



DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

HSF Public Review Meetings

Haines State Forest Resource Management Area Public Review of Draft Management Plan

Goals

- Provide opportunities for members of the public to interact with DFFP staff in person in Haines and Klukwan and virtually during the public comment period for the draft HSF RMA MP.
- Share information about existing standards for forest practices established by FRPA, associated regulations, and DFFP BMPs with the public in digestible formats
- Encourage public comment before June 5, 2026 (end of comment period)

Land Management Policies

The land in HSF RMA is categorized into four land use designations: Resource Management, Public Recreation, Wildlife Habitat, and Forest. All lands throughout the HSF RMA are managed for multiple use. Land Use Designations and Management Intent statements provide additional details describing the priorities and considerations in planning and implementing projects and uses throughout the forest. The outline below provides a generalized summary to help readers see examples of the approaches to management of different land use classifications across the HSF RMA. These summaries are not comprehensive. Please refer to the management plan draft for the full description of management policies for HSF RMA.

1. Resource Management Designated Lands
 - a. HSF RMA Policies for forest management activities on this land type
 - i. Management policies are intended to support a wide variety of uses on Resource Management Lands
 - ii. Some subunits allow commercial timber harvest without added limitations beyond sustained yield and FRPA standards
 - iii. Some subunits limit the size of even-age harvests and prioritize selective harvest



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- iv. Scenic resources and other values will be considered during timber sale design and mitigation strategies can be defined in FLUP development for individual sales
- v. SMZs apply to all anadromous surface water bodies

Subunit	Management Intent	Timber-related policies
1a	All values in this subunit, including minerals, fish and wildlife habitat, timber, recreation, and scenic values equally.	-Commercial timber harvest is allowed in this subunit
2a	Manage for values including winter goat habitat, fish and wildlife, subsistence, minerals, scenic values, and timber.	-Commercial timber harvest is allowed in this subunit -Consideration of mountain goat habitat and scenic resources should be prioritized during management activities
3a	Manage for a variety of values identified in this subunit including anadromous streams, mineral claims, material (gravel) sources, scenic values, historic sites, and transportation infrastructure provided by the Haines Highway. State lands adjacent to Pleasant Camp should be managed compatibly with its historic values.	-Timber harvests limited to small commercial sales. Harvest activities adjacent to Haines Highway will be designed to incorporate visual screens or other means of maintaining the scenic values from the highway.
3b	Manage for diverse resource values including anadromous fish streams, mountain goat habitat, commercial timber, and scenic resources. Manage to provide access to the resources present	-Timber harvests limited to small commercial sales. Harvest activities adjacent to Haines Highway will be designed to incorporate visual screens or other means of maintaining the scenic values from the highway.
3i	This subunit will be managed for many values, including opportunities for mineral	-Commercial timber harvest is allowed in this subunit.



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	development. Other known resources include commercial timber, mountain goat habitat, and bear denning habitat.	-Forest Land Use Plans should be developed to address potential impacts on mountain goat winter concentrations when considering resource extraction projects.
7a	This subunit will be managed for a variety of resources present, including scenic values, rock and mineral resources, timber, recreation access to the Chilkat River, and access to the trail system along the ridgeline to the east.	-Timber sales are allowed in this subunit and will be designed to screen harvest activity from the Haines Highway corridor. -Selective harvest methods will be the primary timber extraction application. -Even aged harvest limited to 10 acres or less
8c	Management of this subunit will equally value the resource use potential present, including fisheries, timber, transportation, scenery, subsistence, mineral, and recreation values. Land adjacent to Lutak Road will be managed for transportation, industrial, and port site purposes.	-Commercial timber harvest is allowed in this subunit. -Harvest areas should be designed and dispersed over time to minimize impacts to scenic and recreational values. -Even age harvest will not exceed 20 acres in size. -Selective harvest methods will be the primary harvest method used in this subunit. -Forest Land Use Plans will consider the visual impacts of harvest activities along Lutak Inlet and provide designs to mitigate potential impacts.
8d	This subunit will be managed for its scenic, recreational, wildlife habitat, subsistence, mineral, and timber resource values and uses.	Timber harvest is allowed in this subunit
9b	This subunit will be managed for the values of wildlife habitat, minerals, recreation, subsistence, timber, and scenic resources.	-Commercial timber harvest is allowed in this subunit



