

**STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY**



SOUTHEAST AREA

**FINAL BEST INTEREST FINDING AND
DECISION FOR
NORTH HOLLIS TIMBER SALE
SSE-1346-K**

March, 2017

Abbreviations

ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ADF&G-DWC	Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation
ADNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
BIF	Best interest finding
DMLW	Division of Mining, Land and Water
DOF	Division of Forestry
FLUP	Forest Land Use Plan
FRPA	Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act
FYSTS	Five-year Schedule of Timber Sales
MBF	Thousand board feet
POG	Productive old growth
POW	Prince of Wales
POWIAP	Prince of Wales Island Area Plan
ROW	Right-of-way
SESF	Southeast State Forest
SESFMP	Southeast State Forest Management Plan
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
UA	University of Alaska
USFS	United States Forest Service

Table of Contents

I.	PROPOSED ACTION	4
II.	STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY	4
III.	ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD	4
IV.	SCOPE OF DECISION	4
V.	PROJECT LOCATION, LAND STATUS, AND DESCRIPTION	6
VI.	PUBLIC NOTICE.....	15
VII.	PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE	16
VIII.	DISCUSSION AND FINAL FINDING AND DECISION.....	17
IX.	SIGNATURE.....	17
X.	APPEALS FOR RECONSIDERATION.....	18
XI.	APPENDICES	19
	Appendix A SSE-1346-K North Hollis Timber Sale Area Map	20
	Appendix B References	21
	Appendix C Appeal and Request for Reconsideration Regulations	23
	Appendix D SSE-1346-K North Hollis Timber Sale Comments & Responses.....	1

I. PROPOSED ACTION

The Division of Forestry (DOF) is proposing to offer for sale approximately 230 acres of mature old growth composed of western hemlock, Sitka spruce, western red cedar and yellow cedar from state lands on Prince of Wales (POW) Island, approximately one-mile north of the Hollis Ferry terminal (see Appendix 1A, Timber Sale Area Map). The volume to be offered totals approximately 4,500 thousand board feet (MBF). The DOF proposes to sell the commercial timber in one negotiated sale under provisions of AS 38.05.115, AS 38.05.118 and/or AS 38.05.123. The sale will be noticed as required by sale type authority and AS 38.05.945 prior to being sold.

The management objectives for the proposed timber sales are:

1. To follow the Alaska Department of Natural Resources' (ADNR) constitutional mandate to encourage the development of the State's renewable resources, making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest;
2. To help the State's economy by providing royalties to the State in the form of Stumpage receipts, an infusion to the State's economy through wages, purchases, jobs, and business; and
3. To help the local economy of the communities within southern Southeast Alaska by creating additional jobs in Southeast Alaska due to the combination of road building, logging, trucking and potentially milling.

II. STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The Division is taking this action under the authority of

- AS 38.05.035(e) Best Interest Finding;
- AS 38.05.110-120 and 11 AAC 71, Timber Sale Statutes and Regulations; and
- AS 41.17.010-950 and 11 AAC 95 Forest Resources and Practices Statutes and Regulations.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The Division will maintain an administrative record regarding the decision of whether or not to proceed with the action as proposed. This record will be maintained at the DOF's Southern Southeast Area Office filed as SSE-1346-K.

IV. SCOPE OF DECISION

This final best interest finding (BIF) is part three of a six-part process to design, sell, and administer timber sales. This BIF covers the sale of approximately 230 acres of mature old growth forest composed of western hemlock, Sitka spruce, western red cedar and yellow cedar on state land within the perimeter of the 424-acre project area (see Appendix A1, Timber Sale Area Map). The following list summarizes the overall process:

Part 1: Regional Planning. The Department of Natural Resources 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 or forest plans. The area in this BIF is covered by the Subunit 12b- Hollis in the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan (POWIAP).

Part 2: Five-year Schedule of Timber Sales (AS 38.05.113). The Southern Southeast Area Office prepares a Five-year Schedule of Timber Sales (FYSTS) every other year. The Schedule identifies proposed sales, including their location, volume, and main access routes. The Five-year Schedules is a scoping document that provides an opportunity for public, agency, and industry to identify potential issues and areas of interest for further consideration in the Forest Land Use Plan. Under AS 38.05.113, proposed timber sales within the area covered by this BIF must appear in at least one of the two Five-year Schedules preceding the sale. The sale area was included within the 2013-2017 and 2015-2019 Five Year Schedules of Timber Sales.¹

Part 3: Best Interest Finding (AS 38.05.035(e)). DOF must adopt a final BIF before selling timber. A best interest finding is the decision document that:

- Ensures that the best interest of the State will be served by this proposed action.
- 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.

Part 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. DOF will prepare FLUP(s) for harvest areas within the overall sale area covered by this best interest finding. The FLUP specifies the site, size, timing, and harvest methods for harvest units within the sale area. The FLUP also address site-specific requirements for access construction and maintenance, reforestation, and multiple use management. Draft FLUP will be based on additional field work and site-specific analyses by the DOF. Appropriate regulatory agencies will be consulted and the plan is subject to public review. The timber sale FLUP(s) will consider the cumulative impacts in the project area as each sale is designed and sold. The DOF estimates that it will publicly notice the FLUP for this area in the winter of 2017.

¹ The POWIAP (Chapter 2) required noticing harvests in two FYSTS based on the applicable statute at the time. In 2003, the statute was changed to the current standard of at least one FYSTS.

The DOF may sell the timber prior to the adoption of a FLUP. In the event that the timber is sold in this manner, the purchaser will participate in the development of specific information on unit configuration for the FLUP. The management of the FLUP review and final adoption is retained by the DOF.

Part 5: Timber Sales and Contracts. Following adoption of the final BIF, the DOF typically completes the FLUP, then offers the timber for sale by either auctioning a competitive sale and/or negotiating a sale with a purchaser. The Division signs a contract that governs the purchase and activity of the purchaser with the winning bidder of the timber sale.

The contract will include stipulations to ensure compliance with the BIF, adoption of a FLUP prior to beginning harvest, and compliance with applicable State statutory and regulatory requirements.

Part 6: Sale Administration. DOF will administer the timber sales and conduct field inspections to ensure compliance with the final BIF, FLUP, timber sale contract, and applicable laws, including the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) and regulations (AS 41.17 and 11 AAC 95), and forest management statutes and regulations in AS 38.05 and 11 AAC 71.

V. PROJECT LOCATION, LAND STATUS, AND DESCRIPTION

A. Location

The timber sale area is found within Sections 25, 26 and 35 of Township (T) 73 South(S), Range (R) 84 East (E), Copper River Meridian (CRM). The sale area is found within the Craig C-2 Southwest and Craig B-2 Northwest USGS quadrangles. See attached map titled: Attachment A, SSE-1346-K North Hollis Timber Sale Harvest Area Map.

B. Title status

The sale area lands were granted to the State through National Forest Community Grants 243, 147, 359, and 360.

C. Land use planning, classification, and management intent

The total proposed harvest area, 230 acres, is on lands classified as General Use and is within the geographic region covered by the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan (POWIAP). Specifically, the harvest area is within subunit 12b and the management intent and guidelines for this area can be found beginning on page 195 of the area plan. The shoreline of the project area is classified Settlement. The general and specific management intent for the General Use land of this area follows:

MANAGEMENT INTENT AND GUIDELINES

State lands will be managed for multiple-use with an emphasis on meeting the needs of a developing community. Some state lands will be managed to provide areas for a community center, where commercial and public services and facilities can be developed. Other state lands that are not located near the community center may be utilized for a variety of purposes, including settlement and community recreation.

