

1 **CHAPTER 4: IMPLEMENTATION**

2 Upon signature by the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), this plan
3 will become policy for the management of state lands in the Tanana Valley State Forest. All DNR land
4 use authorizations, timber sales, road building, mineral leases, and other actions on these state lands
5 shall comply with the provisions of this plan.

6 This chapter describes additional actions that support the management intent detailed in previous
7 chapters for this working state forest. Such actions include potential management agreements, priority
8 research topics, additions to the state forest, and procedures for plan amendment. This plan remains
9 effective until revised.

10 **AGENCY LAND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

11 The DNR Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (DOF) has overall land management authority within
12 state forests. The DOF will coordinate multiple use planning in the State Forest and is responsible for
13 timber management. The DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water will continue to be responsible for
14 adjudicating land and water use applications and mineral permitting. Administrative procedures, such as
15 cooperative agreements, may be used to establish the applicability of Division of Parks and Outdoor
16 Recreation regulations to the management of campgrounds, public use cabins, and other recreational
17 facilities. The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, has management authority for
18 the Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest (Subunit 5B). As outlined in the lease granted to the Forest
19 Service by the DNR (Appendix D), the Forest Service must approve all activities in the Experimental
20 Forest, including timber harvest, road construction, and mineral exploration and development.

21 **CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE TANANA VALLEY STATE FOREST**

22 A Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) for the TVSF and other forested land managed by the DNR in the
23 Tanana River Basin was authorized and established by past versions of the TVSF Management Plan and
24 has proven a valuable mechanism for achieving multiple uses of the forest without conflict. The
25 Committee, in an advisory capacity, will provide recommendations to the DNR on forest management
26 issues on these lands. The Committee does not conflict with the Board of Forestry established by AS
27 41.17.041. The Committee's purpose is to:

- 28 • Review and provide Committee recommendations to the DOF on updates and amendments to
29 the TVSF Management Plan and Five-Year Schedules of Timber Sales (including reforestation and
30 transportation schedules). Site specific Forest Land Use Plans (FLUPs) will be made available to
31 each member for review, during the established review period, however, the Committee is not
32 required to make recommendations on these documents.
- 33 • Provide a forum for gathering public opinion on management of state forested land, help to
34 develop a regional consensus on forest management, and provide management
35 recommendations to the Director, DOF. When consensus cannot be reached on a Committee
36 recommendation, the Committee should forward the majority's recommendation and any
37 different views not represented by the majority's recommendation to the Division.

- 1 • Review issues and activities on DNR-managed forested land and recommend management
2 policies to the Director, DOF.
3 • Help disseminate information about the TVSF and other DNR-managed forested land to the
4 public.

5 Each member should represent the full range of interests within his or her constituency. All CAC
6 members should work to establish two-way communications with other groups and individuals within
7 the interest they represent. Members are expected to bring their constituencies' interests and concerns
8 to the CAC. However, when the Committee makes recommendations, all members should act in
9 consideration of the whole community and the statewide public interest, not just the interest of their
10 immediate constituency. The CAC consists of the following twelve members appointed by and serving at
11 the pleasure of the Director, DOF. The term of office is three years. The Director, DOF will make
12 committee appointments so that four expire each year on a revolving basis. The Director, DOF will
13 review all applications received from individuals seeking appointment to the CAC without requiring
14 recommendations from the current committee.

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1 Table 4.1. Citizens’ Advisory Committee Constituencies.

Seat	Constituency
Forest Industry	Represents businesses involved in harvesting and/or processing timber resources.
Value-added Processing	Represents businesses involved in the manufacture of finished wood products and minor forest products.
Environmental Interests	Represents environmental organizations and individuals with environmental interests.
Private Forest User	Represents the incidental forest user for both consumptive and non-consumptive activities including subsistence and personal use.
Forest Science	Represents the forest science community. Background should include training, experience and a current knowledge of multiple forestry specialties related to forest ecosystem management. Representatives should not be currently employed by a State agency other than the University of Alaska.
Native Community	Represents both individual Alaska Natives and Native organizations in the Tanana Basin who use the forest or will be directly impacted by forest management.
Recreation	Represents the non-commercial users who visit the forest and take advantage of both consumptive and non-consumptive benefits for pleasure and enrichment of life.
Tourism Industry	Represents the commercial operators who directly use forest lands as well as those whose customers are incidentally exposed.
Fish and Wildlife Interests	Represents the full range of interests in fish and wildlife, including sport and commercial users.
Mining Industry	Represents organizations and individuals involved in the mineral exploration, extraction, and processing industries.
Regional Representative - Upper Tanana Valley	Represents the public on a regional basis, including commercial, non-commercial, consumptive, and non-consumptive uses. This representative should reside in the eastern Tanana River Valley between Banner Creek and the Canadian border.
Regional Representative - Lower Tanana Valley	Represents the public on a regional basis, including commercial, non-commercial, consumptive, and non-consumptive uses. This representative should reside in the western Tanana River Valley west of the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

2 When appointing CAC members, the Director, DOF will seek region-wide geographic representation. The
 3 CAC will elect its own presiding officer. The CAC will adopt its own by-laws subject to approval by the
 4 Director, DOF.

