management Area



## ***Prince of Wales and Outer Island Management Area***

### **Hook Arm Unit**

Unit: Hook Arm Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: West side of Dall Island	Total Unit Acres: 976
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: The timber consists primarily of hemlock and spruce with scattered western redcedar.	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: There are no roads within this unit; an LTF may need to be constructed to support future harvest activities	
USFS EASEMENTS: None	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: None needed.	
FISHERIES: Foul Creek (#104-30-10490) at the head of Foul Bay.	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: AHRs reports prehistoric heritage sites exist in area; see Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.	
SCENERY: No concerns	
RECREATION: No Concerns due to unit's remote location.	
GEOLOGY/SOILS:	
WILDLIFE: Consider deer winter habitat range on south facing slopes below 800 feet in elevation.	

### **Coffman Cove Unit**

Unit: Coffman Cove Sub-Units: Coffman East & Coffman West Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: East side of Prince of Wales Island	Total Unit Acres: 2,485
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: Coffman East predominately young growth stands approximately 35-50 years in age	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Klawock, Tolstoi, use of existing barge ramp at Coffman Cove is questionable	
USFS EASEMENTS: 3030000, 3030300, 3030400, 3030420, 3030500, 3030600, 3030620, 3030621, 3030625	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: None needed.	

ACCESS: Access across SESF lands to private lands is an allowed use in this unit.
FISHERIES: Coffman West: Sweetwater Lake (#106-30-10670-2004-0020), Trumpeter Creek (#106-30-10670-2004-3017) and Coffman Creek (#106-30-10160). Coffman East: Chum (Dog) Creek (# 106-30-10120).
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.
SCENERY: Consider Scenic Byway.
RECREATION: Coffman West sub-unit adjacent to Sweetwater Lake.
GEOLOGY/SOILS: Upper portion of community's watershed (Chum Creek) is located in Coffman East sub-unit.
WILDLIFE: Near estuarine area of Coffman Cove/ wolf den in area.

## El Capitan North Unit

Unit: El Capitan North Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: West side of Prince of Wales Island	Total Unit Acres: 1,528
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition:	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Klawock, Tolstoi, El Capitan	
USFS EASEMENTS: NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROADS: 2000000, 2000785	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: A USFS Road Use Permit may be needed for the following NFS road: 2000000.	
FISHERIES: Wolf Creek (#105-42-10100)	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.	
SCENERY: Consider Scenic Byway.	
RECREATION: No Concerns	
GEOLOGY/SOILS:	
WILDLIFE: No critical wildlife habitat areas are present	

## El Capitan South Unit

Unit: El Capitan South Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: West side of Prince of Wales Island	Total Unit Acres: 603
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition:	
TIMBER/YARDING:	

TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Klawock, Tolstoi, El Captain
USFS EASEMENTS: NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROADS: 2000000, 2000770
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: A USFS Road Use Permit may be needed for the following NFS roads: 2000000, 2000770.
FISHERIES: Small anadromous streams within unit: #103-90-10010 and #101-90-10020.
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.
SCENERY: No concerns
RECREATION: No Concerns
GEOLOGY/SOILS: The El Cap Gold site is located in Section 23, west of the state forest by Tokhini Creek (id=10003656). No mineral sites are shown within this state forest unit.
WILDLIFE: No critical wildlife habitat areas are present

## Naukati Unit

Unit: Naukati Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: West side of Prince of Wales Island	Total Unit Acres: 1,857
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition:	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Klawock, Tolstoi	
USFS EASEMENTS: NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROADS: 2000000, 2058000, 2058150, and an existing spur off of the 2000000 in Sec. 16.	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: None needed.	
ACCESS: Access across SESF lands to private lands is an allowed use in this unit.	
FISHERIES: Yatuk Creek (#103-90-10250), Gutchi Creek (#103-90-10270) and Naukati Creek (#103-90-10260).	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.	
SCENERY: Consider Scenic Byway	
RECREATION: No Concerns	
GEOLOGY/SOILS: Karst; Naukati Road Quarry located in Sec. 10	
WILDLIFE: Consider deer winter habitat range on south facing slopes below 800 feet in elevation.	

## Whale Pass East Unit

Unit: Whale Pass East Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: East side of Prince of Wales Island	Total Unit Acres: 648
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Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition:
TIMBER/YARDING:
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Klawock, Tolstoi, Whale Pass
USFS EASEMENTS: NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROADS: 3000000, 3000540 and 3065000
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: A USFS Road Use Permit may be needed for the following NFS roads: 2500000, 3062000, and 3065000
FISHERIES: No known anadromous streams.
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.
SCENERY: Consider recreation use at 108 creek.
RECREATION: Near 108 Creek, a high recreation use fish stream
GEOLOGY/SOILS:
WILDLIFE: No critical wildlife habitat areas are present

## Whale Pass West Unit

Unit: Whale Pass West Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: East side of Prince of Wales Island	Total Unit Acres: 323
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition:	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Klawock, Tolstoi, Whale Pass	
USFS EASEMENTS: None	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: A USFS Road Use Permit may be needed for the following NFS road: 2500000.	
FISHERIES: Snoose Creek (#106-30-10770).	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.	
SCENERY: Consider recreation use at 108 creek.	
RECREATION: Near Big Creek (locally known as 108 Creek), a high recreation use fish stream.	
GEOLOGY/SOILS:	
WILDLIFE: No critical wildlife habitat areas are present	

## Control Lake Unit

Unit: Control Lake Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: Central Prince of Wales Island	Total Unit Acres: 745
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Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: Young managed stands less than 10 years in age. Older young growth and old growth timber is also present in this unit.
TIMBER/YARDING:
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Klawock, Tolstoi
USFS EASEMENTS: NFS ROADS 2000430, 2000435, 2000440 and 2000441.
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: A USFS Road Use Permit may be needed for the following NFS roads: 2000430, 2000435 and 2000440.
FISHERIES: Steelhead Creek (#103-60-10290).
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.
SCENERY: State Route is a Scenic Byway
RECREATION: No Concerns
GEOLOGY/SOILS:
WILDLIFE: Wolf and bear dens in area

## Thorne Bay North Unit

Unit: Thorne Bay North Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: East side of Prince of Wales Island	Total Unit Acres: 2,041
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: Contains young growth stands over 40 years old and new managed stands less than 10 years in age. Old growth timber is present.	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Klawock, Tolstoi	
USFS EASEMENTS: NFS ROADS 3000000, 3018000, 3018100, and 3018125.	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: A USFS Road Use Permit may be needed for the following NFS road: 3000000.	
FISHERIES: Contains several anadromous streams.	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.	
SCENERY: No concerns	
RECREATION: No Concerns	
GEOLOGY/SOILS: City of Thorne Bay watershed located in and near southern portion of unit. Mineral Closure Order 573 includes the western ¼ of Section 22 of C071S084E.	
WILDLIFE: Wolf den in area.	

## Thorne Bay South Unit

Unit: Thorn Bay South Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: East side of Prince of Wales Island	Total Unit Acres: 1,120
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: Contains managed stands under 10 years in age; old growth timber	

and nearly merchantable second growth timber is present.
TIMBER/YARDING:
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Tolstoi, Klawock
USFS EASEMENTS: None
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: None needed.
ACCESS: Access across SESF lands to private lands is an allowed use in this unit.
FISHERIES: Anadromous streams within unit.
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.
SCENERY: No concerns
RECREATION: No Concerns
GEOLOGY/SOILS:
WILDLIFE: Consider deer winter habitat range on south facing slopes below 800 feet in elevation.

