

STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

NORTHERN REGION DELTA AREA

FOREST LAND USE PLAN

PROPOSED TIMBER SALE

**BLOWDOWN NO. 1**  
**NC-1375-D ADL-417918**

July 6, 2007

FINAL REPORT AND FINAL FINDING

Prepared by  
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Resource Management Forester

INTRODUCTION: The purpose of this Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) is to provide sufficient information for reviewers to ensure that the best interest of the State will be served by this proposed timber sale. Pursuant to AS 38.05.35(e) and AS 38.05., and the applicable regulations, the Delta Area Office of the Division of Forestry has made a Final Finding and Decision to offer for sale approximately eight hundred thousand board feet of timber. To expedite the removal of wind damaged timber, sales will be negotiated, with a maximum of five hundred thousand board feet to any purchaser in a 12 month period. The timber to be offered is located 31 air miles Southeast of Delta Junction and is 3 to 6 miles north of the Alcan Highway. There are 7 units to be harvested ranging in size from 6 to 65 acres and total approximately 148 acres. The sale units are located in the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Section 9, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Section 10, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Section 15, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Section 22, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Section 28, N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Section 33, Township 12 South, Range 15 East, Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska. The Final Finding and Decision, and appeal information is at the end of this report.

The State of Alaska complies with Title II of the American Disabilities Act of 1990. The State is prepared to accommodate individuals with disabilities by providing auxiliary aids when requested. Individuals with audio impairments who wish to respond to this proposed action by telephone may call the Northern Region Information Counter in Fairbanks between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, at TTY (907) 451-2770.

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED SALE: This sale would harvest approximately 148 acres of white spruce sawtimber from Tanana Valley State Forest lands on the west side of the Tanana River located 3-3.5 miles east of the Cummings Road and 3-6 miles north of the Alcan Highway. A wind storm in October 2006 uprooted and broke white spruce timber in the general vicinity. Wind damage in the proposed units is variable. The purpose of this sale is to manage the forest in the Delta Area and provide spruce sawtimber for the local forest industry. Units 1, 2, 6 and 7 are all-season accessible with existing access to each of the units. Approximately 0.6 miles of new access would be constructed to units 3, 4 and 5.
2. LOCATION OF PROPOSED SALE: The proposed sale is 31 air miles Southeast of Delta Junction and is on the West side of the Tanana River. The sale is within Unit 10C of the Tanana Valley State Forest (TVSF).
3. STATUTORY AUTHORITY: This sale is proposed to be sold by authority of AS 38.05.035(e) and AS 38.05.115. It is consistent with Department of Natural Resources regulations 11AAC 71.060 or 11AAC 71.035-.050 governing competitive and negotiated timber sales. This sale was not listed in the Five-Year Harvest Schedule for the Delta Area.
4. TITLE AND CLASSIFICATION: The acquisition authority for the proposed sale area is GS 809. The proposed sale is within Unit 10C of the TVSF. There are no title restrictions on the parcel. The primary land classification is Forestry in Unit 10C of the TVSF, per Classification Order NC-82-065. Management intent is more specifically addressed in the TVSF Management Plan (TVSFMP).
5. PLAN RESTRICTIONS ON FOREST MANAGEMENT: Proposed boundaries near the Tanana River will be required to comply with buffer restrictions specified in the State's Forest Practices Act 41.17.118(3)(B) for a Type III-B stream. Crossings of the Tanana River will require a Fish Habitat (Title 41) Permit from the Office of Habitat Management and Permitting.