5

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1 PROCESS FOR REVIEWING APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS, LEASES, DISPOSALS, AND 2 EASEMENTS

3 For timber sales, the Forest Land Use Plans will identify proposed access routes and materials sites both
4 within and outside the TVSF. Temporary routes will be authorized by the DOF through the FLUP process.
5 Long-term routes will be authorized through a right-of-way easement. The DOF will identify the
6 proposed ROW in the FLUP. Following FLUP review, DOF will submit the easement application to the
7 Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) to authorize and record the route on the status plats.

8 Other land management proposals may be initiated by other agencies or private individuals and may
9 include requests for easements, commercial leases, material sales, or permits for mineral activity,
10 trapping cabins, or grazing. The following process will be used to review these authorization or
11 conveyance requests. All applications for use of State Forest land, including mining or prospecting, will
12 be forwarded to the DOF. The DMLW will distribute applications for review by agencies, including the
13 DOF. The DOF will review applications for consistency with this plan and other existing laws and policies.
14 The DOF will then return applications to the DMLW with stipulations for processing. The DOF may also
15 require additional review of applications after interagency or public comment. Although preliminary
16 decisions or final findings will continue to be made by the DMLW, applications must be consistent with
17 stipulations provided by the DOF. No permits, leases, easements, or disposals will be authorized for use
18 of State Forest land that are not consistent with stipulations from the DOF.

19 For mining operations, temporary routes will be authorized by the DMLW through its Miscellaneous
20 Land Use Permit (MLUP). For long-term routes, the DMLW will issue an easement.

21

1 PLAN MODIFICATION

2 The land use designations, policies, implementation actions, and management guidelines of this plan
3 may be changed periodically as new data and new technologies become available and as changing
4 economic, social, and environmental conditions place different demands on public lands.

5 **Periodic Review**

6 The plan will be reviewed at least every 5 years to determine if revisions are necessary. An interagency
7 planning team chaired by the DOF will coordinate this periodic review at the request of the Department
8 of Natural Resources Commissioner. The plan review will include meetings with interested groups and
9 the general public.

10 **Procedures for Plan Changes**

11 Three kinds of changes are allowed by regulations in 11 AAC 55.030. "A revision to a land use plan is
12 subject to the planning process requirements of AS 38.04.065. For the purposes of this section and AS
13 38.04.065, a 'revision' is an amendment or special exception to a land use plan as follows:

14 1. An 'amendment' permanently changes the land use plan by adding to or modifying the basic
15 management intent for one or more of the plan's subunits or by changing its allowed or
16 prohibited uses, policies, or guidelines." A proposal to remove an area from the commercial
17 timber base, to harvest the timber from an area where it is prohibited, or to close an area not
18 identified in this plan to mineral entry are examples of changes requiring amendment. However,
19 amending the Forest Practices Regulations, for example, and inserting those changes in this plan
20 do not require an amendment of the plan. Amendments require public notice, public hearings,
21 and approval by the Commissioner. Amendments may be proposed by agencies, municipalities,
22 or members of the public. Requests for amendments are submitted to the Northern Regional
23 Office of the DOF. The Director of DOF determines what constitutes an amendment or just a
24 minor change.

25 2. A 'special exception' does not permanently change the provisions of a land use plan and
26 cannot be used as the basis for a reclassification of the subunit. Instead, it allows a one-time,
27 limited-purpose variance of the plan's provisions, without changing the plan's general
28 management intent or guidelines. For example, a special exception might be used to grant an
29 eligible applicant a preference right under AS 38.05.035 to purchase land in a subunit
30 designated for retention in public ownership. A special exception might be made if complying
31 with the plan would be excessively burdensome or impractical or if compliance would be
32 inequitable to a third party, and if the purposes and spirit of the plan can be achieved despite
33 the exception.

34 3. A minor change to a land use plan is not considered a revision under AS 38.04.065. A 'minor
35 change' is a change that does not modify or add to the plan's basic intent, and that serves only
36 to clarify the plan, make it consistent, facilitate its implementation, or make technical
37 corrections. Authority: AS 38.04.065, AS 38.04.900, AS 38.05.020, AS 38.05.300.

1 FORESTWIDE IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

2 This section describes management activities necessary to implement this plan. Projects are designed to
3 serve as reference material for agencies to develop elements of the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales
4 or other public review process.

5 WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

6 Pursuant to AS 41.17.400(e), ADF&G's Division of Wildlife Conservation, in cooperation with the DOF,
7 may manipulate forest stands to increase available moose browse and begin staggered rotations of
8 hardwood forest beneficial to ruffed grouse and other early- to mid-successional wildlife species. Among
9 the techniques that may be used are: prescribed burning, silvicultural methods, tractor crushing of
10 riparian willow and bulldozer shearblading or felling of hardwoods. Habitat enhancement projects will
11 be discussed in the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales or by some other public process.

12 RECREATION FACILITIES

13 The following list of potential recreation facilities assumes that DNR will provide all funding and support
14 for a particular facility. However, DNR may seek agreements with various groups to assume
15 responsibility for the establishment and management of campgrounds, trails, and other facilities.