## Indian Creek Unit

Unit: Indian Creek Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: East side of Prince of Wales Island	Total Unit Acres: 1,009
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: Young managed stands less than 10 years old.	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Klawock, Tolstoi	
USFS EASEMENTS: None	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: None needed.	
FISHERIES: Indian Creek (#102-60-10800)	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.	
SCENERY: Consider recreation use at Harris River	
RECREATION: Unit located near the Harris River, a high use recreational location.	
GEOLOGY/SOILS:	
WILDLIFE: Consider deer winter habitat range on south facing slopes below 800 feet in elevation in the western portion of the unit.	

## Tuxekan Unit

Unit: Tuxekan Sub-Units: Jinhi Bay East and Jinhi Bay West Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: Tuxekan Island	Total Unit Acres: 606
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: Extensive older young growth stands in both sub-units. Jinhi Bay	

East contains young managed stands between 10-20 years of age.
TIMBER/YARDING:
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Nichen Cove
USFS EASEMENTS: NFS Roads 1470000, 1470020, 1470800, 1470810, and 1470820.
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: A USFS Road Use Permit may be needed for the following NFS roads: 1470000, 1470010, and 1470020.
FISHERIES: No known high value fish streams.
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.
SCENERY: No concerns
RECREATION: No Concerns
GEOLOGY/SOILS: Karst
WILDLIFE: Consider deer winter habitat range on south facing slopes below 800 feet in elevation in Jinhi Bay West sub-unit.

### Kitkun Bay Unit

Unit: Kitkun Bay	Total Unit Acres: 516
Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: East side of Prince of Wales Island	
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition:	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Lancaster Cove	
USFS EASEMENTS: NFS Road 2160000	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: A USFS Road Use Permit may be needed for the following NFS road: 2160000.	
FISHERIES: Contains several small anadromous streams.	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.	
SCENERY: No concerns	
RECREATION: Guided Black Bear hunting in area	
GEOLOGY/SOILS:	
WILDLIFE: No critical wildlife habitat areas are present	

### Suemez Unit

Unit: Suemez	Total Unit Acres: 1,085
Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: North end of Suemez Island	
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: Old growth and mature second growth.	



TIMBER/YARDING:
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Port Refugio
USFS EASEMENTS:
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: A USFS Road Use Permit may be needed for the following NFS roads: 1080000 and 1080840.
FISHERIES: Cataloged small anadromous streams (#103-50-10620, #103-50-10610, and #103-50-10600-2006).
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.
SCENERY: No concerns
RECREATION: No Concerns
GEOLOGY/SOILS:
WILDLIFE: No critical wildlife habitat areas are present

## Heceta Unit

Unit: Heceta Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: Heceta Island	Total Unit Acres: 2,036
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: Extensive older young growth	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Port Alice	
USFS EASEMENTS: NFS Roads 1445000, 1445296, 1445297, 1445300, 1445310, 1445385, 1445400 and 1445480.	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: A USFS Road Use Permit may be needed for the following NFS road: 1445000.	
FISHERIES: Unit contains the headwaters of Chuck Lake (#103-80-10310-001)	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.	
SCENERY: No concerns	
RECREATION: No Concerns	
GEOLOGY/SOILS: Karst in area.	
WILDLIFE: Wolf den in area.	

## Edna Bay East Unit

Unit: Edna Bay East Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: Kosciusko Island	Total Unit Acres: 637
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: Predominately old growth with some young growth timber	

TIMBER/YARDING:
TRANSPORTATION: LTFs: Edna Bay North, Edna Bay South
USFS EASEMENTS: NFS Road: 1525000.
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: None needed.
FISHERIES: One known anadromous fish stream (#103-90-10610) located in the northeastern area of the unit.
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.
SCENERY: No concerns
RECREATION: No Concerns
GEOLOGY/SOILS:
WILDLIFE: No critical wildlife habitat areas are present

### Edna Bay North Unit

Unit: Edna Bay North Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: Kosciusko Island	Total Unit Acres: 490
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	
SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: Extensive young growth stands within unit.	
TIMBER/YARDING:	
TRANSPORTATION: LTFs: Edna Bay North, Edna Bay South	
USFS EASEMENTS: NFS Roads: 1520000, 1520095, 1520098 and 1520500.	
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: None needed.	
FISHERIES: One known anadromous fish stream (#103-90-10590) located within unit.	
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.	
SCENERY: No concerns	
RECREATION: No Concerns	
GEOLOGY/SOILS: Karst features; watershed for communal water source.	
WILDLIFE: No critical wildlife habitat areas are present.	

### Edna Bay South Unit

Unit: Edna Bay South Management Area: Prince of Wales & Outer Islands Location: Kosciusko Island	Total Unit Acres: 2,193
Summary of Concerns, Responses, BMPs and Mitigation	

SILVICULTURE: Existing Condition: Extensive older (50 yr. +) young growth
TIMBER/YARDING:
TRANSPORTATION: LTF: Edna Bay South
USFS EASEMENTS: NFS Road: 1520000.
USFS ROAD USE PERMIT: None needed.
ACCESS: Access across SESF lands to private lands is an allowed use in this unit.
FISHERIES: Survey Creek (#103-90-10510).
HERITAGE RESOURCES: See Chapter 2 for cultural resource protection details.
SCENERY: No concerns
RECREATION: No Concerns
GEOLOGY/SOILS: Karst in area.
WILDLIFE: No critical wildlife habitat areas are present.

## CHAPTER 4

### ***Implementation***

The Division of Forestry is responsible for implementation of this forest management plan. This includes managing timber and coordinating multiple use planning within the Southeast State Forest. The Division of Forestry is the primary land manager within the Southeast State Forest, while the DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water will continue their responsibilities for adjudicating land and water use applications and mineral permitting based upon guidance from this plan.

The guiding principle for management activities within the Southeast State Forest is the recognition that the primary purpose for these lands is "...timber management that provides for the production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources while allowing other beneficial uses of public land and resources..." (AS 41.17.200(a)).

This chapter describes additional actions that support the management intent detailed in previous chapters for this working state forest. Such actions could include potential mineral closing and leasehold location orders, management agreements, priority research topics, additions to the state forest, and procedures for plan amendment. This plan remains effective until revised.

Administrative procedures, such as cooperative agreements, may be used to establish the applicability of Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation regulations to the management of campgrounds and other recreational facilities located within the Southeast State Forest.

### ***Process for Permits, Leases, Disposals, and Rights-of-Way***

Forest Land Use Plans will identify proposed access routes and materials sites both within and outside the Southeast State Forest to support timber sales. Temporary routes will be authorized by the Division of Forestry through the FLUP process. Long-term routes will be authorized through a right-of-way (ROW). The Division of Forestry will identify the proposed ROW in the FLUP. Following FLUP review, DOF will submit the ROW easement application to the Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) to authorize and record the route on the status plats.

Other agencies or private individuals may initiate management proposals such as requests for rights-of-way, commercial leases, material sales, or permits for mineral activity. The following process will be used to review these permit or other requests.

All applications for non-forestry related uses of Southeast State Forest land, including mining or prospecting, will be forwarded to the Southern Regional Office of the Division of Mining, Land and Water. The Division of Mining, Land and Water will distribute applications for review by agencies, including the Division of Forestry. The Division of Forestry will review applications for consistency with this plan and other existing laws and policies. The Division of Forestry will then return applications to the Division of Mining, Land and Water with stipulations for processing. The Division of Forestry may also require additional review of applications after interagency or public comment. Although preliminary decisions or final findings will continue to be made by the Division of Mining, Land and Water, permits and other similar documents they issue must contain the stipulations given by the Division of Forestry, and DMLW must seek DOF concurrence. No permits, leases, disposals, or rights-of-way will be authorized for use of state forest land that are not consistent with stipulations from the Division of Forestry. Renewal requests for existing permits or leases will follow this same review process.

