

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION



COASTAL REGION-SOUTHEAST AREA

**BEST INTEREST FINDING AND ADOPTED FOREST
LAND USE PLAN FOR
KAIKLI COVE TIMBER SALE
SSE-1381-K**

August 2023

Abbreviations

ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ADNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
BIF	Best interest finding
DMLW	Division of Mining, Land and Water
DOF	Division of Forestry and Fire Protection
FLUP	Forest Land Use Plan
FRPA	Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act
FYSTS	Five-year Schedule of Timber Sales
MBF	Thousand board feet
POG	Productive old growth
POW	Prince of Wales (Island)
POWIAP	Prince of Wales Island Area Plan
ROW	Right-of-way
SESF	Southeast State Forest
SESFMP	Southeast State Forest Management Plan
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
UA	University of Alaska
USFS	United States Forest Service

Table of Contents

I.	PROPOSED ACTION	4
II.	STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY	4
III.	ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD	4
IV.	SCOPE OF DECISION	4
V.	PROJECT LOCATION, LAND STATUS, AND DESCRIPTION	6
VI.	PUBLIC NOTICE.....	14
VII.	PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE	14
VIII.	DISCUSSION, FINAL FINDING AND DECISION.....	15
IX.	SIGNATURE.....	15
X.	REQUESTS FOR APPEAL	15
XI.	APPENDICES	16
Appendix A	SSE-1381-K Kaikli Cove Timber Sale Maps	17
Appendix B	References.....	18
Appendix C	Appeal and Request for Reconsideration Regulations.....	19
Appendix D	SSE-1381-K Kaikli Cove Timber Sale Comments & Responses.....	25
Appendix E	Kaikli Cove Timber Sale Forest Land Use Plan SSE-1381-K.....	26

I. PROPOSED ACTION

The Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (DOF) is proposing to offer for sale approximately 49 acres of mature old growth timber composed of western red cedar, western hemlock, Sitka spruce and Alaska yellow cedar from state lands located in the vicinity of Kaikli Cove on Prince of Wales Island, approximately one mile north of the community of Naukati (see Appendix A, Kaikli Cove Timber Sale Maps). The volume to be offered has been estimated to total approximately 826 thousand board feet (MBF).

The management objectives for the proposed timber sale are:

1. To follow the Alaska Department of Natural Resources' (ADNR) constitutional mandate to encourage the development of the State's renewable resources, making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest;
2. To support the State's economy by providing royalties to the State in the form of stumpage receipts, and infuse the State's economy through wages, purchases, jobs, and business.
3. To harvest timber from future subdivision areas to promote economic development and minimize public risk; and
4. To minimize infrastructure development costs in the area though long range planning.

II. STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The Division is taking this action under the authority of

- AS 38.05.035(e) Best Interest Finding;
- AS 38.05.110-120 and 11 AAC 71, Timber Sale Statutes and Regulations; and
- AS 41.17.010-950 and 11 AAC 95, Forest Resources and Practices Statutes and Regulations.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The Division will maintain an administrative record regarding the decision of whether or not to proceed with the action as proposed. This record will be maintained at the DOF's Southeast Area Office filed as SSE-1381-K.

IV. SCOPE OF DECISION

This Best Interest Finding (BIF) and Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) are parts three and four of a six-part process to design, sell, and administer timber sales; for this timber sale the documents are combined into a single document. This BIF and FLUP covers the sale of approximately 49 acres of mature old growth forest composed of western red cedar, western hemlock, and Sitka spruce on state land within the perimeter of the project area (see Appendix A, Kaikli Cove Timber Sale Maps). The following list summarizes the overall land and forest planning process:

Part 1: Regional Planning. The Department of Natural Resources develops area plans and state forest management plans to designate appropriate uses for state land, classify the land accordingly, and establish management guidelines for multiple use. These plans determine where timber sales are an allowed use, and what other uses must be considered when designing and implementing timber sales. Subsequent land use decisions must be consistent with provisions contained within the applicable area and/or forest plans. The project area in this BIF is

covered by the Sea Otter Sound Subunit 7c of the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan (POWIAP). The Land Classification of the area is a mix of Settlement, Recreation, General Use, and Habitat Lands.

Part 2: Five-year Schedule of Timber Sales (AS 38.05.113). The Southern Southeast Area Office prepares a Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales (FYSTS) every other year. The Schedule identifies proposed sales, including their general location, approximate acreage and/or estimated timber volume, and main access routes. The FYSTS is a scoping document that provides, for each proposed timber sale, an opportunity for the public, agencies, and industry to identify potential issues and areas of interest for further consideration in the BIF process. Under AS 38.05.113, proposed timber sales within the area covered by a BIF must appear in at least one of the two FYSTSs preceding the sale. This timber sale area has been identified in FYSTS documents beginning with the 2018-2022 FYSTS.

Part 3: Best Interest Finding (AS 38.05.035(e)). DOF must adopt a BIF before selling timber. A Best Interest Finding is the decision document that:

- Ensures that the best interest of the State will be served by this proposed action,
- Establishes the overall area within which the timber sale may occur,
- Determines the amount of timber that will be offered for sale and the duration of the sale,
- Sets the overall harvest and reforestation strategy for the sale area,
- Determines whether the sale proposal complies with the Constitutional requirement to manage for sustained yield by evaluating the amount of timber in the sale and the annual allowable cut for the affected area,
- Selects the appropriate method of sale (i.e., competitive or negotiated sale), and
- Determines the appraisal method that will be used to determine the sale price.

Part 4: Forest Land Use Plans (AS 38.05.112). Prior to authorizing harvest of timber on any area greater than 10 acres, the DOF must adopt a site-specific Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) for the harvest area. For this project, the DOF has prepared a FLUP for the harvest area within the overall sale area covered by this BIF and it is attached to this BIF in Appendix E. The FLUP specifies the site, size, timing, and harvest methods for harvest units within the sale area. The FLUP also addresses site-specific requirements for access construction and maintenance, reforestation, and multiple use management. The FLUP is based on fieldwork and site-specific analyses by the DOF in consultation with appropriate regulatory agencies. The FLUP is subject to public review.

Part 5: Timber Sales and Contracts. Following final adoption of the BIF and the FLUP, the DOF may offer the timber for sale (negotiated or competitive bid) using the appropriate authority. The Division will sign a contract with the purchaser for each sale. The contract will include stipulations to requiring compliance with the BIF, FLUP, and all applicable statutes and regulations.

Part 6: Sale Administration. DOF will administer the timber sale and conduct field inspections to ensure compliance with the BIF, FLUP, timber sale contract, and applicable laws, including the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) and regulations (AS 41.17 and 11 AAC 95), and forest management statutes and regulations in AS 38.05 and 11 AAC 71.

V. PROJECT LOCATION, LAND STATUS, AND DESCRIPTION

A. Location

The timber sale area is found within Section 17 and 18, Township South, Range 80 East, Copper River Meridian (CRM). The sale area is found within the Craig D-4 NW USGS quadrangle. See Appendix A, Kaikli Cove Timber Sale Maps, Best Interest Finding, SSE-1381-K Kaikli Timber Sale.

B. Title status

Patented to the state (patent No. 50-2009-0128) under National Forest Community Grant 234 (NFCG 234).

C. Land use planning, classification, and management intent

The timber sale area is within the geographic region covered by the POWIAP. The area in this BIF is covered by the Sea Otter Sound Subunit 7c in the POWIAP. The land classification for the area found within the (POWIAP) (adopted 1985, updated 1998), Management Unit 7, Subunit 7c. Lands are classified Settlement, Recreation, General Use, and Habitat. The DMLW is the land manager for all lands in this timber sale. The DOF is the forest resource manager for all State land contained in the timber sale. The specific management intent for the uses in the areas follow (excerpted from the POWIAP):

POWIAP

Sea Otter Sound Subunit 7c

BACKGROUND

This subunit includes state uplands, tidelands, and submerged lands in the Naukati area on Prince of Wales Island. Naukati is developing into a permanent community because it is the primary water access point to Sea Otter Sound from Prince of Wales Island, is strategically located relative to the island road system, and the area has desirable settlement values. Naukati has been the site of a log transfer facility and logging camp for many years. Although there are periods of relative inactivity, the area is expected to be used for these activities on a long-term basis. Access in the subunit is by road, boat, or floatplane.

MANAGEMENT INTENT AND GUIDELINES

State uplands, tidelands and submerged lands will be managed for multiple use. State uplands will be managed to meet the needs of a developing community, including residential, commercial, public services, and community recreational uses. The department supports continued use of the Naukati area for commercial timber harvest activities. Timber harvest is considered to be an appropriate use in those areas designated “Gu” (General Use). State lands will be managed to protect important cultural resources. The most important recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas on state lands will also be protected. Naukati has long served as a water access point into Sea Otter Sound and the outer waters. The U.S. Forest Service relinquished part of the administrative site at Naukati to the state for continued use as community boat launching, docking, and associated upland parking. See Selections and Relinquishments for more information. With the exception of uplands proposed for land disposal and for public facilities associated with the water access site, all state lands in this subunit are open to mineral entry. Additional information for each resource or use is located in resource reports (elements) prepared separately. Detailed maps in the reports locate and identify each resource or use more specifically than the plan unit maps

FISH AND WILDLIFE

Crucial habitat for salmon rearing and schooling extends to a depth of 40 feet at mean lower low water at the mouths of anadromous fish streams unless otherwise indicated. Undisturbed buffers of 100 feet are to

be retained on Yatuk, Gutchi, and Naukati Creeks. A management zone up to 300 foot in width, intended for the protection of wildlife and habitat, also applies to these creeks. The first 100 feet of this zone is to remain undisturbed and retained in state ownership.

