

## Status of Commissioner’s Advisory Panel Recommendations for the Kenai-Kodiak Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales

\* Indicates unanimous recommendations. The DNR Commissioner agreed to implement unanimous recommendations of the Commissioner’s Advisory Panel. Other recommendations reflect a majority opinion of the panel, but not a consensus. The panel completed its work in 1994.

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Response</b>
*Consent to concept of proceeding with timber sales	Ongoing. DOF is proceeding with timber sales
*Reforest all timber sales to the strictest standards under the law	Ongoing. DOF is reforesting all timber sales to the FPA standards for non - salvage sales
*Use the strictest standards in the law to minimize the spread of insects and reduce wildfire risk	Ongoing. DOF applies the FPA standards to all Kenai - Kodiak Area sales
*Require sales to cover all costs unless another source of funding is provided.	Ongoing. All sales cover all harvesting and roading costs. Sales pay varying levels of the costs of reforestation and administration. Sales have also been supported with CIP funding provided by the legislature, with federal assistance for forest health, and with program receipts from statewide timber sales that have helped pay for reforestation.
*Do not use herbicides on any state sales.	Ongoing. DOF is not using herbicides.
*Minimize harm to trees not purchased for harvest.	Ongoing. DOF is designing sales to retain trees not infected by the beetle wherever possible. Contract stipulations include requirements to protect retained trees and advanced regeneration.
*Do not sell timber without full reforestation funding.	Ongoing. DOF is committed to reforesting all sales. A combination of natural regeneration, site preparation, and planting will be used. On some sales, purchasers will pay planting costs. Program receipts from statewide timber sales help pay reforestation costs. We are also using operating and CIP money to pay for reforestation and are applying for federal grants to assist with our reforestation program.

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Response</b>
*Use harvest practices that promote site-specific species diversity for regeneration and habitat.	Ongoing. We are designing sales on a site-by-site basis to retain live spruce, seedlings and saplings, other tree species, snags, and important wildlife cover. DOF has collected local seed to preserve the natural genetic diversity of Kenai spruce populations. We will reforest with native species, and our intent is to bring back mixed forests promptly.
*Design some timber sales for small operators.	Ongoing. The schedule lists sales for both small and large operators.
*Hold public meetings in affected communities prior to adopting Forest Land Use Plans.	Ongoing with changes. DOF has held meetings on the Five - Year Schedule and FLUPs in communities before the FLUPs are final. The past few public meetings have had little to no public participation. DOF will hold future public meetings if the public expresses interest to do so.
*Require performance bonds adequate to correct improper clearing, storage, and transportation operations.	Ongoing consistent with state regulations. DOF requires bonds on all sales proportional to the risk of defaulted actions and costs of correcting improper actions.
*Ensure that the budget for administering the Forest Practices Act is adequate.	Ongoing. DOF will continue to search for funding sources to assist with administration of the Forest Practices Act.
*Focus on the perimeters around structures in the Borough and the protection of life and property.	Ongoing. Life and property are the highest priorities for wildfire protection. DOF has held workshops on “defensible space” in places such as Moose Pass, Anchor Point, Homer, Soldotna, Nikiski, Kenai, Ninilchik, Cooper Landing, and Kasilof to teach homeowners how to reduce the risk of fire on their land. DOF also hands out information on defensible space to applicants for burn permits. The Kenai - Kodiak office has prepared a display on defensible space for use at the state fair, malls, and other sites. DOF has also developed a FireWise Community Action Kit to assist communities to become more fire resistant.
*Destroy and reforest nonpermanent roads unless within an adopted transportation master plan.	Ongoing. DOF is constructing mostly temporary roads for state timber sales. Temporary roads are put to bed after use, consistent with FPA standards, and site disturbance techniques are used, when necessary, to encourage natural regeneration.
*Convene the Board of Forestry	Done and ongoing.