For mining operations, temporary routes will be authorized by the DMLW through its Miscellaneous Land Use Permit (MLUP). For long-term routes, DMLW will issue a ROW. The authorization process for these requested routes will be coordinated with the Division of Forestry and be consistent with this management plan.

### ***Generally Allowed Uses on the State Forest***

This section on Generally Allowed Uses is derived from 11 AAC 96.020. The following land uses and activities, alone or in combination, are generally allowed within the Southeast State Forest without any permit or other written authorization from the Department of Natural Resources:

(1) travel or travel-related activities, as follows:

- (A) hiking, backpacking, skiing, climbing, or other foot travel;
- (B) bicycling;
- (C) travel by horse or dogsled or with pack animals;

(D) using a highway vehicle with a curb weight of up to 10,000 pounds, including a pickup truck and four-wheel-drive vehicle, on or off an established road easement, if the use of the road easement does not cause or contribute to water quality degradation, alteration of drainage systems, significant rutting, ground disturbance, or thermal erosion;

(E) using a recreational-type off-road or all-terrain vehicle with a curb weight of up to 1,500 pounds, including a snowmobile and four-wheeler, on or off an established road easement if use of the road easement does not cause or contribute to water quality degradation, alteration of drainage systems, significant rutting, ground disturbance, or thermal erosion;

(F) landing an aircraft or using watercraft without damaging the land, including shoreland, tideland, and submerged land

(2) access improvements, as follows: Brushing or cutting a trail less than five feet wide using only hand-held tools such as a chainsaw; making a trail does not create a property right or interest in the trail.

(3) removing or using state resources, as follows:

(A) hunting, fishing, or trapping; nothing in this subparagraph relieves a person from complying with applicable state and federal statutes and regulations on the taking of fish and game;

(B) harvesting wild plants, mushrooms, berries, and other plant material for personal, noncommercial use; however, the cutting of trees is not a generally allowed use.

(C) using dead and down wood for a cooking or warming fire, unless the department has closed the area to fires during the fire season.

(D) recreational gold panning;

(F) hard-rock mineral prospecting or mining using light portable field equipment, including a hand-operated pick, shovel, pan, earth auger, or a backpack power drill or auger;

(G) suction dredging using a suction dredge with a nozzle intake of six inches or less, powered by an engine of 18 horsepower or less, and pumping no more than 30,000 gallons of water per day.

(4) other improvements and structures on state land, as follows:

(A) setting up and using a camp for personal or noncommercial recreational purposes, for no more than 14 days at one site, the camp must be removed immediately if the division determines that it interferes with public access or other public uses or interests; using a tent platform or a cabin or other permanent improvement is not allowed, even if on skids or another nonpermanent foundation.

(B) brushing or cutting a survey line less than five feet wide using only hand-held tools, including a chainsaw, or setting a survey marker; however, a survey monument may not be set without written survey instructions issued under [11 AAC 53](#).

(5) uses not listed in (1) - (4) of this subsection that:

(A) are not conducted for a commercial recreational purpose

(B) are not listed in [11 AAC 96.010](#)

(C) do not cause or contribute to significant disturbance of vegetation, drainage, or soil stability

(D) do not interfere with public access or other public uses or interests

(E) do not continue for more than 14 consecutive days at any site

The list of generally allowed uses in this section does not exempt a user from complying with other applicable federal, state, or municipal statutes, ordinances, and regulations. In order to operate under a generally allowed use listed in this section, the user must comply with the conditions set out in [11 AAC 96.025](#). If the division determines that, under the circumstances of a particular case, an otherwise generally allowed use interferes with public access or other public uses or interests, the use must cease.

#### [Conditions for generally allowed uses](#) (11 AAC 96.025)

A generally allowed use listed in Southeast State Forest Management Plan is subject to the following conditions:

(1) activities employing wheeled or tracked vehicles must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface damage;

(2) vehicles must use existing roads and trails whenever possible;

(3) activities must be conducted in a manner that minimizes

(A) disturbance of vegetation, soil stability, or drainage systems

(B) changing the character of, polluting, or introducing silt and sediment into streams, lakes, ponds, water holes, seeps, and marshes

(C) disturbance of fish and wildlife resources

(4) cuts, fills, and other activities causing a disturbance listed in (3)(A) - (C) of this section must be repaired immediately, and corrective action must be undertaken as may be required by the division

(5) trails and campsites must be kept clean; garbage and foreign debris must be removed; combustibles may be burned on site unless the department has closed the area to fires during the fire season

(6) survey monuments, witness corners, reference monuments, mining location posts, homestead entry corner posts, and bearing trees must be protected against destruction, obliteration, and damage; any damaged or obliterated markers must be reestablished as required by the Department of Natural Resources under [AS 34.65.020](#) and [AS 34.65.040](#)

(7) every reasonable effort must be made to prevent, control, and suppress any fire in the operating area; uncontrolled fires must be immediately reported

(8) holes, pits, and excavations must be repaired as soon as possible; holes, pits, and excavations necessary to verify discovery on prospecting sites or mining leasehold locations may be left open but must be maintained in a manner that protects public safety

#### [Uses requiring a permit](#) (11AAC 96.010)

On lands that make up the Southeast State Forest, a permit or other written authorization is required for an activity involving:

(A) the use of explosives and explosive devices, except firearms;

(B) uses that are not listed in [11 AAC 96.020](#) as generally allowed uses;

(C) the use of hydraulic prospecting or mining equipment methods;

(D) drilling to a depth in excess of 300 feet, including exploratory drilling or stratigraphic test wells on state land not under oil or gas lease;



(E) geophysical exploration for minerals subject to lease or an oil and gas exploration license under [AS 38.05.131](#) - 38.05.181;

(F) a commercial recreation camp or facility, whether occupied or unoccupied, that remains overnight; or

(G) an event or assembly of more than 50 persons

(H) a person may not engage in the commercial harvest of non-timber forest products without a permit under [11 AAC 96.035](#).

(I) a permit is required for commercial recreation day-use activities if the operator provides commercial recreation services

(J) the construction of, development, improvement, widening, brushing, or otherwise creation a road or trail, including a driveway to a private residence

(K) a person may not cut, collect, or harvest a dead standing or live tree without prior written authorization from the department;

(L) a person may not erect a camp under Generally Allowed Uses (4), whether occupied or unoccupied, for more than 14 consecutive days for private personal use without prior written authorization from the department

Permits for activities listed above that do not involve forest products will be issued by the Division of Mining, Land and Water. Activities involving a forest product will require written authorization by the Division of Forestry.

### Activities prohibited within the Southeast State Forest

Any activity not associated with timber sale activities or specifically listed as an allowable use within the Plan, that removes any portion of the forested land base of the Southeast State Forest from the production of timber resources is not allowed. For example, the authority of AS 41.17.20 prevents any land sales or disposals of state land under Title 38 authorities from taking place within the legislatively designated state forest. However, land leases are permitted.

All other activities not listed above as a generally allowed use or that received an authorization as required under Title 38 are not allowed within the Southeast State Forest.

A person or business may not construct or maintain a camp, structure or facility other than a temporary structure authorized under generally allowed or permitted

uses in this management plan. A temporary structure is one that can be dismantled and removed from a site, and does not require a permanent foundation.

