

## **TVSF Intent To Adopt Public Meeting- 20250403\_183802-Meeting Recording**

0:02

And whatever you say in the meeting will be part of the public record as well.

0:08

We'll have a chance for questions and answers for the majority of the meeting.

0:14

I'm going to try to keep my presentation fairly brief, but I'll ask that everybody just keep their microphone muted until we get into that Q&A session.

0:25

Across the top of your screen, you've got a little speech bubble on the left hand side.

0:32

That's the meeting chat.

0:35

If you click that to open it up, I've put some links with information about the Tanah Valley State Forest and the resources within in the chat, and you'll see a little image of a hand kind of in the middle of that menu.

0:51

If you have a question that you'd like to ask out loud, just ask that you raise your hand and we'll go through folks in the order that they kind of volunteer, or you're welcome to type questions into the meeting chat if you'd prefer.

1:08

Let's see.

1:11

Yep.

1:12

So I'm going to try to keep this meeting pretty short.

1:15

I'll, I'll just be talking through kind of what a forest management plan is and what our planning process looks like.

1:23

And then hopefully we'll be able to use the bulk of our time tonight for questions from folks who have questions.

1:32

So I want to start just by sharing the purpose statement for state forests in Alaska.

1:39

And the primary purpose of our state forests is codified in statute and specifically that's found in the Forest Resources and Practices Act, which we usually refer to as FRPA.

1:51

So in statute, the primary purpose in the establishment of state forests is timber management that provides for the production, utilization and replenishment of timber resources while allowing other beneficial uses of public land and resources.

2:07

And Tanana Valley State Forest is unique in that it's management plan adds an additional wildlife management objective.

2:18

So as the Division of Forestry and Fire Protection, we specialize in one piece of our multiple use puzzle, the forest resources, which are the trees.

2:31

And so our kind of primary concept for managing the forest resources in Tanana Valley State Forest and one of our tenants for Land Management in general is this concept of the sustained yield, which essentially means that we're required to pay attention to the resources that exist on state lands, pay attention to if and how these resources renew on the landscape and use that information to manage for a rate of resource use that would not outpace the rate of renewal.

3:11

So in forestry, we have a tool called the annual allowable cut that's pretty critical for maintaining or achieving the sustained yield goal.

3:23

And in the chat, I've put a link to our inventory of state forest lands in the Tanana Valley.

3:31

That report was published in 2013 and that's our most recent inventory of forest resources in the Tanana Valley.

3:41

And this is the document that explains how the annual allowable cut value is determined for the Tanana Valley State Forest.

3:51

So may be able to gain some insight about how we make those decisions.

3:55

If you're interested.

3:58

In addition to the sustained yield concept our other kind of cornerstone management tool is this concept of multiple use management.

4:09

Essentially what this means is that the state forests are designated to support the production, utilization and replenishment of forest resources, in particular timber.

4:24

But that needs to happen in a way that accommodates other potential uses on the state forest, which could be recreation, or could be mining, Fish and Wildlife habitat, etcetera.

4:40

So again, this term, multiple use, the way that we apply it is defined in statute.

4:47

And I will spare everyone the experience of me reading several paragraphs of statute out loud to them.

4:56

But feel free to drop a question in the chat and I can help you connect with the specific reference if you're interested.

5:05

So the way that we support the primary purpose of a state forest is through our forest management plans.

5:16

Part of the state forest system being established and existing in the state of Alaska is a requirement that we write a state forest management plan.

5:28

We use the same format for every state forest management plan, and this mirrors the area plans for Land Management that other divisions in the state write for larger swaths of land.

5:43

But essentially it's a four chapter model where we start with the description of the plan, how it functions, and how it relates to other management documents.

5:57

Then we move into a description of the land base and a summary of the resources and our management principles regarding those resources.

6:08

We move in to more specifics in Chapter 3 where we identify each management unit and what the resources present in that parcel are.

6:19

And then Chapter 4 kind of summarizes the actions necessary to implement the management plan and what a, the modification process would look like.

6:36

See.

6:37

So a forest management plan.

6:38

It's been kind of a tricky thing for me to wrap my mind around.

6:41

I've been in my position just over a year and it's an, it's a nuanced thing because it's a broad scale conceptual document.

6:51

It's meant to be accurate and relevant and useful for up to 20 years.

6:59

It's meant to sort of provide some context for decisions in the state forest, and it's meant very intentionally written to keep potential uses as flexible as possible.

7:15

So there are certain pieces that we must include determined by statute, but there's a lot of information that we try to keep more general so that we can kind of create a framework for decision making.

7:36

So the question that I've been finding really useful for me as I've been working through management plan content and trying to help update our policy in the state forest is at the bottom of the slide here.

7:50

If X Project were proposed 10 years from now, what considerations, what ideas, or what relationships between resources would help Foresters in the future make an informed decision?

