

**MEMORANDUM**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**State of Alaska**  
**DIVISION OF FORESTRY**  
**Southern Southeast Area Office**

**TO:** Reviewers

**DATE:** May 2, 2007

**FILE:** FYSTS 2007

**PHONE:** 225-3070

**FROM:** Paul Slenkamp  
Area Forester

**SUBJECT:** Draft FYSTS

Schedule of Timber Sales (CY 2007-2011)

Enclosed is the public and agency review draft of the Coastal Region's Southern Southeast Area Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales for the period of January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2011. Please review and submit your comments to me no later than June 5, 2007.

Comments should be sent to:

Area Forester  
Southern Southeast Area  
Division of Forestry  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
2417 Tongass Ave., Suite 213  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

cc:



**DIVISION OF FORESTRY  
COASTAL REGION  
SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST AREA**

***FIVE-YEAR SCHEDULE*  
OF  
TIMBER SALES**

CALENDAR YEARS 2007 THROUGH 2011

## **Purpose of the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales**

The Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales (FYSTS) identifies areas where the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Forestry (DOF) is considering pursuing timber sale planning. The five-year schedule is meant to inform the public, timber industry, local governments, and other agencies of potential State timber sales. The five-year schedule provides a basis for comment by the public and other governmental organizations. The schedule is not developed as a decision document for particular timber sales.

This Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales meets the statutory requirements of AS 38.05.113 and acts as a basis for allocating departmental resources in considering, designing and conducting timber sales. For planning purposes and consideration of the operating season, the volume and harvest information included in this document are based on the calendar year. This document does not represent harvest levels proposed by the University of Alaska or the Alaska Mental Health Land Trust (AMHLT). Their respective offices manage the University of Alaska and Mental Health Trust lands.

This FYSTS provides information to the public concerning development and use of the State's forest resources in Southern Southeast Alaska for the period January 1, 2007–December 31, 2011 (portions of State's fiscal years 2007-2012). The Southern Southeast Area encompasses lands from Frederick Sound south to Dixon Entrance and Portland Inlet.

Salvage sales, emergency sales, sales of 160 acres or less, negotiated sales less than 500 thousand board feet (MBF), and personal use permits are exempt from the FYSTS requirements. All other timber sales must be included in one of the two five-year schedules preceding the sale. To give the public a responsible representation of DNR activities, the five-year schedule will also include, whenever practical:

1. All sales less than 160 acres that require a Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP).
2. Salvage sales and areas of contiguous small sale activity on at least one FYSTS preceding the sale unless waiting on the schedule will:
  - a. cause substantial losses of economic value on salvage sales under AS 38.05.117, or,
  - b. for sales less than 160 acres, preclude a local economic enterprise or forest management project that is in the State's best interest.

The DOF bases the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales on lands that are available for timber harvest, as identified in the area plans. Area plans are long range planning documents prepared by the DNR to determine the acceptable different uses of State land in regional areas such as Prince of Wales Island and Central/Southern Southeast. The areas targeted for timber harvest and development are quantified in this FYSTS based on

aerial photo inventory. This is augmented by limited ground reconnaissance and historical knowledge accumulated by personnel working in the area. To meet the State mandate of sustained yield according to AS 38.04.910, the DOF has taken a conservative approach to developing the annual allowable cut. The DOF manages this cut on a decadal basis and will not exceed its allowable annual cut as averaged on a ten-year basis.

All State timber sales must comply with the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and Regulations; the Alaska Coastal Management Program Act and Regulations; and the Alaska Land Act and Regulations. Further, all State timber sales must adhere to area wide land management policies for each management unit (Chapters 2 & 3) of DNR Area Plans.

After adopting the FYSTS, the DOF will do more detailed fieldwork to assess and design proposed sales. Before any commercial timber sale of ten acres or larger is offered, the DOF will prepare a FLUP to determine whether or not the sale is in the State's best interest. The FLUP gives site-specific information for each sale describing the location, estimated timber volume, harvest methods, reforestation plan, access, and other potential uses of the sale area. Other State agencies and the public have the opportunity to review and comment on every FLUP. Any concerns or mitigation needs that arise during the review period will be addressed by the DOF before the sale proceeds any further. The DOF will also develop a FLUP for any known area of contiguous small sales. DOF defines a small sale as a timber sale of less than 10 acres.