The Division of Forestry has determined there are a number of uses within the Southeast State Forest that are not compatible on the same piece of ground at the same time. Other than those uses listed below, all other public uses are appropriate except to the degree that they compromise the purpose of forest management or adversely affect other uses or resources in the state forest.

In accordance with AS 41.17.230(a), following is a list of those activities that are planned for the Southeast State Forest and those uses that will not be permitted for the same location and time.

1. Timber Harvest. Timber harvest activities that are a result of a contract between DOF and a timber purchaser may be incompatible with other uses within the timber harvest area boundaries. Therefore, for that period starting when the DOF lists an area in a FYSTS until the termination or completion of the timber sale contract(s) for the area listed in the FYSTS, activities requiring issuance of a permit by the DNR will be restricted to those that can be shown to be compatible with the timber harvest.

2. Remote Cabin Permits. Privately-owned residences or recreation cabins are not compatible with the intent of the Southeast State Forest and will not be permitted on state lands within the state forest for the duration this plan is in effect. The private interests created by structures such as cabins significantly conflict with the primary purpose and management intent of the state forest.

3. Recreation areas. Improved campgrounds are intended for the enjoyment of the public. Loss of use of campgrounds due to other surface uses is not in the best interest of the general public, therefore, once established existing campgrounds will be closed to mineral entry, grazing, timber harvest, and hunting for the duration of the period the State of Alaska operates and maintains the campgrounds.

4. Mining and Material Extraction. Mining and material extraction are subsurface and surface activities, respectively, that disrupt other surface uses for the period that the mining and material extraction is going on. For that period that these activities are permitted other surface uses requiring issuance of a DNR permit on the mining and material extraction permitted site will be permitted only when they can be shown to be compatible with the mining or material extraction.

5. Community watersheds. Because of the significance of these watersheds as sources of drinking water, commercial timber harvest and other permitted activities will be allowed only when it can be shown to be consistent with protecting drinking water quality.

Table 1. Allowed or Prohibited Uses within the Southeast State Forest<sup>2</sup>

Municipal Entitlements	Land Sales	Land Leases	Oil & Gas Leasing	Mineral Entry	Mineral Leasing	Timber Sales	Rights of Way
No <sup>1</sup>	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

1. AS 41.17.500(f) allows only the City and Borough of Wrangell to exercise land selection rights within the SESF boundaries.
2. If there is a request for a use not listed in the above section, DMLW and DOF have the authority to address the request.

### ***University of Alaska and Mental Health Trust Authority***

The Division of Forestry may provide services, such as timber sale administration, requested by the University of Alaska or the Mental Health Trust Authority for the administration of University or Mental Health Trust lands that adjoin or are located near the Southeast State Forest. Other than those services requested and reimbursed by the University of Alaska or the Mental Health Trust, each entity shall have sole responsibility for the management of lands under their authority. In October of 2014, DOF, the University of Alaska Lands Office and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Lands Office signed a Statement of Intent to:

“...establish a reciprocal relationship to share facilities that support timber resource management and to waive the collection of use fees that any party to this SOI could charge to any other party for land use, for access across another party’s land, or for any associated use fees in connection with land and timber resource management by any of the parties, to the extent permitted by law.”(See Appendix D)

Opportunities to coordinate timber sales and transportation infrastructure with other land owners and timber managers will also be considered.

## ***Mineral Exploration and Development***

There are several Mineral Closing and Leasehold Location Orders (LLO) located within the Southeast State Forest. A new LLO is included with this plan that applies to the remaining portions of the SESF.

DOF shall be responsible for the management of gravel or material pits created as part of timber harvest operations. Non-timber related gravel or material pits will be located outside of the SESF boundaries whenever possible in order to minimize impacts on the forest's timber base.

## ***Endangered Species Consideration***

The humpback whale is the only animal on the State Endangered Species List that occurs in the vicinity of the state forest. The marine transport of timber should take the summer presence of the humpback whale into consideration, especially in the Frederick Sound area. The federal Endangered Species Act lists the humpback whale and Steller sea lion as endangered; both are also protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, along with the sea otter. The Alexander Archipelago wolf is under consideration for listing and the US Fish and Wildlife Service will announce a decision by the end of 2015. In June 2014, several groups filed a petition to protect yellow cedar under the Endangered Species Act due to increased mortality attributed to climate change. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game believes that wolves are viable across their overall historic range in Southeast Alaska. The Division of Forestry will consult with ADF&G on important fish and wildlife habitat during timber sale planning.

## ***Research Opportunities***

The Division of Forestry will continue to incorporate new research into management strategies as research results becomes available. Information on natural and human disturbance history and ecological processes is incomplete. DOF will coordinate with entities such as the University of Alaska, Juneau Forestry Sciences Laboratory and the Pacific Northwest Research Station to identify research opportunities on state forest land. Research activities that support the sustainability and productivity of the 'working forest' will be a priority. Second

growth timber management and other research projects that increase productivity through active timber management of forest lands are important, due to the small size of the SESF.

Topics for focusing research opportunities include thinning prescriptions, site preparation and regeneration in harvested areas, and climate change affects.

### ***Additions to Southeast State Forest***

Critical to the success of present and future timber production from Southeast State Forest lands is the efficient transfer of harvested timber from the uplands to shore-line or ocean-based modes of transportation, such as log rafts, barges or ships. This plan recommends that key uplands, tidelands and submerged lands, many adjacent to Southeast State Forest uplands, be considered for legislative designation as additions to this state forest. In the interim, DOF will seek Interagency Land Management Assignments (ILMAs) for these areas. Key tideland areas include log storage, both long-term and short-term (on land and in water), log transfer facilities (LTFs), rafting grounds, ship mooring buoys and other areas where harvested timber must cross state tidelands to reach processing facilities. These same tideland areas may also support the transportation of timber harvested from other state lands, as well as from federal and private lands.

There are additional state-owned upland parcels located in southern Southeast Alaska that should be considered for inclusion into the existing SESF. These additions would add existing managed young growth timber stands to the forest land base, reduce future use conflicts, and protect critical habitat from future urban encroachment.

In 2012 the Governor's Alaska Timber Jobs Task Force made multiple recommendations concerning additions to the Southeast State Forest. Recommendation 2 of Section 2, Task 2 and recommendation 1 of Section 2, Task 5 both suggest adding two million acres of National Forest System lands from the Tongass National Forest. Successful implementation of the task force recommendations would make a major contribution to ensuring a vibrant forest industry thrives in Southeast Alaska. If this Task Force recommendation comes to fruition then additional state tidelands and submerged lands would need to be added to the state forest to ensure the efficient management of all the forest's resources.

## ***Review of Plan, Modification and Appeal Procedures***

The Division of Forestry is the lead agency responsible for coordinating the review and modification of this plan. The review process will include participation by the Division of Mining, Land and Water and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the public. DOF may request the participation of other state or federal agencies, as well as borough or other governments, during reviews or modifications to this plan. DOF will follow the procedures for changing the plan that are described in 11 AAC 55.030 and AS 41.17.230(b).

