# STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MAT-SU AREA AND KENAI / KODIAK AREA

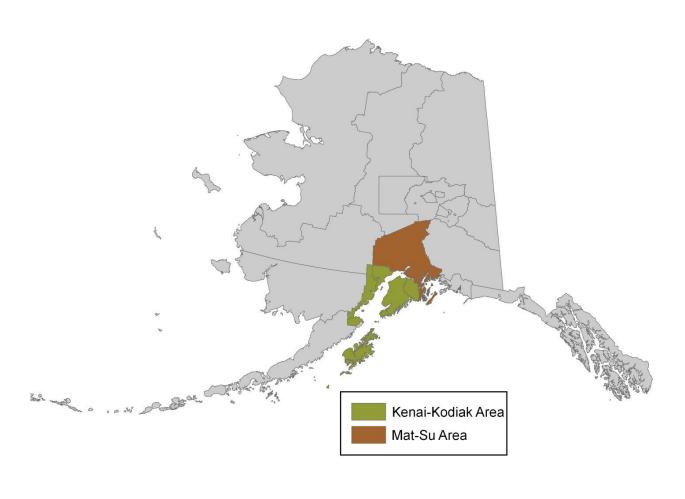
# FIVE-YEAR SCHEDULE OF TIMBER SALES CY 2022-2026

November 2022

Stephen Connelly Coastal Regional Forester

> DNR Division of Forestry & Fire Protection 550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 1450 Anchorage, Alaska 99501 907-269.8400

# Mat-Su Area and Kenai-Kodiak Area Locator Map



Stephen Connelly Coastal Regional Forester

Stephen Nickel Mat-Su/SW Area Forester Diane Campbell

11/3/2022

Diane Campbell Kenai/Kodiak Area Forester

#### **Purpose of the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales**

The Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales (FYSTS), published every two years, identifies areas where the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (DOF) is planning timber sales. The Five-Year Schedule is meant to inform the public, timber industry, local governments, and other agencies of potential State timber sales, and solicit their input to help us better plan our sale program. The Five-Year Schedule is a scoping document, not a decision document and is therefore not appealable under AS 38.05.035.

This Five-Year Schedule meets the statutory requirements of AS 38.05.113 and acts as a basis for allocating departmental resources in considering, designing and conducting timber sales. Volume and harvest information is based on the calendar year. This document does not include harvests proposed by the University of Alaska or the Alaska Mental Health Land Trust. Their respective offices manage the University of Alaska and Mental Health Trust lands.

This Five-Year Schedule provides information to the public concerning development and use of the State's Forest resources in the Mat-Su Area (MSA) and the Kenai / Kodiak Area (KKA) for the period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2026.

DOF bases the Five-Year Schedule on State lands that are available for timber harvest, as identified in area plans. Area plans are long range planning documents prepared by DNR to determine the use of State land in regional areas, such as *Southeast Susitna Area Plan*, *Susitna Matanuska Area Plan*, and *Kenai Area Plan*. The areas targeted for timber harvest and development are based on the management intent language in the Area Plans and are quantified in this Five-Year Schedule based on aerial photo inventory. These data are augmented by limited ground reconnaissance and historical knowledge accumulated by personnel working in the area.

All State timber sales must comply with the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and Regulations, and the Alaska Land Act and Regulations. Further, all State timber sales must adhere to area-wide land management policies and specific land management policies for each management unit of DNR area plans.

After adopting the Five-Year Schedule, DOF will do more detailed fieldwork to assess and design proposed sales. Before any commercial timber sale of ten acres or larger is offered, DOF will prepare a Best Interest Finding (BIF) for agency and public review and comment. Based on the comments received, DOF will issue a Final Best Interest Finding that will determine whether or not the timber sale is in the State's best interest. The Final BIF is appealable under AS 38.05.035. Prior to harvest, a Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) will be developed that gives site-specific information for each sale, describing the location, estimated timber volume, harvest methods, reforestation plan, access, and other potential uses of the sale area. Other State agencies and the public have the opportunity to review and comment on every FLUP. Significant concerns or mitigation needs that arise during the review period will be addressed by DOF before the sale proceeds. The BIF, not the FYSTS, is the final document that decides whether or not the Division will offer a timber sale. The FLUP is the State's specific logging plan for that sale. If a sale was offered but not purchased, or if a sale was purchased but not harvested wholly or in part, the remaining timber can be sold without reappearing in a FYSTS or in a BIF. A new FLUP may be required if conditions warrant it.

#### **Management Intent of the DOF Timber Sale Program**

The goals of the timber sale program are to make timber available for existing timber harvesting and processing businesses, and to create the kind of forest biodiversity that will provide additional future jobs and income while maintaining compatibility with other designated land uses. Harvesting is designed to promote forest health and diversity and to meet forest management goals that provide additional benefits, including diverse forest habitats and long-term supplies of many forest products. DOF develops FYSTS biennially and may write them annually if market and stand conditions warrant a change in management. Timber sales are offered in a range of volumes and contract periods to accommodate the demands of the forest industry, the public, and forest management goals. Sale offerings will be subject to access conditions, markets, the limits of the annual allowable cut, public comment, and DOF staffing and funding to design and administer timber sales.

DOF will coordinate timber sales with timber sale offerings of other landowners when it will be in both the landowner's and State's best interest. Opportunities for cooperative timber sales will be identified, in part, through public and agency review of the FYSTS.

#### **Location: Mat-Su Area**

The Mat-Su Area covers most of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the Municipality of Anchorage and is bounded by Girdwood and Turnagain Arm on the south, the Alaska Range on the west, Denali National Park on the north, and the Talkeetna Mountains on the east.

Most of the timber sales included in this schedule are from four larger management blocks in the Mat-Su Area: the West Petersville Block near Trapper Creek; and the Houston Block near Houston; the Fish Creek Block west of Big Lake and the Willer-Kash Block near Willow.

#### Location: Kenai / Kodiak Area

The KKA encompasses all of the Kenai Peninsula, the west side of Cook Inlet to the Aleutian Range, the Kodiak Archipelago, and the western half of Prince William Sound.

#### **Annual Allowable Cut**

The Division of Forestry is mandated to manage its timber harvest on a sustained yield basis. 'Sustained Yield' means the "achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of an annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the State land consistent with multiple use" (AS 38.04.910). 'Sustained Yield' is also mandated in the Constitution of the State of Alaska, Article 8, Section 4. To fulfill this mandate, the DOF uses annual allowable cut (AAC) calculations, which is the average amount of timber that may be cut from a forest to maintain a balance between net growth and harvest while meeting the management intent for the land. It estimates the maximum amount of timber that can be harvested each year while maintaining sustainability of the timber. The DOF utilizes the AAC to develop the amount of timber proposed for sale in the FYSTS. For a variety of planning and logistical reasons, the DOF will typically designate a variety of proposed timber sale configurations; some actually amounting to more than the AAC for a given year. Actual acres cut will, though, remain inside the AAC when averaged on a decadal basis (or the five-year basis as required by SFG). To this end, the DOF may write a FYSTS more often to accommodate changes in forest management timing and keep the public informed of its actions.