Type of Habitat or Harvest	Place	Habitat or Harvest Values
Crucial Habitat (Ha)	Naukati Bay	Seasonal black bear concentrations, trout overwintering, salmon spawning and rearing
	Tracts C, E, and G	Bald eagle nest trees
	5 anadromous fish streams including Yatuk, Naukati, and Gutchi Creeks	Salmon rearing and schooling

Trapping and deer hunting on the subunit's uplands are not designated because they do not meet the criteria for intensive harvest designation.

FORESTRY

Areas of commercial grade timber occur throughout the subunit, often abutting the National Forest. Many areas within this subunit have been affected by previous timber harvest operations.

Developments in the Naukati area should be designed to minimize conflicts with the log transfer site and with traffic patterns required for operation of the site. Timber harvest in upland areas designated "Gu" (General Use) is considered appropriate subject to the restrictions of this plan and any that may be imposed as a result of the Forest Land Use Plan planning process. Timber harvest is also considered appropriate in areas designated "S" (Settlement) and "Sc" (Settlement-Commercial), again subject to the aforementioned restrictions. State tidelands and submerged lands designated "F" (Forestry) will be managed to support timber harvest activities consistent with other co-primary designation.

RECREATION

The Naukati boat launch, on state land, is a major access point into Sea Otter Sound. Little Naukati Bay is used for small boat anchorage.

Lots and tracts in subdivisions not suitable for settlement because of terrain, drainage, or habitat factors are to be retained by the state. These areas will be managed for public recreation. State tidelands and submerged lands that are access points for upland recreation activities or facilities are designated recreation. State tidelands and submerged lands designated recreation will be managed to preserve or improve the identified recreational activities and values.

SETTLEMENT

The Naukati area has land highly suitable for settlement because of access, terrain, and amenities such as vegetation, views, and fish and wildlife. A small community, with an economy based on timber harvest, commercial fishing, and commercial recreation, is developing. Naukati is the main road-to-water access point from Prince of Wales Island to Sea Otter Sound, Edna Bay, and the outer coast.

Management of state uplands at Naukati will primarily be to accommodate a developing community and to use available state resources, such as timber, to support a local logging and forest products industry. Settlement activities will be limited in some areas to protect other identified values, such as recreation at

Little Naukati Bay, cultural resources in upper Naukati Bay, and habitat resources near anadromous fish streams. The department will work with the local community to address specific concerns when authorizing new activities, including timber harvest. The management intent for state lands at Naukati is based on the best available information and is intended to retain long-term options. Management may change as new information becomes available and the needs of the developing community become clearer.

RECREATION

The Naukati boat launch, on state land, is a major access point into Sea Otter Sound. Little Naukati Bay is used for small boat anchorage.

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Location	Resource or Use	Designation
Little Naukati Bay	Anchorage	Ra
Little Naukati Bay (head)	Potential picnic area/campground	Rd
Naukati (Tuxekan Pass.)	Anchorage, boat launch	Ra, Rd
Naukati Bay (head)	Community recreation (undeveloped)	Ru (uplands)
Naukati Bay (head)	Community recreation (undeveloped)	Ru (tide/submerged)
Naukati Sub. (tracts)	Community recreation (undeveloped)	Ru

CULTURAL SITES

Cultural sites are concentrated around upper Naukati Bay. Evidence shows the area was intensively used in historic and prehistoric times. Other cultural sites are identified at the entrance to Little Naukati Bay. Cultural sites are not shown on the plan unit maps.

To protect the cultural resources, future state land disposals will not be allowed along the shoreline of upper Naukati Bay. Other development activities should also avoid these sites. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation will be consulted before any activities are authorized in the areas designated for Cultural Resources in upper Naukati Bay.

D. Current access and land use

The sale area is located adjacent to the community of Naukati on Prince of Wales Island. The access to the area is via the Naukati (2060000) Road.

The adjacent proximate landowners are the Mental Health Trust, the State of Alaska and the USFS. Several private lot owners exist on previously subdivided land to the north of the proposed sale. The sale area abuts State managed land on all sides.

The surrounding area experiences incidental use by the public for a variety of reasons related to semi-remote recreation including, but not limited to berry picking, hiking, fishing, and hunting. A network of undocumented pedestrian trails was observed throughout the sale area that had been cleared using hand and power tools. The trail system appeared to be contemporary in nature, perhaps several years old. The trail system accesses a large portion of the sale area, a small pond north of the proposed timber harvest units, the main highway to the north of the sale area, and the beach area of Kaikli Cove. The specific purpose of the trail was not discerned.

E. Background and description of proposal

1. Background:

The demand for State timber is currently significant due to the decrease and uncertainty of the federal timber supply. A diversified economy with a timber industry component is important to southeast Alaska. By direction from the Governor and Legislature, the Division of Forestry and Fire Protection manages a timber sale program that makes timber volume available to help sustain the region's timber industry and economy.

The bulk of the State land base in southeast Alaska is comprised of remote parcels. The Naukati area though is relatively proximate to the existing road system and offers forest resource values close to the remaining mills and processing facilities. The DMLW Land Sales Section has made the DOF aware of areas that have a higher likelihood of being subdivided and disposed of in the near-term (less than 10 years) than other state land. The DOF, in collaboration with the DMLW, identified the Kaikli area as having potential for timber harvest to support the long-term development of the area for settlement. This coordination activity is in keeping with the POWIAP intent language for settlement classified land. Existing road access is beneficial to the economics and practicality of a settlement project. The timber sale is projected to develop a pioneer access generally needed for more permanent roads and economical survey work associated with subdivision development. The roads also provide physical access for lot development and facilitate road right of way construction that is not solely dependent on high initial private or government startup capital. Additionally, while forest values are recognized as desirable to the Alaskan experience, the removal of large trees proximate to building sites, utilities and roads generally makes development safer, particularly in Southeast Alaska.

Where commercial timber exists proximate to the tract, it was generally considered appropriate to include it in the sale in order to contribute to the revenue of the project, but only if its harvest was not expected to significantly detract from other resources; thus provides revenue and scale to timber purchasers for developing the roads to the extent necessary in the tract.

During the Fall of 2021 DOF foresters performed field reconnaissance of the proposed timber sale area. The overall objective was to confirm and examine timber types, potential road access, geology, soils, hydrology, cultural resource potential, and fish and wildlife habitat within the proposed sale area. By Summer 2022 DOF foresters completed field layout tasks, concurrent with final recon activities. Flagging of road centerlines, drainage structure locations, harvest unit boundaries, anadromous fish retention areas, and associated natural resources were mapped in mid-July.

2. Timber Volume and Sustained Yield:

The total estimated saw log volume identified in this sale is approximately 826 MBF.

The Division of Forestry and Fire Protection is required to manage its timber harvest on State Forest and General Use classified land 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).

Timber harvest areas located on Settlement-classified land are not managed on a sustained yield basis because the State’s primary focus for those lands is eventual disposal and divestiture from State ownership.

3. Harvest Unit Design:

Reconnaissance by the DOF indicates that the Kaikli Cove area is harvestable using shovel logging techniques. This ground-based logging system will need to take advantage of directional timber falling techniques and utilization of benches and terrain to access all included timber. Areas of wet or saturated soils will require adequate puncheon in skid trails to minimize impacts to the soil and water quality.

This sale has been designed to avoid negative impacts to freshwater tributaries and anadromous habitat identified by the DOF and ADF&G through field reconnaissance and the anadromous waters catalog. In consultation with ADF&G, the DOF classified the stream bisecting the sale as uncatalogued anadromous habitat. The proposed sale design splits this stream into two units divided by a retention area. Timber was retained within 100 FT and in some reaches more on each side of the water course.

4. Unit Access:

Access to the timber sale will be from the POW road system. Road access to the Kaikli Cove Timber Sale occurs just off the 2060000 Road just north of the community of Naukati. The stream that separates the two units and the tributary stream to 103-90-10240 crossed by the new access road near the junction with the 2060000 Road will utilize open bottom log culverts to span the entire stream width. Minimal disruption of the water course is specified; maintenance of the streambank vegetation and water quality will be a primary objective of the log culvert installations.

F. Resources and management

1. Timber

a. Timber Stand Composition and Structure:

The sale area contains old-growth timber. Western red cedar and western hemlock are the primary commercial tree species with minor components of Sitka spruce; largely defective and congregated mainly near the shoreline. Timber in the sale area is generally low volume and varies in quality. Some scattered evidence of beach logging was observed in portions of the unit.

Timber types in the sale area are generally a product of moderate to poorly drained organic soil overlaying glacial rubble and a semi-impermeable layer of mudstone or conglomerate bedrock.

b. Stand Silvics:

Areas that were previously harvested in the vicinity of the Kaikli Cove timber sale, and on similar sites were observed to be fully stocked, vigorous young-growth stands of hemlock, spruce, and cedar seedling, sapling, and pole-timber. These adjacent and nearby sites appear to have

supported stands of red cedar, hemlock, and spruce prior to harvest and in general have geology and soil types like the proposed sale area. Similar regeneration is expected to occur at Kaikli Cove.

- c. Reforestation and Site Preparation: The sale area will be reforested in compliance with the Forest Resources and Practices regulations (11 AAC 95.375-.390) unless it is converted to other use. The DOF will conduct post-harvest reforestation inspections of all areas of commercial timber harvest to ensure that the stocking of natural regeneration meets or exceeds FRPA reforestation requirements.