6. VOLUME OF TIMBER: The sale has an estimated volume of 800,000 board feet or 240,000 cubic feet of white spruce sawtimber.
7. DESCRIPTION OF HARVEST UNIT DESIGN: The sale consists of seven units totaling approximately 148 acres. The boundaries would be located along naturally and man made vegetative type changes. Portions of unit 6 will be located adjacent to private property. Each unit adjacent to the Tanana River will have a 50 foot wide “no-cut” buffer and a 50 wide “variable retention zone”. The 50 foot wide “variable retention zone” will allow 50% of the white spruce  $\geq 9$  inches DBH to be harvested. Mature spruce trees will be left around the sale periphery to serve as future seed tree sources. The sale is designed to harvest all the spruce larger than 9 inches DBH. All other trees are to be protected.
8. WITHIN A BOROUGH? No.
9. LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The sale units are located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 9, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 10, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 15, NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 22, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 28, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 33, Township 12 South, Range 15 East, Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska.
10. USGS QUAD PROPOSED SALE IS LOCATED ON: Mt. Hayes D-2.
11. LIST NON-STATE LAND WITHIN 600’ OF PROPOSED SALE: Unit 6 is the only proposed sale unit within 600 feet of non-state land. The sale boundary is anticipated to be marked immediately adjacent to agriculture tract 12A. The land owner will be notified and provided a copy of this report and proposed sale map.
12. PROPOSED SALE ACCESS ROUTES: The designated access routes to each proposed sale unit is shown on the attached map. Units 1, 2, 6 and 7 are all-season accessible with existing access to each of the units. Unit 3 will require about 0.3 miles of new road. Unit 3 may be winter-only accessible due to the proposed route crossing potential permafrost under the forest mat. Units 4 and 5 will be winter-only accessible, crossing a side channel of the Tanana River to an island. Access to the island with units 4 and 5 was developed in previous years but the approach to the island may need to be redeveloped. Approximately 0.3 miles of access road will need to be constructed on the island.

The Purchaser will need to apply for a Title 41 permit for the proposed winter crossing of the Tanana River to units 4 and 5. OHMP stated that they “conceptually concur with, and anticipates issuing a Fish Habitat (Title 41) Permit for, the proposed use of an existing ice crossing location of the Tanana River”.

The existing road going to unit 7 goes through the Newby Mill saw mill site. A dilapidated cabin and out house are still visible from this 1940’s to 1960’s era sawmill. A 100 foot no-cut buffer will be maintained around these structures near the Newby Mill saw mill site.

13. ROAD CONSTRUCTION DESCRIPTION: Units 1, 2, 6 and 7 have existing access roads to the sale boundaries, but need spur roads in the units for harvest operations. Unit 3 requires approximately a 0.3 mile spur road constructed to the sale boundary. The proposed road to unit 3 will be constructed to a spur road, all-season road standard as described in Appendix F of the TVSFMP. The road will be constructed by removing the trees, vegetative mat, and constructing the road using cuts and fills with earth-moving equipment. The road will initially be constructed to a 10-12 foot width. The road to unit 3 is located on level or gently

sloping land of 0 to 6%.

There is an existing approach to the west side of the Tanana River side channel on the existing access route to units 4 and 5. The condition of the previous approaches on the island is unknown and will need to be examined after the Tanana River freezes sufficiently to determine if they are useable or if improvements need to be made. The contractor will need to obtain a Fish Habitat (Title 41) Permit from OHMP before developing access to this portion of the sale. Units 4 and 5 are adjacent to previously harvest areas and existing roads will be utilized where possible. Where roads need to be constructed on the island they will be constructed to a spur road standard as described in Appendix F of the TVSFMP. Debris from the road construction will be placed on the north or west side to minimize snow drifting onto the road.

The proposed access routes have little potential to erode due to the relatively level land. Water bars will be placed in the road to prevent erosion. The access roads are not expected to have erosion that could not be mitigated and will be left open after the sale to facilitate additional forest management of the area. DOF will be responsible for erosion control after the sale is terminated.

14. TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS: Unit 3 is on hilly topography, all other units are on relatively flat or broken topography. The elevation of the unit 3 sale boundary extends from 1,200 feet to 1,500 feet. Slopes within unit 3 are expected to vary from 5 to 50% with the average being about 25-30%.

Soils in unit 3 are anticipated to be sandy loess over fractured rock. The loess is estimated to be 3 to 10 feet in thickness. Soils in the remaining units are expected to be sandy loams over gravel.

15. WATER RESOURCES AND FISHERIES: The only water body near the sale area or crossed by a proposed access route is the Tanana River. The Tanana River would be crossed with an ice bridge to access units 4 and 5. The Tanana is a navigable, glacial stream, and classified as an anadromous and high value resident fish water body (Type III-B). No salmon spawning or rearing areas have been identified near the proposed ice bridge crossing. Salmon and other resident fish species migrate through the Tanana River. The river supports a variety of resident fish species including arctic grayling, northern pike, whitefish species and burbot.