#### **AAC: Mat-Su Area**

The annual allowable cut for the Mat-Su Area was established by the *SFG*. The SFG further divides the Mat-Su Area into three phases: Phase I east of the Susitna River, Phase II west of the Susitna River, and Phase III west of the Kahiltna River. Each Phase has its own AAC calculation with all proposed activities during this schedule's period directed towards Phase I. For this schedule, average cubic feet per acre was applied to existing data to arrive at an estimated AAC. The AAC will be updated as soon as new data is received.

#### **Annual Allowable Cut**

Phase	Allowable Cut
Phase I	1,400 acres/year

#### **Estimated Proposed Acres to be Sold by Calendar Year**

2022: 1,364 acres 2023: 1,615 2024: 1,236 2025: 1,624 2026: 1,626

Estimated Total 7,464 acres

#### AAC: Kenai / Kodiak Area

In the KKA, proposed timber sales primarily focus on sanitation and salvage of timber impacted by historic spruce bark beetle activity. The Alaskan Supreme Court ruled that timber cutting may be permitted at a level that cannot be sustained over a forest rotation only in unusual circumstances such as salvage cuts where trees have been killed or damaged.

The total forestland base (gross acres) considered for the calculation is 79,200 acres. For the AAC calculations, the Kenai is divided into two sections: the Kenai Peninsula (54,600 acres), and West Side Cook Inlet and Kalgin Island (24,600 acres). In both units the rotation age used for spruce is 120 years. This rotation age is based on future utilization and a model site index.

#### **Annual Allowable Cut**

Location	<b>Forested Acres</b>	<b>Allowable Cut Acres</b>
Kenai Peninsula	54,600	455/year
West Side of Cook Inlet &		
Kalgin Island	24,600	205/year
Grand Total	79,200	660/year

#### Proposed Acres to be Sold by Calendar Year

2020: 165 acres
2021: 631
2022: 220
2023: 195
2024: 213

Total 1,424 acres

<sup>\*</sup>See Strategic Plans under Kenai / Kodiak Area, page 7.

#### Timber Harvest Methodology: Mat-Su Area

The Mat-Su Area will use harvest methods to encourage and enhance the establishment of seedlings produced by seeds from residual trees and the surrounding forest. Due to the extensive mortality of spruce caused by the current spruce beetle outbreak, pole, sapling, and seedling-sized white spruce will be protected to the fullest extent possible to provide a stand of uneven age structure for the next rotation. Specific silvicultural treatments will be addressed in the individual sale FLUPS, however, the general intent is to target the removal of dead spruce and mature birch. Usually, natural regeneration provides adequate spruce reforestation. Methodologies will strive to protect next generation spruce seed sources. In most birch and aspen stands, the seed tree harvest silvicultural method will be employed. Natural seed regeneration and stump sprouting will provide regeneration in hardwood stands. Harvest areas using the seed tree and clear-cut methods will be mechanically scarified to create soil conditions conducive to the establishment of natural seedlings. In areas of high spruce stem counts, selective cutting of dead spruce may occur.

#### Timber Harvest Methodology: Kenai / Kodiak Area

Due to extensive mortality caused by the spruce beetle, most of the silvicultural treatments will consist of removing dead trees and leaving live spruce less than a defined DBH, usually 10 inches. Silvicultural prescriptions for each sale will provide for retaining spruce trees to provide wildlife cover or desirable seed sources. Stand conditions change annually. When standing timber is pushed over or broken by wind, the downed trees hold moisture and rot at a higher rate than standing timber which then affects the marketability and value of timber sales.

Natural seed regeneration and stump sprouting will provide regeneration in hardwood stands. Harvest areas using the seed tree and clear cut methods will be mechanically scarified to create soil conditions conducive to the establishment of natural seedlings.

The result is that most harvested areas will have a forested appearance; but they will look obviously thinned. In areas where most of the trees are dead, and few hardwoods are present, the area will look more open. These areas will appear as openings with widely scattered residual live trees until natural regeneration or planted seedlings appear above the grass. DOF's Forest Land Use Plans, prepared for every sale, clearly describe the harvest and regeneration plans in more detail.

# **Transportation**

Multiple use values will be considered when roads are located, designed, and developed, and will reflect the management intent and primary uses for the planning area. Proposed access routes and types of access for the first years of this schedule are shown on the attached maps. As management objectives are met for an area, roads may be put to bed, and access to the road will be restricted to off-highway vehicle traffic to reduce maintenance costs and minimize degradation of the road and surrounding area. Best Interest Findings for individual sales will fully discuss access types, locations, and management objectives based upon information gathered in the field.

#### State Land Use Plans: Mat-Su Area

The strategic plan for the Mat-Su Area is to provide wood fiber for the local forest products

industry in a manner that is compatible with the sustained yield of the renewable timber resource. The intent of the timber sale program is to support the local small independent sawmills, provide commercial and personal use firewood sales, and potentially supply wood fiber for a biofuels or wood chip market. The DOF has always provided timber for the small local market although recently there has been an interest in exporting birch and spruce. This emerging market would enable the DOF to manage the many older, declining stands in the Mat-Su Valley, regenerate younger forests and improve forest health. All harvesting for this FYSTS is planned for Phase I (Eastside) Susitna Forest Guidelines.

#### Strategic Plans: Kenai / Kodiak Area

One of the main factors influencing forest planning in the Kenai/Kodiak Area (KKA) has been the extensive mortality caused by the spruce beetle outbreak during the 1990's. Currently, another spruce beetle outbreak is occurring in Southcentral Alaska including the Northern and Central Kenai Peninsula. The timber harvest objective has shifted primarily to salvaging dead trees, before they are blown over by wind. Downed trees increase the potential intensity of a wildfire and hinder fire suppression operations. If left on the ground too long, downed trees lose their market value. Trees will be retained along the perimeters of harvest units to provide wildlife cover, as recommended in the Kenai Area Plan.

For maps and more information on the effects of the spruce beetle on the Kenai Peninsula, visit the Division of Forestry's website: <a href="http://forestry.alaska.gov/insects/surveys">http://forestry.alaska.gov/insects/surveys</a> for a current copy of the Alaska Forest Insect and Disease Survey.