Natural regeneration is the preferred regeneration method for this sale, and it is anticipated that adequate stocking levels will be achieved within five years after harvest. Experience with this regeneration method on POW has shown that well-stocked stands are readily established. Logging will break down the slash piece size and residuals to the ground level, accelerating decomposition and opening more growing space. Disturbance associated with logging will also increase seed bed opportunity and survival by creating mineral soil access and micro relief.

Sitka spruce and red cedar are the preferred species for reforestation in the projected future market conditions. Spruce and red cedar will likely be the favored and dominant species due to anticipated scarification in the units during harvesting operations. Scarification disturbs the vegetative mat and in turn provides a more receptive seed bed. Western hemlock will also be a major component of the regenerated stand as well since it currently occupies the site and provides a prolific seed source.

- d. Topography and Soils:

The timber sale area is situated on gently rolling upland coastal terrain adjacent to the north shore of Kaikli Cove. The sale area has a predominantly southern aspect with elevations ranging from near sea level to approximately 100 feet.

Geology is glacial till and brown mineral soil overlaying non-limestone bedrock, mostly conglomerate and dark slate or mudstone. No karst features were observed in the sale area.

Organic soils are moderately to poorly drained layers under a thick layer of feather and sphagnum mosses.

- 2. Wildlife habitat and harvest.

The DOF used available federal information on cataloged bald eagle nest locations and field observations during design to avoid nest sites. The nearest documented site is located 2,400 feet away; no eagle evidence or activity was observed in the sale area. No additional nests were observed adjacent to the timber sale.

Nominal use of the area by deer and bear was indicated based on wildlife trails and scat. The tidal flats associated with Naukati Bay, which Kaikli Cove is a part of, are identified in the POWIAP as a seasonal concentration area for black bears. These tide flats to the south of the sale that compose most of Kaikli Cove likely have benefit for bear use associated with the invertebrates, grasses and fish in the fall. The preservation of cover is likely beneficial in this regard for bears; significant vegetative cover in the cove will remain south and on the west side of the cove in addition to the riparian

retention corridor between the two harvest units. The ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation was consulted and is not aware of bear or wolf den sites in the sale area. The DOF conducted a timber cruise to gauge timber merchantability using a grid sampling system that covered the entire sale area and conducted extensive sale reconnaissance efforts; indications of wolf or bear dens were not observed.

Given the evidence of the hand cleared trail system in the area, the area may be used in some manner for hunting or trapping. No specific evidence was observed that either of these activities were present. The quantity of deer sign is considered normal for the area. The proposed harvest area will likely diminish deer habitat. While the surrounding area of Naukati has had significant timber harvested historically and is currently being managed in this regard by the MHT, this specific area offers undisturbed nondevelopable area on either side of it that has a habitat function. It also is in a classification area that anticipated concentrated human activity and use associated with settlement activities, clearing and occupancy being but part it.

3. Fish Habitat, Water Resources, and Water Quality.

The head of Naukati Bay and the tidal flats are associated with crucial habitat in the area plan for salmon rearing and schooling trout overwintering.

The proposed sale has been designed and managed to protect fish habitat and water quality in compliance with the Forest Resources and Practices Act and regulations (AS 41.17 and 11 AAC 95). As required by AS 41.17.098, DOF provided due deference to ADF&G to ensure all fish and wildlife habitat issues are addressed by the proposed timber sale design. DOF provides due deference to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) for all water quality issues.

The tributary to 103-90-10240 is proposed to be crossed with an open bottom log culvert. This stream is assumed to be anadromous habitat due to a lack of barriers to the cataloged stream; installation of the structure will be guided by ADF&G recommendations. The small stream that separates Unit 1 and 2 has been assumed to be anadromous habitat based on characteristics and unidentified fish observed at the tidewater mouth by the DOF in 2022; the DOF will manage the drainage for fish habitat unless investigation by ADFG indicates this to be unnecessary for fish habitat.

4. Recreation, Tourism, and Scenic Resources.

The series of trails following the various features in the area suggested some level of contemporary pedestrian use for recreation or other access. The DOF and DMLW have not encountered people using the area. While the trails were generally cleared of vegetation, the extent of the traffic on these trails appeared to be low. Trails cleared with hand tools less than five feet wide are a generally allow use (11 AAC 96.020) of state lands but do not create a property right.

Commercial tourism is not known to occur in the area. The POWIAP indicated Naukati Bay is used for an anchorage and general recreation. Given the removed location of the proposed sale units relative to the rest of the bay, impact or disruption to the general public's use are not expected.

The sale will overall be visible from Kaikli Bay. A small portion of the eastern side of the sale will be visible from the 2060000 Road. The south side of the units will also be identifiable from the East Naukati Subdivision located two miles to the southeast. Retention of a timbered beach fringe for scenic value and wildlife cover was decided to be impractical to implement with respect to wind firmness given prevailing winds and the objective to harvest timber to cover the cost of the road. It was

also projected that significant amounts of any timber left adjacent to the shoreline would eventually be cut to improve lot visibility by future owners.

5. Cultural Resources.

The DOF and the Land Development Section works with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to identify and avoid known cultural, historic or prehistoric sites in planning the proposed access routes, harvest areas and subdivision development. Research indicated several sites on the coast associated with historic use during scoping for the area. The SHPO conducted several site surveys of the area and made recommendations for retaining and buffering these areas in an undisturbed state. The DNR has planned future activities with those constraints. If additional archaeological sites are identified, proposed activity and road locations will be appropriately adjusted to avoid conflicts. If any historic or archaeological sites are encountered during road construction or harvest activities, the DOF will immediately inform SHPO and take action to protect and document the findings.

G. Costs and benefits

Based on DOF observations of the project area and historic markets, timber revenue is projected to cover administration, access and operating costs for this sale area and return stumpage royalty to the State. Naukati is within the working circle of most of the sawmills on POW Island. Several local timber purchasers have voiced an interest in timber sales in the Naukati area. The DOF will encourage domestic processing to the extent feasible at the time of sale. The DOF will appraise the timber value in compliance with 11 AAC 71.092.

The relative costs to operate this sale are projected to be moderate to low because of its size and low-level complexity of the operation. Mobilization costs for logging and road building in a timber sale of this size can be a barrier for some operators due to scale. The relatively low volume per acre is another factor that is somewhat offset by its location on the island and the presence of western red cedar, a valued species by local mill operators. The typical road needed to reach the timber is considered basic in construction complexity. Access to the sale area is relatively convenient being on the POW road system and proximate to the community of Naukati. Several contract loggers work or live in the area. The construction of the road into the sale is the most significant cost associated with the sale. The type of construction anticipated is a rock overlay construction on a prepared natural subgrade, relatively little to no rock obstructs the construction.

The business communities on Prince of Wales Island will likely receive direct economic benefits by providing support services for the operators such as fuel, food, housing, medical and other miscellaneous supplies.

Making the timber available on State land is in keeping with the Alaska Constitution and the intent of the governor and legislature to make the resource available in a sustainable manner commensurate with demand.

The access developed by the timber sale is proximate to projected road locations that could serve to access future residential development as identified by the DMLW. Logging roads in general have pioneered access to much of SE Alaska. Forest roads have provided many people initial access to land. They are scalable and regularly used in a similar format to build more refined roads. They are appropriate for the timber harvest and outlook for settlement given the lack of certainty of the future development. The

forest roads will be constructed to the DOF standards that account for the foreseeable uses. The DOF has worked with the Land Development Section to place feasible alignments that could be upgraded to applicable American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Guidelines for Very Low Volume Roads in the future. To construct a higher order road in all parts of the settlement area at this time is not needed to remove the timber and is not a reasonable expectation relative to the other needs of the state.

Timber sales have traditionally created broad economic benefits to the communities of Southeast Alaska. The business communities on POW and to certain extent other nearby SE communities will receive direct economic benefits by providing support services for the operators such as fuel, food, housing, medical and miscellaneous supplies.

VI. PUBLIC NOTICE

The PBIF, and decision were publicly noticed in compliance with AS 38.05.945. Notice was posted on the Alaska Online Public Notice System on July 3rd, 2023, Notices were also posted at the Ketchikan, Craig, and Thorne Bay Public Libraries. Mailed notices were distributed to a mailing list maintained by the Southeast Area Office and public notices were sent to the post offices of Ketchikan, Ward Cove, Craig, Klawock, Thorne Bay, Coffman Cove, Naukati, Metlakatla, Wrangell and Petersburg. A legal notice was also provided in the Ketchikan Daily News and the Island Post

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE

The DOF received agency comment from the ADFG, Habitat Section. The agency visited the site June 21st and 22nd of 2023 and concur with the BIF/FLUP habitat descriptions. The ADFG, Division of Wildlife also visited the site previously in September of 2022.

VIII. DISCUSSION, FINAL FINDING AND DECISION

After due consideration of all pertinent information, the ADNR has reached the following decision: to offer for sale approximately 49 acres of old growth forest composed of western red cedar, western hemlock, Sitka spruce, and Alaska yellow cedar on Settlement-classified land on Prince of Wales Island. Harvest activities on the Settlement lands will follow the management intent of the of the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan. The DOF finds that this decision satisfies the objectives stated in this document and it is in the best interest of the State to proceed with this action under its authority in AS 38.05.035(e) (Powers and Duties of the Director) and AS 38.05.110-120; 11 AAC 71 (Timber Sale Statutes and Regulations; and AS 41.17.010-.950 and 11 AAC 95 (Forest Resources and Practices Statutes and Regulations).