The access route to be used to cross the Tanana River has been used successfully during previous winters to access previous timber sales adjacent to units 4 and 5. There are no adverse affects anticipated upon the fishery from the proposed sale at this time.

16. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT: The proposed sale is not anticipated to alter the watershed.

17. WATER QUALITY: There are no foreseeable adverse affects on water quality.

18. RECREATION: Recreational use of this area is minimal. Trapping and hunting are the only current recreation activities in the area. Based on responses observed in nearby areas, the timber sale can be expected to increase density of young hardwood stems used as moose browse and increase woody and herbaceous cover beneficial to early-successional wildlife.

The increased sunlight penetration onto the forest floor and soil disturbance should be beneficial to production of rose hip, high bush cranberry, and other fruit eaten by ruffed, spruce, and sharp-tailed grouse.

Trappers frequent timber harvest areas because of the improved access. Larry Dorshorst and Dean Cummings, Jr., trappers with 30 years of local experience, report that about three years after an area is harvested, there is an increase in the vole population that provides more food for furbearers such as marten, fox, and mink to feed on.

19. CULTURAL RESOURCES: There are no known cultural, historic, or prehistoric sites in the sale units. DOF will follow the requirements of the Alaska Historic Preservation Act. If any historic or archaeological sites are encountered, DOF will immediately inform the State Historic Preservation Officer and take action to protect the findings. No prominent rock outcrops are present along the access route or in the proposed sale.

The existing road going to unit 7 goes through the Newby Mill saw mill site. A dilapidated cabin and out house are still visible from this 1940's to 1960's era sawmill. A 100 foot no-cut buffer will be maintained around these structures near the Newby Mill saw mill site.

20. SUBSURFACE RESOURCES: There are no known subsurface resources in the sale area.

21. WILDLIFE: Most common species of wildlife that are normally found in interior Alaska forests inhabit the area. There are no known critical or important wildlife areas in or near the proposed sale or access routes. There is no harvest planned for any of the deciduous trees on the sale. All the mature balsam poplar trees will be protected for cavity nesting birds. Timber sale operators will be encouraged but not required to leave dead standing white spruce for cavity nesting birds.

The timber sale harvest will afford more sunlight to the forest floor and will increase the production of browse species for moose. The increase in sunlight will also enhance the production of a variety of berries and seeds eaten by grouse and other animals.

22. USES OF FISH AND WILDLIFE: Trappers, as well as moose and bison hunters have used the proposed sale area. There is no known subsistence, recreational or commercial fishing in or near the sale area.

23. PERSONAL USE TIMBER: Personal use of timber will be allowed in the units after the close of the sale.

24. TOURISM: There is no known tourism in the proposed sale area.

25. ADJACENT LAND USES: There are no other known adjacent land uses in or near the proposed sale.

26. AGRICULTURE: Agriculture tract 12A is adjacent to proposed unit 6 but no farming is occurring. Very limited farming is occurring on the surrounding agriculture tracts.

27. TIMBER STAND COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE: The forest stands within the sale boundaries are predominantly mature white spruce sawtimber. There is approximately 15-20% mixed species of aspen, birch and poplar in the sale units but the predominate species is

white spruce. Portions of the sale units have white spruce saplings and pole-sized trees beneath the canopy of white spruce. The forested stands surrounding the sale areas are comprised of a variety of stand mixtures including mature white spruce, black spruce, birch, and aspen.

28. STAND SILVICULTURE: The Delta Area goal for regenerating harvest areas that were predominantly mature white spruce is to establish a mixed species forest of hardwoods and white spruce, with white spruce being the predominate species. Old stands are to be rejuvenated to a fully stocked mixed stand of young healthy trees while retaining some residual trees resulting from partial harvest. Young forests provide future crop trees and food for wildlife. Residual trees provide seed sources, nesting sites, and other benefits which are explained in the paragraph below.