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9c	This subunit will be managed for its recreational and scenic resources while providing for the use of the protected harbor. Management will also support upland development, including potential resource extraction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Commercial timber harvest is allowed primarily in the development of a resource transfer facility and roads into this subunit. -Even age harvests are limited to 20 acres in size -Selective harvest methods should be the primary harvest methods to address visual impacts of harvest activities on the harbor and the spit of land. -Only selective timber harvest methods may be applied during cabin site location activities.
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2. Public Recreation Designated Lands

- a. HSFRMA Policies for forest management activities on this land type
 - i. All harvest or development activities must occur in a way that is compatible with public recreation as a primary use
 - ii. Size limit on even age (clearcut) timber harvest (smallest allowed is 5 acres, largest allowed is 20 acres)
 - iii. Language directing harvest design to support development or enhancement of recreation uses/facilities
 - iv. Direction to visually screen harvests from popular recreation areas in some subunits
 - v. Harvest in 1b includes review by CBEP AC
 - vi. SMZs apply to all anadromous surface water bodies

Subunit	Management Intent	Timber-related policies
1b	Primarily to provide public use recreational values along with other compatible resource use. Also to maintain or enhance fish spawning and rearing habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -small timber sale program and personal use sales -selective harvest -Sales in this unit proposed to CBEP council
3h	Managed for public recreation uses including fishing, hiking, winter sports, camping,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sales designed to support primary use -Predominantly selective harvest -even age harvest <5 acres



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	hunting, trapping, berry and mushroom picking	-salvage and forest protection treatments could result in larger harvest areas
4c	Manage for public recreational use in balance with the additional resource values of the subunit	-Timber sale design must prioritize the maintenance of the scenic resource, public recreation, and fish/wildlife resource use -even age harvest <10 acres
4d	Manage for public recreation use with other compatible uses allowed	-Timber harvest is allowed, but limited to small negotiated sales designed to support the PR management goal -Timber sales will be designed to improve public access and potential recreation facility location -primarily selective harvest -even age harvest occurs only in conjunction with rec development or material site location and harvest is limited by project size
6a	Provide low-intensity dispersed recreation use as primary activity	-Development activities consider scenic values as a priority. -Timber harvest can promote primary use design to improve access and to support other public use interests -Primarily selective harvest Even age harvest <20 acres, designed to be screened from view of Chilkat River viewshed
6b	Provide low intensity dispersed recreation activities as a primary use. Timber	-Timber harvest and mineral development are allowed; developments will consider the scenic values in the unit as a priority during design. -Development must provide for public use of all important resources present in 6b -Further development of commercial recreation uses identified as appropriate for this unit -Timber harvest designed to support development of recreation facilities -Even age harvest <5 acres



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8b	Identifies Wildlife habitat as secondary use classification Primarily managed for public recreation, including higher intensity/developed rec use in DPOR recreation area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Timber harvest activities will provide timber and mineral resources as compatible uses in support of improved public access, habitat management, and recreation use development -FLUPs must address primary resource use of public recreation and protection of important fish and wildlife habitat with designs reviewed by ADFG and DPOR -Even age harvest <20 acres, designed to be screened from Chilkoot Lake viewshed -Timber sales to facilitate improvement of the road right-of-way will be allowed -Selective harvest practices near high use areas like roads -Salvage and personal use sales must be designed to prioritize the maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat and public recreation access and use
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3. Wildlife Habitat Designated Lands

- a. HSF RMA Policies for forest management activities on this land type
 - i. Timber harvest and other development activities must be planned to support primary goal of managing lands for their values as fish and wildlife habitat
 - ii. Even age (clearcut) harvests are limited in size (20 acres is largest area allowed in any WH subunit; one subunit caps at 10 acres)
 - iii. Public recreation is often cited as a secondary management goal
 - iv. Timber harvest units designed to screen harvest activities from view of important scenic areas
 - v. Timber harvest activities primarily will occur as selective harvest practices
 - vi. SMZs apply to all anadromous surface water bodies