The schedule also reflects the Division of Forestry and Fire Protections's objective to offer timber sales to meet market demand, salvage dead timber, and reduce the wildfire hazard by harvesting spruce beetle killed trees. Sales are broken up into numerous units. Small to medium size sales will be offered to meet current demand for sawlogs, houselogs and fuel wood. Sales within the wildland-urban interface will be designed to reduce the risk of wildfire to the communities.

The area plans may be found on the web at: <a href="http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/planning/areaplans/">http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/planning/areaplans/</a>.

The management plans and the *Susitna Forestry Guidelines* are on the web at: http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/planning/mgtplans/.

## Timber Sales by Year: Mat-Su Area

(See the end of the Schedule for maps of each timber sale.)

Calendar Year	Timber Block	Estimated Acreage	Calendar Year	Timber Block	Estimated Acreage	Calendar Year	Timber Block	Estimated Acreage
	Houston	240	2024	Houston	85		Houston	134
	Willer- Kash	196		Willer- Kash	290	2026	Willer- Kash	242
	Rabideux	51		Rabideux	69		West Petersville	119
2022	West Petersville	58		West Petersville	155		Fish Creek	1131
	Fish Creek	778		Fish Creek	637		Subtotal	1626
	YMCA	41		Subtotal	1236			
	Subtotal	1364						
	Houston	333	2025	Houston	188			
2023	Willer- Kash	227		Willer- Kash	78			
	West Petersville	66		West Petersville	270			
	Fish Creek	989		Fish Creek	1088			
	Subtotal	1615		Subtotal	1624			

# **Timber Sale Descriptions**

Note: Only timber sales slated for 2022 and 2023 are discussed in narrative form in this Five-Year Schedule, but maps are provided for all sales, 2022 through 2026. If a sale listed in this schedule was offered but not purchased, the sale can be reoffered and sold if the sale has reappeared in two consecutive FYSTS or another FLUP with a BIF.

#### 2022 Timber Sales

#### **Houston Timber Block**

The timber block is located at the base of the Talkeetna Mountains north of the Little Susitna River and will be accessed using the east fork of Zero Lake Road. Three units, which total 240 acres, will be designed to conform to the Susitna Forestry Guidelines as well as natural features such as rolling topography, timber type, and wetlands. These units may be sold as individual sales or grouped together and sold as larger sales.

#### Willer-Kash Timber Block

This timber block is located approximately seven miles east of the community of Willow at the foot of Willow Mountain and north of Willow Creek. Six harvest units, totaling 196 acres, are

projected for harvest. Individual units range in size from 20 to 50 acres.

#### YMCA Timber Sale

One harvest unit is planned for sale in 2022. This unit is located near the Talkeetna Spur road. This timber sale will be accessed via YMCA road, which is a private road. Access will need to be granted through road owner. No new primary roads will be required. The unit sale will be approximately 40 acres and will be designed to conform to the Susitna Forestry Guidelines.

#### Rabideux Timber Sale

Trapper Creek is the nearest community, located approximately 9 miles north of the timber sale area. Three harvest units are proposed, ranging in size from 12 to 23 acres. The units total an estimated 51 acres. The land is designated for wildlife and watershed protection in the Susitna Matanuska Area Plan, which will guide the design of harvest units. The DNR's Division of Mining, Land, and Water as well as the Department of Fish & Game's Division of Wildlife Conservation will be consulted when creating management objectives and unit design. No new primary roads will be required. Main haul roads and previous logging roads will be reopened to and within the timber sale. A bridge will need to be re-installed to access the timber sale area which is located on the west side of Queer Creek above its confluence with Rabideux Creek.

#### West Petersville Timber Block

This timber block is located ten miles west of the community of Trapper Creek, Alaska, south of the Petersville Road. These two units were part of the West Petersville Timber Sale designed for a chipping operation that no longer operates in the area. The sale has gone through the public review process and the Forest Land Use Plan will be made available for review. These two units are 46 and 12 acres in size and total 58 acres. An old winter logging road on the south side of Petersville Road will need to be reconditioned for approximately 1 mile for initial access into the tract.

#### Fish Creek Timber Block

Located approximately 13 miles west of the community of Big Lake, this timber block is accessed via a winter road off the end of Goldstreak Drive which is off West Susitna Parkway.

A bridge will need to be installed to access the western end of the winter road and the sales beyond. These 17 units total about 778 acres and range from 5 to 184 acres individually. Units may be grouped together or sold separately. The units will be designed to conform to the Susitna Forestry Guidelines.

#### **2023 Timber Sales**

#### **Houston Timber Block**

Five harvest units are planned for sale in 2022. These units are located at the base of the Talkeetna Mountains north of the Little Susitna River and will be accessed using the east fork of Zero Lake Road. The units total 333 acres and will be designed to conform to the Susitna Forestry Guidelines as well as natural features such as rolling topography, timber type, and wetlands. These units may be sold as individual sales or grouped together and sold as larger sales.

#### Willar-Kash Timber Block

This timber block is located approximately seven miles east of the community of Willow at the

foot of Willow Mountain and north of Willow Creek. Seven harvest units, totaling 227 acres, are projected for harvest. Individual units range in size from 10 to 60 acres. These units may be grouped together or sold separately.

#### West Petersville Timber Block

This timber block is located ten miles west of the community of Trapper Creek, Alaska, south of the Petersville Road. These three units were part of the West Petersville Timber Sale designed for a chipping operation that no longer operates in the area. The sale has gone through the public review process and the Forest Land Use Plan will be made available for review. These units range in size from 4 to 36 acres and total 66 acres. In addition to the mile of road recondition to access the previous year's sales, 0.5 miles of new winter road construction will be required.

#### Fish Creek Timber Block

Located approximately 13 miles west of the community of Big Lake, this timber block is accessed via a winter road off the end of Goldstreak Drive which is off West Susitna Parkway.

A bridge will need to be installed to access the western end of the winter road and the sales beyond. A new primary road of about 0.5 miles will be required to access the sale. These eight units total about 989 acres and range from 29 to 245 acres individually. Units may be grouped together or sold separately. The units will be designed to conform to the Susitna Forestry Guidelines.

#### Harvest Plan: Kenai-Kodiak Area

(See the end of the Schedule for maps of each timber sale.)