IX. SIGNATURE

Greg Staunton, Area Forester
Alaska Division of Forestry

Date

X. REQUESTS FOR APPEAL

An eligible person affected by this decision, and who provided timely written comment or public hearing testimony to the department, may appeal the decision to the DNR Commissioner per AS 44.37.011 and 11 AAC 02. Any appeal must be received within twenty (20) calendar days after issuance of this decision under 11 AAC 02.040. An eligible person must first appeal a decision to the Commissioner before seeking relief in superior court. The Alaska State Courts establish its own rules for timely appealing final administrative orders and decisions of the department. Appeals may be mailed or hand-delivered to the DNR Commissioner's Office, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501; or faxed to (907)-269-8918; or sent by electronic mail to dnr.appeals@alaska.gov. Appeals must be accompanied by the fee established in 11 AAC 05.160(d)(6), which has been set at \$200 under the provisions of 11 AAC 05.160 (a)-(b). If no appeal is filed by that date, this decision goes into effect as a final order and decision on August 18, 2023.

A copy of 11 AAC 02 is enclosed and is also available on the department's website at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/pdf/DNR-11-AAC-02.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact Greg Staunton of the Southeast Area Office at (907) 225-3070 or e-mail greg.staunton@alaska.gov.

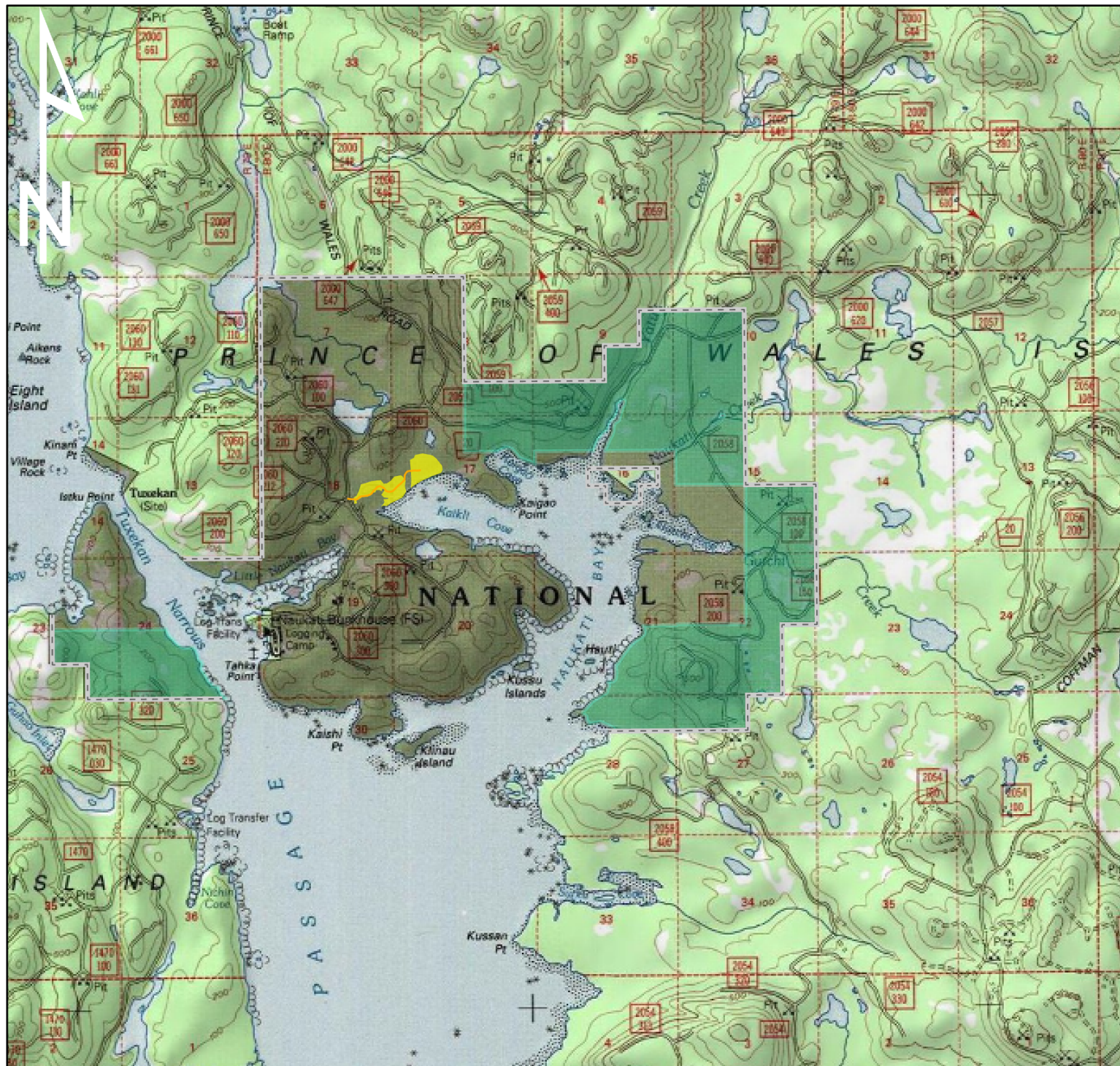
XI. APPENDICES

Appendix A	SSE-1381-K Kaikli Cove Timber Sale Maps
Appendix B	References
Appendix C	Appeal Regulations
Appendix D	Kaikli Cove Timber Sale Comments & Responses
Appendix E	SSE-1381-K Kaikli Cove Forest Land Use Plan

Appendix A SSE-1381-K Kaikli Cove Timber Sale Maps

Vicinity Map (one page)

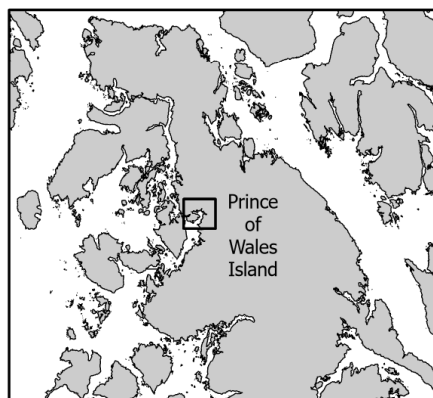
Unit Map (one page)



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, Copyright:© 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed, City and Borough of Wrangell, State of Alaska, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, NRCAN, Parks Canada

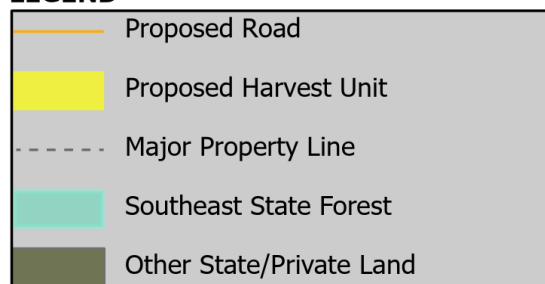
Contour Interval = 40 FT
Source: USFS LiDAR 2018

Area Map 1 in = 1 mile



Vicinity Map 1 in = 32 miles

LEGEND



APPENDIX A1 SSE-1381 K KAIKLI COVE TIMBER SALE AREA MAP



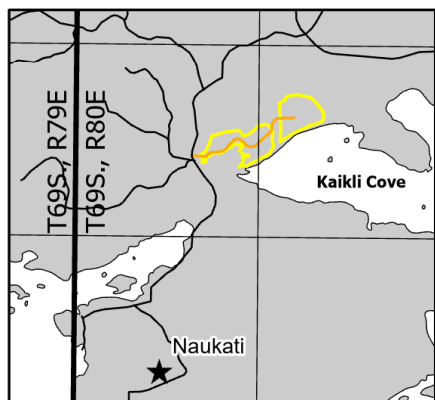
TC 9/8/2022



0 500 1,000 1,500 Feet
 Sale Map 1 in = 500 FT

T69S, R80E, Section(s) 17, 18
 Copper River Meridian

Contour Interval = 10 FT
 Source: USFS LiDAR 2018



Legend

- Proposed Harvest Unit
- Proposed Drainage Structure
- Proposed Road
- Existing Roads
- Cataloged Anadromous
- Non-Cataloged Anadromous
- ... Tributary to Anadromous <12
- ... Tributary to Anadromous >12
- Surface Water

APPENDIX A2 SSE-1381 K KAIKLI COVE TIMBER SALE MAP 1 UNITS 1, 2



TC 9/8/2022

Appendix B References

Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Annual Board and Agency Reports on the effectiveness of the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and regulations. Reports retrievable from: <http://forestry.alaska.gov/alaskaboardforestry.htm>

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Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes- Southeastern Region, Alaska Department of Fish and Wildlife, Division of Sport Fish and Habitat.

King, John, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water, personal communication 2021-2023.

Minnillo, Mark, Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Habitat, personal communications.

Hasbrouck, Tessa, Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, personal communications.

United States Forest Service Geographic Information System Database.

Wikipedia. Shovel logging. Accessed at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shovel_logging

Appendix C Appeal and Request for Reconsideration Regulations

Note: "Appeal" means a request to the commissioner to review a decision that the commissioner did not sign or cosign. "Request for reconsideration" means a petition or request to the commissioner to review an original decision that the commissioner signed or cosigned.

Title 11.02 Appeals

TITLE 11. NATURAL RESOURCES.

CHAPTER 02. APPEALS.