Forestry

Resource Information:

Areas with commercial grade forest are located throughout the subunit. Areas of previous timber harvest occur on the uplands along the Klawock-Hollis Highway as well as near the community center and school in Section 33.

Timber harvests in areas designated “S” (Settlement) are also appropriate if in direct support of subdivision design and development. Timber harvest is not considered appropriate in Settlement areas under other conditions (i.e., occurring well in advance of subdivision activity).

D. Current access and land use

The main access for this sale area is through Alaska Highway System Klawock-Hollis Highway and the adjoining subdivision roads Aurora Drive and Nanny Bay Road. The Inter-agency Ferry System’s Hollis terminal is ½ mile southwest of the project area.

The DOF during 2015 and 2016 invested approximately \$500,000 into improvements of the Aurora Road. The improvements included widening for two lane traffic, drainage structure upgrades and subgrade replacement. This work was done to facilitate safe access to the proposed timber harvest area located on general use lands to the north of the subdivision.

Semi-remote residential lots occupy the bordering shoreline. A handful of these lots have observed development and seasonal use within the last five years. It is likely that the area behind the subdivision experiences incidental use by the public for a variety of uses related to semi-remote recreation such as but not limited to berry picking and hunting.

The adjacent public landowners include the Alaska Mental Health Trust and the United States Forest Service both of which have conducted timber harvest operations at various times on their lands since the mid-1940s.

E. Background and description of proposal

1. Background:

The DOF seeks to use General Use land when in alignment with other demands, to encourage sustainable development of the State’s forest resources, making timber available for sale and harvest. The demand for State timber is significant at this time due to the

uncertainty of the federal timber supply and the diminished activity on Native corporation lands. The majority of the State land base in southeast Alaska is remote.

The North Hollis unit has situational value because it is adjacent to the existing POW road system and offers forest resource values close to the remaining mills and processing facilities and the island's skilled work force.

A diversified economy is important to southeast Alaska. By direction from the Governor and Legislature, the Division of Forestry manages a timber sale program that makes timber volume available to help sustain the region's timber industry and economy.

2. Timber Volume and Sustained Yield:

The total estimated sawlog volume identified in the sale area is 4,500 MBF based on a timber cruise of the units marked in the field using the Atterbury Cruise System.

The Division of Forestry is required to manage its timber harvest on a sustained yield basis. "Sustained Yield" means the "achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of an annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the State land consistent with multiple use" (AS 38.04.910). The Division's policy defines "regular periodic output" as output over a ten-year period. This is done to allow for market fluctuations and operational restrictions. Based on the DOF inventory of the land and the timber base it uses an annual allowable cut of 11.2 MMBF per year for the Southern Southeast Area. The location of the project and the configuration of the timber units, will allow the DOF to meter the volume offered for sale without exceeding the annual allowable cut. Timber sales that are sold will be within the allowable cut and comply with sustained yield requirements at the time they are sold. The duration of the timber sale contract(s) will be governed by the economic conditions at the time of the sale.

3. Harvest Unit Design:

All harvest sale area units will be designed for clear-cut harvest using conventional shovel logging and high lead cable yarding methods. The specific configuration of harvest types proposed will be defined in the FLUP. Reconnaissance indicates an equal combination of the two types of yarding methods. The Division of Forestry will require full or partial suspension for any cable logging that occurs in the harvest units and ground-based mechanical yarding will be suspended in times of saturated soil conditions.

- a. Reforestation and Site Preparation: The sale area will be reforested in compliance with the Forest Resources and Practices regulations (11 AAC 95.375-.390).

Natural regeneration is the preferred regeneration method for this sale and it is anticipated that adequate stocking levels will be achieved within five years after harvest. Experience with this regeneration method on POW has shown that well-stocked stands are readily established.

Sitka spruce is the preferred species in the projected market conditions. Spruce will likely be the favored and dominant species due to anticipated scarification in the units during harvesting operations. Scarification will disturb the vegetative mat and in turn provide a more receptive seed bed for spruce. Western hemlock and western red cedar will likely be major components of the regenerated stand as well since they are currently on the sites. Alaska yellow cedar is less than four percent of the current stand. It is predicted that it will repopulate in the same general area at a slightly lower rate due to the vigorous growth that is typically exhibited by western red cedar and hemlock when the lower volume sites are disturbed.

The DOF will conduct post-harvest reforestation inspection of the area to ensure the stocking meets FRPA requirements for regeneration.

- b. Road Access - Design and Construction: Road access design, construction, and maintenance will comply with the Forest Resources and Practices regulations (11 AAC 95.285-.355).

No streams containing fish will be crossed by proposed roads within the sale area.

General water quality streams will be crossed by proposed roads within the sale area. To maintain water quality during road construction, the Division of Forestry will implement FRPA's Best Management Practices (BMP).

To keep the potential for soil erosion to a minimum, the amount of road construction has been minimized and the roads are generally not located on steep slopes. The roads are designed to follow the natural contours and benches as much as practical and are generally located on the more moderate slopes. Cable and shovel logging landings will be chosen to manage and minimize the concentration of water and movement of soil. To minimize the potential for erosion, FRPA road construction, maintenance, and slope stability standards will be adhered to at all times and included in timber sale contracts. The DOF timber sale administrator will ensure, with frequent field inspections, compliance with the timber sale contract.

The DOF will consider leaving some of the roads constructed for temporary vehicle access of residual logs for firewood by the public after the harvest operations. This will be done where doing so will not compromise obligations to keep the road maintained for the preservation of soil and water quality. Spur roads constructed in this sale will generally be closed after harvest of timber to meet FRPA requirements and minimize dumping of garbage and other unauthorized activities. This may be modified in the future as community needs are heard and addressed. Future budget constraints may require a more aggressive road storage or closure plan.

- c. Appraisal Method: The DOF will appraise the timber value in compliance with 11 AAC 71.092.

The sale area will be appraised by using a residual value appraisal method. Selling values and extraction cost numbers are obtained from industry sources, the United States Forest Service, and previous operations.

F. Resources and management

1. Timber

a. Timber Stand Composition and Structure:

The proposed harvest area has the characteristics of mature old growth. The stand is dominated by a red cedar based stand type. The timber identified is a mix of quality. The larger and better quality timber is generally located at the top of the unit. The stand is composed of western red cedar, western hemlock, Sitka spruce and occasional yellow cedar.

b. Stand Silvics:

Second growth forests adjacent and to the west and south of the proposed harvest area exhibit indications of productive site conditions and are between 15 and 50 years old. The stand to the west was pre-commercially thinned and has responded well. The sites targeted in this BIF generally are residual stands that did not have the species composition for historical market conditions. Some of the bordering areas of the subdivision have evidence of selective harvest mixed with occasional blow down.

The DOF intends to reforest promptly as well as encourage the size of commercial timber species given the objectives of the land management designation on the parcel. The silvicultural prescription that best achieves these objectives is based on past experience and will entail clear-cut harvest. Unit size is primarily a product of topography and forest type, respecting other constraints such as soil stability, high-value fish and wildlife habitat and visual concerns. Natural reforestation will occur and DOF will verify that it meets FRPA standards. It is anticipated that some precommercial thinning will be done on the regenerating stand if the management intent of the parcel remains unchanged to shape the future production of merchantable products (typically sawlogs) when it reaches the stem exclusion stage at approximately 30 years of age.

c. Topography and Soils:

The proposed sale will be designed and managed to prevent significant impairment of the land and water with respect to renewable resources (AS 41.17.060(c)(5)).