### **Timber Sale Land Base**

The State land base in Southern Southeast Alaska includes the major islands of Mitkof, Kupreanof, Kuiu, Etolin, Wrangell, Prince of Wales, and Revillagigedo, and the mainland from Thomas Bay to Hyder. The dominant public landowner in the area is the United States Forest Service (USFS). The dominant private landowners are the native village corporations and the regional native corporation, Sealaska Corporation.

### **Management Intent of the DOF Timber Sale Program**

The DOF management intent for Southern Southeast is to provide raw material for the local timber industry while maintaining the sustained yield of renewable resources. The intent of the timber sale program is to help support the small to mid-sized wood product businesses in Alaska's southeastern communities. At the present time, most negotiated State timber sales in Southern Southeast Alaska require 100% primary manufacture in the State, with emphasis on producing value-added and high value-added products. The percentage of required in-state manufacture may vary depending on site-specific sale requirements such as road construction, sale location, and transportation. The timber industry in the past has been dependent on the USFS land base for a timber supply, but recent federal land management policies and uncertainties have made the fiber supply to the local mills erratic. This has not been conducive to maintaining a stable industry or market for domestic products that are needed for community maintenance and growth. The State's land base cannot solely support this industry as it exists in its present form.

However, it is the DOF's intent to try and fill the timber supply gaps when possible for the small and mid-sized operators. The State sales will be targeted to offer opportunity to as many local processors as possible.

### **Small Timber Sales**

The DOF may negotiate small timber sales (AS 38.05.115) and must comply with regulations for these small sales as established in 11 AAC 71.045. Small mills have expressed an interest in small sales because they fit their mill capacity needs and are within their economic range. The Southern Southeast Area DOF will layout small sales as ground conditions and sale economics allow. The DOF will strive to accommodate as many operational small mills as possible while staying within our manpower and budget constraints.

### **Timber Harvest Methodology**

The majority of the timber harvest in the region will be by the clear cut method. Given the patchwork of varying land uses allowed on State land by the area plans, the DOF feels that clear cutting is an effective and safe silvicultural tool to use. Most of the proposed timber sales in the FYSTS are less than 160 acres in area; the average sale size is 50 acres. Where the State timber sales have the potential to impact an area due to their size, location, or accumulated effect, they will be mitigated and managed through the FLUP process. Where economically practical with respect to a perceived need for specific species of timber, a selective harvest will be considered if the potential future value of the stand will not be degraded by this action.

The DOF 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 DOF's policy is to define "regular periodic output" as output over a ten-year period. Based on proposed sales and 1993-2006 harvest data, sales through 2006 were within the "sustained yield". The total yearly volumes listed in this FYSTS may appear to exceed the definition of the allowable cut on a yearly basis. However, these volumes are within the allowable harvest volumes for the ten year period, due to low harvest levels in prior years.

The allowable cut calculation method that best utilizes existing information is the area regulation method. The area regulation method involves determining the net-forested acres available for harvest and dividing that number by the rotation period. The rotation period is the time it takes to grow a commercial stand of trees. A 100-year rotation has been the established standard for Southeast and will be used by the DOF. This rotation age could be adjusted in the future when more scientific information is available. Initial studies indicate that a rotation age as low as 70 –80 years may be optimal on managed lands in Southern Southeast Alaska.

The Area Plans are the governing source for gross available acreage. The estimated total forestland administered by the DNR in the Southern Southeast Area is 156,708 acres. The DNR has accounted for a variety of other uses for forest lands including, but not limited to, recreation and fish and wildlife habitat. The DOF has estimated that out of this total acreage, 49,333 net acres can be considered for harvest. Net acreage was estimated from aerial photograph analysis and augmented by limited ground reconnaissance and historical knowledge accumulated by personnel working in the area. Net acreage was derived after reductions for 100 foot no harvest buffers along known anadromous and high-value resident fish water bodies, exclusion zones from the area plans, and known eagle nesting areas. The DOF will continue to adjust and refine the allowable net acreage, based on fieldwork, manpower availability, and travel funds. When the total allowable harvest acreage (49,333 acres) is divided by the 100-year rotation period, an annual allowable cut of 493 acres is derived. Based on DOF experience with the land and timber base, an average volume of 26 MBF per acre was applied, yielding an allowable cut of 12,818 MBF (12.818 MMBF) per year.