Subunit	Management Intent	Timber-related policies
3d	Uses are allowed in the subunit if the activities can be	-Harvest designs provide for habitat protection as primary resource use



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	conducted to protect habitat values found within the subunit. Accommodate a variety of motorized and non-motorized activities.	-Even age harvest <20 acres -Primarily selective harvest methods
3g	Managed to support fish and wildlife resources found in riparian areas of Little Salmon and Tsirku Rivers	-Timber sales must be designed to prioritize the maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat -selective harvest methods are primary timber harvest application -Even age harvest <10 acres
5	Prioritize planning actions for resource use maintaining or enhancing fish and wildlife resources found in this unit. Recreation use should be considered. High intensity rec use is prohibited	-Timber sales must be designed to prioritize the wildlife habitat management intent -even age harvest areas <20 acres; unit design must screen from Chilkat River viewshed -Selective harvest will be primary timber harvest mechanism
7b	Manage for fish and wildlife habitat use and to support the resources associated with the Chilkat River	-Adjacent to CBEP unit Lower Haines Hwy -No specific timber management guidelines included
8a	Manage for wildlife habitat values including migration corridor and spawning ground for many fish species; bald eagle feeding grounds; moose and bear habitat. Management will also provide for recreation and scenic values	-Timber sale design must prioritize maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat and public recreation access and use of the subunit. -Even age harvest <20 acres; design should minimize visual impacts to scenic resources of the area -Selective harvest methods proximal to forest road development to mitigate visual impacts of resource use projects -Timber harvest decision documents shall consider improvements and maintenance of habitat in designing projects

4. Forest Designated Lands

- a. HSF RMA policies for forest management activities on this land type



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- i. Some subunits allow commercial timber harvest without added limitations beyond sustained yield and FRPA standards
- ii. Subunits with high value fish or wildlife habitat areas emphasize the need for collaborative harvest design with ADFG
- iii. Some subunits are identified for use with the small sale program
- iv. SMZs apply to all anadromous surface water bodies

Subunit	Management Intent	Timber-related policies
1c	This unit will be managed for commercial timber harvest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Commercial timber harvest is allowed in this subunit - Impacts to wildlife habitat will be managed cooperatively with ADFG and presented in the harvest designs created during Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) development -SMZs apply to all anadromous waters and may require larger protection zones to reduce potential erosion, disturbance, or slides
2b	This unit will be managed for commercial timber harvest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Commercial timber harvest is allowed in this subunit -Development projects will consult ADFG regarding known habitat values for bear and winter concentrations of moose and mountain goat
3c	This unit will be managed primarily for local commercial timber harvest in the small sale program. Management will consider maintenance of fish and wildlife resources, recreation uses, and scenic resources associated with the Haines Highway corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Timber harvest activities will be limited to small commercial sales. Harvest activities adjacent to the highway should be designed in consideration of the scenic value of the highway corridor by incorporating vegetation screens or other appropriate means in the harvest plan
3e	This unit will be managed primarily for timber harvest. Mineral values, wildlife habitat, personal and commercial recreation, subsistence, and scenic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Commercial timber harvest is allowed in this subunit -Forest designated lands adjacent to Porcupine Road will be managed for timber, mining, subsistence, and recreation uses.



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	values are also present within this subunit.	
3f	This unit will be managed for commercial timber harvest, accommodating public recreation activities like foraging, motorized and non-motorized recreation, and hunting.	-Commercial timber harvest is allowed in this subunit -Measures to manage other values in this subunit, including scenic values will be identified in the development of Forest Land Use Plans for individual harvests.
4a	This unit will be managed for commercial timber harvest.	-Commercial timber harvest is allowed in this subunit -Management of other known resource values, including scenic, recreational, subsistence, and habitat values, will be addressed in the development of FLUPs for resource extraction activities proposed -DFFP will manage harvest within 100 feet of private land to diversify forest vegetation and maintain structural components that contribute to soil stabilization.
9a	This subunit will be managed for the timber resources present. All forms of dispersed recreation are appropriate, both commercial and personal.	-Timber harvest is allowed in this subunit