The timber sale occupies an area with varied topography ranging from moderate slopes to areas of steep and rocky bluffs; aspect is generally a southeast exposure throughout the sale area. Elevation ranges from 100 to 900 feet within the sale area. The majority of the sale area has slopes of less than 45 percent. Soils characteristics range from well drained glacial cobble mix to muskeg soil type.

2. Agriculture.

No agricultural use or grazing is known to occur within the area.

3. Wildlife habitat and harvest.

This sale has been designed using guidelines and management intent from the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan (POWIAP) and the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and Regulations (FRPA). The sale area was not identified as crucial habitat (Ha) or prime habitat (Hb) in the POWIAP.

POW has a total area of approximately 2,577 square miles. The amount of land harvested by the North Hollis timber sale is small in comparison to the size of POW (0.01%). The majority of the land on POW is owned by the USFS with minor amounts in other private and public ownership.

The USFS has reserved productive old growth timber (POG) for non-timber values (such as wildlife) in the 2016 Tongass Land Management Plan. In all plan alternatives, less than a one percent of POG is projected to change in the next 100 years.

No areas of concern were identified by ADF&G in the comments received for the 2013-2017 or 2015-2019 FYSTSs.

ADF&G-DWC area wildlife biologist visited the sale area on October 27, 2016 with DOF staff.

Initial conversations with ADF&G-DWC hypothesized that the site may have some value for winter deer habitat due to the site location relative to the ridge area to the north. While this may occur it did not appear to hold the amounts of winter forbes and underbrush to make it a high value wintering site. The combined ownership along the base of this ridge likely collectively serves this purpose at various times. The deer activity observed was moderate and was typical for a medium to low volume stand dominated with red cedar. Use patterns observed are generally topography driven as

well as associated with timber types that had less cedar content. Stands with significant red cedar generally provided cover but less browse (food) potential. Upon site inspection the ADFG-DWC voiced no objection of the use of the area for timber harvest.

A reduction in deer habitat in the immediate area will result because of the harvest of this timber. Deer numbers will remain approximately the same as the stand regenerates and but will diminish as the understory is shaded out during mid-term regeneration at approximately 30 years of age. Consequently the act of the harvest of timber will eventually lower the capacity of the immediate area for deer during the period of 30 to 65 years at which point understory will gradually provide more long term food capacity.

The resulting change in availability of deer for wolf predation on POW is minor. The reduction in deer population may be more noticeable for humans as the area regenerates to a second growth forest thus diminishing browse and human access. A relatively large area to the north and west exists for this purpose on USFS land (Karta drainage and the Black Bear area).

Hunting and trapping does occur in the area. It is likely that human interaction with wildlife may occur due to the area's proximity to the community of Hollis and the coastal activity associated with the waterfront based Clark Bay North Subdivision (ASLS 2006-73). The spur roads associated with the timber harvest will provide some additional access for human activities associated with wildlife. Other communities on POW have generally discouraged hunting or shooting on lands bordering residential subdivisions for safety reasons. Added hunting pressure is not anticipated to be significant due to the proximity of a much larger road network elsewhere on POW and the intent of the DOF to meet the intent of the DMLW area plan and close the spurs if funds are not available for maintenance or there is a risk to the safety of users.

The DOF used available federal information on bald eagle nest locations and field observations during design to ascertain and avoid active nest sites. No nests were observed or documented in the process of designing the timber sale.

The sale is not expected to cause significant adverse impacts overall to the wildlife populations on POW based on the area planning information and the site specific observations of its characteristics.

4. Fish Habitat, Water Resources, and Water Quality. The proposed sale has been designed and managed to protect fish habitat and water quality in compliance with the Forest Resources and Practices Act and regulations (AS 41.17 and 11 AAC 95).

No anadromous or high value resident streams were identified adjacent to or within the sale area during layout of the sale. The topography of the area is generally too steep for fish bearing waters along the hillside with the exception of a few areas in the residential subdivision.

FRPA will be implemented to maintain bank and soil stability and water quality along all streams.

As required by AS 41.17.098, DOF afforded due deference to ADF&G to ensure all fish and wildlife habitat issues are addressed by the proposed timber sale design. DOF provides due deference to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) for all water quality issues. ADF&G-Habitat visited the streams adjacent to the proposed units when the subdivision was planned. ADF&G-Habitat declined the invitation to inspect the sale based on topography.

It is standard practice on State timber sales to protect water quality of non-fish bearing water bodies through a combination of retention areas, directional felling, partial suspension of logs, split-yarding, and removal of incidental logging debris (limbs, etc.) from stream channels as required. The varied gradient of the streams of the sale area will aid in the control and settlement of incidental turbidity generated by the operations (e.g., from culvert installation and removal).

Due to the location and design of the units and roads, and the topography around significant surface water bodies, the timber sale is anticipated to avoid significant adverse impacts on water quality.

5. Recreation, Tourism, and Scenic Resources.

Recreation in this part of the southeast Alaska is generally of a dispersed and remote nature. Past timber sales have provided road access for dispersed recreational opportunities and this timber sale will provide similar access. This timber sale is expected to result in no changes to recreational or tourism use of the area.

Road access may provide diversity of hunting access but relative to the overall availability on POW it will be minor. All of the proposed roads are relatively short and dead end within the project area. The upper road located at mid-slope will be water barred at the conclusion of the timber sale in a manner that will limit most highway vehicle use. ATV traffic will not be actively managed. Typically, unless cleared of alder by incidental users the road beds will not be drivable by ATVs inside of fifteen years.

Due to topography and its location, the timber sale it will not be visible from the existing adjacent subdivision. The DOF designed the harvest area to leave an undisturbed forested retention area 100 feet wide along the subdivision. The units will be visible from the Inter Island Ferry as it approaches and departs the terminal to the south. The level of visual change is in keeping with past timber sales harvested in the area and is a smaller footprint than past area harvests around the Maybeso drainage and Sealaska land to the south. The visual footprint from the ferry will match the adjacent forest landscape in approximately 10 years as the stand regenerates.

6. Cultural Resources.

The DOF works with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to identify and avoid known cultural, historic or prehistoric sites in planning the proposed access routes and harvest areas. The SHPO did not identify any concerns during scoping for the area in recent FYSTS. Opportunity was provided for a site inspection but it was determined not necessary based on earlier inspection of the area associated with DMLW subdivision activity.

If additional archaeological sites are identified, proposed salvage areas and road locations will be appropriately adjusted to avoid conflicts. If any historic or archaeological sites are encountered during road construction or harvest activities, DOF will immediately inform SHPO and take action to protect the findings.

7. Subsurface Resources.

There is no known current mining activity in the immediate area. Other than sharing some of the same access roads, this sale should have no impact on the potential mining resources or mining activity in this area.

8. Residential Subdivision and Access.

The DOF recognized early in the timber sale planning that access to the General Use lands located behind the subdivision would require working with DMLW and local residents regarding the use of the platted ROW referred to as the Aurora Road. The DOF had Aurora Road evaluated for its present and projected use by R&M Engineering-Ketchikan Inc. in 2015. The recommendation was to widen the road for two lane traffic in the area of the developed subdivision. They also recommended upgrading several of the drainage structures due to age and indications that they were not adequately handling flow conditions. The DOF publically noticed intent to make improvements to the Aurora Road in support of potential future forest management as well as the shared the preliminary design with the public and residents on December 2, 2015. Based on this information the DOF utilized ADNR Capital Improvement Funds allocated in fiscal year 2013 to perform this work in the summer of 2016 through a public work contract with Ketchikan Ready Mix.