Section

10. Applicability and eligibility

15. Combined decisions

20. Finality of a decision for purposes of appeal to court

30. Filing an appeal or request for reconsideration

40. Timely filing; issuance of decision

Section

50. Hearings

60. Stays; exceptions

70. Waiver of procedural violations

80. (Repealed)

900. Definitions

11 AAC 02.010. APPLICABILITY AND ELIGIBILITY. (a) This chapter sets out the administrative review procedure available to a person affected by a decision of the department. If a statute or a provision of this title prescribes a different procedure with respect to a particular decision, that procedure must be followed when it conflicts with this chapter.

(b) Unless a statute does not permit an appeal, an applicant is eligible to appeal or request reconsideration of the department's decision on the application. An applicant is eligible to participate in any appeal or request for reconsideration filed by any other eligible party.

(c) If a statute restricts eligibility to appeal or request reconsideration of a decision to those who have provided timely written comment or public hearing testimony on the decision, the department will give notice of that eligibility restriction as part of its public notice announcing the opportunity to comment.

(d) If the department gives public notice and allows a public comment period of at least 30 days on a proposed action, and if no statute requires opportunity for public comment, the department may restrict eligibility to appeal or request reconsideration to those who have provided timely written comment or public hearing testimony on the proposed action by including notice of the restriction as part of its public notice announcing the opportunity to comment.

(e) An eligible person affected by a decision of the department that the commissioner did not sign or cosign may appeal the decision to the commissioner within the period set by 11 AAC 02.040.

(f) An eligible person affected by a decision of the department that the commissioner signed or cosigned may request the commissioner's reconsideration within the period set by 11 AAC 02.040.

(g) A person may not both appeal and request reconsideration of a decision. (Eff. 11/7/90, Register 116; am 9/19/2001, Register 159)

Authority: AS 03.05.010 AS 38.04.900 AS 38.08.110 AS 41.15.020 AS 44.37.011
AS 29.65.050 AS 38.05.020 AS 38.09.110 AS 41.17.055 AS 46.15.020
AS 29.65.120 AS 38.05.035 AS 38.50.160 AS 41.21.020 AS 46.17.030

11 AAC 02.015. COMBINED DECISIONS. (a) When the department issues a combined decision that is both a final disposal decision under AS 38.05.035(e) and any other decision, including a disposal decision combined with a land use plan decision, or a disposal decision to grant certain applications combined with a decision to deny others, the appeal process set out for a disposal decision in AS 38.05.035(i) - (m) and this chapter applies to the combined decision.

(b) A decision of the department may include a statement that a final consistency determination under AS 46.40 (Alaska Coastal Management Program) has been rendered in conjunction with

the decision. A person may not, under this chapter, appeal or request reconsideration of the final consistency determination, including a requirement necessary solely to ensure the activity is consistent with the Alaska coastal management program as approved under AS 46.40. (Eff. 9/19/2001, Register 159)

Authority: AS 29.65.050 AS 38.04.900 AS 38.05.035 AS 38.09.110
AS 29.65.120 AS 38.05.020 AS 38.08.110 AS 38.50.160

11 AAC 02.020. FINALITY OF A DECISION FOR PURPOSES OF APPEAL TO COURT. (a) Unless otherwise provided in a statute or a provision of this title, an eligible person must first either appeal or request reconsideration of a decision in accordance with this chapter before appealing a decision to superior court.

(b) The commissioner's decision on appeal is the final administrative order and decision of the department for purposes of appeal to the superior court.

(c) The commissioner may order or deny a request for reconsideration within 30 calendar days after issuance of the decision, as determined under 11 AAC 02.040(c)-(e). If the commissioner takes no action during the 30-day period, the request for reconsideration is considered denied. Denial of a request for reconsideration is the final administrative order and decision of the department for purposes of appeal to the superior court.

(d) If the commissioner timely orders reconsideration of the decision, the commissioner may affirm the decision, issue a new or modified decision, or remand the matter to the director for further proceedings. The commissioner's decision, other than a remand decision, is the final administrative order and decision of the department for purposes of appeal to the superior court. (Eff. 11/7/90, Register 116; am 9/19/2001, Register 159)

Authority: AS 03.05.010 AS 38.04.900 AS 38.08.110 AS 41.15.020 AS 44.37.011
AS 29.65.050 AS 38.05.020 AS 38.09.110 AS 41.17.055 AS 46.15.020
AS 29.65.120 AS 38.05.035 AS 38.50.160 AS 41.21.020 AS 46.17.030

11 AAC 02.030. FILING AN APPEAL OR REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION. (a) An appeal or request for reconsideration under this chapter must

- (1) be in writing;
- (2) be filed by personal service, mail, fax, or electronic mail;
- (3) be signed by the appellant or the appellant's attorney, unless filed by electronic mail; an appeal or request for reconsideration filed by electronic mail must state the name of the person appealing or requesting reconsideration and a single point of contact to which any notice or decision concerning the appeal or request for reconsideration is to be sent;
- (4) be correctly addressed;
- (5) be timely filed in accordance with 11 AAC 02.040;
- (6) specify the case reference number used by the department, if any;
- (7) specify the decision being appealed or for which reconsideration is being requested;
- (8) specify the basis upon which the decision is challenged;
- (9) specify any material facts disputed by the appellant;
- (10) specify the remedy requested by the appellant;
- (11) state the address to which any notice or decision concerning the appeal or request for reconsideration is to be mailed; an appellant may also provide a telephone number where the appellant can be reached during the day or an electronic mail address; an appeal or request for reconsideration filed electronically must state a single address to which any notice or decision concerning the appeal or request for reconsideration is to be mailed;

(12) identify any other affected agreement, contract, lease, permit, or application by case reference number, if any;

(13) include a request for an oral hearing, if desired; in the appeal or request for reconsideration, the appellant may include a request for any special procedures to be used at the hearing; the appeal or request for reconsideration must describe the factual issues to be considered at the hearing, and

(14) be accompanied by the applicable fee set out in 11AAC 05.160. (Eff 11/7/90, Register 116; am 9/19/2001, Register 159; am 7/01/2018, Register 227).

(b) At the time an appeal is filed, and up until the deadline set out in 11 AAC 02.040(a) to file the appeal, an appellant may submit additional written material in support of the appeal, including evidence or legal argument.

(c) If public notice announcing a comment period of at least 30 days was given before the decision, an appellant may not submit additional written material after the deadline for filing the appeal, unless the appeal meets the requirement of (a) of this section and includes a request for an extension of time, and the department determines that the appellant has shown good cause for an extension. In considering whether the appellant has shown good cause, the department will consider factors including one or more of the following:

- (1) comments already received from the appellant and others;
- (2) whether the additional material is likely to affect the outcome of the appeal;
- (3) whether the additional material could reasonably have been submitted without an extension;
- (4) the length of the extension requested;
- (5) the potential effect of delay if an extension is granted.

(d) If public notice announcing a comment period of at least 30 days was not given before the decision, an appellant may submit additional written material after the deadline for filing the appeal, if the appeal meets the requirements of (a) of this section and includes a notice of intent to file the additional written material. The department must receive the additional written material within 20 days after the deadline for filing the appeal, unless the appeal also includes a request for an extension of time, and the department determines that the appellant has shown good cause for an extension. In considering whether the appellant has shown good cause, the department will consider factors including one or more of the following:

- (1) comments already received from the appellant and others;
- (2) whether the additional material is likely to affect the outcome of the appeal;
- (3) whether the additional material could reasonably have been submitted without an extension;
- (4) the length of the extension requested;
- (5) the potential effect of delay if an extension is granted.

(e) At the time a request for reconsideration is filed, and up until the deadline to file a request for reconsideration, an appellant may submit additional written material in support of the request for reconsideration, including evidence or legal argument. No additional written material may be submitted after the deadline for filing the request for reconsideration.

(f) If the decision is one described in 11 AAC 02.060(c), an appellant who believes a stay of the decision is justified may ask for a stay as part of the appeal or request for reconsideration. The appellant must include an argument as to why the public interest requires a stay. (Eff. 11/7/90, Register 116; am 9/19/2001, Register 159)

Authority:	AS 03.05.010	AS 38.04.900	AS 38.08.110	AS 41.15.020	AS 44.37.011
	AS 29.65.050	AS 38.05.020	AS 38.09.110	AS 41.17.055	AS 46.15.020

Editor's note: The address for an appeal or request for reconsideration by personal service and by mail is: Department of Natural Resources, Commissioner's Office, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3561. The number for an appeal or request for reconsideration by fax is: 1-907-269-8918. The electronic mailing address for an appeal or request for reconsideration by electronic mail is: dnr.appeals@alaska.gov.

11 AAC 02.040. TIMELY FILING; ISSUANCE OF DECISION. (a) To be timely filed, an appeal or request for reconsideration must be received by the commissioner's office within 20 calendar days after issuance of the decision, as determined under (c) or (d) of this section, unless another period is set by statute, regulation, or existing contract. If the 20th day falls on a day when the department is officially closed, the appeal or request for reconsideration must be filed by the next working day.

(b) An appeal or request for reconsideration will not be accepted if it is not timely filed.

(c) If the appellant is a person to whom the department delivers a decision by personal service or by certified mail, return receipt requested, issuance occurs when the addressee or the addressee's agent signs for the decision. If the addressee or the addressee's agent neglects or refuses to sign for the certified mail, or if the address that the addressee provided to the department is not correct, issuance by certified mail occurs when the decision is deposited in a United States general or branch post office, enclosed in a postage-paid wrapper or envelope, addressed to the person's current address of record with the department, or to the address specified by the appellant under 11 AAC 02.030(a)(11).