DNR, other agencies, municipalities, or members of the public may propose amendments or special exceptions to this plan. Amendments are defined in 11 AAC 55.030 and permanently change the Plan by adding to or modifying the basic management intent for one or more of the plan's subunits or changing its allowed or prohibited uses, policies, or guidelines. Requests for amendments or special exceptions are to be submitted to the Central Office of the Division of Forestry. Amendments require public notice, public hearings, and the approval of the DNR Commissioner. The State Forester can approve special exceptions with a written finding. Special exceptions also are defined in 11 AAC 55.030. Special exceptions do not permanently change the provisions of the Plan but allow a one-time, limited-purpose variance of the plan's provisions, without changing the plan's general management intent or guidelines. The finding identifies the extenuating circumstances that require a special exception, describes the course of action to be followed, and explains the basis for the determination that the basic intent of the Forest Plan is not affected. Decisions of the State Forester involving special exceptions may be appealed to the DNR Commissioner.

Requests for minor plan changes are submitted to the Central Office of the Division of Forestry, Alaska Department of Natural Resources. A minor change is a change that does not modify or add to the plan's basic intent, and that serves only to clarify the plan, make it consistent, facilitate its implementation, or make technical corrections. A minor change does not require a public hearing, although a hearing may be provided if determined to be appropriate by the State Forester.

## APPENDICES

Appendix A – Glossary and Abbreviations

Appendix B – Land Classification Order

Appendix C – Leasehold Location Order

Appendix D – Road Construction and Maintenance Standards

Appendix E – Statement of Intent to Share Facilities

Appendix F – References

Appendix G – Issue-Response Summary

Appendix H – Commercial Timber Sale Process

## ***Appendix A – Glossary and Abbreviations***

**AAC.** Alaska Administrative Code.

**Access.** A way or means of approach. Includes transportation, trail, easements, rights of way, and public use sites.

**Adaptive management.** The systematic and iterative approach of observation and documentation for improving sustainable forest management decisions and enhancing benefits by emphasizing learning from management outcomes. Adaptive management explores alternative ways to meet management objectives, predicts the outcomes of alternatives based on what is known, implements one or more alternatives, monitors the outcomes, and uses the results to update knowledge and adjust management actions.

**ADF&G.** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**AHRS.** Alaska Heritage Resources Survey.

**All season road.** A forest road capable of supporting highway vehicles and logging equipment throughout the year, however closures may occur during periods of heavy rain or spring break-up.

**AMHTL.** Alaska Mental Health Trust Lands.

**Anadromous fish stream.** A river, lake, or stream from its mouth to its uppermost reach including all sloughs and backwaters adjoining the listed water, and that portion of the streambed or lakebed covered by ordinary high water used by salmon to spawn. Anadromous streams are shown in “The Atlas to the Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Salmon” (referred to as the Anadromous Fish Stream Catalog) compiled by ADF&G.

**Anchorage.** A location commonly used by private, recreation, or commercial vessels for anchoring.

**Annual allowable cut.** The annual allowable cut is the average amount of timber that may be sustainably cut from a forest that will maintain a balance between net growth and harvest while meeting the management intent for the land.

**Aquaculture.** Fish enhancement or hatchery development by ADF&G, a private non-profit corporation or another group.



**Area plan.** Prepared by DNR, area plans allocate resources and identify allowed and prohibited uses on state lands including uplands, tidelands, and submerged lands.

**AS.** Alaska Statutes.

**AASHTO.** American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

**BF.** Board Foot - used as measurement of sawn lumber or round log. Nominally, a rough-sawn, green board 1 inch x 12 inch x 12 inch, or equivalent. Logs and lumber are sold in many parts of the world based on increments of one thousand board feet or MBF.

**BIF.** Best Interest Finding.

**BMPs.** Best management practices.

**Buffer.** An area of land between two activities or resources used to reduce the effect of one activity upon another.

**Cord.** A measure of roundwood or pulpwood representing a stack of such wood 4 feet x 4 feet x 8 feet or 128 ft<sup>3</sup>. Often used for pulpwood or firewood measurement.

**CSSEAP.** Central/Southern Southeast Area Plan.

**DBH.** An abbreviation for diameter at breast height. A common tree diameter measurement point located at 4.5 feet above the ground.

**DEC.** Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

**DMLW.** Division of Mining, Land and Water, a division of DNR.

**DNR.** Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

**DOF.** Division of Forestry, a division of DNR.

**DOT&PF.** Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

**DPOR.** Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, a division of DNR.

**Finding of incompatibility:** If the commissioner (Department of Natural Resources) finds that a permitted use (described in AS 38.05.112(c)) is incompatible with one or more other uses in a unit of a state forest, the commissioner shall affirmatively state in the management plan that finding of incompatibility for the specific area where the incompatibility is anticipated to exist

and the time period when the incompatibility is anticipated to exist together with the reasons and benefits for each finding. (AS 41.17.230(a))

**FLUP.** Forest Land Use Plan (AS 38.05.112). Prepared by the Division of Forestry.

**FRPA.** Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (AS 41.17).

**FYSTS.** Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales (AS 38.05.113). Prepared by the Division of Forestry.

**General use.** Tidelands, submerged lands, or uplands designated General Use (GU) within DNR Area Plans provide some combination of settlement, timber, recreation, habitat or other values. On tidelands and submerged lands, the lack of resource information prevents a specific resource allocation at this time. On uplands, this designation refers to areas where resource information is insufficient to warrant a specific designation, development is unlikely during the planning period of 20 years, or where a number of uses can be accommodated.

**Generally allowed use.** An activity conducted on state land managed by the Division of Mining, Land and Water that is not in a special category or status. For the most part these uses are allowed for 14 days or less, and a permit is not required (11 AAC 96.020).

**Goal.** A statement of basic intent or general condition desired in the long term. Goals usually are not quantifiable and do not have specified dates for achievement.

**GU.** General Use land classification.

**ILMA.** An Interagency Land Management Assignment is the instrument used to assign management authority on state lands from the Division of Mining, Land and Water to other state agencies authorized to manage state land (AS 38.05.030).

**Karst.** A type of topography that develops in areas underlain by soluble rocks, primarily limestone. Dissolution of the subsurface strata results in areas of well-developed, surface drainage that are sinkholes, collapsed channels, or caves.

**Land classification.** Identifies the general purposes for which state land will be managed. All classification categories are for multiple uses, although a particular use may be considered primary. Land may be given a total of three classifications in combination.

**Log transfer facility (LTF).** Any facility or mechanism necessary to transfer timber from uplands to marine waters.

**MAF.** Marine access facility.

**Mainline road.** A primary forest road collecting secondary and spur roads and serving a large ownership block.

**Management guidelines.** Specific standards or procedures to be followed by DNR in the issuance of permits, leases, or other authorizations for the use of state land or resources. Guidelines range in their level of specificity, providing detailed management direction, general guidance, or the identification of factors that need to be considered in decision making.

**MBF.** Thousand board feet. A unit of quantity used in forestry. See board foot (BF).

**MMBF.** Million board feet. A unit of quantity used in forestry. See board foot (BF).

**NFS.** National Forest System.

**OHA.** DNR Office of History and Archaeology, also known as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Located within the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

**Old growth forest.** Old-growth forests are ecosystems distinguished by old trees and related structural attributes. Old growth encompasses the later stages of stand development that typically differs from earlier stages in a variety of characteristics which may include tree size, accumulations of large dead woody material, number of canopy layers, species composition, and ecosystem function. To make precise determinations of what constitutes an old growth forest for particular stands, the old growth definitions outlined in "Ecological Definitions for Old Growth Forest Types in Southeast Alaska" (USFS R10-TP-28; Capp *et al* 1992) must be consulted/used.