Several lot owners communicated during the project scoping that they would like access to the North Clark Bay Subdivision and encouraged the DOF to look at accessing the timber sale via the subdivision platted ROW located on the landward side of the subdivision. DOF Reconnaissance of the platted ROW (that is an extension of the Nanny Bay Road) measured a sustained adverse grade for the haul of logs in excess of 20 % for 500 feet. This grade is prohibitive to practical and economic hauling conditions of a loaded log truck. The area containing the merchantable timber is generally also located uphill of the ROW and there are also several 40 year old stands of second growth adjacent to the ROW that are better left as is because they are not currently of merchantable size. For these reasons the DOF placed the lower road in the middle of the merchantable band of timber (higher on the hillside) for the western

half of the unit. The lower road generally descends the hillside at a grade of 10% and ties to the subdivision ROW on the north side of Section 35. The decision to descend was due to a sizable incised drainage that bisects the timber sale that was economically prohibitive to cross higher on the slope. The lower road then continues along the subdivision ROW for approximately 1,500 feet at which point it climbs away from the subdivision ROW and makes two switchbacks as it climbs back into the timber on the north end of the project. It is likely that the lot owners could utilize portions of the lower forest road to facilitate access at some point in the future. The location of the lower forest road does not physically preclude lot access or make access more expensive.

The best management practices of the FRPA encourage forest operations to develop the least amount of road for accessing timber. The DOF believes that by choosing the proposed location it has met the intent of FRPA and accommodated likely future use to the extent it coincides with the objectives of the timber sale. The development of the platted ROW is in keeping with the intent of the residential subdivision as well as the General Use land.

In addition to the access to the subdivision, area residences have voiced a desire to access and utilize residual slash for personal firewood after the timber sale. The DOF will work with the land manager (DMLW) during development of the FLUP concerning the appropriate status that the new roads should be left in after the timber sale. The DOF typically closes state forest roads upon completion of timber harvesting unless a financial method is identified to maintain the road.

G. Costs and benefits

Based on the timber cruise of the project area and current markets, timber revenue is projected to cover administration, access and operating costs for this sale area and provide stumpage royalty to the State. Additionally access will be improved to State land and adjacent private residential lots. Timber sales have traditionally created economic benefits to the communities of Southeast Alaska. The business communities will receive direct economic benefits by providing support services for the operators such as fuel, food, housing, medical and miscellaneous supplies. The residents of the communities in Southeast Alaska will receive a direct benefit through employment opportunities and wages paid by the operator during the course of the timber harvest and milling operations.

VI. PUBLIC NOTICE

The preliminary best interest finding and decision were publicly noticed in compliance with AS 38.05.945. Notice was posted on the Alaska Online Public Notice System on November 15, 2016. Notices were also posted at the Ketchikan, Craig and Hollis Public Libraries. Mailed notices were distributed to a mailing list maintained by the Southern Southeast Area Office and public notices were sent to the post offices of Ketchikan, Ward Cove, Craig, Klawock, Thorne Bay, Coffman Cove, Naukati, Metlakatla, Wrangell and Petersburg. A legal notice is also provided in the Ketchikan Daily News on November 23 and 30, 2016; the Island Post on December 7 and 21, 2016; the Petersburg Pilot on November 24, 2016 and December 1, 2016 and the

Wrangell Sentinel on December 1 and 8, 2016. The DOF also presented the PBIF and answered questions at the regular meeting of the Hollis Community Association on December 15, 2016.


VII. PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE

DOF received comments on the preliminary best interest finding noticed in 2016 for this proposed timber sale from 13 individuals and five organizations. See Appendix D for a table of the issues raised and DOF's responses.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND FINAL FINDING AND DECISION

After due consideration of all pertinent information, the ADNR has reached the following Decision: to offer for sale approximately 230 acres of old growth forest composed of western hemlock, Sitka spruce, western red cedar and yellow cedar from State lands near Hollis on Prince of Wales Island. Harvest activities will follow the management intent of the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan. The DOF finds that this decision satisfies the objectives stated in this document and it is in the best interest of the State to proceed with this action under its authority in AS 38.05.035(e) (Powers and Duties of the Director) and AS 38.05.110-120; 11 AAC 71 (Timber Sale Statutes and Regulations; and AS 41.17.010-.950 and 11 AAC 95 (Forest Resources and Practices Statutes and Regulations).

IX. SIGNATURE

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Mack". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Andrew T. Mack
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Natural Resources

3/4/2017
Date

X. APPEALS FOR RECONSIDERATION

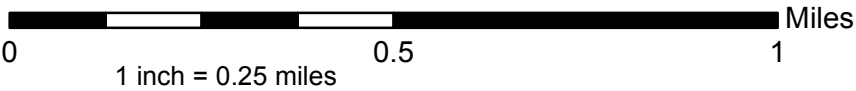
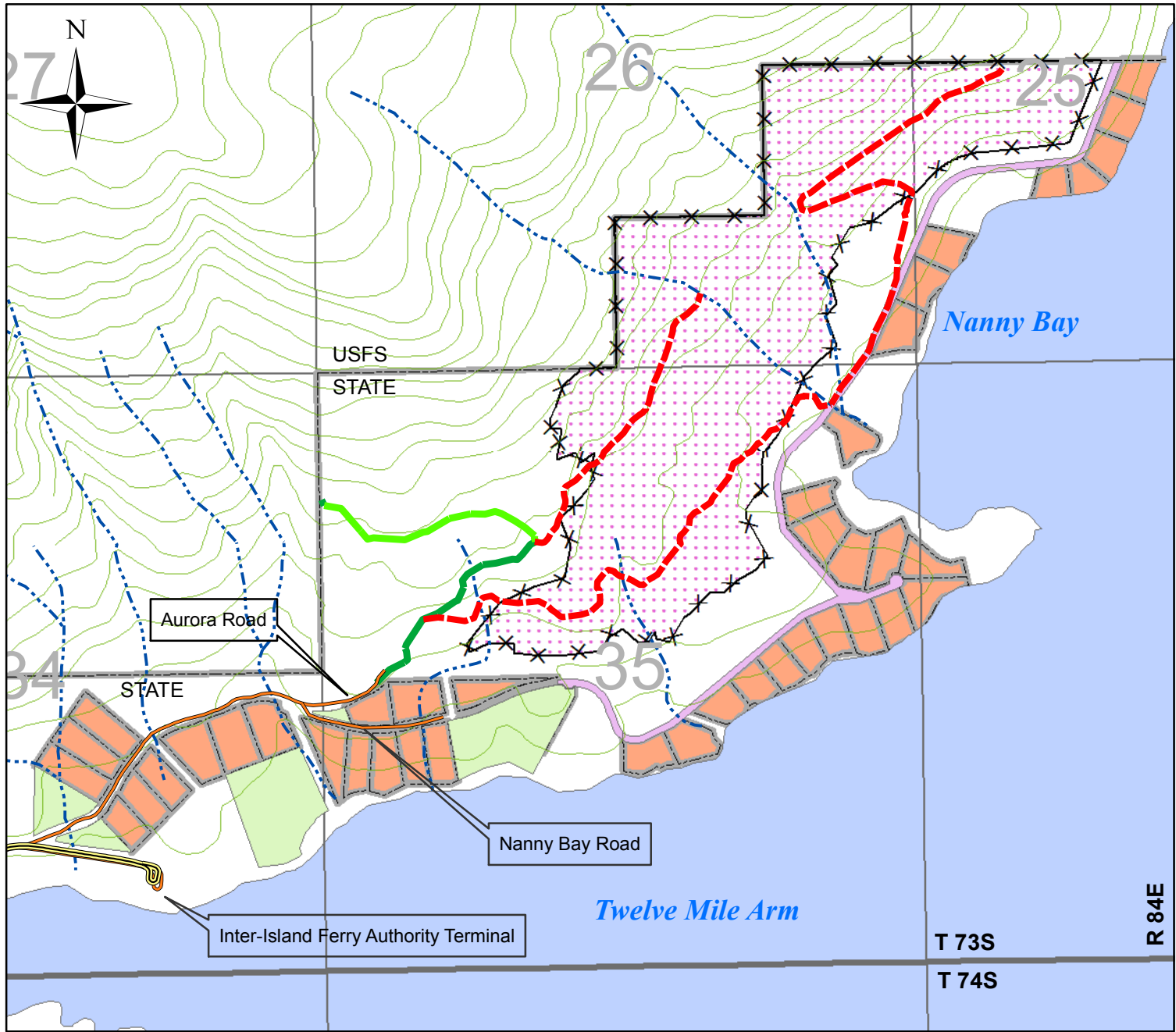
A person affected by this decision who provided timely written comment or public hearing testimony on the preliminary decision may request reconsideration in accordance with 11 AAC 02. Any reconsideration must be received by **March 29, 2017** and may be mailed or delivered to Andrew T. Mack, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska 99501; faxed to 1-907-269-8918, or sent by electronic mail to dnr.appeals@alaska.gov. If reconsideration is not requested by that date, this decision goes into effect as a final order and decision on April 10, 2017. Failure of the commissioner to act on a request for reconsideration within 30 days after issuance of this decision is a denial of reconsideration and is a final administrative order and decision for purposes of an appeal to Superior Court. The decision may then be appealed to Superior Court within a further 30 days in accordance with the rules of the court, and to the extent permitted by applicable law. An eligible person must first request reconsideration of this decision in accordance with 11 AAC 02 before appealing this decision to Superior Court. A copy of 11 AAC 02 is provided in Appendix C.