(d) If the appellant is a person to whom the department did not deliver a decision by personal service or certified mail, issuance occurs

(1) when the department gives public notice of the decision; or

(2) if no public notice is given, when the decision is signed; however, the department may state in the decision a later date of issuance and the corresponding due date for any appeal or request for reconsideration.

(e) The date of issuance constitutes delivery or mailing for purposes of a reconsideration request under AS 44.37.011(d) or AS 44.62.540(a). (Eff. 11/7/90, Register 116; am 9/19/2001, Register 159)

Authority: AS 03.05.010 AS 38.04.900 AS 38.08.110 AS 41.15.020 AS 44.37.011
AS 29.65.050 AS 38.05.020 AS 38.09.110 AS 41.17.055 AS 46.15.020
AS 29.65.120 AS 38.05.035 AS 38.50.160 AS 41.21.020 AS 46.17.030

11 AAC 02.050. HEARINGS. (a) The department will, in its discretion, hold a hearing when questions of fact must be resolved.

(b) The hearing procedure will be determined by the department on a case-by-case basis. As provided in 11 AAC 02.030(a)(13), any request for special procedures must be included with the request for a hearing.

(c) In a hearing held under this section

(1) formal rules of evidence need not apply; and

(2) the hearing will be recorded, and may be transcribed at the request and expense of the party requesting the transcript. (Eff. 11/7/90, Register 116)

Authority: AS 03.05.010 AS 38.04.900 AS 38.09.110 AS 41.17.055 AS 46.17.030
AS 29.65.050 AS 38.05.020 AS 38.50.160 AS 41.21.020
AS 29.65.120 AS 38.08.110 AS 41.15.020 AS 46.15.020

11 AAC 02.060. STAYS; EXCEPTIONS. (a) Except as provided in (c) and (d) of this section, timely appealing or requesting reconsideration of a decision in accordance with this chapter stays the decision during the commissioner's consideration of the appeal or request for reconsideration. If the commissioner determines that the public interest requires removal of the stay, the commissioner will remove the stay and allow all or part of the decision to take effect on the date set in the decision or a date set by the commissioner.

(b) Repealed 9/19/2001.

(c) Unless otherwise provided, in a statute or a provision of this title, a decision takes effect immediately if it is a decision to

(1) issue a permit, that is revocable at will;

(2) approve surface operations for a disposal that has already occurred or a property right that has already vested; or

(3) administer an issued oil and gas lease or license, or an oil and gas unit agreement.

(d) Timely appealing or requesting reconsideration of a decision described in (c) of this section does not automatically stay the decision. However, the commissioner will impose a stay, on the commissioner's own motion or at the request of an appellant, if the commissioner determines that the public interest requires it.

(e) A decision takes effect immediately if no party is eligible to appeal or request reconsideration and the commissioner waives the commissioner's right to review or reconsider the decision. (Eff. 11/7/90, Register 116; am 9/19/2001, Register 159)

Authority: AS 03.05.010 AS 38.04.900 AS 38.08.110 AS 41.15.020 AS 46.15.020
AS 29.65.050 AS 38.05.020 AS 38.09.110 AS 41.17.055 AS 46.17.030
AS 29.65.120 AS 38.05.035 AS 38.50.160 AS 41.21.020

11 AAC 02.070. WAIVER OF PROCEDURAL VIOLATIONS. The commissioner may, to the extent allowed by applicable law, waive a requirement of this chapter if the public interest or the interests of justice so require. (Eff. 11/7/90, Register 116; am 9/19/2001, Register 159)

Authority: AS 03.05.010 AS 29.65.120 AS 38.05.035 AS 38.50.160 AS 41.21.020
AS 03.10.020 AS 38.04.900 AS 38.08.110 AS 41.15.020 AS 46.15.020
AS 29.65.050 AS 38.05.020 AS 38.09.110 AS 41.17.055 AS 46.17.030

11 AAC 02.080. DEFINITIONS. Repealed. (Eff. 11/7/90, Register 116; repealed 9/19/2001, Register 159)

Editor's note: The subject matter formerly set out at 11 AAC 02.080 has been moved to 11 AAC 02.900.

11 AAC 02.900. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter,

(1) "appeal" means a request to the commissioner to review a decision that the commissioner did not sign or cosign;

(2) "appellant" means a person who files an appeal or a request for reconsideration.

(3) "commissioner" means the commissioner of natural resources;

(4) "decision" means a written discretionary or factual determination by the department specifying the details of the action to be allowed or taken;

(5) "department" means, depending of the particular context in which the term is used, the Department of Natural Resources, the commissioner, the director of a division within the Department of Natural Resources, or an authorized employee of the Department of Natural Resources;

(6) "request for reconsideration" means a petition or request to the commissioner to review an original decision that the commissioner signed or cosigned. (Eff. 11/7/90, Register 116; am 9/19/2001, Register 159)

Authority: AS 03.05.010 AS 38.05.020 AS 38.09.110 AS 41.17.055 AS 44.62.540
AS 29.65.050 AS 38.05.035 AS 38.50.160 AS 41.21.020 AS 46.15.020
AS 29.65.120 AS 38.08.110 AS 41.15.020 AS 44.37.011 AS 46.17.030
AS 38.04.900

Editor's note: The subject matter of 11 AAC 02.900 was formerly located at 11 AAC 02.080. The history note for 11 AAC 02.900 does not reflect the history of the earlier section.

Appendix D SSE-1381-K Kaikli Cove Timber Sale Comments & Responses

Author	Organization/ Location
Mark Minillo	Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), Habitat Section

Fisheries

Based on field recognition it was verified that the uncatalogued stream between the 2 harvest units does contain anadromous fish. On June 21, 2023, juvenile coho salmon were identified with the use of baited minnow traps near the mouth of the stream. Due to its low gradient and lack of any barriers ADF&G concurs with DOF's anadromous classification of this stream and the associated 100-foot no-harvest retention area on both sides of the stream for the distance shown on the associated maps.

Access to the 2 harvest units will require the installation of 2 clear-span open bottom log culverts. Because the streams are not cataloged fish habitat permits will not be required for the 2 structures as efficient fish passage will be provided for by their design.

Wildlife Habitat

ADF&G staff do not have any records of known black bear or wolf dens in the area. Staff visited the site in September 2022 and did not locate any dens but did observe fresh sign for Sitka black-tailed deer, black bear, wolf, and beaver.

Staff assessed deer harvest in the area. Deer harvest is recorded by coarse geographic scales known as Wildlife Analysis Areas (WAA). The timber sale units are in WAA 1422 which is 510km² (126,000 acres). In the past ten regulatory years (2013-2022), 9% of all deer harvest in Game Management Unit (GMU) 2 and 57% of deer harvested by Naukati residents occurred within this WAA. The quantity of harvest that occurred within the exact area of this proposed timber sale is unknown.

The proposed timber sale will remove wintering deer habitat (i.e., south facing slope below 800 ft) which may also influence other species that rely on similar habitat. Much of the area surrounding the proposed harvest has been clearcut in the past. Further clearcutting in the area will reduce wildlife habitat quality in the proposed area. However, due to the small size of the timber sale units, ADF&G does not have major concerns for impacts on GMU 2 wildlife populations. The PBIF appears to meet the intent of the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan, and the Forest Resources and Practices Statutes and Regulations.

Appendix E Kaikli Cove Timber Sale Forest Land Use Plan SSE-1381-K

State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry & Fire Protection



Coastal Region—Southeast Area Office
Forest Land Use Plan
Kaikli Cove
SSE-1381 K

August 2023

Abbreviations

ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ADNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
BIF	Best interest finding
DMLW	Division of Mining, Land and Water
DOF	Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
FLUP	Forest Land Use Plan
FRPA	Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act
FYSTS	Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales
MBF	Thousand board feet
OHA	Office of History and Archeology
POG	Productive old growth
POW	Prince of Wales
POWIAP	Prince of Wales Island Area Plan
ROW	Right-of-way
SESF	Southeast State Forest
SESFMP	Southeast State Forest Management Plan
UA	University of Alaska
USFS	United States Forest Service

Contents

I. Introduction.....	1
A. Legal description	1
B. Operational Period.....	1
C. Timber Disposal	1
D. Objectives and Summary.....	2
II. Affected Land Owners/Jurisdictions	2
A. State.....	2
B. Other Land Ownership	2
III. Harvest Methods, Silvicultural Actions, and Management of Non-timber Resources	2
A. Timber Stand Description and History	3
B. Timber Harvest Activities	3
C. Site Preparation	3
D. Slash Abatement.....	4
E. Soil Stability / Erosion / Mass Wasting.....	4
F. Timber Harvest—Surface Water Protection.....	4
G. Wildlife Habitat.....	5
H. Cultural and Historical Resource Protection.....	5
I. Other Resources Affected by Timber Harvest and Management	5
J. Reforestation.....	6
IV. Roads and Crossing Structures.....	6
A. Road Design, Construction, and Maintenance.....	6
B. Soil Erosion / Mass Wasting	7
C. Crossing Structures.....	7
D. Road Closure	8
E. Material Extraction	8
F. Other Resources Affected by Roads or Material Extraction.....	9
V. Approval.....	10
VI. Appendices.....	11
Appendix A: Kaikli Cove Timber Sale Maps	12
Appendix B: Supporting Information.....	13

Appendix C: Appeal and Request for Reconsideration Regulations (See Appendix C, same as the Best Interest Finding)	14
Appendix D. Public and Agency Comments and Responses (See Appendix D, same as the Best Interest Finding)	15

I. Introduction

Project File Number: SSE-1381 K

Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Office: Southeast Area
Area Forester: Greg Staunton
Forest Practices Geographic Region (AS 41.17.950): Region I

This Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) covers proposed forest operations on approximately 49 acres of land in the vicinity of Kaikli Cove on Prince of Wales Island near the community of Naukati. It is intended to provide the best available information regarding the proposed harvest of timber, and management of other non-timber resources and uses in compliance with AS 38.05.112 and AS 41.17.060, and must be adopted by the ADNR before the proposed activity can occur.