16 Development of the recreation site visitor center at Nenana Ridge and campgrounds at the Chatanika
17 River, Nenana Ridge, Robertson River, and Eagle Trail State Recreation Site will require a detailed
18 feasibility study and interagency review. This feasibility study and interagency review should be
19 coordinated through the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales or other public review process.

20

1 Table 4.2. Potential Recreational Activities.

Unit	Location and Description
1	Maintain trails in Unit 1A
4	Boat launch at end of Murphy Dome Extension on Chatanika River. Add gravel, toilets, possibly refuse containers, and make small improvements to launching area.
4	Upgrade of boat launch at end of Murphy Dome Extension on Chatanika River to campground.
4	Scenic turnout on Murphy Dome Extension
4	Trail construction and signing
5	Nenana Ridge interpretive site 1. Establish self-guiding interpretive trail 2. Construct picnic site with toilets and refuse containers
6	Boat launch and parking area on the Chena River at the end of the Grange Hall Road
6	Trail construction and maintenance of Lyrad Creek system
12	Campground at Alaska Highway crossing of Robertson River

2

3 RESEARCH

4 Appendix E describes each Research Natural Area’s features and the rationale for designating the area
5 as an RNA.

6 TIMBER AND ROAD DEVELOPMENT

7 Two types of monetary considerations affect the amount of timber that DOF can offer for sale:
8 development costs and budget. Development costs are incurred for reforestation, road construction,
9 and maintenance. Most development costs are assumed by the timber sale operator. Agency budget
10 pays for timber sale preparation and administration. The locations, products, and volumes of timber
11 offered and harvested will depend in part upon the amount of revenue the sale can generate to offset
12 development costs. This will vary with the access, timber quality, volume, harvest costs, and current
13 markets. Consequently, timber sale priority must not only meet forest management goals, but also must
14 be economically feasible.

15 FIRE DISTURBANCE

16 Recognizing that the boreal forest is disturbance-driven is essential. Forest condition in the Interior is
17 changing as a result of increased insect and disease activity, greater fire risk, and increased stress on
18 trees caused by climatic change. Previous fire control efforts contribute to the shortage of young to
19 intermediate aged stands, especially in upland forests. Some form of disturbance, natural or man-
20 caused, is necessary to maintain the forest and its biological diversity. Maintenance of a rich landscape
21 mosaic is needed to prevent biodiversity losses. In the Tanana Valley State Forest, fires will continue to
22 be suppressed near settlements and where there are infrastructure investments. Current and proposed
23 timber sales will receive fire protection commensurate with the values at risk. However, where feasible,
24 wildland fires will be allowed to burn and suppression will be limited in other areas to decrease the long-

1 term risk of damaging fires and to maintain natural diversity of forest stands, stand ages, and habitat
2 types. Where allowing wildland fire is not feasible, the DOF will use timber harvest, prescribed fire, or
3 habitat enhancement techniques to disturb the forest and maintain a natural range of forest types and
4 stand ages. Annual reviews of protection levels are an important aspect of the fire plan. Social,
5 environmental, and economic conditions determine the need to review and change protection levels.
6 Each Area Office is responsible for a periodic review of protection levels in their geographic area.
7 Suggested changes will be coordinated with the regional office, neighboring landowners, and will follow
8 the guidelines established by the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan (FMP). The FMP
9 addresses the process for protection level changes on pages 38-40 in a section entitled: Wildland Fire
10 Management Option Revisions. For additional information on fire management topics in the Tanana
11 Valley State Forest, see the Interagency Fire Management Plan Section in Chapter 1 and the Fire
12 Management parts of the Scientific Resources and the Timber Management sections of Chapter 2. Any
13 proposed changes of fire management options (protection levels) will be provided to affected land
14 owners and managers and resource management agencies in accordance with the Alaska Interagency
15 Wildland Fire Management Plan.

16 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS FROM THE TANANA VALLEY 17 STATE FOREST

18 As public land continues to be surveyed and classified by Alaska DNR Lands Office, DOF advocates for
19 the inclusion of productive Forest classified lands in the State Forest System, bringing these parcels
20 under active forest management.

21 The 2001 revision of the TVSF management plan contained a detailed list of land parcels recommended
22 for addition to, or withdrawal from the TVSF. Most of these recommended changes were realized in
23 2008 when SB 229, Tanana Valley State Forest/Minto Flats State Game refuge boundary adjustment,
24 was enacted, adding approximately 101,610 acres to the TVSF, deleting approximately 66,218 acres, and
25 redesignating approximately 4,298 acres as part of the Minto Flats State Game Refuge. The
26 recommendations made in 2001 are included in this section for reference, with annotations indicating
27 which recommended parcels were successfully added or withdrawn in 2008 with the enactment of SB
28 229.

29 At the time those recommendations were published (2001), the Tanana Basin Area Plan (TBAP) was the
30 most current source of information describing designated uses on State lands within the Tanana Basin.
31 In 2014, the TBAP was replaced by the creation of the Eastern Tanana (ETAP) and Yukon Tanana (YTAP)
32 Area Plans. The ETAP and YTAP each list units recommended for addition to the TVSF in their Chapter 2
33 descriptions of Forest classified lands. The list of parcels recommended for addition to the TVSF
34 according to the ETAP and YTAP as of 2024 can be found in Table 4.3, *Recommended Additions to the*
35 *Tanana Valley State Forest*.