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FRPA Statutes, Regulations, and Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The standards outlined in FRPA statutes, regulations, and BMPs apply to all timber harvest activities within HSF RMA. Policies that are described in the management plan must comply with the standards and practices that are described in FRPA statute and regulation. Below is an outline of legal requirements for forest practices that are relevant to topics such as anadromous waters and riparian areas, erosion prevention, and forest regeneration. This outline is not comprehensive, but intended to highlight the legal requirements that apply to topics of interest that were identified during the scoping period for this plan amendment.

1. FRPA Overview

- a. Focus: Governs how commercial timber harvesting, reforestation, and timber access occur on state, private, and municipal land; Establishes DFFP and Board of Forestry; Establishes Alaska's State Forest System
- b. Applicability: Timber harvest operations that encompass or border surface waters or riparian areas
- c. Intent: Balanced economic objectives for timber industry development with water quality and habitat protection needs; Protect fish habitat and water quality; Ensure prompt reforestation; support economic activities derived from forest resources; Provide certainty and credibility for landowners, operators, and the public.
- d. Key Provisions
 - i. Coordination
 - ii. DPOs
 - iii. Inspections
 - iv. Riparian Areas
 - v. Reforestation
 - vi. Forest Health
 - vii. Enforcement

2. FRPA Regulations and Best Management Practices

- a. Intent: The FRPA regulations implement and interpret the Forest Resources and Practices Act. There are two main applications for the FRPA Regulations



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- i. Within Riparian Areas, FRPA Regulations are intended to protect riparian areas from significant adverse effects of timber harvest activities on fish habitat and water quality, considering the economic feasibility of timber operations
- ii. Outside of riparian areas, FRPA Regulations and BMPs exist to provide protection of important resources, maintaining an economically viable timber industry, prevent or minimize significant adverse effects of soil erosion and mass wasting on water quality and fish habitat, and ensure reforestation to the fullest extent practical, considering the economic feasibility of timber operations
- b. DFFPs Best Management Practices address:
 - i. Water body classifications
 - ii. Timber Harvesting
 - iii. Unit Design
 - iv. Yarding
 - v. Slash Management
 - vi. Mass Wasting Prevention
 - vii. Road construction, maintenance, & closure
 - viii. Bridges and culverts
 - ix. Winter roads
 - x. Reforestation
 - xi. Site preparation
 - xii. Invasive Species
 - xiii. Insect infestation and disease prevention

3. Riparian Areas and Anadromous Streams

- a. FRPA Standards (AS 41.17.115-41.17.119)
 - i. Goal: Protect riparian areas from significant adverse effects of timber harvest activities on fish habitat and water quality
 - ii. Management Intent: Adequate preservation of fish habitat by maintaining a short- and long-term source of woody debris, stream bank stability, channel morphology, water temperatures, streamflows, water quality, adequate nutrient cycling, food sources, clean spawning gravel, and sunlight.
 - 1. Stream classifications



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2. Retention Areas (simple illustration of 100-ft and 300-ft zones from anadromous surface waters)
 3. If ADFG has not made a determination about whether a stream is anadromous, the stream is presumed anadromous if it is tributary to other anadromous waters until a determination is made by ADFG.
- iii. Definitions
 - a. Anadromous water body
 - b. High-value resident fish
 - b. Regulations and Best management Practices (BMPs) (11 AAC 95.260-11 AAC 95.280)
 - i. Alaska's Riparian management regulations and BMPs expand on the requirements that a timber harvest operation on state-owned lands must follow. The baseline standards are described in FRPA and in the relevant Forest Management Plan
 1. 11 AAC 95.265 outlines the criteria for classification of surface waters, which determines the level of forest retention required adjacent to those waters. These classifications are determined by the presence of anadromous or high value resident fish species, the water source (glacial or non-glacial), stream size, stream gradient (slope), and connectivity with other anadromous waters.
 2. BMPs provide detailed guides for classification of streams throughout the state and outlines the degree of retention required for each class of stream.
 - ii. Regulations identify some uses that can occur in a riparian area, including construction or road-building related to creating a crossing structure (bridge) or using a braided glacial floodplain as a source of gravel
 - iii. The riparian management regulations also include Slope Stability Standards. These standards apply within 50-100 feet of a stream, depending on the stream's classification. Operators are required to implement specific practices to reduce the risk of slope failure near riparian areas.