A combination of environmental and economic factors has influenced the Delta Area to favor moderate to heavy partial harvests in combination with natural seeding. Partial harvests result in a wide range of the number of sapling to pole-sized trees per acre. The average harvest area has about 20 saplings and pole-sized mixed species trees left per acre. Some acres have no trees left and other sites have up to 100 saplings and pole-sized trees per acre left after harvest. The strong winds in the Delta Area combined with summer drought which typically occurs during the summer solstice period, cause a very high mortality of white spruce seedlings that germinated in May or early June. Partial harvesting allows some shading during the 20+ hour sunlight period and slows wind velocities to moderate the effect of desiccation of germinates and increases their survival rate.

This sale area will be partially harvested. The sale will allow the contractor to harvest spruce over 9 inches DBH. The mature sized balsam poplars will be protected from damage during the harvest to serve as cavity nesting trees and woody debris in the future. Mature white spruce will be left around the perimeters of the harvest units to provide seed sources for regeneration. Portions of the sale may be scarified to aid in warming the soil and improving regeneration of white spruce. Scarification can also improve the regeneration of woody shrubs and deciduous trees for wildlife browse and cover. The forester will make a final determination for the need to scarify any particular area within the sale after the harvest is completed. Any areas that are expected to be deficient in meeting the Forest Practices Act standard of 450 trees established by the seventh year will be planted with white spruce seedlings 11AAC 95.375(d)(2).

Sale areas with partial harvests are anticipated to have intermediate harvests of the residual white spruce pole timber. Intermediate harvests have occurred between 20 to 50 years after the initial harvest. Intermediate harvests provide opportunities to regenerate vegetation that is important to wildlife and will warm the soil to improve forest health.

Study plots were installed in unit 2 by DOF and the U.S. Forest Service in May 2007 to examine aspects of potential beetle infestations. State and Private Forester, Bob Ott, who established the study plots stated, "there is a good likelihood that Ips beetle infestation can occur in the undamaged white spruce trees in and near the blowdown area". The areas with the most concentration of wind damaged timber will be harvested first in an attempt to salvage the uprooted and broken timber and try to mitigate potential beetle infestations and mortality of standing spruce.

29. THE SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR THE PROPOSED SALE AREA ARE:

1. Harvest the commercial sawtimber before any significant loss occurs. Because windthrow has occurred in the sale units, it is likely to reoccur. There is some chance that spruce bark beetles will develop in the windthrown spruce and cause mortality in surrounding trees. The trees that have blown down will rot and lose their value if not salvaged.
2. Return the site to a young productive mixed stand forest to include balsam poplar, birch, aspen, and white spruce.
3. Provide timber products for the industry and the State and local economy.
4. Reduce forest fire potential in the wind damaged timber.

30. ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS:

There are four possible alternatives to consider for this sale area. A discussion of each of the four alternatives follows:

A. To continue the sale as proposed:

This alternate meets the objectives of DNR's constitutional mandate and is consistent with the land classification. Additional employment opportunities will occur associated with harvest operations, saw milling and value-added processing. The sale boundaries will be designed to salvage timber that has been broken or uprooted by wind that will rot unless salvaged, and may attract bark beetles potentially infesting surrounding trees causing dead tops or mortality. The standing commercial sized timber interspersed or surrounding the blown down trees are proposed for harvest because they are now at an increased risk for future wind damage due to the openings that are now present inside the stand.

B. To modify the sale by making it smaller or larger:

The estimated volume and acreage of timber to be harvested as stated in this Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) is designed to accommodate the existing market in the vicinity of Delta Junction. The sale is of an adequate size to cover the costs to construct access and cover the mobilization costs for operation. The sale boundaries are located in a manner to minimize the potential for windthrow. Moving the boundaries inward would increase the risk of windthrow. Decreasing the size of the sale would make the sale less feasible to the State and the Purchaser.

C. Defer the sale to a later date:

Deferring harvest to a later date would fail to meet many of the objectives of the sale. In addition to the economic loss to the State and the local timber industry, there would be an extended risk to the timber in the sale from wildfire, insect infestations, windthrow and other natural processes associated with over-mature timber. The

value of the timber will decline within the next 15 years for both the industry and the State.