36 **Proposed Additions and Withdrawals from 2001 and their Outcomes**

37 "Alaska Statutes Chapter 17, Article 3, (State Forest System) Section 41.17.210 states that State Forest
38 proposals shall consist "primarily of commercially valuable forest land determined by the governor to be

1 necessary for retention in state ownership for management under the principles of multiple use and
2 sustained yield..." On the basis of these criteria, DNR recommends that the following additions and
3 deletions be made to the Tanana Valley State Forest. The TVSF Management Plan Forestwide Map
4 shows recommended additions and withdrawals. The recommended additions all contain commercial
5 forest land and are adjacent to the State Forest. Prior to including them in the State Forest, DNR
6 reviewed the management intent for each unit (currently in the Tanana Basin Area Plan) to be sure it
7 was compatible with the intent of the State Forest. The recommended withdrawals are not
8 commercially valuable forest land and do not otherwise contribute overall to the management goals of
9 the forest. This plan shall be amended if any legislative changes are made in State Forest boundaries.

10 The following list defines abbreviations that are used in this section.

- 11 • TBAP: Tanana Basin Area Plan. Dept. Natural Resources, 1991.

12 **Classifications**

- 13 • Agricultural Land: agr
- 14 • Forestry Land: for
- 15 • Mineral Resources Land: min
- 16 • Public Recreation Land: pur
- 17 • Resource Management Land: rmg
- 18 • Settlement Land: stl
- 19 • Water Resources Land: wrs
- 20 • Wildlife Habitat Land: whb

21 TBAP unit numbers and classifications are shown in brackets in the list below. Examples: [Unit 214 for],
22 [Unit 4K1 for, pur]. Descriptions of these units can be found in TBAP.

23 Recommended additions to the Tanana Valley State Forest

- 24 a. Subunit: C2J 4,480 acres.
25 Classification: TBAP [Unit 214 for]

26 Legal Description: All state lands within:

27 **Township 1 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian**

28 Section 1 *[Added in 2008]*

29 Sections 12 – 13 *[Added in 2008]*

30 Sections 24 – 25 *[Added in 2008]*

31 Sections 35 – 36 *[Added in 2008]*

32 This strip of land, located between Minto Flats and the adjacent State Forest, contains
33 productive upland forests of white spruce and hardwoods. The unit is presently accessed by the
34 Dunbar-Livengood winter trail and will be accessed by an all-season forest road. Management
35 intent will be the same as for Subunit 4C.

- 36 b. Subunit: CIA, CIB 14,568 acres
37 Classification: - TBAP

1 Legal Description: All state lands within:

2 **Township 2 South, Range 4 West, Fairbanks Meridian**

3 Section 4, E1/2, SW1/4 [Unit 1B3 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

4 Section 8, those portions of S1/2 NE1/4, SE1/4, E1/2 SW1/4, SW1/4SW1/4, which lie
5 North of the Parks Highway [Unit 1B3 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

6 Section 9, North of Parks Highway [Unit 1B3 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

7 Sections 17 - 19, North of Parks Highway [Unit 1B3 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

8 **Township 2 South, Range 5 West, Fairbanks Meridian**

9 State-owned lands within Sections 24 - 27, South of Parks Highway 1A1 for, pur, whb]
10 *[Added in 2008]*

11 Sections 31 - 36 [Unit 1A1 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

12 **Township 3 South, Range 5 West, Fairbanks Meridian**

13 Sections 2 – 10 [Unit 1A1 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

14 State-owned lands within Sections 17 – 18 [Unit 1A1 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

15 These units are on Nenana Ridge, border the State Forest, and have similar values. They are
16 highly productive, easily accessible, upland forests. Adding these units to the State Forest will
17 consolidate the state's highest value forest lands under a single management authority and
18 plan.

19 c. Classification: TBAP, all state-selected land. 1,080 acres

20 **Township 4 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian**

21 Section 12 [for, pur]. This parcel is adjacent to the TVSF.

22 Section 11, South ½ [for, pur]. This parcel will be adjacent to TVSF if Section 12 is added.

23 Section 15, E ½ NW ¼, W ½ NE ¼ West of the Tanana River [for]. This parcel will be
24 within ¼ mile of the TVSF if Section 11 is added.

25 Three small state-selected parcels near Nenana adjacent to the TVSF are recommended for
26 addition to the TVSF if they are conveyed to the State. These parcels are near Nenana and have
27 a high potential for timber management. Highly productive spruce stands grow along the
28 Tanana River. The area is easily accessible in winter, and logging commonly occurred there in
29 the past. The area would be managed for personal use and commercial timber production while
30 protecting public use values of the Tanana River.