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1. The BMPs summarize the slope stability statutes and regulations, and list recommended indicators and educational resources that can help foresters and operators to identify unstable slopes and saturated soil conditions.
- iv. BMPs also provide objectives and requirements for
 1. Road location in riparian areas
 2. Leaving high stumps in riparian areas
 3. Falling trees into riparian areas
 4. Cable yarding adjacent to riparian areas and surface waters
 5. Ground-skidding in riparian areas
- c. Additional Provisions in the Management Plan: Forest Management Plans provide an opportunity to outline additional details about how the concepts captured in Alaska Law can be translated into the real world.
 - i. Goals and Guidelines: The forest management plan contains management goals related to fish and wildlife habitat (See page 2-2) and water quality and quantity (see page 2-43). Find DFFP's management guidance for these topics in Chapter 2 of the management plan. Information listed in Chapter 2 of the management plan is intended to apply across all units of the HSF RMA.
 - ii. Special Management Zones (SMZs): The management objective for an SMZ is to maintain or enhance anadromous fish habitat within the SMZ. Only activities that are or can be compatible with this objective through mitigation measure will be allowed within an SMZ. Within HSF RMA, a 300-foot-wide SMZ is established on each side of all catalogued anadromous streams and lakes containing anadromous fish are bordered by a 500-foot-wide SMZ. See page 2-14 in the draft plan for more information.



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Stream Type	25'	50'	66'	100'	150'	200'	250'	300'
Anadromous & HVR	Slope stability standards							
	Retention area				300' SMZ for fish and wildlife			
Tributary to Anadromous /HVR <12%	Slope stability standards							
Other tributaries to Anadromous/HVR	Slope stability standards							

4. Reforestation and Forest Health

a. FRPA Standards (AS 41.17.082 and AS 41.17.300 - AS 41.17.320)

i. Control of Infestations & Disease (AS 41.17.082)

1. Goal: Protect the health of forests in Alaska through active forest management
2. Management intent: Require silvicultural activities to be designed to reduce the likelihood of increased insect infestation and disease infections that may threaten forest resources and allow forest management actions to implement silvicultural practices or form agreements with other landowners or government entities to address high-priority forest health issues.
3. Monitoring: This section of FRPA also allows DNR to support forest health surveys, which are coordinated jointly by the DFFP Forest Health Program and the US Forest Service. Their survey results are published annually.

ii. Reforestation (AS 41.17.300-320)

1. AK DNR maintains a fund for reforestation projects on state lands. This money cannot be used for anything other than reforestation.



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2. The allocation, uses, and predicted future uses of these funds are reported annually in the Division's Annual Report
- b. Regulations and Best Management Practices (BMPs) (11 AAC 375-390)
 1. Operation plans for timber harvests are required to include descriptions of preferred target species, regeneration techniques, and site preparation methods. Fore timber harvests on State Forest Lands, this information can be found in the Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) for each sale.
 2. Within 5 years, timber harvest sites on state lands in Region I must support an average of 200 vigorous, undamaged, well-distributed seedlings that are at least 2 years old per acre
 3. A few exceptions to the reforestation requirements could occur in HSFRMA
 - a. A sale designed to salvage trees that are already dead due to a disturbance like insect outbreaks, windthrow, or fire would be exempt from reforestation requirements
 - b. A sale with live trees remaining on the site meeting certain thresholds for stem density would be exempt from reforestation standards.
 4. If site preparation methods are used to support reforestation, they must be designed to protect:
 - a. Residual trees
 - b. Water Quality
 - c. Fish Habitat
 - d. Soil Stability and Drainage
 5. A person or entity can apply for permission to deviate from these standards for research purposes
- c. Additional Provisions in the Management Plan: Forest Management Plans provide an opportunity to outline additional details about how the concepts captured in Alaska Law can be translated into the real world.
 - i. The management plan describes examples of scenarios and possible treatments that a managing forester may encounter in the HSFRMA. The management plan describes some of the variables a forester would need to consider as they develop a reforestation strategy as