**POWIAP.** Prince of Wales Island Area Plan.

**Right-of-way.** The legal right to cross the land of another landowner.

**Secondary road.** A forest road collecting spur roads and serving several harvest units.

**Selective harvest.** Removal of mature timber, usually the oldest or largest trees, either as single scattered trees or in small groups at relatively short intervals, commonly 5 to 20 years, repeated indefinitely, by means of which the continuous establishment of natural reproduction is encouraged and an uneven-aged stand is

maintained. Selective harvesting includes both single-tree selection and group selection harvesting.

**SESF.** Southeast State Forest.

**SHPO.** DNR State Historic Preservation Office, also known as the Office of History and Archeology (OHA).

**Spur road.** A short, low-standard forest road that usually supports one or two harvest units.

**State lands.** All lands, including uplands, tidelands, and submerged lands, belonging to or acquired by the State of Alaska, excluding lands owned by the University of Alaska.

**Sustained yield.** The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the state land consistent with multiple use (AS 38.04.910).

**Temporary facility.** Temporary facilities or structures are those that can be dismantled and removed from a site, and may be authorized under permits.

**Thinning.** Cutting trees in a stand to decrease its density, thereby improving growing conditions for the remaining trees.

**Tidelands.** Lands that are periodically covered by tidal waters between mean highwater and mean low water.

**TLMP.** Tongass Land and Resources Management Plan.

**TNF.** Tongass National Forest.

**Uplands.** Lands above mean high water.

**USFS.** United States Forest Service, a division of U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**USFWS.** United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Viewshed.** Viewsheds are surfaces visible from a viewpoint on a road corridor or from marine waters. Viewsheds may be determined in the field by marking them on U.S. Geological Survey Service topographic maps.

**Wetlands.** Includes both freshwater and saltwater wetlands. "Freshwater wetlands" means those environments characterized by rooted vegetation which is partially submerged either continuously or periodically by surface freshwater with

less than .5 parts per thousand salt content and not exceeding three meters in depth. "Saltwater wetlands" means those coastal areas along sheltered shorelines characterized by salt tolerant, marshy plants and large algae extending from extreme low tide which is influenced by sea spray or tidally induced water table changes.

**Working forest.** Refers to actively managed forest lands that sustainably provide wood for personal and commercial use, while protecting fish and wildlife habitat, providing the public with recreation and other multiple use of state land, and maintaining public benefits such as clean air, land, and water.

## ***Appendix B – Land Classification Order***

A Land Classification Order is being prepared to change classifications from General Use (GU) to Forest Land, or to Forest/Water Resources for designated community watersheds.

**STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER**

**[draft] Land Classification Order No. SE-15-00?**

I. Name: **Southeast State Forest Management Plan**

II. The classifications in Part III are based upon written justification contained in the 2015 Southeast State Forest Management Plan adopted on \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

Area Plan:

Adopted ( ) Revised ( ) Dated\_\_\_\_\_

Management Plan: **Southeast State Forest Management Plan**

Adopted ( **X** ) Revised ( ) Dated\_\_\_\_\_

Site Specific Plan:

Adopted ( ) Revised ( ) Dated\_\_\_\_\_

III. Legal Description	Acreage (Approx)	Acquisition Authority	Existing Classification	Classification by this Action
See maps and text in Southeast State Forest (2015)	48,000	Various Area Plans Management Plan (2015)	See maps and text in Southeast State Forest Management Plan (2015)	

IV. This order is issued under the authority granted by AS 38.04.065 and AS 38.05.300 to the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. The above described lands are hereby designated and classified as indicated. Nothing shall prevent the reclassification of these lands if warranted in the public interest.

Concur: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Division of Mining, Land and Water      Date

Classified: \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources      Date

## ***Appendix C – Leasehold Location Order***

A Leasehold Location Order is being prepared that will apply to the Southeast State Forest. A separate public notice will be provided to provide for public review.



## ***Appendix D – Road Construction and Maintenance Standards***

### **ROAD CONSTRUCTION and MAINTENANCE STANDARDS**

1. Road and Landing Construction. All road segments must be built to the specifications described below, and in the location marked on the ground with orange centerline ribbon labeled “Truck Road” (also shown on timber sale layout map). The type, grade and alignment may be changed only with written permission from the STATE representative. The PURCHASER must take all measures which the STATE determines necessary to protect stream banks and stream courses during road and landing construction and to prevent erosion of exposed soil and fill material.
2. Drainage Structures. Obvious drainages are identified. The drainage structures identified are for surface waters of significant size that will likely require that special care be exercised during road construction and logging operations. The drainages may not be capable of supporting snow and ice bridge crossings, depending on the seasonal weather conditions. If weather conditions provide for good logging conditions but are inadequate to harden areas adjacent to drainages for truck and equipment traffic, the PURCHASER must be prepared to:
  - a. Stop hauling, scarifying and/or logging operations until conditions improve with respect to the integrity of the streams and soil conditions. The State will make the final determination as to whether conditions are adequate to maintain water quality and stream integrity. This in no way diminishes the responsibility of the Purchaser to maintain water quality under the FRPA.
  - b. Install portable bridge structures over unstable stream areas to protect the integrity and water quality of the streams by keeping traffic away from the streams and associated unstable soil conditions.
3. Culvert Specifications: Culverts must be installed as approved by the STATE with the following specifications:
  - a. Culverts must extend beyond the base of the road at least 18" on either side of the road,
  - b. The minimum culvert diameter is 18 inches,
  - c. The natural slope of the stream or drainage must be maintained, where feasible,
  - d. Culverts must be designed and installed so as to maintain the course of the stream or drainage. On steep slopes, the culvert drain must be sloped about 30 degrees down grade,
  - e. Culverts must be installed to avoid pooling at either end of the culvert, use ditch plugs on steep slopes,
  - f. PURCHASER must install energy dissipaters and sediment traps to prevent erosion on steep slopes and sediment run off,
  - g. The road bed depth over the culvert must be ½ the culvert diameter or at least 12 inches, whichever is greater,
  - h. Bedding material must be free of rock and debris that might puncture the pipe or carry water around the culvert,
  - i. The bedding material must be tamped along the sides and above the pipe, and
  - j. Culverts in streams requiring fish passage must be installed as per 11 AAC 95.305.

#### 4. Bridge Construction

- a. Each end of the bridge must be firmly anchored to the abutment structure;
- b. An earth embankment constructed for use as a bridge approach must be protected from erosion by using planted or seeded ground cover, bulkheads, rock riprap, retaining walls, or other equally effective means;
- c. A bridge must be installed in such a way as to minimize disturbance to the bed and banks of a stream. No part of the finished bridge structure may be below the high water marks of the stream or obstructing the stream's flow between ordinary high water;
- d. Bridge structures used on the sale must meet or exceed USFS standards for temporary low volume industrial bridge structures for the loading used by the purchaser.