If you have any questions, please contact: Greg Staunton at (907) 225-3070 or email greg.staunton@alaska.gov.

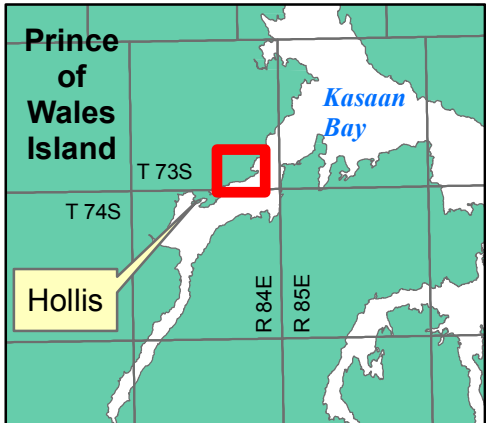
XI. APPENDICES

Appendix A	SSE-1346-K North Hollis Timber Sale Area Map
Appendix B	References
Appendix C	Appeal Regulations
Appendix D	North Hollis Timber Sale Comments & Responses

Appendix A SSE-1346-K North Hollis Timber Sale Area Map



Contour Interval = 100 feet



Vicinity Map 1 in = 8 miles



APPENDIX A SSE-1346-K NORTH HOLLIS TIMBER SALE MAP



DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Date: 11/16/2016 JLN

Appendix B References

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Appendix C Appeal and Request for Reconsideration Regulations

Note: "Appeal" means a request to the commissioner to review a decision that the commissioner did not sign or cosign. "Request for reconsideration" means a petition or request to the commissioner to review an original decision that the commissioner signed or cosigned.

TITLE 11. NATURAL RESOURCES.

CHAPTER 02. APPEALS.

11 AAC 02.010. APPLICABILITY AND ELIGIBILITY. (a) This chapter sets out the administrative review procedure available to a person affected by a decision of the department. If a statute or a provision of this title prescribes a different procedure with respect to a particular decision, that procedure must be followed when it conflicts with this chapter.

(b) Unless a statute does not permit an appeal, an applicant is eligible to appeal or request reconsideration of the department's decision on the application. An applicant is eligible to participate in any appeal or request for reconsideration filed by any other eligible party.

(c) If a statute restricts eligibility to appeal or request reconsideration of a decision to those who have provided timely written comment or public hearing testimony on the decision, the department will give notice of that eligibility restriction as part of its public notice announcing the opportunity to comment.

(d) If the department gives public notice and allows a public comment period of at least 30 days on a proposed action, and if no statute requires opportunity for public comment, the department may restrict eligibility to appeal or request reconsideration to those who have provided timely written comment or public hearing testimony on the proposed action by including notice of the restriction as part of its public notice announcing the opportunity to comment.

(e) An eligible person affected by a decision of the department that the commissioner did not sign or cosign may appeal the decision to the commissioner within the period set by 11 AAC 02.040.

(f) An eligible person affected by a decision of the department that the commissioner signed or cosigned may request the commissioner's reconsideration within the period set by 11 AAC 02.040.

(g) A person may not both appeal and request reconsideration of a decision. (Eff. 11/7/90, Register 116; am 9/19/2001, Register 159)

Authority:

AS 03.05.010	AS 38.05.020	AS 38.50.160	AS 44.37.011
AS 29.65.050	AS 38.05.035	AS 41.15.020	AS 46.15.020
AS 29.65.120	AS 38.08.110	AS 41.17.055	AS 46.17.030
AS 38.04.900	AS 38.09.110	AS 41.21.020	

11 AAC 02.015. COMBINED DECISIONS. (a) When the department issues a combined decision that is both a final disposal decision under AS 38.05.035(e) and any other decision, including a disposal decision combined with a land use plan decision, or a disposal decision to grant certain applications combined with a decision to deny others, the appeal process set out for a disposal decision in AS 38.05.035(i) - (m) and this chapter applies to the combined decision.

(b) A decision of the department may include a statement that a final consistency determination under AS 46.40 (Alaska Coastal Management Program) has been rendered in conjunction with the decision. A person may not, under this chapter, appeal or request reconsideration of the final consistency determination, including a requirement necessary solely to ensure the activity is consistent with the Alaska coastal management program as approved under AS 46.40. (Eff. 9/19/2001, Register 159)

Authority:

AS 29.65.050	AS 38.04.900	AS 38.05.035	AS 38.09.110
AS 29.65.120	AS 38.05.020	AS 38.08.110	AS 38.50.160

11 AAC 02.020. FINALITY OF A DECISION FOR PURPOSES OF APPEAL TO

COURT. (a) Unless otherwise provided in a statute or a provision of this title, an eligible person must first either appeal or request reconsideration of a decision in accordance with this chapter before appealing a decision to superior court.

(b) The commissioner's decision on appeal is the final administrative order and decision of the department for purposes of appeal to the superior court.