### **Narrative Summary of Five-Year Schedule Activities**

Right-of-way sales, blowdown sales and sales less than ten acres in size are not generally located on the maps for this FYSTS. In many cases the location of these sales will depend on USFS road construction, road construction within State subdivisions, timber sales in subdivisions, other local harvest activity, and any changes in the State land status.

The majority of the projected sales will occur on Prince of Wales Island and Gravina Island. This schedule includes sale area maps for all potential sales over 10 acres in size for CY 2007-CY 2011. Due to a variety of reasons, including budget constraints, lack of personnel, sale program direction and market uncertainties, most of the sales in the last three years of this schedule are conceptual at this time. Photo layout and ground reconnaissance will begin as time and budgets allow. Annual volumes for this Five-Year Schedule are higher than the annual allowable cut for planning purposes to allow leeway in DOF timber sales programs to meet possible market fluctuation. Under no condition will the annual allowable cut be exceeded over a ten year period.

## **2007 Calendar Year**

### Small Sales

These small sales will be located throughout Southern Southeast Alaska. The DOF estimates it can prepare 5 to 10 of these sales totaling approximately 1,500 MBF (1.5 MMBF) of timber for Calendar Year 2007. These sales are intended to provide small operators with timber to continue operating and produce value-added and high value-added products to the benefit of their local communities.

### 20 Road Timber Sale

This sale area is located on the north side of the USFS 20 road, approximately one mile south of the Naukati cut-off. This sale consists of three harvest units totaling 104.5 acres and involves the construction of 1.4 miles of road. Access to one of the units is across USFS land, a special use permit has been obtained from the USFS for the spur road. Estimated volume from this sale area is 5,300 MBF (5.3 MMBF).

### Thorne Bay #3

This sale area is located directly south of the Thorne Bay #2 sale that was sold in 2004. Approximately 120 acres of timber containing 3,500 MBF (3.5 MMBF) have been identified for potential harvest. This sale will be accessed from the logging road constructed in Thorne Bay #2. This sale area will likely produce one or two mid-sized sales and multiple small sales.

### Coffman Cove Sale

Three areas along the USFS 3030 road south of Coffman Cove have been identified for potential timber harvest. The DOF has started layout of this sale and estimate a sale volume of 3,500 MBF (3.5 MMBF) based on aerial photos. The DOF is working with the Office of Habitat Management and Permitting (OHMP) for the identification and protection of anadromous fish streams in these areas. Multiple mid-sized and small sales are also planned for these areas.

### 2058 Road Sales

This sale area is composed of five small units that range in volume from 100 MBF to 800 MBF for a total of 1,500 MBF (1.5 MMBF) and are located along the 2058 Road that accesses the East Naukati area. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) performed an archeological survey of this area in 2004 and found no historical resources that would

be harmed by timber sale activity. The DOF intends to sell these sales individually or combined, depending on the economic conditions at the time of the sales and the needs of the local mill owners.

## **2008 Calendar Year**

### Small Sales

These small sales will be located throughout Southern Southeast Alaska. The DOF estimates it can prepare 5 to 10 of these sales totaling approximately 1,500 MBF (1.5 MMBF) of timber. These sales are intended to provide small operators with timber to continue operating and produce value-added and high value-added products to the benefit of their local communities. The DOF intends to make this quantity and style of sale available for the duration of this planning document (2007-2011).

### Heceta Second Growth Sale

The Heceta Second Growth Sale involves the commercial harvest of second growth timber on Heceta Island, in the Camp Cove area. Roads constructed by the USFS for previous timber sales prior to land acquisition by the State will be used. The USFS has proposed work on a similar type of sale adjacent to State lands and proposals are being put forth to cooperatively work together on the timing of the sales. This may be designed as a mosaic cut, with an approximate sale volume of 1,000 MBF (1.0 MMBF). This sale will be dependent on second growth market conditions.

### South Thorne Bay #2

This sale area will be an extension of the South Thorne Bay #1 Sale road system. The goal of this sale will be to offer timber volume of approximately 4,000 MBF (4.0 MMBF) with adequate additional road construction to support several mid-sized and small timber sales.