#### 5. Road Maintenance.

- a. On-going Maintenance. Once initial operations involving road use under this contract commence by the PURCHASER, maintenance must be an on-going function throughout the duration of the contract. Approximately 2.1 miles of maintenance on existing State/AMHT roads and 1.71 miles on newly constructed roads is required. The PURCHASER may cease maintenance operations during prolonged shut-down periods providing all roads are stabilized according to the standards specified in (D) and (E) below with prior written approval by the STATE.
- b. Existing Road Cross Sections. The PURCHASER must maintain existing road cross-sections by blading and shaping the surface and shoulders or replacing surfacing as required by the STATE.
- c. Minimize Damage. The PURCHASER must minimize damage to ditches, drainage structures, slopes and road surfaces. Where damage does occur, the PURCHASER must restore the road and structures to their prior condition within 48 hours, unless the STATE requires a shorter or longer period of time.
- d. Preventative Maintenance. The PURCHASER must perform preventative maintenance at the end of each operating season to minimize weather damage during the non-hauling period. This may include cross-ditching, post-haul blading to remove berms, ruts or other surface irregularities that would interfere with normal runoff of water and cleaning ditches and removal of drainage structures.
- e. Seasonal Work. The PURCHASER must perform all seasonal weather clean-up, removal of bank slough, minor slides and fallen timber, brush road, replace material eroded from slopes, and clean out drainage ditches and culverts at the beginning of each operating season. In removing material from slides or other sources, the PURCHASER must deposit the material in a location where it will not erode into streams, lakes or reservoirs. Cut slopes, slumps, or other areas of exposed soil that are at risk for producing sedimentation of surface waters must be grass seeded or otherwise stabilized to reduce sediment transport.
- f. Work Upon Termination. Approximately .33 miles of roads within the timber sale area will be closed by the Purchaser in compliance with the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and Regulations prior to the termination of this contract.

6. Road Maintenance Contracts.

- a. If the PURCHASER jointly uses the Roads and Related Transportation Facilities with other authorized parties under this, or a subsequent contract, each party must enter into a joint use road maintenance Contract prior to hauling logs on the jointly used roads.
- b. The PURCHASER, if utilizing state, borough maintained roads and private roads for business operations, must protect the roads from damage by its activities. Any damage to public and private roads must be promptly corrected to existing or better condition. The PURCHASER, if using public and private roads for business operations, must also contact the landowner to inform them of the time and duration prior to the start of operations. The PURCHASER and the other property owner are responsible for negotiating private road issues. The STATE, in its discretion, reserves the right to enforce any such agreements as third-party beneficiary contracts.

7. Road Standards. All roads for this sale shall be Secondary Truck Road.

Secondary Roads

Road Width:	Roads must be 21 feet, including ditch (see typical roadbed section)
Surfacing Width:	14 feet running surface.
Use:	Light year round, except during spring break up. Designed and constructed to access more than one timber sales, or to allow for possible future upgrades.
Surfacing:	The minimum necessary, usually a minimum of 2 feet of shot rock, to allow log trucking without surface deformation year round.
Turnouts:	Must be constructed large enough for opposing truck and utility vehicles to safely get out of log truck traffic without undo maneuvering at the typical traffic speed. Turnouts must be every 1/4 mile, or more often as needed for safe passage of logging trucks and at the end of the spur.
Grade:	The preferred maximum favorable grade is 18%; the preferred maximum adverse grade is 10%. In any case, the grade must not exceed standards set by OSHA.
Degree of curvature:	The ordinary desired curve radius is 75 foot minimum.
Stump removal:	Stump removal is not required under running surfaces and ditches, but they must be sheared off or otherwise lowered so as to not affect the road surface or ditch function.
Clearings:	All merchantable materials within the road clearing limits must be felled, limbed and decked at landings. Debris must be pushed into natural openings and may also be buried beneath the running surface of the road, especially in wet areas that need more support.

Ditches: Minimum depth is 1 foot below the surface grade of the entire length of both sides of the road. Ditches must be adequate to drain peak flow. The road must be graded and crowned to drain. Standing water may not be allowed to pool on the road.

Culverts: Culverts must be placed on the natural slopes where necessary to prevent pooling of water caused by the roadbed. Culverts must extend beyond the base of the road at least 18" on both sides of the road.

## 8. Clearing and Grubbing

- a. Trees within the road right-of-way must be felled and yarded ahead of the road construction.
- b. The clearing boundary limits outside of the sale unit are 75' on either side of the centerline. Timber from within the ROW is considered part of the Timber sale and will be handled as such by the PURCHASER. Within the sale unit, the PURCHASER may determine the clearing limits.
- c. Snags and trees leaning heavily over the roadway that are outside the clearing limits must be felled.
- d. Unstable soils must be stabilized to minimize sedimentation by using appropriate erosion control measures such as rock placement, seeding, using erosion control mats, and installing settling basins.
- e. Cuts and Fills. Minimize cuts and fills.
- f. Debris must not be piled or pushed against existing trees.

9. Road Signage. Reflective "Caution Trucks Entering Roadway" signs (one each side of the junction) must be erected at the junction of the Kasaan Road and the State Road. Applicable warning signs must also be placed wherever recreational trails intersect with roads or skid trails used for logging operations. The signs must be placed in clear and conspicuous locations that will allow for adequate and safe notification (day and night) at the typical speeds used by the vehicles traveling on the trail or road. The signs must be maintained throughout the life of this agreement by the Purchaser.

## 10. Grading

- a. Any fills over 6 feet must be widened 2 feet for each 6 feet of centerline depth to a max. of 36 feet. Fill slopes must be no steeper than 1 1/2:1 for common fill.
- b. Cut slopes must be no steeper than 1:1 common, 1/2:1 soft rock, 1/4:1 solid rock.
- c. Some dry season roads may require extra widening on curves and deep embankments

Extra Widening      Inside of Curves

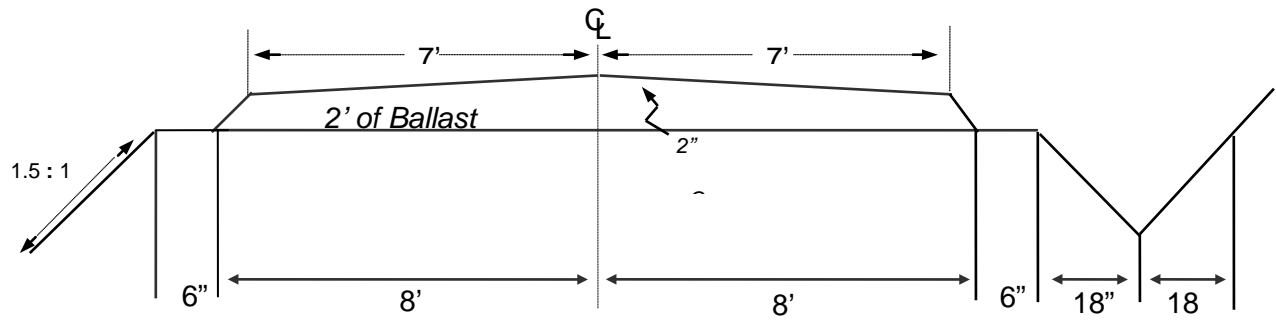
Fills under 6' add 1'    10' - 1 foot

Fills over 6' add 2'    30' - 2 feet

50' - 3 feet

60' - 4 feet

TYPICAL ROADBED SECTION  
SINGLE LANE - WITH TURNOUTS



## ***Appendix E – Statement of Intent to Share Facilities***

STATEMENT OF INTENT  
among  
THE STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY,  
and  
The ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST LAND OFFICE,  
and  
The UNIVERSITY of ALASKA

This Statement of Intent (SOI) is hereby made and entered into by and between the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry (DOF), the Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office (TLO) and the University of Alaska (UA).

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this SOI is to document the parties' intention to cooperate in order to further their separate missions concerning their timber resources. The parties to this SOI hereby express their intent to establish a reciprocal relationship to share facilities that support timber resource management and to waive the collection of use fees that any party to this SOI could charge to any other party for land use, for access across another party's land, or for any associated use fees in connection with land and timber resource management by any of the parties, to the extent permitted by law. Examples of such cooperation include, without limitations, those items and activities listed in Exhibit 1, attached hereto.