**Timber Sales by Year** 

Calendar Year	Timber Sales	Estimated Acres	Calendar Year	Timber Sale	Estimated Acres	
2022	South Peninsula Block	165	2025	Seward Highway Block	195	
2023	Ninilchick Block	631	2026	Dome View, South Ninilchick	1632	
2024	Tustumena Block	220	2020	2020	& Mile 127	1032

# **Timber Sale Descriptions**

Note: Only timber sales slated for 2022 and 2023 are discussed in narrative form in this Five- Year Schedule, but maps are provided for all sales, 2022 through 2026. If a sale listed in this schedule was offered but not purchased, the sale can be reoffered and sold if the sale has reappeared in two consecutive FYSTS or another FLUP with a BIF.

#### 2022 Timber Sales

<u>South Peninsula Block</u>: Two sales are within this block—Alamar (70 acres) and Kalanga (95 acres), for a total of 165 acres. The closest community to the sales is Anchor Point. The sales may be offered separately, or as a single package. Due to extensive muskegs, the Alamar sale will require winter roads.

Likewise, the Kalanga Timber Sale will require frozen ground in order to access the timber via established Right-of-ways. Access to the sales will require that roads be constructed along section line easements adjacent to private parcels. Access into the timber sales through private land must be directly arranged between the purchaser and the private landowner.

#### 2023 Timber Sales

Ninilchik Block: This sale block contains 13 harvest units for a total of 630 acres. The harvest units may be lumped into large sales or sold as individual sales. All sales will require winter access and winter logging due to extensive muskegs. Purchasers must obtain approval directly from landowners for accessing any of the sales through private land.

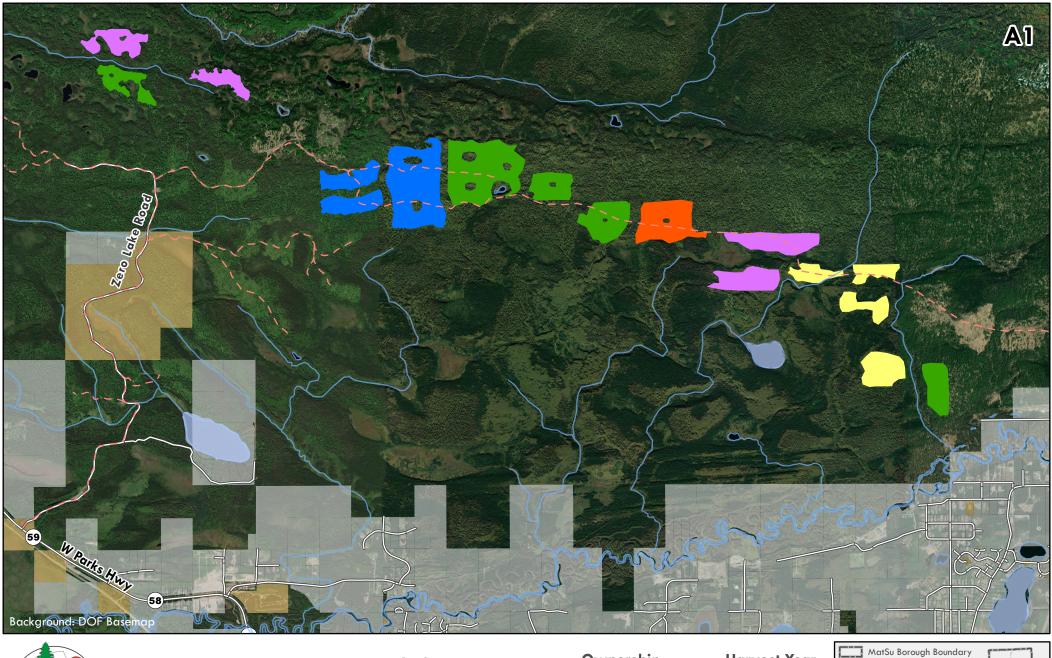
# **Appendix A: List of Maps**

# Mat-Su Area

Timber Block Name	Page Number
Houston	A1
Willer-Kash	A2
Rabideux	A3
West Petersville	A4
Fish Creek	A5
YMCA	A6

# Kenai/Kodiak Area

Timber Block Name	Page Number	
South Peninsula Block	A7	
Ninilchick Block	A8	
Tustmena Block	A9	
Seward Highway Block	A10	
Dome View	A11	
South Ninilchick	A12	
Mile 127	A13	





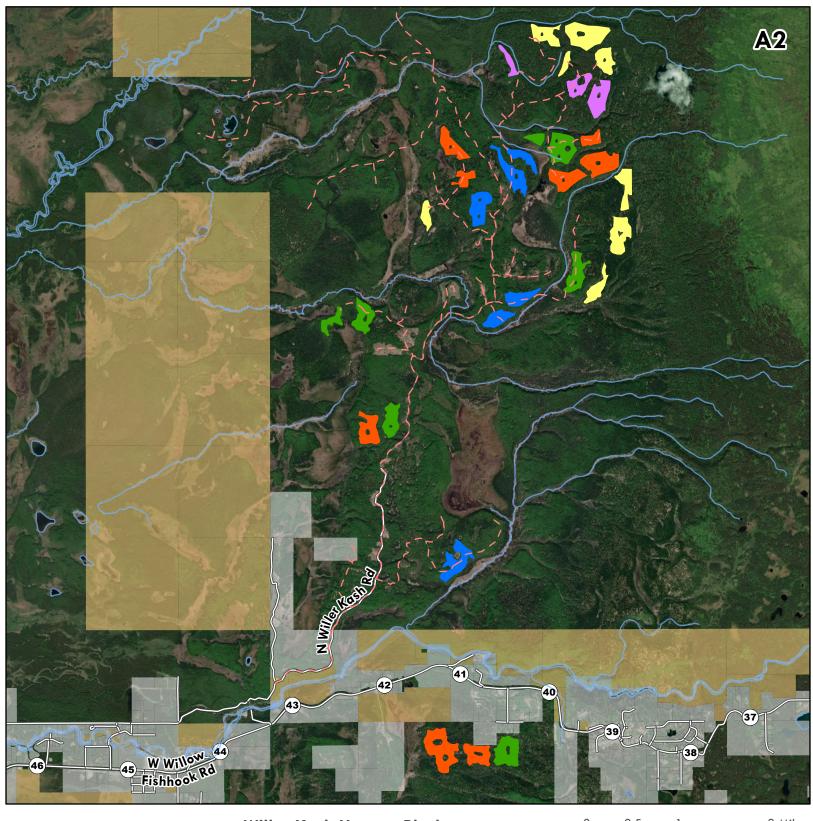
Alaska Division of Forestry Mat-Su/SW Area M. Schoofs 5/11/2022

# Houston Harvest Block Southeast Susitna Area Plan Unit H-06 & U-01 Township 18 & 19 North, Range 3 West, SM USGS Quadrangle: Anchorage C8











