

CBEP AC Discussion: Topic Selection

HSF RMA MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 2025

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION



17 December 2025

Contact: Geneva Preston, Forest Planner | geneva.preston@alaska.gov |

Purpose: Identify possible topics related to forest management that affect the many interest groups of the Chilkat Valley area for deeper discussion

Expected outcome: A list of priority topics for focused discussion with the CBEP advisory Council on January 14, 2026. Discussion topics are specific to the groups represented by each seat on this council. The context for this discussion is to support the review and amendment of forest management policy within the Haines State Forest RMA.

Context: Haines State Forest Management Plan amendment. What solutions or concepts can facilitate the co-existence of forestry activities and other uses within the Haines State Forest RMA?

Agenda

- Framing the discussion
- Introductions
- Group discussion
- Identify next steps

Group Expectations

- The moderator will guide the discussion but remain neutral.
- Everyone is encouraged to participate. Once you have shared, wait for two others to contribute before weighing in again.
- The discussion stays focused on the issue at hand (forest management policy within Haines State Forest RMA).
- Maintain an atmosphere for discussion and analysis of our options. This is a discussion, not a debate.
- Ask questions to gain understanding/clarity.
- Give constructive feedback. We are here to talk about ideas, not people.
- We will work together toward identifying interest topics for deeper discussion in the future.

Discussion Questions

1. **Introductions:** What is your name, what seat do you represent on the council, and what's one way the lands within Haines State Forest RMA are important to or used by the group represented by your seat?

- a. **Haines mayor-** Tom Morphet. Represent all current uses commercial. Subsistence, recreational, personal use firewood, salmon/fish from Chilkat/Chilkoot rivers. Uses by residents
 - b. **CIA –** Gwen Sauser. Tribal council member. Varied interests: forest management, healthy streams, subsistence use, wood gathering, spiritual aspect. Strong connections to the land
 - c. **Klukwan Inc-** Bill Thomas. One of few survivors of original bill development. Commercial fisherman, firewood, tow the line: honesty, truthful
 - d. **DNR Forestry –** Greg Palmieri. As a resident, all values. Professionally: contributions of a working forest to local community and state
 - e. **Haines Assembly-** Craig Looms. Participated in meetings when State forest/eagle preserve was established; representing all community members of the valley, subsistence hunter, gathering, concerns about impact of mining and logging on the area
 - f. **Business and industry:** Andy Heddon, operates seasonal business within the preserve, lives adjacent to RMA
 - g. **Conservation:** Jim Stickler. President of Haines Sportsman’s Assoc. Represents user groups that frequent eagle preserve.
 - h. **Upper LC F&G Advisory Committee-** Tim McDonnough. fish and game (animals, not agency), how these are affected by actions/activity in the valley
 - i. **DPOR-**Brad Garasky. Land manager to implement policy in accordance with needs/wants/desires of public and other constituents. Emphasis on boundaries/abutting lands/transition areas
 - j. **CIV-**Brian Willard. Protect Chilkat valley. Traditional lands of Chilkat Tribe. Protect traditional lands, water, eagles, food sources/subsistence uses. Protect current uses and historical significance.
 - k. **ADFG –** Absent today
 - l. **USFWS-** Absent today
2. **Identify Concerns:** How is the group or the uses and practices you described in question 1 affected by forest management activities within Haines State Forest RMA?
- a. **Tom Morphet:** 250,000 HSF is a large portion of Haines borough real estate. Food source, economy dependent on tourism industry and commercial forestry.
 - b. **Craig Loomis:** Forest in this valley is one of the mainstays of the ecosystem in this valley. Commercial use by hunters and guides. Dependent on forest/old growth forest for habitat to support hunting opportunities. Erosion observed in past sites where timber harvests have occurred. Connections between erosion, landslides, fisheries declines. Time required for regeneration of mature forests
 - c. **Gwen Sauser:** healthy forest means a higher quality of life for residents. Healthy plants, healthy animals, healthy food, regeneration (natural cycles in a forest with or without human interaction; salmon nutrient cycling, healthier system of plants-interconnected nature of systems, pass-down

affects; example is fertilization provided by salmon life cycle). Hunting and gathering opportunities.

- d. **Bill Thomas**- past land manager for Klukwan, Inc. Historic land selections, state selected lands in Chilkat Valley area; Klukwan, Inc. selects lands in Southern Southeast AK. Played a role in creation of Forest Resources and Practices Act. Protecting salmon, influencing sizes of clear cuts. Involved in logging, fishing for decades. Alaska Native corporation (village and regional) loggers tired of being harassed over logging practices in the past led to proposal and development of Forest Resources and Practices Act.
- e. **Andy Heddon**-Tourism is significant industry. Forest policy can affect healthy wildlife populations, fisheries, viewshed, eagle population
- f. **Jim Stickler**-sportsman hunting, fishing, trapping, commercial fishing. State forest is vitally important for these activities. “Trees need to be vertical.” Landslides happen on this landscape, not necessarily due to human activity. Hunters/trappers/sportsmen are original conservationists. People need “things” people protest material extraction but use the materials produced. Viewing needs, resources, and expectation of where and how resources are extracted. Make sure resources are extracted in a clean, sustainable, healthy manner.
- g. **Tim McDonnough**- how, where and how much logging occurs in the area affects populations of fish and game in the valley. Important to ensure that how, where and when of logging do not affect these populations negatively
- h. **Brad Garasky**- Holistic view of plan and management concepts. How can DPOR and DFFP collaborate on management that mitigates negative impacts to the whole landmass contained in Haines State Forest RMA and Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve
- i. **Brian Willard**- Salmon habitat, emphasis on crossing streams or rivers and affects of crossings on salmon populations/habitat

Next Steps

The January 14, 2026 meeting of this group is intended to be an opportunity to revisit the topics you share with us today for deeper discussion. In the weeks leading up to the next meeting, you are invited and encouraged to think about the following question:

What does it look like for forest management activities to be conducted in a way that includes meeting the needs of the group represented by your seat?

In the meantime, more information is available on the project webpage:

<https://forestry.alaska.gov/HSFamendment/>

Please share your comments or questions with the planning team by sending a message to: dnr.dof.haines@alaska.gov