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well as reforestation methods that are generally suitable for different harvest methods. The Management Plan also reinforces that the standards created by FRPA and the associated regulations are the foundation of this policy.

5. Timber Harvest Design and Execution

- a. FRPA Standards (AS 41.17.090 and AS 41.17.120)
 - i. Notifications of Plans to Harvest Timber (AS 41.17.090). Timber operations on lands that are not owned or managed by DNR are still subject to FRPA standards and plans for those operations are reviewed by DFFP.
 - ii. Enforcement (AS 41.17.-AS 41.17.143) Timber harvests on State lands and on lands owned by other entities are or can be inspected by DFFP or other regulating agencies (ADFG and DEC) for compliance with FRPA standards. Each state agency retains its authority to determine the appropriate remedies under the statutes and regulations it administers.
- b. Timber Harvesting Regulations and BMPs (11 AAC 95.340 – 11 AAC 95.70):
 - i. Harvest Unit Planning and Design (11AAC 95.340) requires that the design of timber sale units can accommodate harvest activities like felling, bucking, yarding, skidding, and reforestation to be executed in compliance with FRPA standards. This section also establishes the requirement for a 330 foot buffer to be retained around each bald eagle nesting tree and provides recommended harvest methods to minimize disturbance on unstable slopes
 - ii. Timber harvesting regulations also advise operators on how to approach and execute:
 - 1. Long landing location, construction, and operation
 - 2. Bank Integrity
 - 3. Felling and bucking trees
 - 4. Cable yarding systems
 - 5. Tracked and wheeled harvest systems
 - 6. Management of slash
 - iii. BMPs describe objectives and requirements for:
 - 1. Landing Location, construction, and operation



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2. Avoidance of disturbing vegetation adjacent to surface waters
3. Avoidance of disturbance to large woody debris in surface waters
4. Removal of trees and debris from surface waters
5. Bucking and limbing trees in surface waters
6. Cable Yarding adjacent to surface waters
7. Obtaining deflection (lift) when cable yarding
8. Skidding operations
9. Stabilizing and water-barring skid trails

6. Roads and Erosion Prevention

- a. Regulations and Best Management Practices (BMPs) (11 AAC 95.285 – 11 AAC 95.335) provide information about the construction, maintenance, and closing of roads in a manner that protects fish habitat, water quality, and slope stability.
 - i. Regulations related to road construction describe specific standards for
 1. Road location
 2. Road drainage
 3. Bridge construction
 4. Culverts and other water crossings
 5. Road maintenance
 6. Closure of roads when not in use
 7. Material (gravel) extraction and disposal
 8. Rehabilitation after mass wasting
 9. Blasting rock
 - ii. BMPs Describe objectives and requirements for
 1. Erosion Control
 2. End hauling and full-bench construction
 3. Falling trees away from surface waters
 4. Winter road construction, water quality, and drainage
 5. Protecting winter road beds from rutting and ground disturbance
 6. Disposal of waste materials from road construction
 7. Number of drainage structures



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8. Drainage structures on natural drainages
9. Outsloping and ditching roads
10. Diversion of ditchline runoff away from surface waters
11. No Discharge onto erodible slopes
12. Relief culverts on bridge approaches
13. Anchoring log or wood bridges
14. Protection of earth embankments from erosion
15. Curbs and filter fabric on rock-decked bridges
16. Minimizing disturbances to bed and bank of streams
17. Snow ramp and ice bridge construction
18. Culvert design, placement, and maintenance
19. Maintaining road drainage features
20. Grading road and bridge surfaces
21. Standards for inactive and closed roads