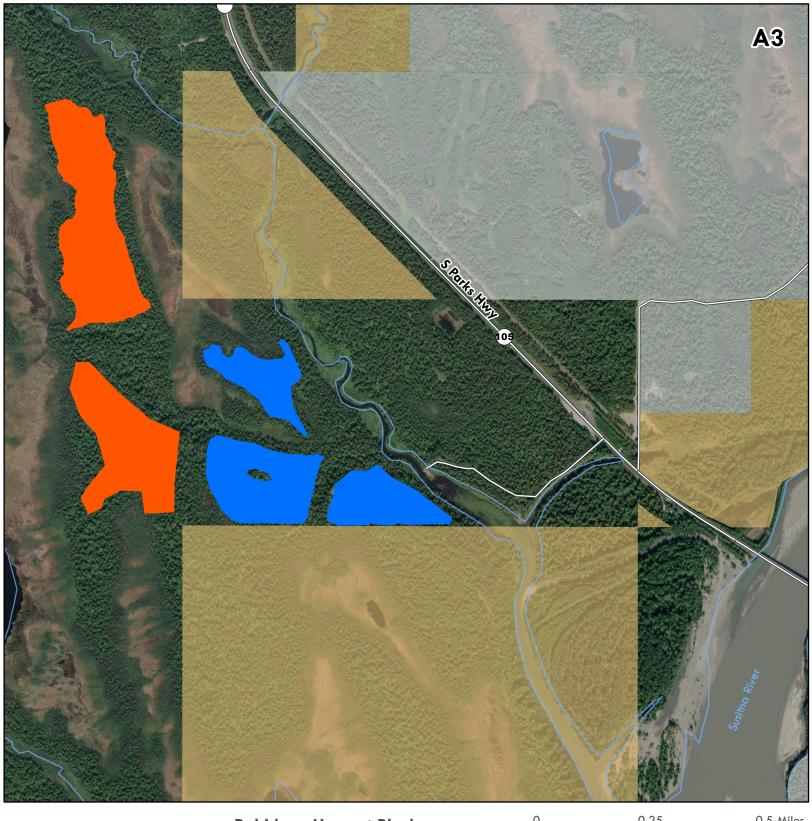
Willer-Kash Harvest Block Southeast Susitna Area Plan Unit U-01 Township 20 & 21 North, Range 3 West, SM USGS Quadrangle: Anchorage D8







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Alaska Division of Forestry

Mat-Su/SW Area

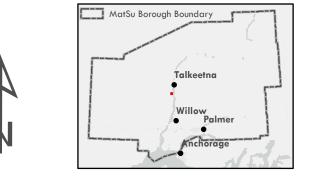
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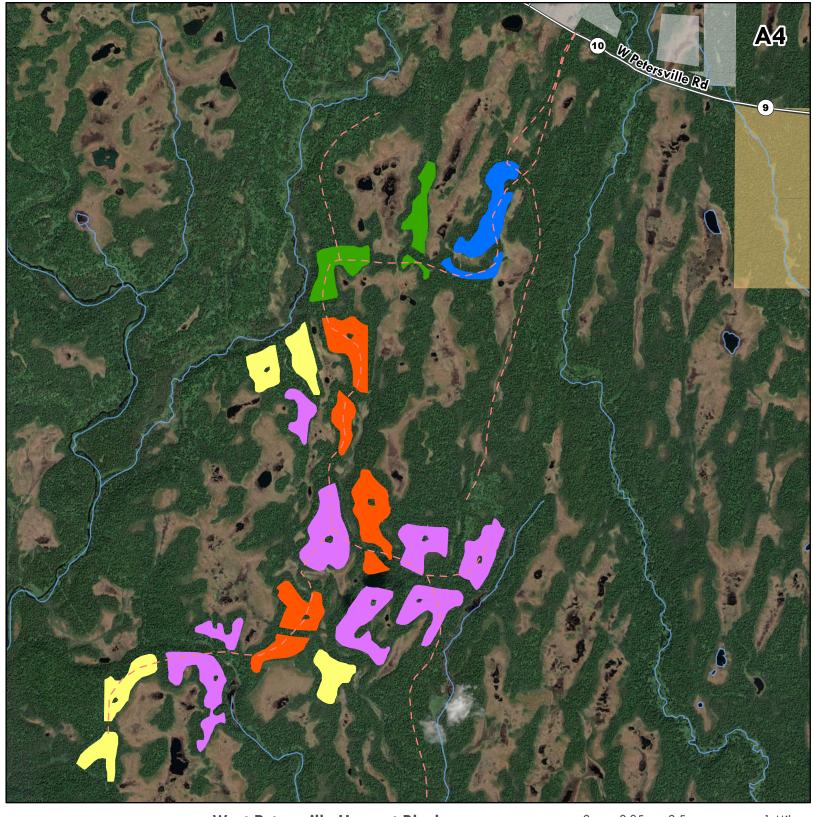
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Rabideux Harvest Block Susitna Matanuska Area Plan Unit P15 Township 24 North, Range 5 West, SM USGS Quadrangle: Talkeetna A1











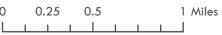
Mat-Su/SW Area

M. Schoofs

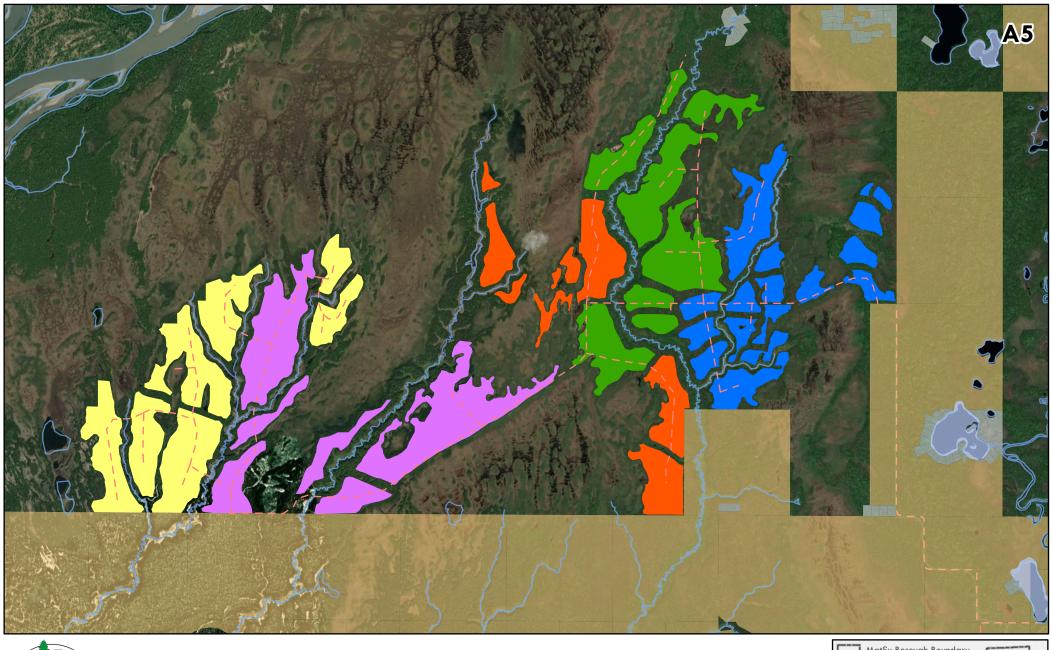
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**West Petersville Harvest Block** Susitna Matanuska Area Plan Unit P13 Township 25 & 26 North, Range 7 West, SM USGS Quadrangle: Talkeetna A2 & B2