(c) The commissioner may order or deny a request for reconsideration within 30 calendar days after issuance of the decision, as determined under 11 AAC 02.040(c)-(e). If the commissioner takes no action during the 30-day period, the request for reconsideration is considered denied. Denial of a request for reconsideration is the final administrative order and decision of the department for purposes of appeal to the superior court.

(d) If the commissioner timely orders reconsideration of the decision, the commissioner may affirm the decision, issue a new or modified decision, or remand the matter to the director for further proceedings. The commissioner's decision, other than a remand decision, is the final administrative order and decision of the department for purposes of appeal to the superior court. (Eff. 11/7/90, Register 116; am 9/19/2001, Register 159)

Authority:

AS 03.05.010	AS 44.37.011	AS 38.05.035	AS 41.21.020
AS 38.04.900	AS 29.65.050	AS 38.09.110	AS 46.15.020
AS 38.08.110	AS 29.65.120	AS 38.50.160	AS 46.17.030
AS 41.15.020	AS 38.05.020	AS 41.17.055	

11 AAC 02.030. FILING AN APPEAL OR REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION. (a) An appeal or request for reconsideration under this chapter must

- (1) be in writing;
- (2) be filed by personal service, mail, fax, or electronic mail;
- (3) be signed by the appellant or the appellant's attorney, unless filed by electronic mail; an appeal or request for reconsideration filed by electronic mail must state the name of the person appealing or requesting reconsideration and a single point of contact to which any notice or decision concerning the appeal or request for reconsideration is to be sent;
- (4) be correctly addressed;
- (5) be timely filed in accordance with 11 AAC 02.040;

- (6) specify the case reference number used by the department, if any;
 - (7) specify the decision being appealed or for which reconsideration is being requested;
 - (8) specify the basis upon which the decision is challenged;
 - (9) specify any material facts disputed by the appellant;
 - (10) specify the remedy requested by the appellant;
 - (11) state the address to which any notice or decision concerning the appeal or request for reconsideration is to be mailed; an appellant may also provide a telephone number where the appellant can be reached during the day or an electronic mail address; an appeal or request for reconsideration filed electronically must state a single address to which any notice or decision concerning the appeal or request for reconsideration is to be mailed;
 - (12) identify any other affected agreement, contract, lease, permit, or application by case reference number, if any; and
 - (13) include a request for an oral hearing, if desired; in the appeal or request for reconsideration, the appellant may include a request for any special procedures to be used at the hearing; the appeal or request for reconsideration must describe the factual issues to be considered at the hearing.
- (b) At the time an appeal is filed, and up until the deadline set out in 11 AAC 02.040(a) to file the appeal, an appellant may submit additional written material in support of the appeal, including evidence or legal argument.
- (c) If public notice announcing a comment period of at least 30 days was given before the decision, an appellant may not submit additional written material after the deadline for filing the appeal, unless the appeal meets the requirement of (a) of this section and includes a request for an extension of time, and the department determines that the appellant has shown good cause for an extension. In considering whether the appellant has shown good cause, the department will consider factors including one or more of the following:
- (1) comments already received from the appellant and others;
 - (2) whether the additional material is likely to affect the outcome of the appeal;
 - (3) whether the additional material could reasonably have been submitted without an extension;
 - (4) the length of the extension requested;
 - (5) the potential effect of delay if an extension is granted.
- (d) If public notice announcing a comment period of at least 30 days was not given before the decision, an appellant may submit additional written material after the deadline for filing the appeal, if the appeal meets the requirements of (a) of this section and includes a notice of intent to file the additional written material. The department must receive the additional written material within 20 days after the deadline for filing the appeal, unless the appeal also includes a request for an extension of time, and the department determines that the appellant has shown good cause for an extension. In considering whether the appellant has shown good cause, the department will consider factors including one or more of the following:
- (1) comments already received from the appellant and others;
 - (2) whether the additional material is likely to affect the outcome of the appeal;
 - (3) whether the additional material could reasonably have been submitted without an extension;
 - (4) the length of the extension requested;
 - (5) the potential effect of delay if an extension is granted.
- (e) At the time a request for reconsideration is filed, and up until the deadline to file a request for reconsideration, an appellant may submit additional written material in support of the request for

reconsideration, including evidence or legal argument. No additional written material may be submitted after the deadline for filing the request for reconsideration.

(f) If the decision is one described in 11 AAC 02.060(c), an appellant who believes a stay of the decision is justified may ask for a stay as part of the appeal or request for reconsideration. The appellant must include an argument as to why the public interest requires a stay. (Eff. 11/7/90, Register 116; am 9/19/2001, Register 159)

Authority:

AS 03.05.010	AS 38.05.020	AS 38.50.160	AS 44.37.011
AS 29.65.050	AS 38.05.035	AS 41.15.020	AS 46.15.020
AS 29.65.120	AS 38.08.110	AS 41.17.055	AS 46.17.030
AS 38.04.900	AS 38.09.110	AS 41.21.020	

Editor's note: The address for an appeal or request for reconsideration by personal service and by mail is: Department of Natural Resources, Commissioner's Office, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3561. The number for an appeal or request for reconsideration by fax is: 1-907-269-8918. The electronic mailing address for an appeal or request for reconsideration by electronic mail is: dnr.appeals@alaska.gov .

11 AAC 02.040. TIMELY FILING; ISSUANCE OF DECISION. (a) To be timely filed, an appeal or request for reconsideration must be received by the commissioner's office within 20 calendar days after issuance of the decision, as determined under (c) or (d) of this section, unless another period is set by statute, regulation, or existing contract. If the 20th day falls on a day when the department is officially closed, the appeal or request for reconsideration must be filed by the next working day.

(b) An appeal or request for reconsideration will not be accepted if it is not timely filed.

(c) If the appellant is a person to whom the department delivers a decision by personal service or by certified mail, return receipt requested, issuance occurs when the addressee or the addressee's agent signs for the decision. If the addressee or the addressee's agent neglects or refuses to sign for the certified mail, or if the address that the addressee provided to the department is not correct, issuance by certified mail occurs when the decision is deposited in a United States general or branch post office, enclosed in a postage-paid wrapper or envelope, addressed to the person's current address of record with the department, or to the address specified by the appellant under 11 AAC 02.030(a)(11).

(d) If the appellant is a person to whom the department did not deliver a decision by personal service or certified mail, issuance occurs

(1) when the department gives public notice of the decision; or

(2) if no public notice is given, when the decision is signed; however, the department may state in the decision a later date of issuance and the corresponding due date for any appeal or request for reconsideration.

(e) The date of issuance constitutes delivery or mailing for purposes of a reconsideration request under AS 44.37.011(d) or AS 44.62.540(a). (Eff. 11/7/90, Register 116; am 9/19/2001, Register 159)

Authority:

AS 03.05.010	AS 38.05.020	AS 38.50.160	AS 44.37.011
AS 29.65.050	AS 38.05.035	AS 41.15.020	AS 46.15.020
AS 29.65.120	AS 38.08.110	AS 41.17.055	AS 46.17.030
AS 38.04.900	AS 38.09.110	AS 41.21.020	

11 AAC 02.050. HEARINGS. (a) The department will, in its discretion, hold a hearing when questions of fact must be resolved.

(b) The hearing procedure will be determined by the department on a case-by-case basis. As provided in 11 AAC 02.030(a)(13), any request for special procedures must be included with the request for a hearing.