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Response</b>
*Keep the same members on the Advisory Panel if it is reconvened.	Not applicable yet. DNR has not reconvened the panel.
*Use only native species for reforestation.	Ongoing. DOF collects local seed to preserve the natural genetic diversity, and replant with seedlings grown from these native seeds. Our goal is to re-grow mixed forests of native species.
*Proceed with the Griner Road sale.	Done. Griner Road was resold and harvest completed.
*Make the Moose Pass working group an "integral part of the development of the Moose Pass Plan"; allow the group "to be site specific bearing in mind the concerns of this Panel for fisheries protection, erosion, and water quality control."	Done. The working group developed 7 preliminary alternatives for the Moose Pass Cooperative Project. After USFS fieldwork, the alternatives were revised and combined, and 5 were reviewed with the public and agencies. The USFS prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and reviewed it with the working group. The USFS published the final EA with its preferred alternative in May 1995. The state worked with the USFS throughout the project, and will continue to cooperate with the USFS as salvage sales are designed in Moose Pass. The state did not select a preferred alternative as part of the EA because we must complete Forest Land Use Plans for each sale before decisions are final.
*Postpone the Point Possession sale until FY96 to coordinate with the Borough.	This sale has been dropped from the schedule.
Postpone the East Ninilchik sale to FY 97.	Done. The panel recommended postponing the East Ninilchik sale (block) to FY97. The East Ninilchik sale has been postponed beyond FY97.
Postpone the South Ninilchik sale to FY 97.	Done. The panel recommended postponing the South Ninilchik block to FY97. The South Ninilchik was offered in 2004, but was unsold. It will be reoffered in the future.
Minimize the length of permanent road in the South Road timber sale.	Done. The South Road sale included only 1.4 miles of permanent road. Other sales since South Road and the sales proposed on schedule use only temporary or winter ice roads on state land except for the Dome View Sale which will have approximately 1.5 miles of permanent road.
Delete the Fox River Sale.	Partial Change. We delayed the Fox River block from FY97 to a later date. We reduced the acreage of timber sales within the block from 27,500 acres on the FY94 to 98 schedule to 1,000 acres on the more recent schedules. We will provide information on preliminary sale design before moving sales in this block to the preliminary decision stage.

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Response</b>
Postpone the Kalgin Island sale to FY95 unless ADF&G approves the specific sale document earlier.	Done. The Kalgin Island sale was offered in FY95, but not purchased. It was re-offered in FY96 and sold. The sale was not harvested and returned to the state and was not reoffered. Kalgin Island is no longer in the Five Year Schedule.
Include a 100' setback from the break of the hill in all sales along the Ninilchik River and its tributaries.	Ongoing. Sale boundaries are set back at least 100' from the slope break on these streams. In some cases we have established larger set backs to meet site-specific habitat concerns. For example, stream setbacks on anadromous streams for the Dome View sale exceed 375'.
Delete the Falls Creek sale.	Partial change. The Falls Creek sale was reduced from 14, 230 acres to 3,420 acres and sold in FY95. As desired by the Panel, detailed information on sale design was reviewed with the public and agencies through the FLUP prior to sale. A public meeting was held to review the sale and a field trip held for Advisory Panel members. The sale has subsequently been returned to the state and resold as the Sault Timber Sale.
Delete the Tyonek II sale.	Partial change. This sale is located on Alaska Mental Health Trust land and a decision to conduct the sale will be made by the Trust Land Office in consultation with the Trust Authority.
Delete the Caribou Hills sale.	<p>Partial change. The Caribou Hills sale was sold in FY98. We reduced the sale acreage from 14,720 on the FY94-98 schedule to 2,600 acres when sold. The sale was partially completed and returned to the state.</p> <p>Recreational users and cabin owners have encouraged us to accelerate salvage in the Caribou Hills area. Therefore, a Caribou Hills Block II has been identified and included in this schedule. We will provide information on preliminary sale design before moving sales in this block to the preliminary decision stage.</p>
Provide specific information for all sales in the 1995 Five-Year Schedule.	Ongoing. DOF has added more information to the Five - Year Schedules and Forest Land Use Plans, and improved sale maps.