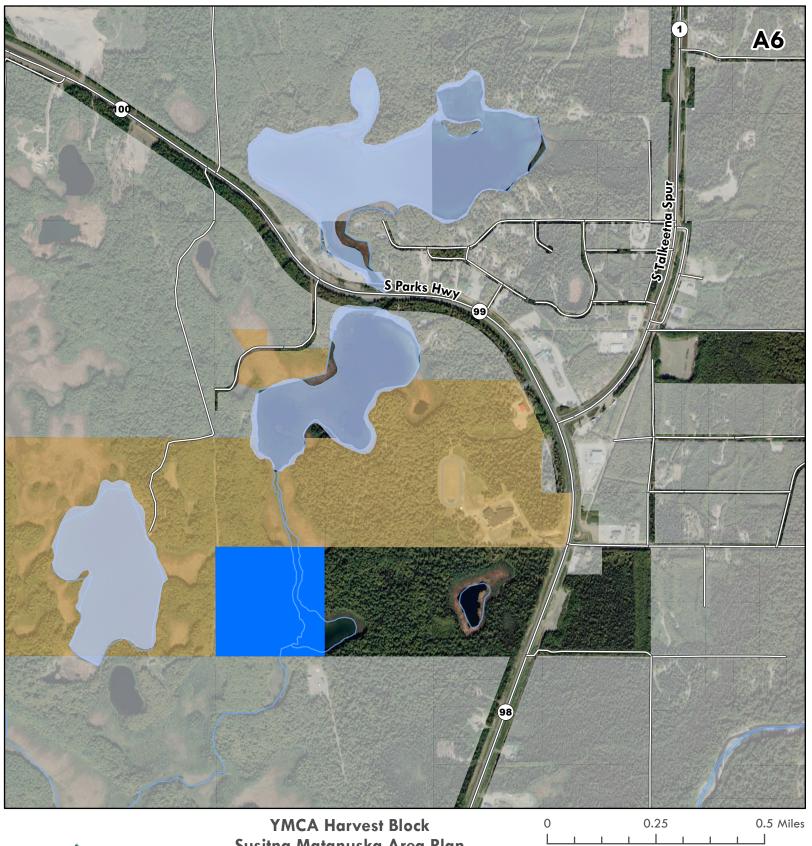


Alaska Division of Forestry Mat-Su/SW Area M. Schoofs 5/11/2022 Fish Creek Harvest Block
Fish Creek Management Plan
Township 17 North, Range 5 & 6 West, SM
USGS Quadrangle: Tyonek C1 & C2







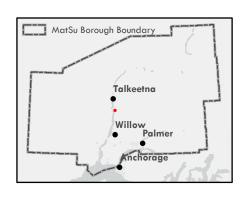


YMCA Harvest Block
Susitna Matanuska Area Plan
Township 24 North, Range 4 West, Section 32, SM
USGS Quadrangle: Talkeetna A1