(c) In a hearing held under this section

(1) formal rules of evidence need not apply; and

(2) the hearing will be recorded, and may be transcribed at the request and expense of the party requesting the transcript. (Eff. 11/7/90, Register 116)

Authority:

AS 03.05.010	AS 38.05.020	AS 41.15.020	AS 46.17.030
AS 29.65.050	AS 38.08.110	AS 41.17.055	
AS 29.65.120	AS 38.09.110	AS 41.21.020	
AS 38.04.900	AS 38.50.160	AS 46.15.020	

11 AAC 02.060. STAYS; EXCEPTIONS. (a) Except as provided in (c) and (d) of this section, timely appealing or requesting reconsideration of a decision in accordance with this chapter stays the decision during the commissioner's consideration of the appeal or request for reconsideration. If the commissioner determines that the public interest requires removal of the stay, the commissioner will remove the stay and allow all or part of the decision to take effect on the date set in the decision or a date set by the commissioner.

(b) Repealed 9/19/2001.

(c) Unless otherwise provided, in a statute or a provision of this title, a decision takes effect immediately if it is a decision to

(1) issue a permit, that is revocable at will;

(2) approve surface operations for a disposal that has already occurred or a property right that has already vested; or

(3) administer an issued oil and gas lease or license, or an oil and gas unit agreement.

(d) Timely appealing or requesting reconsideration of a decision described in (c) of this section does not automatically stay the decision. However, the commissioner will impose a stay, on the commissioner's own motion or at the request of an appellant, if the commissioner determines that the public interest requires it.

(e) A decision takes effect immediately if no party is eligible to appeal or request reconsideration and the commissioner waives the commissioner's right to review or reconsider the decision. (Eff. 11/7/90, Register 116; am 9/19/2001, Register 159)

Authority:

AS 03.05.010	AS 29.65.050	AS 29.65.120	AS 38.04.900
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AS 38.05.020
AS 38.05.035
AS 38.08.110

AS 38.09.110
AS 38.50.160
AS 41.15.020

AS 41.17.055
AS 41.21.020
AS 46.15.020

AS 46.17.030

11 AAC 02.070. WAIVER OF PROCEDURAL VIOLATIONS. The commissioner may, to the extent allowed by applicable law, waive a requirement of this chapter if the public interest or the interests of justice so require. (Eff. 11/7/90, Register 116; am 9/19/2001, Register 159)

Authority:

AS 03.05.010
AS 29.65.120
AS 38.05.035
AS 38.50.160
AS 41.21.020
AS 03.10.020
AS 29.65.050
AS 38.04.900
AS 38.05.020
AS 38.08.110
AS 38.09.110
AS 41.15.020
AS 41.17.055
AS 46.15.020
AS 46.17.030

11 AAC 02.900. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter,

- (1) "appeal" means a request to the commissioner to review a decision that the commissioner did not sign or cosign;
- (2) "appellant" means a person who files an appeal or a request for reconsideration.
- (3) "commissioner" means the commissioner of natural resources;
- (4) "decision" means a written discretionary or factual determination by the department specifying the details of the action to be allowed or taken;
- (5) "department" means, depending of the particular context in which the term is used, the Department of Natural Resources, the commissioner, the director of a division within the Department of Natural Resources, or an authorized employee of the Department of Natural Resources;
- (6) "request for reconsideration" means a petition or request to the commissioner to review an original decision that the commissioner signed or cosigned. (Eff. 11/7/90, Register 116; am 9/19/2001, Register 159)

Authority:

- AS 03.05.010
- AS 29.65.050
- AS 29.65.120
- AS 38.04.900
- AS 38.05.020
- AS 38.05.035
- AS 38.08.110
- AS 38.09.110
- AS 38.50.160
- AS 41.15.020
- AS 41.17.055
- AS 41.21.020
- AS 44.37.011
- AS 44.62.540
- AS 46.15.020
- AS 46.17

Appendix D SSE-1346-K North Hollis Timber Sale Comments & Responses

Appendix D

SSE-1346-K, North Hollis Timber Sale Comments & Responses

Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry
February, 2017

The following comments were received during the public comment period on the North Hollis Timber Sale.

Organization	Author	Location
Office of History and Archaeology	Judith E. Bittner	Anchorage, Alaska
Alaska Forest Association	Owen Graham	
	Deena Bottom	Hollis, Alaska
	Ezra Clark	Hollis, Alaska
	George Woodbury	Wrangell, Alaska
	John Ryan	Hollis, Alaska
	Kristine Kain	Hollis, Alaska
Papac Alaska Logging Inc.	Kate Lankford	Craig, Alaska
	Keith Michaels	Hollis, Alaska
	Matt Beer	Hollis, Alaska
	Paul Randall	Hollis, Alaska
	Bob Andrews	Hollis, Alaska
	Mike Rieves	
Sharp Lumber	Ron Sharp	Hollis, Alaska
Sealaska Timber Corporation	Corey Wyatt	Ketchikan, Alaska
	Thomas L. Harden	Hollis, Alaska
	Tracy Moore	Hollis, Alaska
	William Tyrell	Hollis, Alaska

Copies of the submitted comments are available upon request.

Commenter	Comment	Response
	General	
Judith E. Bittner OHA	Review “indicated that there are no reported cultural resource sites within the proposed timber sale area”	Comment noted, no change required.
Deena Bottom	Road should remain open for residents to access timber to cut.	Comment noted. The DOF has made the land manager (Division of Mines, Lands and Waters) aware of the local resident interest in access to the area for salvaging fire wood and hunting after the harvest operations. The DOF’s ability to maintain roads is limited after timber sale operations because of the fiscal resources of the state are limited. The Area Forester will facilitate a dialog between the community and private and public land owners adjacent to the road on the feasible action to take with the road during the Forest Land Use Plan which deals with the site specific aspects of the timber sale.
Ezra Clark	“as well as the logging road be left open and available for local firewood cutting.”	
John Ryan	And the most important concern for the best interest of State and for Hollis is to leave the road system open for community members to gather firewood. Many residents of Hollis are on limited incomes and heat their homes with wood. Currently there is no place with-in reasonable driving distance to gather firewood. This forces residents to spend limit funds on driving far distances for firewood or for purchasing firewood. The Hollis Community Council has expressed their desire to work on an agreement with the State to keep the road open for a period of time. This would allow residents to gather firewood locally and for the state to keep firewood gathering to one location.	
Kristine Kain	“Please leave this road open for all Hollis residents to be able to access for firewood”	
Keith Michaels	Please leave Aurora drive open for hunting and fire wood gathering for an indefinite period of time.	
Bob Andrews	I am writing to request that the road for the North Hollis Timber Sale be left open for as long as possible for gathering firewood - a minimum of two years, or possibly longer. It would be much appreciated to see the state working in conjunction with the community. Without access, there is a lot of usable firewood going to waste.	
Ron Sharp Sharp Lumber	I would like to see this road left open.	
Tracy Moore	As far as the logging goes, I support the logging and hope the road stay open longer than the Indian Crk. sale for local firewood users.	
Thomas L. Harden	As a community member I am concerned about shrinking road access to forest lands in our area for recreation and subsistence purposes. Please consider working with the Hollis community council when the timber harvest is complete to find a way to leave any roads that are built open to access by the public for hunting	