8:05

It's easy to get kind of sidetracked and chased down rabbit holes, but this is meant to be like a very broad scale document.

8:17

It's a little bit easier, I think, for me to wrap my head around what the plan is not.

8:24

It's not a decision document.

8:27

It's not a place to outline specific projects or proposals.

8:34

It's not necessarily a place to outline specific processes, but it's more a set of principles or a description of competencies that can help DOF foresters be the best foresters for that landscape if a specific project is proposed in the future.

8:59

So I spent a few years before working as a forester.

9:05

I spent a few years working in the outdoor recreation industry and we had this concept of the proverbial possibilities bag.

9:16

Essentially, it's your little bag that you never leave camp without, and it always has water and your compass and an extra layer.

9:26

But I think in the context of the management plan, the analogy is it's not specifically outfitted for one objective or one project.

9:40

It's more of this baseline set of competencies that we use as a foundation to make decisions about specific opportunities in the future.

9:53

So in terms of our revision process in the last few years, we've moved through our scoping.

10:04

We've spent months and months developing draft.

10:08

We had a public review period back in fall of last year received over 200 comments from folks with recommendations for adjustments to plan language and concepts that they like to see included.

10:25

We are now in our intent to adopt phase which includes review of the response summary to the comments that were submitted last fall.

10:39

So right now, online folks have access to our updated draft.

10:46

This is the version of the draft that we hope to submit to the Commissioner's Office for approval, the Land Classification order, which is sort of the the legally magic document that turns all of our recommendations in the plan into something more substantial than a suggestion.

11:11

And we have our issue response summary where we've summarized the comments that were submitted.

11:16

We've provided some information from the perspective of the Division of Forestry, and we've identified whether or not we'll be making edits to the plan in response to those comments.

11:30

So this review period lasts 30 days.

11:34

We're about almost halfway through.

11:37

I know we are about halfway through and the last opportunity to submit comments for the intent to adopt phase will be April 18th.

11:48

So the next, the next thing that we'll be doing is reviewing the comments that are submitted in this round.

11:55

We'll be identifying things that are new concepts that are brought to our attention.

12:01

So if folks submit comments that are addressed by this first issue response summary, they won't be addressed again.

12:10

But anything new will be addressed in our next issue response summary and then we'll be recommending any final adjustments to the plan language.

12:23

I'm hopeful that that that can happen in a month or so, but my experience so far in planning is everything takes 2 1/2 times as long as I expect it will.

12:35

So I will hesitate to give any hard estimates on when we'll move into the next phase.

12:43

But when we submit our final versions to the Commissioner's Office for approval, they will also become available to the public.

12:54

And once they are approved, then the new version, the new revision of the plan will be our guiding document for forest management on the Tanner Valley State Forest until the next revision is justified essentially, which could be up to 15 or 20 years.

13:17

So this is just sort of a simple timeline for where we are at now in the process and those next steps that I just described.

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And unfortunately, I cannot give a concrete date for the final submission for approval.

13:43

But yes, the Friday, April 18th is the last day of public review period or our intent to adopt review period.

13:55

We ask that comments are submitted in writing, and that can be done through e-mail or snail mail.

14:02

And information about this process and the document draft itself is available on our revision website.

14:13

And hopefully QR code works through a computer screen, but if folks need it, this QR code on this slide will take you to the revision website.

14:25

So yeah, I'm happy to open things up for any questions or comments from here.

19:15

Well, I have it posted that this meeting is lasting or available until 8:00, so I certainly don't expect everybody to sit in silence with me until 8 if that's, you know, if we don't end up having any questions.

19:33

But I'll be here if other folks sign in or I know I see we have one member of the public on the call now.

19:42

I'm would love to hear if there's specific uses or resources that you're interested in or curious about on the forest, even if it's not specific to the plan.

19:55

I'd love to know what brought you on to the call tonight.

19:58

But otherwise, thanks everybody for joining and feel free to stay or not.

20:19

Hey, thanks a lot for all the good work on this, Geneva.

20:22

Really appreciate it.

20:23

And yeah, I'm going to bounce.

20:28

Sounds good.

20:28

Thanks for tuning in, Dub.

20:30

It's nice to have some staff on the call for sure.

20:34

All right, you and everybody else have a good night.

21:10

Hey, Geneva, Kevin here.

21:12

I might Mosey, but I'll probably just pull this back up on my phone after leaving the office here.

21:20

So thanks for all the hard work.

21:22

Thanks for everything, getting everything done.

21:24

Feel like the finish line is close by.

21:27

So thank you.

21:29

It's insight.

21:30

Yeah, I'm so excited.

21:33

Thanks for joining on the call.

21:35

Absolutely.

21:36

I'm sure we'll be talking about it more.

21:38

Oh yeah, guys.