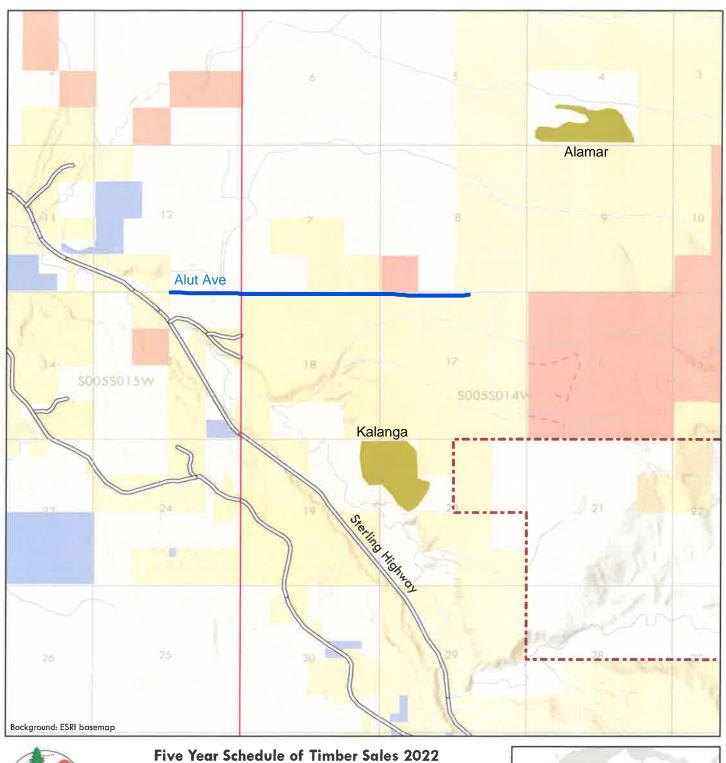
Ownership Harvest Year

Borough 2022
Private 2023
Public Roads 2025
--- Forestry Roads 2026

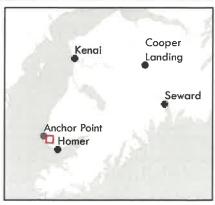


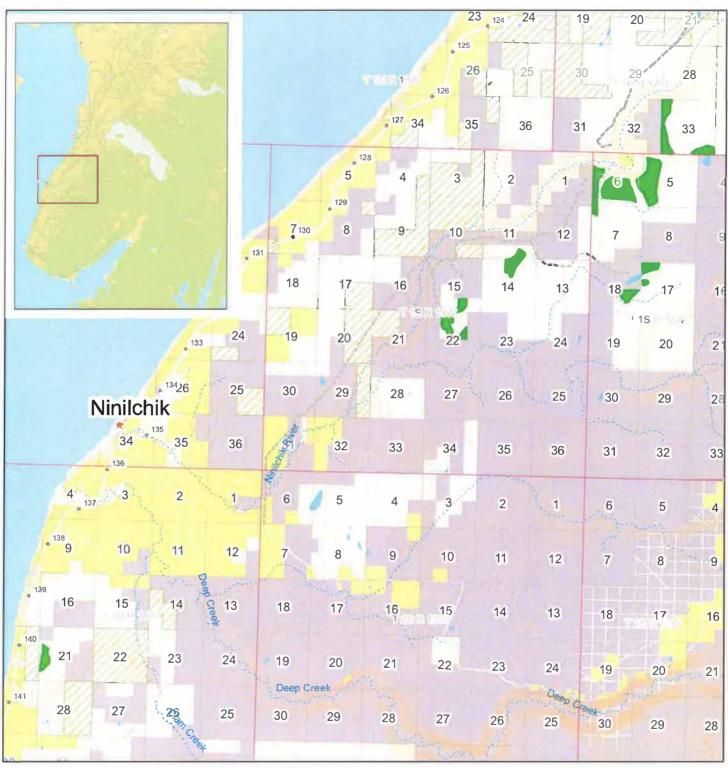


Alaska Division of Forestry Mat-Su/SW Area M. Schoofs 5/11/2022











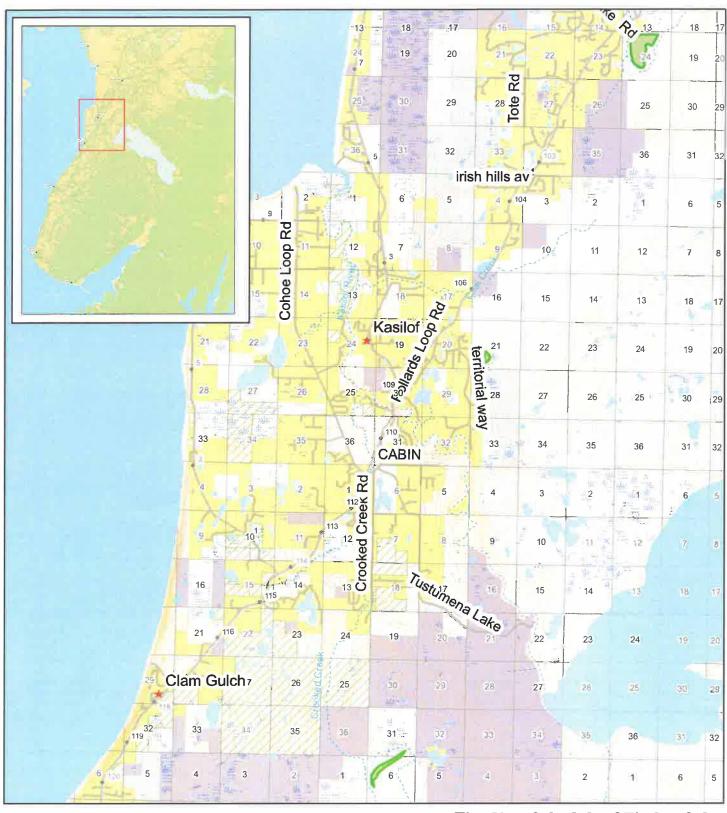


### Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales Ninilchik Harvest Block 2023

Section 33 Township 1 North Range 12 West Sections 5, 6, 7, 17, 18 Township 1 South Range 12 West Sections 11,14, 15 22 Township 1 South Range 13 West Section 21 Township 2 South Range 14 West



