

**Public Review Draft Version**  
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**TOK AREA FORESTRY**  
**5 YEAR SCHEDULE OF TIMBER SALES**  
**FY 2009-2013**



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**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY  
INTERIOR REGION  
TOK AREA FORESTRY**

**Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales (FYSTS)  
FY 2009 to FY 2013**

*Executive Summary*

This Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales provides information about timber sales and associated road construction in the Tok Management Area.

The forest management activities identified in this Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales FY 2009-2013 are consistent with the Tanana Basin Area Plan (TBAP) and the Tanana Valley State Forest Plan (TVSF). The TVSF plans cover approximately 549,000 acres of forest designated lands in the Tok Area and the TBAP covers hundreds of thousands of acres in the Tok Area. Large tracks of forest are in other designations such as wildlife habitat that has potential for dual projects goals of timber harvest and wildlife habitat enhancement.

The Tok area has had many large fire over the last 25 years with many being hundreds of thousands of acres including the 1990 Tok River Fire, the 2003 Tok River Fire and 2004 Taylor Complex fires. The fires account for massive acres of burned timber with salvage potential, especially for firewood. Firewood has become extremely important in the Upper Tanana with the high fuel oil prices of the last few years. Many of the large areas in this plan are in the burned areas of these large fires. This plan seeks to utilize this burned material before it becomes useless for anything including firewood. Planning for the usual small salvage sales in these fires is very difficult. The timber in these burns are very patchy, with very limited resources for photography and reconnaissance on the ground, large area have been identified by forestry to be include in this plan. It is important to note only a small portion of the areas will be harvest. Salvage sales are usually less then 40 acres and more often 10 acres or less in an individual sale.

Biomass has also become a serious consideration that this plan attempts to address. The extent of the potential biomass market is difficult to ascertain. Project could be as small as the Tok School requiring only 30 acres a year to large project such as generating several megawatts of electricity that could use 500 acres or more a year.

We are attempting to plan for very quick changing times that we live in, with energy being the issue of our day. The potential use of energy from Alaska's forest is mostly untapped except for the traditional use of firewood. This could quickly change with the current political climate and our forest could play a major role in the energy requirements of our future.

## ***Introduction***

The Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales (FYSTS) lists proposed timber sales on State Forest and State forest classified lands in the Tok Management Areas. The schedule provides a time line that identifies the sales, their estimated volumes and their general locations. At a minimum, the Division of Forestry (DOF) must develop a schedule every two years. The schedule may be written annually if market and stand conditions warrant a more frequent change. It is designed to provide the general public, local governments, other agencies and the timber industry a view of what DOF may be offering on State lands managed by Tok Area Forestry for the next five years based on the State's fiscal year. The Five-Year Schedule provides a basis for public comment and identification of issues although it is not developed as a decision document for particular timber sales. The schedule provides DOF with a guide in considering, designing, allocating state resources and conducting timber sales. Listing a proposed sale does not mean a decision has been made to go forward with the sale but instead solicits input on whether or not to proceed with sale planning, and on particular concerns to be addressed in sale design.

The timber sales included in this schedule are part of a management philosophy that ensures a sustained yield of renewable forest resources and the integrated use of forest lands by a myriad of users, as guided by State statutes and regulations, the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan and the Tanana Basin Area Plan. Sales are located across a wide area of the forest land base and vary in size, species composition and development requirements. Emergency salvage sales, market conditions, sale preparation problems, logistical constraints, funding and other considerations may cause some proposed sales to be dropped or moved between years.