31 d. Subunit: C8B, 21,829 acres

32 Classification: TBAP

33 Legal Description:

34 **Township 7 South, Range 7 East, Fairbanks Meridian**

35 State-owned lands north of the Richardson Highway within

36 Sections 19 – 21 [Unit 1Q3 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

37 State-owned lands north of the Richardson Highway within Section 27 [Forestry
38 classification: not within TBAP]

39 **Township 7 South, Range 8 East, Fairbanks Meridian**

1 Section 22, W1/2 [Unit 7A2 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

2 State lands within Section 27, W1/2 [Unit 7A1 pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

3 **Township 8 South, Range 5 East, Fairbanks Meridian**

4 Section 1, S ½ SW1/4 [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

5 Section 2, S1/2 N of military boundary, S1/2 NW1/4, SW1/4 NE1/4 *[Added in 2008]*

6 Section 3, SE1/4 NE1/4, NE1/4 SE1/4 N of military boundary *[Added in 2008]*

7 Section 11 - 13, North of the military reservation [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

8 **Township 8 South, Range 6 East, Fairbanks Meridian**

9 Section 1, S1/2 SW1/4, SW1/4 SE1/4 *[Added in 2008]*

10 Sections 2 – 3, S1/2S1/2 [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

11 Sections 7-16 [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

12 Sections 17 - 18, North of the military reservation [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

13 Sections 20 - 21, North of the military reservation [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

14 Sections 22 – 26 [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

15 Sections 27 - 28, North of the military reservation [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

16 **Township 8 South, Range 7 East, Fairbanks Meridian**

17 Section 13, W1/2, SE1/4, SW1/4NE1/4 [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

18 Section 14, W1/2 SW1/4, E1/2 NE1/4 *[Added in 2008]*

19 Section 15, S1/2, NW1/4, S1/2 NE1/4 *[Added in 2008]*

20 Sections 16 – 17 [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

21 Section 19, SE1/4SE1/4 [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

22 Sections 20 – 22 [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

23 Section 23, NW1/4, N1/2 SW1/4, NE1/4NE1/4, W1/2 NE1/4 [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

24 Section 24, N1/2 NW1/4 [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

25 Section 27, W1/2 , NW1/4NE1/4 [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

26 Section 28, NE1/4SE1/4, North of the Delta River [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

27 Section 29 [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

28 Section 30, NE1/4NE1/4 [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

29 Section 34, NW1/4NW1/4 [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

30 **Township 8 South, Range 8 East, Fairbanks Meridian**

31 Section 18, SW1/4SE1/4, S1/2 SW1/4, NW1/4SW1/4 [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

32 Section 19, N1/2 , N1/2 SE1/4 [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

33 Section 20, SW1/4NW1/4, NW1/4SW1/4 [Unit 7G1 for whb] *[Added in 2008]*

34
35 This unit comprises the bulk of the timberland occurring between Fort Greely and the Tanana
36 River. The timber consists of productive white spruce stands along the Tanana River and mixed
37 white spruce/hardwood stands on uplands to the South. Management goals would emphasize
38 the area's wildlife, recreation, and timber resources. Because of habitat values in the floodplain,
39 the recommended additions to the State Forest are south of the 1000-foot contour line from the
40 Tanana River.

- 1 e. Subunit: 7D5, 160 acres. This Subunit was created by the 2001 Amendment to TBAP, from
2 the original Subunit 7D4.

3 **Township 9 South, Range 13 East, Fairbanks Meridian**

4 Section 28, NE ¼ [Unit 7D5 (formerly 7D4) pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

5 This new subunit lies adjacent to the Tanana Valley State Forest Subunit 10B, the Volkmar Bluffs
6 Research Natural Area. This quarter-section of land within the Tanana Basin planning area
7 encompasses a large prairie feature that appears to be part of the prairie system in the adjacent
8 Tanana Valley State Forest research natural area. This amendment is designed to expand the
9 research natural area to include the remainder of that prairie system.

- 10 f. Subunit: C6F, 9,600 acres

11 Classification: TBAP

12 Legal Description:

13 **Township 21 North, Range 8 East, Copper River Meridian**

14 Sections 1 – 5 [Unit 6F2 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

15 **Township 22 North, Range 8 East, Copper River Meridian**

16 Sections 6 – 7 [Unit 6F2 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

17 Section 19 [Unit 6F2 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

18 Sections 25 – 26 [Unit 6F2 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

19 Section 33 [Unit 6F2 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

20 **Township 23 North, Range 6 East, Copper River Meridian**

21 Section 13 [Unit 6F2 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

22 Sections 24 – 25 [Unit 6F2 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

23 **Township 23 North, Range 7 East, Copper River Meridian**

24 Section 36 [Unit 6F2 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

25 This unit consists of several small parcels of land that were not included in the State Forest
26 because of questionable land status. The primary purpose of adding these to the State Forest is
27 to consolidate land management in the area. Management intent for most of this area would be
28 the same as that for Subunit 12B.