☒ This Forest Land Use Plan is for timber sale(s) for which a Best Interest Finding was concurrently out for agency and public review. A final best interest finding must be completed prior to adoption of a FLUP pursuant to AS 38.05.035 (e) and AS 38.05.945.

A draft of this FLUP was distributed to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for their review and comments relevant to the consistency of this proposed project with the statutes governing forest land use plans (AS 38.05.112) and the requirements of the Alaska Forest Resources & Practices Act (AS 41.17) and its Regulations (11 AAC 95).

☒ Other Documents are referenced in this FLUP. This timber sale is designed to be consistent with the management intent of the following documents:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alaska Forest Resources & Practices Act• Prince of Wales Island Area Plan• Kaikli Cove Timber Sale Best Interest Finding SSE-1381-K |
|---|

The administrative record for this sale is maintained at the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Southeast Area Office filed as SSE-1381 K.

A. Legal description

Section 17 and 18, Township 69 South, Range 80 East, Copper River Meridian (CRM). The sale area is found within the Craig D-4 NW USGS quadrangle. See also map in Appendix A.

B. Operational Period

Calendar years 2023-2026.

C. Timber Disposal

☒ Timber will be sold and will have a contract administrated by the State.

- ☐ Timber will be available to the public; permits obtained by the public will be issued by the State.
- ☐ Other

D. Objectives and Summary

1. To follow the Alaska Department of Natural Resources' (ADNR) constitutional mandate to encourage the development of the State's renewable resources, making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest;
2. To help the State's economy by providing royalties to the State in the form of stumpage receipts, an infusion to the State's economy through wages, purchases, jobs, and business.
3. To harvest timber from future subdivision areas to promote economic development and minimize public risk; and
4. To minimize infrastructure development costs in the area through long range planning.

II. Affected Land Owners/Jurisdictions

A. State

Activity on ownership:	Access Easement	Harvest	Written Representative Approval
<input type="checkbox"/> Southeast State Forest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other state land managed by DNR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> University of Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Trust	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> School Trust	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Other Land Ownership

☐ ☐ ☐

Land Owner:

Land Owner Representative:

III. Harvest Methods, Silvicultural Actions, and Management of Non-timber Resources

Forest operations will be designed to:

- Protect fish habitat and water quality in compliance with the best management practices in 11 AAC 95.260-.370,
- Manage for the other land uses and activities identified in AS 41.17.060 and the Best Interest Finding for this timber sale, and
- Ensure prompt reforestation and maintenance of site productivity in compliance with AS 41.17.060(c) and 11 AAC 95 .375-.390.

Harvest and Silvicultural Methods:

- ☒ The silvicultural actions are described in this document, and no prescription was written or is necessary.
- ☐ A silvicultural prescription has been written and is attached to this document in Appendix B.

A. Timber Stand Description and History

The sale area contains old-growth timber. Western red cedar and western hemlock are the primary commercial tree species with minor components of Alaska yellow cedar in upland areas next to scrubby areas and defective Sitka Spruce congregated mainly near the shoreline. Timber in the sale area is short and varies in quality. Some evidence of past single tree harvesting done from the beach.

B. Timber Harvest Activities

Timber Harvest Activities are displayed in Table 1.

Table 1. Timber Harvest Activities

Unit ID	Acres	Topography	Silvicultural Action	Logging Method
1	26	Irregular Complex Slopes	Harvest of Merchantable Timber	Shovel logging
2	23	Irregular Complex Slopes	Harvest of Merchantable Timber	Shovel logging

C. Site Preparation

- ☒ Site preparation will not be necessary. There is either sufficient residual stocking, or because there has been sufficient soil disturbance by logging to forego scarification.
- ☐ Site preparation will be implemented and described in Table 2:

Table 2. Site Preparation

Unit ID	Acres	Site Preparation Method	Date of Completion
All		None Required	

D. Slash Abatement

- ☐ Potential for insect infestations caused by slash accumulations exists. Slash abatement for controlling infestations will be implemented as required by 11 AAC 95.370.
- ☒ Lop and scatter slash; accumulations will be kept to less than 2 feet in height.
- ☒ Slash will be disposed of by the operator ☐ Slash will be disposed of by the State
- ☐ Other - method of slash disposal: ☐ removal off site ☐ crushing or grinding ☐ burning
- ☐ Burn permits necessary from DOF and DEC to be acquired.
- ☐ The operator will contact the DOF local area office prior to ignition of debris.
- Note: The operator will use slash for puncheon to protect soil from erosion and compaction.

E. Soil Stability / Erosion / Mass Wasting

- ☒ Maximum percent side slopes are $\leq 50\%$
- ☐ Maximum percent side slopes are $> 50\%$

Percentage of sale area with slopes $> 50\%$: 0

Maximum percent slopes: 45

- ☒ There are no indicators of unstable areas.
- ☐ Indicators of unstable areas were identified and will be mitigated by actions indicated below.

F. Timber Harvest—Surface Water Protection

- ☐ There are no streams or lakes abutting or within a harvest unit.
- ☒ Known surface waters and protection measures are described in Table 3 below. *Locations are included in the operational map in the Appendices.*

Table 3. Protection for Known Surface Waters

Unit	Waterbody Name	AS 41.17.950 Classification	ADF&G AWC #	Required Riparian Protection	Site-specific actions to minimize impacts on riparian area
1	none	Cataloged Anadromous	103-90-10240	100 FT	Retain timber per AS 41.17.118(a)1(A) and (B)
1/2	none	Uncatalogued Anadromous	none	100 FT	Retain timber per AS 41.17.118(a)1(A) and (B)
1	Unnamed	Surface Water	none	none	Split yard, site specific crossing approval of DOF.
1	Unnamed eastern stream	Uncatalogued Anadromous	Tributary-103-90-10240	100 FT	Retain timber per AS 41.17.118(a)1(A) and (B)

Surface waters listed above were reviewed by the Department of Fish and Game:

- ☒ During the timber sale planning process
- ☒ During the agency review conducted for the Best Interest Finding for this sale

- ☒ During the drafting of this Forest Land Use Plan
- ☐ Stream Crossings (Title 16) Permits are needed per ADF&G Division of Habitat

Surface waters listed above were reviewed by the Department of Environmental Conservation:

- ☐ During the timber sale planning process
- ☒ During the agency review conducted for the Best Interest Finding for this sale
- ☒ During the drafting of this Forest Land Use Plan

Non-classified surface waters are subject to applicable BMPs in 11 AAC 95.

Notes:

G. Wildlife Habitat

- ☒ Wildlife species and allowances for their important habitats were addressed in writing by the Department of Fish & Game during the Best Interest Finding review.
- ☒ Wildlife species and allowances for their important habitats were addressed in writing by the Department of Fish & Game during the drafting of this Forest Land Use Plan.

Silvicultural practices to be applied to minimize impacts to wildlife habitat or wildlife management:

- ☒ Timber retention - concentrations of timber surrounding harvest units, or interspersed within harvest units to provide cover.
- ☐ Snag Retention- snags or isolated trees left for cavity nesting species.
- ☐ Large Woody Debris – concentrations of downed timber or logging debris interspersed within harvest units to provide cover left on site.
- ☐ Other actions

Notes:

H. Cultural and Historical Resource Protection

- ☒ This project was reviewed by the State Historic and Preservation Office (SHPO).
- ☒ No artifacts have been reported within the project area(s).
- ☐ Known or likely sites have been identified and a mitigation plan is in place. (Describe the mitigation actions.)

I. Other Resources Affected by Timber Harvest and Management

- ☒ There are other resources and areas of concern besides surface water, fish habitat, and wildlife habitat that may be affected. Mitigations actions were addressed in the Best Interest Finding.

Table 4. Other Affected Resources / Areas of Concern

Impacted Resource	Reviewing Agency	Impact/ Mitigation Actions
Visuals	DMLW	None

- ☐ There are no affected resources or areas of concern other than surface water, fish habitat, and wildlife habitat, which are addressed in this Forest Land Use Plan.

J. Reforestation

Harvest type as it relates to reforestation requirement:

- ☒ Clearcut

Notes: Land conversion is likely to occur in the future associated with settlement activity. Reforestation is likely to occur regardless.

Season of harvest:

- ☐ Winter harvest only
☐ Non-winter harvest only
☒ All-season harvest

Regeneration type:

- ☒ Natural regeneration

List species: Western red cedar, western hemlock, Sitka spruce.

- ☐ Artificial regeneration
☐ Seeding: Species and source of seed (general vicinity location of seed source)

☐ Planting: Species: _____ Date of proposed planting: _____

Source of seedlings (location of seed source): _____

IV. Roads and Crossing Structures

A. Road Design, Construction, and Maintenance

Roads will be designed, constructed, and maintained to prevent significant adverse impacts on water quality and fish habitat (AS 41.17.060(b)(5)), and site productivity (AS 41.17.060(c)(5)). Roads will comply with the best management practices in the Forest Resources and Practices

Regulations (11 AAC 95.285 – 95.335).