D. Not offer this sale:

This alternative would result in not meeting any of the objectives outlined for this management action. Utilization of the forest resource would not be achieved. There would be no contribution to the State and local economies.

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY**

**BEST INTEREST FINAL FINDING and DECISION**

NC-1375-D, "Blowdown No. 1"

I. Formal Review of Objections, Comments or Alternatives (summarized):

The 30-day Agency and Public review of the Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) started on **December 21, 2006** and ended on **January 19, 2007**. Comments were received from Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Habitat Management and Permitting (ADNR-OHMP), and ADNR Office of History and Archaeology (OHA).

Advertisement was published in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner on **December 21, 2006**, and in the Delta Wind on **January 4, 2007**. The notice was posted on the Department of Natural Resources, Public Information web site for public notices on **December 21, 2006**. In addition, notices were also sent to 35 agencies and members of the public, including the Salcha-Big Delta Soil and Water Conservation Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, City of Delta Junction, Doyon, OHMP and other agencies and individuals. No public comment was received.

OHM sent a comment December 22, 2006, stating, "As noted in the draft FLUP, units would be laid out in compliance with FRPA riparian standards for Type III-B water bodies such as the Tanana River and its side channels. Access to units 4 and 5 would use an existing crossing location to the extent feasible. OHMP has conceptually agreed to permit such use and anticipates issuing a Fish Habitat (Title 41) Permit to the operator with typical design measures and stipulations to protect fish habitat.

OHMP has no additional comments or concerns regarding these proposed road construction and timber harvest activities at this time, and will not object to a decision to offer this timber sale as proposed."

OHA sent a comment January 11, 2007, expressing concern for the historic saw mill site located along the road to unit 7. This old sawmill site is locally known as Newby Mill, and is listed as XMH-1236 by OHA in a 2005 Archaeological Report. Known structures at the site consist of a dilapidated cabin and outhouse. OHA stated, "we are recommending a buffer zone of 100' be established surrounding all (including collapsed) historic structures associated with XMH-1236. Therefore, if the road must be extended north to access unit 7, it should be designed to include a 100' buffer zone to avoid the historic sawmill site. If this is not possible, our office should be contacted immediately so that an adequate alternative can be reached well in advance of project commencement.

DOF sent a memo to OHA dated February 6, 2007, stating, "The cabin is within 50 feet of the main north-south road and 30 feet of the east-west spur road. The outhouse is within 15 feet of the spur road. An attached Quickbird image shows the locations of the structures and the existing roads. The roads shown on the image were developed in the 1940 and 50's and have been actively used to date.

Our agency will provide a 100 foot no-cut buffer around these two structures. To move the road location outside of the 100 foot buffer would cause unnecessary expense and disruption to the surrounding forest. We have had at least 4 commercial timber sales in the last 20 years that have used these roads with no harm to these old structures.”

OHA responded with a memo on February 9, 2007 stating, “As the existing roads currently come within 15’-50’ of the site, we concur that the north/south road extension can be constructed within 100’ buffer zone without creating additional adverse effects to XMH-1236”.

During preparation of the final finding it was discovered that agriculture tract owner Joe Miller was not sent a notice of the public review period. Mr. Miller owns agriculture tract 12A which is adjacent to proposed unit 6. Mr. Miller was contacted and sent the FLUP and maps by email on February 9, 2007, and given 30 days to provide comment. In the email, Area Forester, Al Edgren, said that we would commit to putting up private property signs adjacent to the timber sale, in addition to boundary tags and flagging.

Mr. Miller provided comments by email on March 15, 2007. Mr. Miller stated, “I’m opposed to all state sales on property adjacent to my own due to past (and continuing) trespass on my property and the illegal cutting of trees on my property”. Mr. Miller also stated, “I should also note that my private road (running east to west, immediately south of the section line easement) was used repeatedly this past year by forestry vehicles (skidders/heavy equipment). It is badly rutted in places and should be repaired at state expense”.

Area Forester, Al Edgren, sent a response to Mr. Miller, dated June 25, 2007. The letter addressed Mr. Millers concerns regarding trespass and access. The letter to Mr. Miller stated, “Thank you for your comments on the proposed timber sale NC-1375-D, “Blowdown No. 1”.