Alaska Division of Forestry Kenai / Kodiak Area Office Soldotna J. Winters 2015



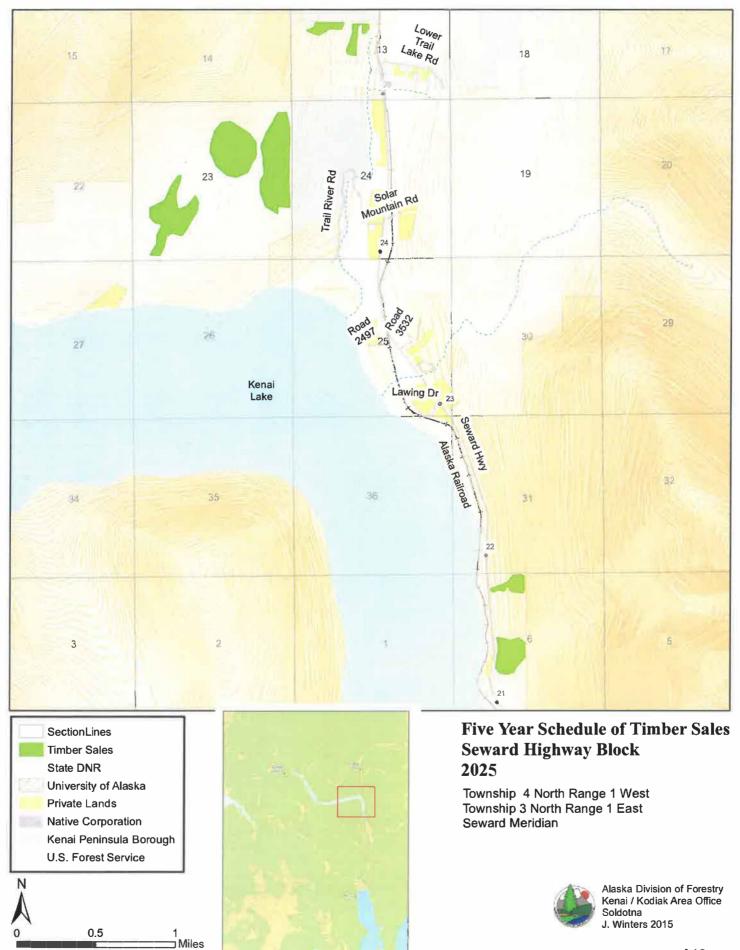


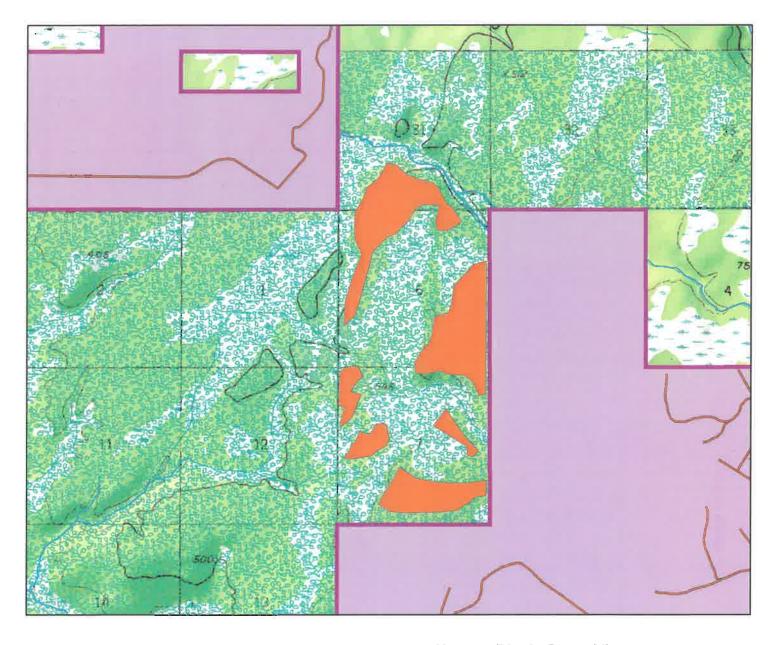


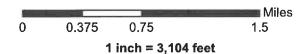


## Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales Tustumena Harvest Block 2024

Township 4 North Range 11 West, Township 3 North Range 11 West Township 1 North Range 11 West, Seward Meridian

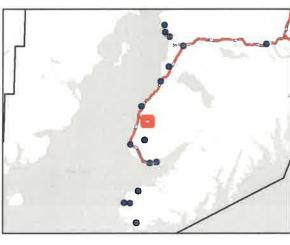






Harvest Block: Dome View Area Plan: Kenai Area Plan Township 2 & 3 South, Range 13 West, Seward Meridian



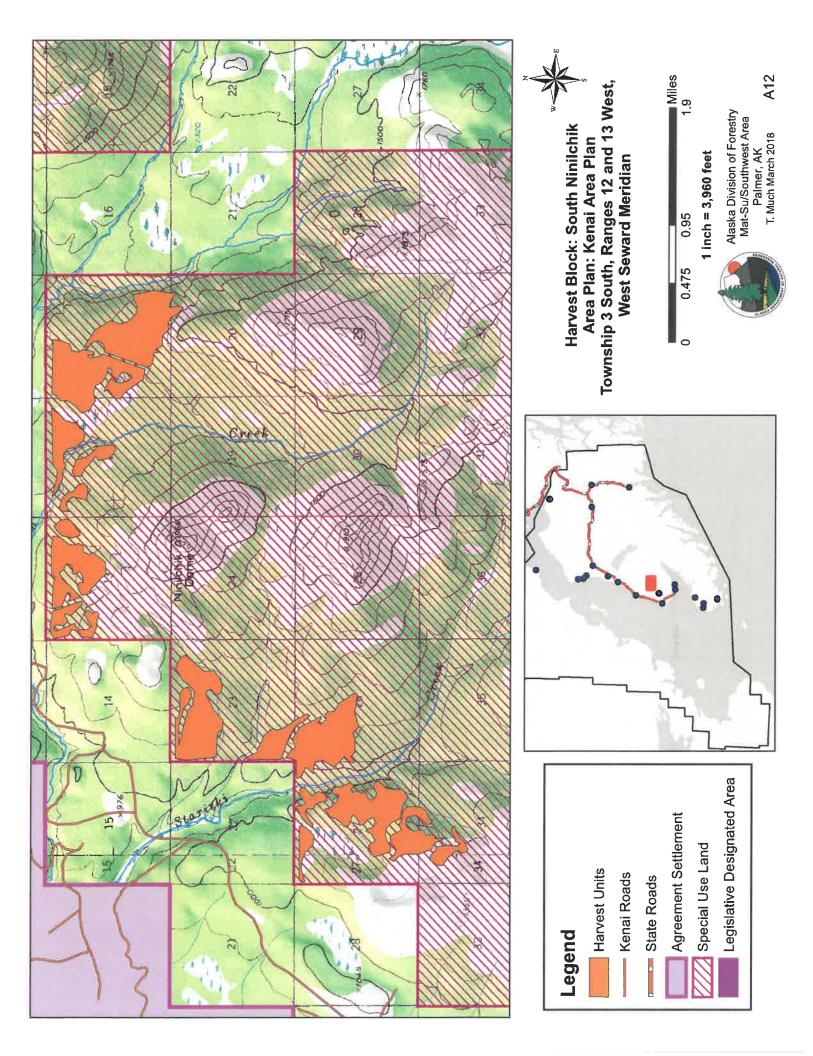


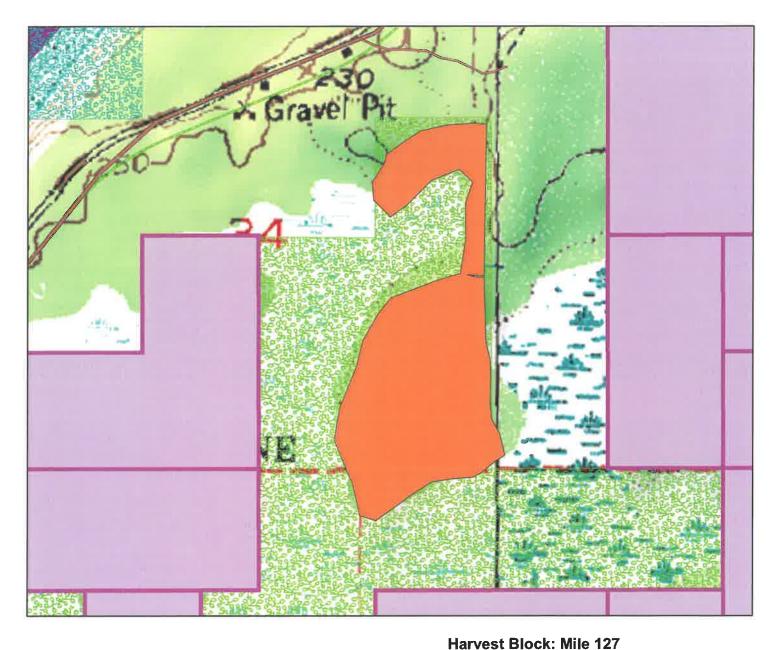


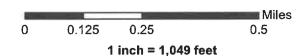


Alaska Division of Forestry Mat-Su/Southwest Area Palmer, AK

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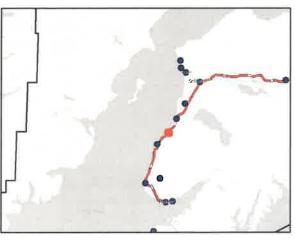






Area Plan: Kenai Area Plan
Township 1 North & 1 South
Ranges 13 West,
West Seward Meridian









Alaska Division of Forestry Mat-Su/Southwest Area Palmer, AK

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