### **II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTERESTS**

DOF, TLO and UA have comparable and complementary missions concerning timber resources, and each professionally manages extensive lands bordering on or in proximity to the other parties' lands. In carrying out their separate missions, DOF, TLO and UA may often need to use another party's real property or services for access, staging, communications, or similar temporary activities, for which each affected party might normally charge a fee. The fees for which DOF, TLO and UA could charge each other are acknowledged to be of similar magnitude, but assessing and collecting these fees from each of the other parties would require significant administrative work and costs by the affected parties.

DOF, UA and TLO agree that it will be mutually beneficial, and in each party's own best interests and, in the case of the TLO, in the interests of the beneficiaries of the Alaska Mental Health Trust, and in the case of UA, to the benefit of the Land Grant Trust Fund (LGTF), to waive the collection of these fees in order to avoid the administrative costs, to save employee time for more productive activity, and to

better facilitate their separate but complementary missions. Further, this SOI reflects the collaborative working relationship desired by DOF, TLO and UA.

### **III. PUBLIC PROCESS REQUIREMENT**

DOF, UA and TLO agree that each party will execute and comply with its own internal requirements and regulations for public process necessary before any waiver of fees or sharing of facilities is allowed.

### **IV. DECISIONAL DOCUMENT**

DOF, UA and TLO agree that each party will write its own decisional document related to this SOI, and will publish it for public review. The decisional document written by each party will address the rationale used to decide that the sharing of facilities and waiving of fees among DOF, UA and TLO is in the best interest of that individual party.

### **V. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:**

- A. LAWS or REGULATIONS. Nothing in this SOI obligates any party to take or excuse any action that may be contrary to Federal or State of Alaska laws or regulations.
- B. LAND OWNERSHIP. Nothing in this SOI affects, alters or burdens the ownership of or title to any parcel or tract of land, or of any fixture to or item of property on any parcel or tract of land.
- C. PARTICIPATION in ACTIVITIES WITH OTHERS. This SOI in no way restricts DOF, TLO or UA from participating in similar activities and memoranda of agreement with any other landowner that is not a party to this SOI.
- D. NON-BINDING AGREEMENT. This SOI creates no right, benefit or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by or on behalf of any of the parties to it. This SOI does not prevent each party from managing its lands, resources, and activities based on each party's individual legal or trust responsibilities. Nothing in this SOI authorizes any of the parties to obligate or transfer funds. Specific projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among any two or more of the parties shall require the execution of separate agreements. The negotiation, execution and administration of all such agreements shall comply with all applicable laws. Nothing in this SOI shall alter, limit, or expand the parties' statutory, trust or regulatory authorities or obligations.
- E. TERMINATION. Any party, in writing, may revoke this SOI in whole or in part as to that party.

- F. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES. By signature below, each party certifies its acceptance of this SOI, and certifies that the signer for each agency in this document is the authorized representative of that party, and who is authorized to act in matters related to, and within the scope of, this SOI.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this SOI as of the last date written below, which shall be the effective date of this SOI.

STATE OF ALASKA, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY (DOF)

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<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>DATE</b>
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**ADDRESS**

**ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST LAND OFFICE (TLO)**

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<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	<b>DATE</b>
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**ADDRESS**

**UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA (UA, SYSTEM OFFICE)**

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<b>ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
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**ADDRESS**



## **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

### **EXHIBIT 1**

The following is a non-exclusive list of improvements that are related to forest management and use only, and which are within the coverage of the Statement of Intent between the parties:

- Log transfer facilities
- Bark disposal areas (on uplands)
- Rafting grounds
- Barge and ship loading facilities and moorage
- Short-term moorage
- Docks
- Wood waste disposal sites
- Work camps and associated facilities and infrastructure
- Material sites related to forest management
- Temporary communications sites and facilities related to forest management
- Sort yards and related roads
- Seasonal roads
- Temporary roads
- Non-exclusive easements

## ***Appendix F – References***

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*City and Borough of Wrangell Comprehensive Plan June 2010*

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*Ketchikan Gateway Borough Year 2020 Comprehensive Plan (April 2009)*

Available at: <http://www.borough.ketchikan.ak.us/216/Comprehensive-Plan>

*Prince of Wales Island Area Plan (POWIAP)*

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Available

*Prince of Wales Island Area Plan Amendment (POWIAP Amendment)*

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## ***Appendix G – Issue-Response Summary***

[Pending: to be compiled after public review concludes and included in final plan]

## ***Appendix H – Commercial Timber Sale Process***

### **Division of Forestry Commercial Timber Sale Process**

Step 1: Regional planning. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) develops area plans and state forest management plans to designate appropriate uses for state land, classify the land accordingly, and establish management guidelines for multiple use. These plans determine where timber sales are an allowed use, and what other uses must be considered when designing and implementing sales. Subsequent land use decisions must be consistent with the area plans. The finding also considers the Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan and any applicable Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

Step 2: Five-year Schedule of Timber Sales (AS 38.05.113). The local area office prepares a Five-year Schedule of Timber Sales every other year. The Schedule identifies proposed sales, including their location, volume, and main access routes. The Five-year Schedules are scoping documents that provide an opportunity for public, agency, and industry to identify potential issues and areas of interest for further consideration in the best interest finding and Forest Land Use Plan. A proposed timber sale must appear in at least one of the two Five-year Schedules preceding the sale.

Step 3: Best Interest Finding. A best interest finding is the decision document that:

- Establishes the overall area within which the timber sale may occur,
- Determines the amount of timber that will be offered for sale and the duration of the sale,
- Sets the overall harvest and reforestation strategy for the sale area,
- Determines whether the sale proposal complies with the Constitutional requirement to manage for sustained yield by evaluating the amount of timber in the sale and the annual allowable cut for the affected area,
- Selects the appropriate method of sale (i.e., competitive or negotiated sale), and
- Determines the appraisal method that will be used to determine the sale price.

The Preliminary Best Interest Finding (PBIF) is intended to provide sufficient information for reviewers to ensure that the best interest of the State will be served by the proposed action.

After public and agency review of the PBIF, DOF reviews comments, makes changes as appropriate, and issues a final best interest finding (BIF). DOF must adopt a

final BIF before selling timber. A person affected by the final decision who provided timely written comment or public hearing testimony on the preliminary decision may appeal it, in accordance with 11 AAC 02.

Step 4: Forest Land Use Plans (AS 38.05.112). Prior to authorizing harvest of timber on any area greater than 10 acres, the DOF must adopt a site-specific Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) for the harvest area. FLUPs specify the site, size, timing, and harvest methods for harvest unit within the sale area. FLUPs also address site-specific requirements for access construction and maintenance, reforestation, and multiple use management. Draft FLUPs will be based on additional field work, agency and community consultation, and site-specific analyses by the DOF, and will be subject to public and agency review. A single BIF may cover more than one FLUP.

Step 5: Timber sales and contracts. DOF offers the timber for sale by auctioning competitive sales and/or negotiating some sales with purchasers. The Division will sign a contract with the winning bidder for each sale. The contract will include stipulations to ensure compliance with the best interest finding, statutory requirements, and where applicable, site-specific requirements from the FLUP. [Note: The BIF must be adopted prior to a timber sale. However, the FLUP may be developed either before or after the sale depending on the size, duration, and complexity of the sale.]

Step 6: Sale administration. DOF administers timber sales and conducts field inspections to ensure compliance with the final best interest finding, FLUP, timber sale contract, and applicable laws, including the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and regulations (AS 41.17 and 11 AAC 95), and forest management statutes and regulations in AS 38.05 and 11 AAC 71.