You stated, “I’m opposed to all state sales on property adjacent to my own due to past (and continuing) trespass on my property and the illegal cutting of trees on my property”. Your agriculture tract is 3 miles in length and borders nearly 4 miles of the Tanana Valley State Forest (TVSF), Subunit 10C. The TVSF Management Plan states, “Subunit 10C will be managed for commercial and personal use timber production while protecting fish and wildlife habitat and recreation use near the Tanana and Volkmar Rivers and other waterbodies”.

The particular area adjacent to your agriculture tract has a high traditional use for timber sales, firewood harvest, hunting, trapping and berry picking predating the agriculture development of the early 1980’s. There is 4 miles of public access along the border and through your agriculture tract. The public uses the access along the tract in addition to the surrounding TVSF lands. During an April 2, 2007 inspection along 3.5 miles of public access roads adjacent to the tract, I noticed only one private property sign overgrown with brush on the property.

You stated that an east-west road immediately south of the section line easement, “was used repeatedly this past year by forestry vehicles (skidders/heavy equipment)”. The old east-west road you are referring too was originally the only road going east-west on the property and it was used heavily for logging access, hunting, firewood, land clearing and farming during periods of private and state ownership. We are not aware of any forestry related vehicles using this road last year. The rutting you noticed may have been caused by a variety of entities.

I appreciate your concern for trespass. Because we share your concern, the most recent timber sale adjacent to your agriculture tract had the boundary clearly marked. This sale was successfully completed in 2006. We also provide maps to the public interested in cutting firewood that delineates your property. The accidental harvest of 9 trees on the tract adjacent to a state timber sale occurred in February or March 2000 and restitution was made.

The boundary between the proposed 12 acre sale unit No. 6 and your agriculture tract will be clearly marked to prevent accidental trespass (see attached map). Your tract had a private timber sale harvest 20 plus years ago removing the mature trees along the boundary adjacent to the proposed unit 6.

The State intends to proceed with the proposed timber sale. You will be provided an opportunity to appeal this decision during a formal review of the Best Interest Finding for the sale. A notice will be sent to you with appeal information in the future.

Thank you again for your comments.”

## II. Final Finding and Decision

The purpose of this decision is to determine if the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, shall make available approximately 148 acres of timber comprised of 7 units located in the following parcels: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 9, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 10, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 15, NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 22, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 28, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 33, Township 12 South, Range 15 East, Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska.

The sale as proposed in this finding is in the best interest of the State for the following reasons:

1. The sale would meet the objectives outlined in this Forest Land Use Plan.
2. The sale would make wood available to the local timber industries to produce wood products.
3. The impact of the sale on other uses, such as fish and wildlife habitat existing roads, and the historic Newby Mill, sawmill site, has been carefully considered and is anticipated to be negligible.
4. The sale has undergone agency and public review and concerns have been resolved in the preparation and design of the sale.
5. The design and location of the sale is consistent with the Tanana Valley State Forest and Tanana Basin Area Management Plans.

The findings presented have been reviewed and considered. The case file has been found to be complete. The requirements of all applicable statutes and regulations have been satisfied. Therefore, it is the finding of the Director that it is in the best interest of the state to approve this action under the authority of AS 38.05.035(e) and AS 38.05.110-115.

A person affected by this decision who provided timely written comment may appeal it, in accordance with 11AAC 02. Any appeal must be received by **July 30, 2007**, and may be mailed or delivered to Tom Irwin, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, 550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska 99501; faxed to 1-907-269-8918, or sent by electronic mail to [dnr\\_appeals@dnr.state.ak.us](mailto:dnr_appeals@dnr.state.ak.us). If no appeal is filed by that date, this decision goes into effect as a final order and decision on **August 9, 2007**. An eligible person must first appeal this decision in accordance with 11AAC 02 before appealing this decision to Superior Court. A copy of 11 AAC 02 may be obtained from any regional information office of the Department of Natural Resources. It is the Division of Forestry's intent to offer this timber sale on or after **August 10, 2007**.

S/S Al Edgren  
Al Edgren  
Delta Area Forester

July 6, 2007  
Date