- 29 g. Subunit: C6I, C6H. 25, 319 acres

30 Classification: TBAP

31 Legal Description:

32 **Township 18 North, Range 13 East, Copper River Meridian**

33 Section 3, W1/2 [Unit 6H1 rmg]

34 Section 4 – 6 [Sec. 4: Unit 6H1 rmg] [Sec. 5: Unit 6H4 for min whb] [Sec.
35 6: Unit 6D2 for] *[Sections 4-5 added in 2008]*

36 Section 7 [Unit 6D2 for]

37 **Township 19 North, Range 12 East, Copper River Meridian**

38 Sections 1 – 3 [Unit 6H4 for min whb] *[Added in 2008]*

39 Section 10 [Unit 6H4 for min whb] *[Added in 2008]*

- 1 Section 11, excl. F14438 Par B. [Unit 6H4 for min whb] *[Added in 2008]*
- 2 Section 12 [Unit 6H4 for min whb] *[Added in 2008]*
- 3 Section 13, excl. F14471 Par B. [Unit 6I1 for pur whb] *[Added in 2008]*
- 4 Section 14 [Unit 6I1 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*
- 5 Section 15, 16 E ½ [Unit 6H4 for, min, whb] *[Added in 2008]*
- 6 Section 17, S ½ [Unit 6I1 rmg and Unit 6H4 for, min, whb] *[Added in 2008]*
- 7 Section 19 [Unit 6I1 for, pur, whb and Unit 6H4 for, min, whb] *[Added in 2008]*
- 8 Section 20, S ½ and NE ¼ , excl. USS6011 F024775 Par.E. [Unit 6H4 for, min, whb] *[Added*
- 9 *in 2008]*
- 10 Sections 21 – 36 [Unit 6H4 for, min, whb] *[Added in 2008]*

Township 19 North, Range 13 East, Copper River Meridian

- 11 Section 17, Southwest of the right bank of the Tanana River [Unit 6I1 for, pur, whb]
- 12 *[Added in 2008]*
- 13 Section 18, South of the right bank of the Tanana River [Unit 6I1 for, pur, whb] *[Added in*
- 14 *2008]*
- 15 Section 19 [Unit 6I1 for, pur, whb] *[Added in 2008]*
- 16 Sections 20 - 21, West of the right bank of the Tanana River [Unit 6I1 for, pur, whb]
- 17 *[Added in 2008]*
- 18 Sections 28 - 29, South of the right bank of the Tanana River [Unit 6I1 for, pur, whb]
- 19 *[Added in 2008]*
- 20 Sections 30 – 32 [Unit 6I1 for, pur, whb]
- 21 Sections 33 - 35, Southwest of the right bank of the Tanana River [Unit 6I1 for, pur, whb]
- 22 *[Added in 2008]*
- 23

24 These units are located along the Tanana River near Tok between Native lands and the State
25 Forest. The units contain commercial timber, have good access, and would be valuable additions
26 to the State Forest.

- 27 h. TBAP Subunit 6F3 and 6F2. 5,600 acres.

Township 21 North, Range 8 East, Copper River Meridian:

- 28 Section 6 [Unit 6F3 pur whb] *[Added in 2008]*

Township 23 North, Range 6 East, Copper River Meridian:

- 29 Sections 2 - 4 [Unit 6F2 for pur whb] *[Added in 2008]*

- 30 Section 18 [Unit 6F2 for pur whb] *[Added in 2008]*

- 31 Section 19 [Unit 6F2 for pur whb] *[Added in 2008]*

Township 23 North, Range 7 East, Copper River Meridian:

- 32 Section 34, NE1/4, S1/2 [Unit 6F2 for pur whb] *[Added in 2008]*

- 33 Section 35 [Unit 6F2 for pur whb] *[Added in 2008]*

Township 24 North, Range 7 East, Copper River Meridian:

- 34 Section 31 [Unit 6F3 pur whb] *[Added in 2008]*

1 These isolated units of TBAP lands are located near Dot Lake between Native lands and the State
2 Forest. Their addition to the State Forest will consolidate management authority.

3 i. Subunit: C6G, 23,040 acres

4 Classification: Forestry, Wildlife Habitat TBAP

5 Legal Description:

6 **Township 25 North, Range 7 East, Copper River Meridian** [Unit 6G1 for, whb] *[Added in*
7 *2008]*

8 This township was apparently left out of the TVSF legislation by a mistake in a legal description
9 that substituted a wrong township. Although the unit is currently inaccessible, including it in the
10 State Forest as originally proposed would offer some management efficiency because it shares
11 common access and similar resource values with adjoining State Forest lands to the west and
12 south. The unit would be included in Unit 11 and managed for multiple use.

13 j. The following two parcels were excluded in the legal description of the TVSF because of
14 federal interests. However, the federal interests are no longer valid. One of the two federal
15 applications is closed and the other was discovered by BLM to have an incorrect legal
16 description and is actually in another township outside the forest boundary. The legal
17 descriptions of the two parcels follow.

- 18 • Parcel 1. 1,794 acres. Sections 5, 6 and 7, T19N, R13E, CRM. F028758 should now be
19 included in the TVSF. *[Added in 2008]*
- 20 • Parcel 2. Section 17, T20N, R11E, CRM. F12548 should now be included in the TVSF.
21 *[Added in 2008]*

22 Recommended Withdrawals from the Tanana Valley State Forest

23 a. Subunit 1C 1,898 acres

24 Legal Description:

25 **Township 1 North, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian**

26 Section 18, 19, and 30, Those portions east of the Tolovana River *[Withdrawn in 2008]*

27 **Township 2 North, Range 10 west, Fairbanks Meridian**

28 Section 7, S1/2 *[Withdrawn in 2008]*

29 **Township 2 North, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian**

30 Section 10, S1/2 *[Withdrawn in 2008]*

31 Section 11, S1/2 *[Withdrawn in 2008]*

32 Section 12, S1/2 *[Withdrawn in 2008]*

33 These are the portions of Minto Flats along the Tolovana River which are recommended for
34 withdrawal so as to consolidate most wetlands in Minto Flats under a single management
35 intent. The areas are highly productive wildlife habitat but contain very little timberland. The

1 area borders the Minto Flats State Game Refuge and is recommended as an addition to the
2 Refuge.