### Frederick Point Sale(s)

The Frederick Point No. 7 sale is proposed to harvest approximately 500 MBF of timber from the north end of Mitkof Island. Approximately 20 acres will be harvested in one to three sales. If timber sale economics allow, road construction will be coordinated with the Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) to create access to ASLS 83-82.

### Camp Cove Hecata East Sale

The Camp Cove sale is located on Heceta Island. It covers approximately 220 acres and contains an estimated 5,700 MBF (5.7 MMBF), the majority of which is mixed second growth timber. The sale will be comprised of multiple units and will require the construction of 2.2 miles of road. The DOF issued a preliminary decision for the Camp Cove portion of this sale in a FLUP published on September 23, 2002. The DOF has delayed the decision process on this sale based on comments and recommendations of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). This sale is presently being operationally reevaluated after SHPO made the DOF aware of USFS documented cultural sites adjacent to the proposed site.

### Kitkun Bay Sale

This sale will operate on an area of approximately 280 acres. The DOF proposes helicopter logging the area using a combination of patch and selective cuts. The sale will likely be sold as a mixed export and domestically marketed sale to obtain adequate stumpage returns to pay for the cost of helicopter logging. The majority of the wood would be flown to barges located on the north shore of Kitkun Bay. If access to the area can be negotiated with the adjacent land owner (Kootznoowoo) some volume may be harvested conventionally or volumes may be flown to existing or newly constructed roads.

## **2009 Calendar Year**

### Small Sales

These small sales will be located throughout Southern Southeast Alaska. The DOF estimates it can prepare 5 to 10 of these sales totaling approximately 1,500 MBF (1.5 MMBF) of timber. These sales are intended to provide small operators with timber to continue operating and produce value-added and high value-added products to the benefit of their local communities.

### West Yatuk Sale

The West Yatuk sale is located adjacent to the USFS 20 road, approximately one mile south of the Naukati cut-off. This sale consists of two harvest units totaling approximately 78 acres with an estimated volume of 3,900 MBF (3.9 MMBF) and will involve the construction of 0.21 miles of road. SHPO conducted an archeological survey of this area in 2004 and found no historical resources that would be harmed by timber sale activity.

### Whale Pass 30 Road Sale

This potential harvest area is north of the Community of Whale Pass on the USFS 30 Road near Exchange Cove. This area could produce 2,500 MBF (2.5 MMBF) and will require approximately 1.0 mile of road construction. This is one of several areas designated as general use and suitable for timber harvest by DMLW in the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan. This is a conceptual sale based on aerial photos. The actual sale unit could be configured differently and may involve the use of both conventional and helicopter harvest methods. The DOF will work with the local community to address their concerns and request their involvement and local expertise in the planning process.

### Bostwick #2 Sale

The Bostwick #2 sale is comprised of two harvest units on the east side of Bostwick Creek. This sale is approximately 140 acres with an estimated volume of 4,000 MBF (4.0 MMBF) and estimated road construction of 2.0 miles. The DOF will work with the Office of Habitat Management and Permitting for bridge placement across Bostwick Creek. Critical habitat as outlined in the Central/Southern Southeast Area Plan will be protected.

### Bradfield Canal Sale

The Bradfield Canal Sale consist of six harvest units for a total of 234 acres and containing approximately 5,800 MBF (5.8 MMBF) of timber. The sale at this date is conceptual based on aerial photograph interpretation. Due to the remoteness of the timber, the sale volume will be considered for export.

## **2010 Calendar Year**

### Small Sales

These small sales will be located throughout Southern Southeast Alaska. The DOF estimates it can prepare 5 to 10 of these sales totaling approximately 1,500 MBF (1.5 MMBF) of timber. These sales are intended to provide small operators with timber to continue operating and produce value-added and high value-added products to the benefit of their local communities.

### South Thorne Bay #3

This sale area will be an extension of the South Thorne Bay #1 and #2 Sale road system. The goal of this sale will be to offer timber volume of approximately 5,000 MBF (5.0 MMBF) with adequate additional road construction to support several mid-sized and small timber sales.

#### Zarembo Island Sale

The State of Alaska owns approximately 1,679 acres on Zarembo Island to the east and south of St. Johns Harbor containing 1,125 acres of mature forest. The Central/Southern Southeast Area Plan calls for a 1,000 foot wide coastal protection area in which no timber harvest will take place within the first 500 foot area and only selective harvest within the 500-1,000 foot area. This timber sale is conceptual at this time. Sale volume could be in the 5,000 MBF (5.0MMBF) to 6,000 MBF (6.0 MMBF) range.