Commenter	Comment	Response
	fishing and firewood gathering.	
Deena Bottom	Restrictions on brake usage in Aurora Drive.	The DOF will make the use of “Jake brakes” in the residential area an operating restriction in the timber sale contract. To the extent that it is feasible with regard for the physical safety of the operator and others the use of “Jake brakes” will be minimized.
Kristine Kain	“and no jake breaks on Aurora Rd please.”	
Paul Randall	“and that logging trucks not use engine brakes through the residential area.”	
Mike Rieves	Regarding logging trucks braking type; whatever the correct reference for the one which is highly inappropriate due to very high noise in subdivision and highway travel through the community of Hollis should not be allowed. There will be considerable traffic noise as a minimum.	
Ezra Clark	“I’m writing to request a set speed limit be imposed for logging traffic,” “have three small children who play daily in the small wooded easement between our home and the road. My fear is that logging traffic could potentially be life threatening to family. I’ve been around logging my whole life and in no way am I opposed to it, but i do ask that a reasonable speed be required for all trucks entering or exiting Aurora Dr.10 mph should be a very reasonable speed to maintain on such a small/community area.”	The standard state timber sale contract provides framework for these issues to be framed to protect the many resources of the State. The public’s safety is paramount in the relationship of the purchaser to the State. The Purchaser’s operating plan will account for the safety of the residential area. The timber sale contract will restrict times of operation, speed of vehicle operation, provide language on acceptable conduct, dust abatement and road maintenance requirements.
Paul Randall	“I would also ask the that the traffic be constrained to a 15 MPH speed limit”	
Keith Michaels	Please make sure our kids are safe while walking to and from the bus stop in the morning and afternoon by restricting activity during specific times to allow the kids to safely get to and from the bus stop.	
Paul Randall	Also, during the school year the bus to Craig loads at the intersection of Aurora Drive and the Klawock-Hollis Highway. It leaves in the morning at about 6:50 hrs. and unloads in the afternoon at about 15:45 hrs. A few children walk up and down Aurora Drive to and from the bus around those times and there should be consideration for their safety.	
Paul Randall	I would ask that the bid on this sale contain a requirement to periodically grade Aurora Drive during the period of logging activity, and at the conclusion of the harvest, grade and roll the road.	
Tracy Moore	I would suggest that the logging contractor be responsible for final grading of the road once his activities are completed that meets with the approval of residents using the road. The fine grain topping is a little to clean and potholes a little to quickly. After the truck haul is complete I would hope that it will stay smoother for a longer period.	

Commenter	Comment	Response
William Tyrell	<p>My primary concern is that adequate dust control measures are used throughout the Aurora Drive residential area. I understand that there is typically a clause in sale contracts that requires dust control. I have also observed that in Alaska often dust control requirements are not enforced or only sporadically enforced. No one, including me, wants to have to call and complain to get the dust down, but also, no one wants to be breathing dust all summer. It is important that dust control measures are taken before the dust gets bad. Please actually make sure that we are not breathing dust during logging operations. It is very doubtful that a contract clause will be effective unless the state chooses to enforce.</p>	
John Ryan	<p>You have strived to work with the community of Hollis and I appreciate your efforts. The sale has benefitted Hollis tremendously and will certainly benefit the State of Alaska financially.</p>	<p>Comment noted, no change required.</p>
Tracy Moore	<p>I want to thank you for the upgrade to the road system; It turned out great. The contractor should be commended for maintaining good contact with the residents and traffic throughout the project, no traffic delays were experienced from my standpoint.</p>	
George Woodbury	<p>This is to comment on the North Hollis Timber Sale. This is an important addition to the timber supply for SE Alaska. It is important despite the small 4.5 MMBF volume because of the starved out condition of the industry brought about by the failure of the Federal Timber program. The more volume the State can offer the better. Given the small volume of this sale it is disappointing that it takes this long process this sale has gone through to get to this preliminary Best Interest Finding (BIF) stage. The first indication of this sale as I remember was to be offered in July of 2016 with a volume of 7MMBF. The process is not only taking too long it is resulting in volume reductions. I fear that the State is making the same mistake that the US Forest Service has made. In their desire to satisfy every interest and avoid appeals and lawsuits they have made changes in prescriptions and volumes that have put them in a position that they can no longer offer a non-deficit timber sale.</p> <p>As you state in the BIF this sale represents 0.01% of POW Island, this should be considered an insignificant action by the Division of Forestry and the sale should be offered immediately. If the State has a back log of sale volume because of smaller offerings than were planned the backlog should be made into new timber sales as soon as possible and offered.</p> <p>Given the reductions in volume and the extended process that this sale has gone through a method of expediting offering of the sale should happen. Further process will result in more cost to the State and reduction in net return.</p> <p>The risk of more volume reduction is another concern.</p>	<p>During the development of the preliminary BIF, area was reduced from the initial figure due to the observation that the second growth in the sale area does not meet current market conditions. The old growth acreage in the sale area was not significantly reduced from the original figures used in the scoping of the timber sale. Several acres were dropped in the northeast corner of the sale area because of a combination of uneconomical yarding and poor timber.</p> <p>Two factors affected the time this sale has taken to get to this point:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff turnover and staff reduction in the area office. 2. The time and process that was used to upgrade the road access through the residential subdivision to safely access the sale area.

Commenter	Comment	Response
Kate Lankford Papac Alaska Logging Inc.	“The proposed North Hollis Timber Sale offered by the State of Alaska, is important to the sustainability of the local logging and thus the communities of the Prince of Wales Island.” Papac Logging, Timber Wolf Cutting and Viking Lumber employ numerous people on POW and subcontractors as well as is a key player in the economy of the area. We rely on large timber sales from state and federal land to maintain the viability of these companies. We have concern that timber may not be available from federal land; “this timber sale will be vital to all involved.”	Comment noted, no change required.
John Ryan	If the state could make sure that the timber is harvested and hauled by Alaskan’s, it would greatly benefit our small economy. An important part of the sale should be making sure the timber is sold to Alaskan sawmills only.	Comment noted, no change required.
Owen Graham AFA	We reviewed the preliminary best interest finding and decision for the sale and concur that it is a good project and will have no negative impacts on the local community or the environment. In addition, the planned roads will be an additional asset for the state and the community.	Comment noted, no change required.
Matt Beer	I would like to see the sale divided into smaller sales. There would be a better chance of one of the Goose Creek mills getting something. These are the mills I log for. This keeps me and my employee working. If Viking gets the whole sale there will be nothing for my company on this sale. Viking has their own logger and truckers. Also nothing for the other mills and their employees. These sales are becoming more important to the local smaller businesses who can't compete on the bigger sales. As the number of Forest Service sales dwindles, competition for them gets tougher. But until there are no sales dividing up what's left gives everyone a chance.	The size of the sale is designed to recover the cost of access and provide a margin of income to the state. The DOF uses this income to manage timber resources across the state. A large part of the income is used in Southeast. Significant road upgrades and additional construction is required to access this particular timber area. The road building is a significant cost that smaller sale purchaser’s have been reluctant to shoulder. The multiple mobilization efforts also cut into the margin on the sale. The DOF offers a variety of sale sizes on POW to help accommodate the market need. The DOF has and will continue to offer small sales in the POW area.
Corey Wyatt Sealaska Timber Corporation	You appear to meet your stated objects with the sale. “We encourage you to proceed with this North Hollis Timber Sale as soon as possible and complete similar proposed operations.”	Comment noted, no change required.
Ron Sharp Sharp Lumber	I also want to make sure that I'm on the list for info to purchase this sale.	Comment noted, no change required. You have been added to the Southeast Area sale list.