3 b. Subunit 3B 2,400 acres

4 Legal Description:

5 **Township 4 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian**

6 Sections 27, 28, 29 *[Withdrawn in 2008]*

7 Sections 32, N1/2, SW1/4 *[Withdrawn in 2008]*

8 This area consists of wetlands bordering the Minto Flats State Game Refuge and is
9 recommended as an addition to the Refuge.

10 c. Subunit 4B 2,400 acres

11 Legal Description:

12 **Township 3 North, Range 3 West, Fairbanks Meridian**

13 Section 25, S1/2 *[Withdrawn in 2008]*

14 Section 31, SE1/4 *[Withdrawn in 2008]*

15 Section 32-35, S1/2 *[Withdrawn in 2008]*

16 Section 36 *[Withdrawn in 2008]*

17 This is the eastern portion of Subunit 4B which is recommended as a TVSF withdrawal so that it
18 is available for designation as part of the Chatanika State Recreation River corridor (see the
19 “Management Guidelines and Activities” part of the Unit 4 section of Chapter 3). The area is
20 comprised mostly of poorly drained wetlands along the Chatanika River and contains little
21 timberland. Include in TBAP Unit 1E1 until a legislative designation is made.

22 d. Subunit 12A 19,200 acres

23 Legal Description:

24 **Township 21 North, Range 10 East, Copper River Meridian**

25 Sections 1-22

26 Sections 27-34 *[Withdrawn except sections 27 and 34]*

27 This township contains a low relief and swampy noncommercial forest. It was not included in
28 the administration proposal. The unit’s inclusion in the State Forest does not offer any
29 management advantages for adjacent State Forest lands. Include in TBAP Unit 6G1 until a
30 legislative designation is made.

31 e. Subunit 12A 19,200 acres

32 Legal Description:

33 **Township 25 North, Range 8 East, Copper River Meridian**

34 Sections 1-5 *[Withdrawn in 2008]*

35 Sections 8-17 *[Withdrawn in 2008]*

36 Sections 20-30 *[Withdrawn in 2008]*

37 Sections 33-36 *[Withdrawn in 2008]*

1 This township was apparently included in the State Forest because of a mistake made in the
 2 range. This unit is generally at a high elevation with few significant resources appropriate for the
 3 State Forest system. Include in TBAP Unit 6G2 until a legislative designation is made.

4 f. Subunit 13A, 13B 21,120 acres

5 Legal Description:

6 **Township 20 North, Range 13 East, Copper River Meridian**

7 Sections 1-18 *[Withdrawn in 2008]*

8 **Township 19 North, Range 15 East, Copper River Meridian**

9 Sections 1-15 *[Withdrawn in 2008]*

10 These areas were not part of the original administration proposal. They are underlain entirely by
 11 permafrost and forested with noncommercial black spruce. They have no other important
 12 resource values or advantages for inclusion in the State Forest. Include in TBAP Unit 6J3 until a
 13 legislative designation is made.”

14 **Lands Identified in the ETAP and YTAP for addition to the Tanana Valley State Forest as of 2024**

15 Table 4.3 Recommended Additions to the Tanana Valley State Forest

Area Plan	Unit Number	Land Use Designation	Acreage
YTAP	T-41	Forestry	34,361
YTAP	K-26	Forestry	17,897
YTAP	K-31	Forestry	2,547
YTAP	P-01	Forestry	2,211
YTAP	P-03	Forestry	4,838
YTAP	P-11	Forestry	514
YTAP	P-30	Forestry	4,300
YTAP	P-41	Forestry	14,386
YTAP	P-48	Forestry	18,813
YTAP Total			99,867
ETAP	F-04	Forestry	24,104
ETAP	F-14	Forestry	9,266
ETAP	F-21	Forestry	2,603
ETAP	F-33	Forestry	69,921
ETAP	F-34	Forestry	62,723
ETAP	F-37	Forestry	2,032
ETAP	F-38	Forestry	3,840
ETAP	F-48	Forestry	2,765
ETAP	F-64	Forestry	14,373
ETAP	F-71	Forestry	640
ETAP	F-99	Forestry	1,938
ETAP	F-100	Forestry	1,440
ETAP	F-111	Forestry	824
ETAP	F-114	Forestry	1,035
ETAP	F-133	Forestry	320
ETAP	F-148	Forestry	311
ETAP	D-08	Forestry	33,209