Generally, the Division of Forestry may not offer a timber sale unless it has appeared on at least one of the two Five-Year Schedules preceding the sale. Sales are exempt from this requirement if they are 160 acres or less; salvage sales, or emergency sales in areas with fire, insect, or other natural threats. It is the policy of the Division of Forestry however, to include all sales on at least the Five-Year Schedule preceding the sale whenever possible unless waiting for the schedule will cause substantial losses of economic value on salvage sales, allow for the spread of damaging insects, or preclude a local economic enterprise or forest management project that is in the state's best interest. (References: AS 38.05.113, AS 38.05.117, and 11 AAC 71.010)

## ***Schedule Review Process***

The Review Draft Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales is submitted for review and comment to several agencies. Comments about specific timber sales from Alaska Department of Natural Resources Office of Habitat Management and Permitting, Alaska Division of Mining, Land and Water, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and other agencies are used to draft a Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) for timber sales in years one and two (AS 38.05.112). 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. Before any commercial timber sale

of ten acres or larger is offered, DOF prepares a FLUP and makes a finding that the sale is in the State’s best interest. The schedule followed by individual FLUPs is then distributed for review by the public. Public comments are considered, and revisions made as appropriate before the schedule is adopted. Sales where the FLUPs have been previously reviewed by the public and agencies are noted on the schedule. Sales that have been reviewed and are currently available over the counter are also listed.

Should you wish to comment on this schedule, you may address your comments to: Jeff Hermanns Division of Forestry, P.O Box 10, Tok, AK 99780, Fax to 883-5135. Electronic mail address: jeffrey.hermanns@alaska.gov

### ***Sustained Yield***

The Alaska Land Act requires that state land be managed for sustained yield, which is “the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level of annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the state land consistent with multiple use” (AS 38.04.910). In each of the years covered in this schedule, the total volume of wood proposed for harvest is far below the potential sustained harvest level determined in the Tanana Valley State Forest Periodic Sustainable Yield Analysis (Parsons, 2000). This publication indicates that the annual sustained yield levels for the Tok Management area are approximately 3539 acres and 4,449,200 cubic feet. Thus the proposed average yearly harvest for this schedule, at 3,380 acres and 3,538,498 cubic feet, constitutes less than the potential sustained harvest.

#### **Annual Sustained Yield**

<b>Management Unit</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cubic Foot / Board Foot Volumes</b>
Tok	3,539	4,449,200 / 14,815,836

#### **Annual Proposed Acres and Volume to be Sold**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cubic Foot / Board Foot Volumes</b>
2009	3349	4,298,498 /14,314,000
2010	3413	4,261,562 /14,191,000
2011	3379	3,044,144 /10,137,000
2012	3379	3,044,144 /10,137,000
2013	3379	3,044,144 /10,137,000
<b>FIVE-YEAR TOTAL</b>	<b>16,899</b>	<b>17,692,492 /58,916,000</b>

The law, AS 41.17.220 – 230, requires Division of Forestry to develop a management plan for the Tanana Valley State Forest. The management plan guides many of the Division’s management actions. The FYSTS is consistent with the guidelines and direction established in the Tanana Valley State Forest (TVSF) Management Plan. Some of the sales may be for areas outside of the boundaries of the TVSF, and are proposed on state owned forestry classified lands; these sales are consistent with the Tanana Basin Area Plan (TBAP.) Both the TVSF Management Plan and the TBAP are available for review at the Tok Area Office.

## ***Transportation***

Forest access roads will be constructed to meet standards stated within the TVSF Management Plan, the TBAP and Best Management Practices for the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act. Road construction is divided roughly 66% winter and 33% all-season road. Individual proposed road segments constructed each year are generally less than 2 miles in length. The Old Alaska Highway and Old Glen Highway sections will be reconstructed in certain locations to access the forest for timber sales and firewood cutting areas. Tok Forestry will work closely with ADF&G local biologist on road access issues with forest roads to minimize impacts on game but to also create opportunities for recreation hunting small and large game. Road access by local Tok residents

## **Habitat**

Tok Area Forestry is working closely with the local ADF&G biologist on timber harvest projects that will benefit wildlife with habitat enhancement. Mature stands of spruce are of limited value for moose and other wildlife and would naturally be burned but because the areas are in full fire protection areas this is not an option. Mechanical harvesting can replicate disturbance in the forest that results in new browse and a drastic improvement in the habitat. Forestry will look at every timber harvest opportunity to maximize the habitat benefit for wildlife where feasible. Projects with dual goals of timber harvest and habitat enhancement are included in this plan.