#### Thorne Bay # 4

This sale area will be an extension of the Thorne Bay #3 Sale road system. The sale will be south of the proposed Thorne Bay #3 timber sale. The goal of this sale will be to offer timber volume of approximately 4,000 MBF (4.0 MMBF) with adequate additional road construction to support several mid-sized and small timber sales.

## **2011 Calendar Year**

#### Small Sales

These small sales will be located throughout Southern Southeast Alaska. The DOF estimates it can prepare 5 to 10 of these sales totaling approximately 1,500 MBF (1.5 MMBF) of timber. These sales are intended to provide small operators with timber to continue operating and produce value-added and high value-added products to the benefit of their local communities.

#### Whale Pass #1 Sale

This potential sale area could contain five sale units with up to 3,000 MBF (3.0 MMBF) and require approximately 1.8 miles of road construction. This is one of the areas designated as general use and suitable for timber harvest by the DNR, DMLW in the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan. This is a conceptual sale area based on aerial photos. The actual sale units could be configured differently and the sales could be sold over a longer period of time. The DOF will work with the local community to address their concerns and request their involvement and local expertise in the planning process.

### Indian Creek Sale

Three areas adjacent to Indian Creek have been identified for potential timber harvest. Indian Creek is south of Hollis and on the south side of the Harris River. These are conceptual sale areas based on aerial photos. Access to these harvest areas will need to be further investigated. Access via the USFS road system could be an option, as could be the reestablishment of the bridge crossing across the Harris River. Potentially 4,000 MBF (4.0 MMBF) of timber could be harvested from this area. The DOF will consult with the OHMP and the SHPO prior to significant sale planning efforts.

### El Cap Sale

The El Cap sale on Prince of Wales Island will contain one or two units totaling 2,000 MBF (2.0 MMBF) and will require the construction of up to 1.0 mile of new road. The DNR does not recognize karst topography as a significant resource to be managed on the State's limited land base in Southeast. The DOF will protect karst formations that effect water quality as per the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and Regulations. If significant recreational activity or water quality is found to be dependent on a karst resource, it will be taken into account during the design and FLUP process for a proposed timber sale.

### South Thorne Bay #4

This sale area will be an extension of the South Thorne Bay #1, #2, and #3 Sale road system. The goal of this sale will be to offer timber volume of approximately 4,000 MBF (4.0 MMBF) with adequate additional road construction to support several mid-sized and small timber sales.

Southern Southeast Alaska  
 Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales  
 CY 2007-2011

<u>Calendar Year</u>	<u>Timber Sale Name</u>	<u>Estimated Volume (MBF)</u>
2007	Small Sales	1,500
	Coffman Cove	3,500
	Thorne Bay #3	3,500
	20 Road Sale	
		5,300
	2058 Road	<u>1,500</u>
	Subtotal	15,300
2008	Small Sales	1,500
	Camp Cove & Hecata East	5,700
	Kitkun Cove	3,000
	Fredrick Pt	500
	Hecata 2 <sup>nd</sup> Growth	1,000
	South Thorne Bay #2	<u>4,000</u>
	Subtotal	15,700
2009	Small Sales	1,500
	Bostwick #2	4,000
	Whale Pass 30 Road Sale	2,500
	West Yatuk	3,900
	Bradfield Canal	<u>5,800</u>
	Subtotal	17,700
2010	Small Sales	1,500
	South Thorne Bay #3	5,000
	Zarembo Island	5,000
	Thorne Bay # 4	<u>4,000</u>
	Subtotal	15,500
2011	Small Sales	1,500
	Whale Pass #1	3,000
	Indian Creek	4,000
	South Thorne Bay #4	4,000
	El Cap	<u>2,000</u>
	Subtotal	14,500
Total		<u>78,700</u>

**Southern Southeast Alaska  
Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales  
List of Supporting Maps**

Bradfield Canal Area  
Coffman Cove Area  
East Naukati Area  
El Capitan Area  
Gravina Island  
Heceta Island Area  
Hollis/Indian Creek Area  
Kitkun Bay  
Mitkof Island  
North Thorne Bay Area  
South Thorne Bay Area  
Whale Pass Area  
Zarembo Island