ETAP	D-10	Forestry	72,657
ETAP	D-12	Forestry, Habitat	14,112
ETAP	D-17	Forestry, Habitat	14,729
ETAP	D-18	Forestry	12,019
ETAP	D-19	Forestry, Habitat	11,204
ETAP	D-21	Forestry, Habitat	61,565
ETAP	D-46	Forestry, Habitat	40
ETAP	D-48	Forestry, Habitat	980
ETAP	D-49	Forestry	227
ETAP	D-50	Forestry, Habitat	2,560
ETAP	D-55	Forestry, Habitat	10,769
ETAP	D-58	Forestry, Habitat	14,175
ETAP	U-21	Forestry, Habitat	13,141
ETAP	U-24	Forestry	14,607
ETAP	U-34	Forestry, Habitat	2,435
ETAP	U-65	Forestry, Habitat	7,639
ETAP	U-66	Forestry	10,530
ETAP Total			494,733
Total recommended Additions to TVSF			594,600

1
2 Additions and withdrawals of land from Alaska’s State Forest system occur through legislative
3 designation, following the procedural guidelines described in AS 38.04.005 and AS 38.04.060 -
4 38.04.070. The recommendations in Table 4.3 are based on the Forestry management guidelines
5 described in the ETAP and YMAP as of 2024. The Division of Forestry may propose other parcels for
6 addition to the TVSF not specifically noted in DMLW Area plans DOF and DMLW recommendations are
7 subject to change. The specificity of Table 4.3 does not exclude future adaptation of the currently
8 proposed changes to the TVSF land base. In addition, the Alaska Timber Jobs Task Force published
9 recommendations in 2012, identifying over one million acres of forest classified land in the Tanana Basin
10 recommended for addition to the TVSF. Any proposed changes in legislative designation for a parcel of
11 land will be coordinated with the DMLW Resource Assessment and Development Section (RADS), as well
12 as the DMLW Lands Office.

1

2 RESEARCH NEEDS

3 All research on the resources, features, uses, and economics of the State Forest will improve DNR's
4 ability to manage the State Forest. A number of research projects have been done to help improve
5 decision-making in the last 20 years. However, the environment continues to change which requires
6 new and/or better knowledge of the boreal forest. The knowledge may allow DNR to increase the
7 benefits available from the forest, and in some cases the knowledge is needed to validate plan
8 recommendations. The following research projects are those most needed to improve the quality of
9 planning decisions and increase TVSF benefits in the order of priority.

10 1) Silvicultural Research

- 11 a) Compilation of on-going and completed research relevant to Alaska. The compilation will help
12 find existing information and know what research will further help with management decision
13 making.
- 14 b) Remote sensing technologies. Can we use remote sensing technology, including UAV, airplane,
15 satellite, visible and hyperspectral images, and LiDAR, to obtain high-quality data at low cost?
16 What types of applications, such as timber cruising, inventory, regeneration survey, fuel
17 assessment, aerial direct seeding, and fire management are feasible?
- 18 c) Assisted migration. Monitoring of existing provenance and species trials will help assess the
19 adaptability of seed sources and non-native species. Can we find optimal sites for local seeds
20 under changing climate? Incorporate seeds from southern latitude and non-native species on
21 selected sites for reforestation after timber harvest in a systematic way to assess adaptability,
22 growth, and optimal spacing.
- 23 d) Landscape scale fire resilience and resource outcomes. Can we pattern harvest of hardwood or
24 mixed species stands to regenerate fuel types that reduce risk of fire spread into mid-aged white
25 spruce (protect future sawlogs)? Can we use timber sale size and configuration to emulate fire
26 disturbance patterns to maintain desired assemblages of wildlife species in managed forest? Can
27 we use these timber harvest patterns to evaluate wildlife ecosystem services beneficial to forest
28 regeneration and resilience to insect irruptions?
- 29 e) Wildlife use of cutover areas. Can we systematically evaluate existing timber sales for
30 understanding habitat attributes predictive of the occurrence or abundance of wildlife species
31 or species assemblages that may aid design of future timber sales for evaluating both timber
32 and desired wildlife outcomes?
- 33 f) Timber growth and yield. The Interior Alaska FVS variant was recently released and needs to be
34 validated using existing timber sales, Levels of Growing Stock sites, Cooperative Alaska Forest
35 Inventory, and other available long-term research sites. Growth and yield model should also
36 include non-native species, such as lodgepole pine and Siberian larch, to assess their economic
37 feasibility.
- 38 g) Seedling. What are the capabilities of growing high-quality seedlings within the state? Should
39 additional nursery infrastructure be established in-state? Are there BMPs to consider when
40 collecting seed? What does a resilient seed storage bank look like on a statewide level?
- 41 h) Mixed wood and hardwood silviculture. What components of the silvicultural prescription
42 should be considered when managing mixed species or hardwood stands? Guidelines of

- 1 management practices, such as harvesting method, need of reforestation management, and
2 timing of each practice will be beneficial for forest land managers.
- 3 i) Tree mortality. Is it possible to mitigate insect outbreaks, especially *Ips* and spruce beetle, using
4 forest management techniques or spatial pattern of harvest? What are the best practices for
5 managing forest health? What are the silviculture prescription components that need to be
6 considered with regard to forest health?
- 7 j) Silvicultural Treatments. Partial cuts, seed tree cuts, selective cuts and other harvest systems
8 need to be studied to determine the impact to soil warming, site productivity, and wildlife
9 response.
- 10 k) Grazing Sites. What are best practices of livestock grazing and range management to mitigate
11 invasive species or pathogens? How could we use livestock grazing as part of forest
12 management?

DRAFT