Roads or other means required for the access and removal of this timber from the harvest area(s) or unit(s) are listed in Table 5.

Table 5. Road Construction and Use

Road ID	Segment	Harvest Unit	Stations **	Road Class	Maximum Grade %*	Constructed By	Maintained By
20600500	NA	1, 2	34	Secondary	12%	Purchaser	Purchaser

Road Class is as defined in the DOF Road Standards.

**Note: Roads must be less than 20% grade per 8 AAC 61.1060 Additional Logging Standards.*

*** One station equals 100 feet. One mile equals 5,280 feet.*

Notes:

B. Soil Erosion / Mass Wasting

Maximum percent side slopes: 30

☒ Maximum percent side slopes are $\leq 50\%$

☐ Maximum percent side slopes are $> 50\%$

☒ There are no indicators of unstable areas where roads will be constructed

☐ Indicators of unstable areas were identified and will be mitigated by actions indicated below:

Table 6. Road Erosion Control Risk and Mitigation

Road ID	Segment	Mile/ Station or Point Label	Identified Erosion Risk	Risk Level	Mitigation
20600500	All	All	Road fines	Low	Grade and water bar when operations conclude.

General Timber Sale Erosion Control:

☐ Grass seeding

☐ Erosion control mats

☐ Wattle

☒ Waterbars

☐ Other: _____

☐ Not applicable

C. Crossing Structures

Are you removing or replacing drainage structures? ☐ YES ☒ NO

- ☐ No crossing structures are needed within the project area.
- ☒ Crossing structures will be placed in access roads as described in the table below:

Table 7. Required Drainage and Crossing Structures on Known Surface Waters

Road ID	Segment	Mile/ Station or Point Label	Bridge Length (ft.) or Culvert Diameter (in.)	Structure Type [ex. Corrugated Plastic Pipe, Log Stringer, Fabricated, Ice]	AS 41.17.950 Stream Classification	ADF&G AWC Number	Duration of crossing structure in place
20600500	NA	P151	10 FT	Log Stringer Culvert	Tributary to Anadromous <12%	None	End of Sale
20600500	NA	P132	24"	CPP	Surface Water	None	End of Sale
20600500	NA	P110	10 FT	Log Stringer Culvert	Uncatalogued Anadromous	None	End of Sale

D. Road Closure

Roads constructed for the timber sale that are left open will be subject to maintenance standards under 11 AAC 95. 315. Otherwise, roads constructed for the timber sale will be closed, subject to standards under 11 AAC 95.320.

Table 8. Road Closures

Road ID	Segment	Unit	Closure Type All Season/Winter	Estimated Closure Date	Projected Road Use after Timber Harvest
20600500	NA	1	All	End of Harvest	Settlement
20600500	NA	2	All	End of Harvest	Settlement

E. Material Extraction

- ☐ There will be no material extraction sites in the project area.
- ☐ Material extraction and associated overburden disposal will be located outside of riparian areas and muskegs. Material extraction and disposal will be located as shown on the operation map, in a manner that prevents runoff from entering surface waters.
- ☒ Other: Depending on suitable material availability, a rock pit will be developed on the western end of Unit 1 for construction of the road. The development of a pit will be part of the timber purchaser's operating plan prior to commencing operations and subject to DOF

and DMLW approval.

F. Other Resources Affected by Roads or Material Extraction

List resources other than water, habitat or cultural resources potentially impacted by road construction, and indicate how impacts will be mitigated. Other affected resources could be, but are not limited to mining claims, scenic areas, recreational trails, etc.

Table 9. Other Affected Resources

Impacted Resource	Reviewing Agency	Impact / Mitigation Actions
None		

V. Approval

This Forest Land Use Plan has been reviewed by the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection and provides the information necessary to be adopted by the Department of Natural Resources as required by AS 38.05.112.

Area Forester

Date

If you have any questions, please contact Greg Staunton of the Southeast Area Office at (907) 225-3070 or e-mail: dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov.

VI. Appendices

Appendix A Maps

Appendix B Supporting Information

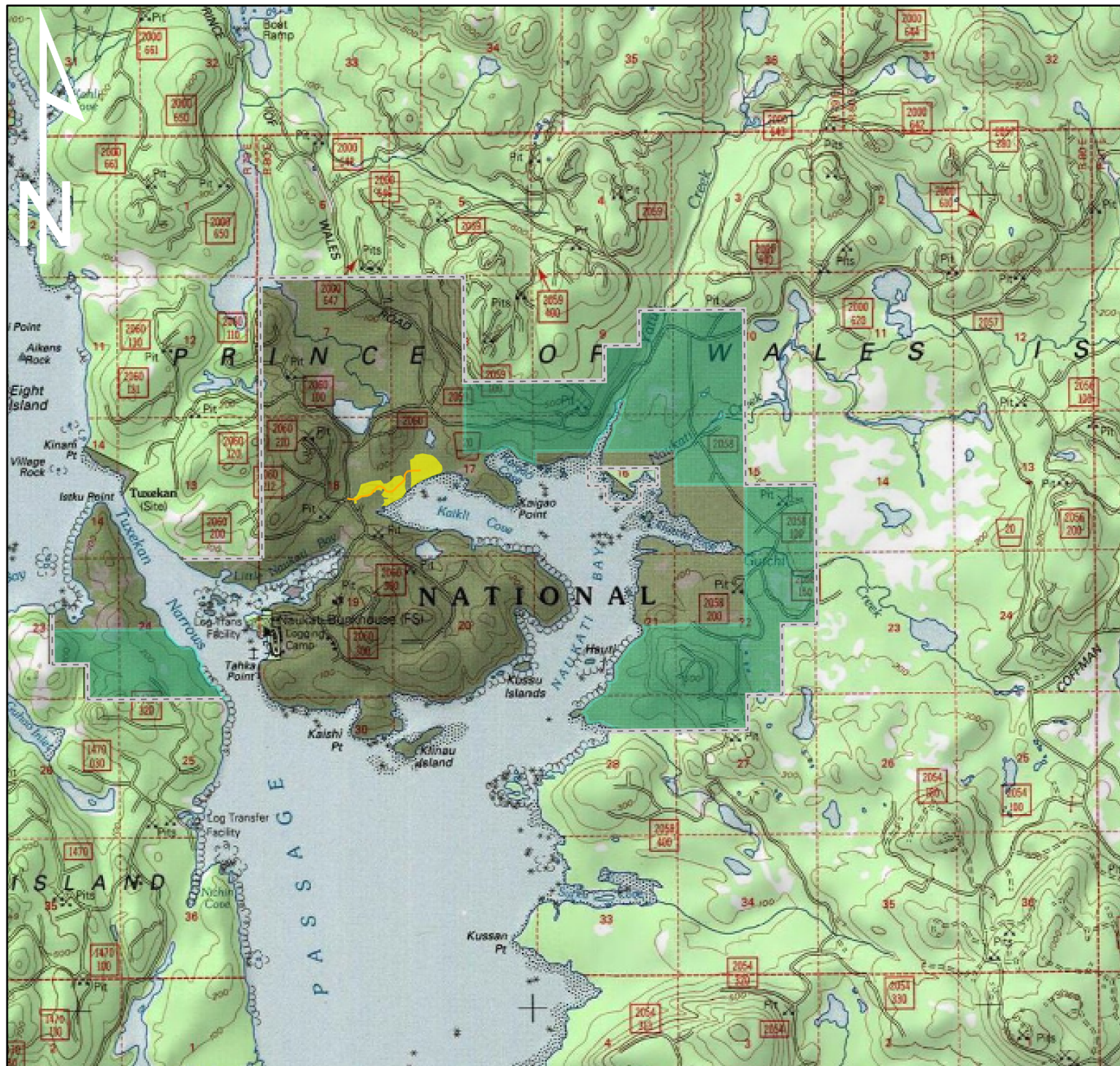
Appendix C Appeal Regulations

Appendix D FLUP Comments

Appendix A: Kaikli Cove Timber Sale Maps

Appendix A1 Area Map (one page)

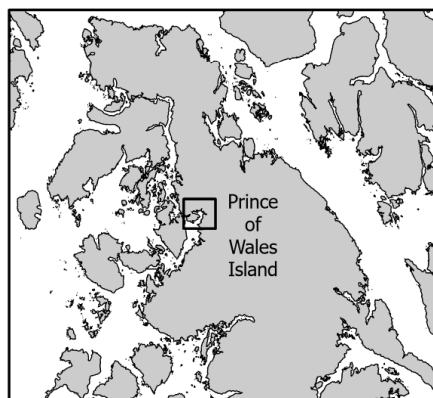
Appendix A2 Unit Map (one page)



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, Copyright:© 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed, City and Borough of Wrangell, State of Alaska, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, NRCAN, Parks Canada

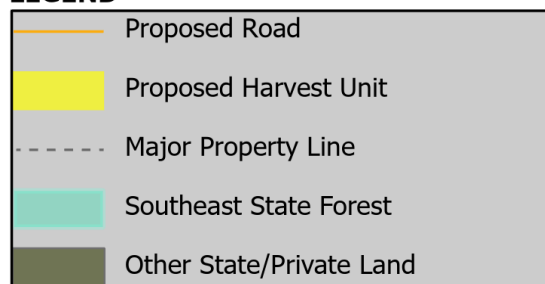
Contour Interval = 40 FT
Source: USFS LiDAR 2018

Area Map 1 in = 1 mile



Vicinity Map 1 in = 32 miles

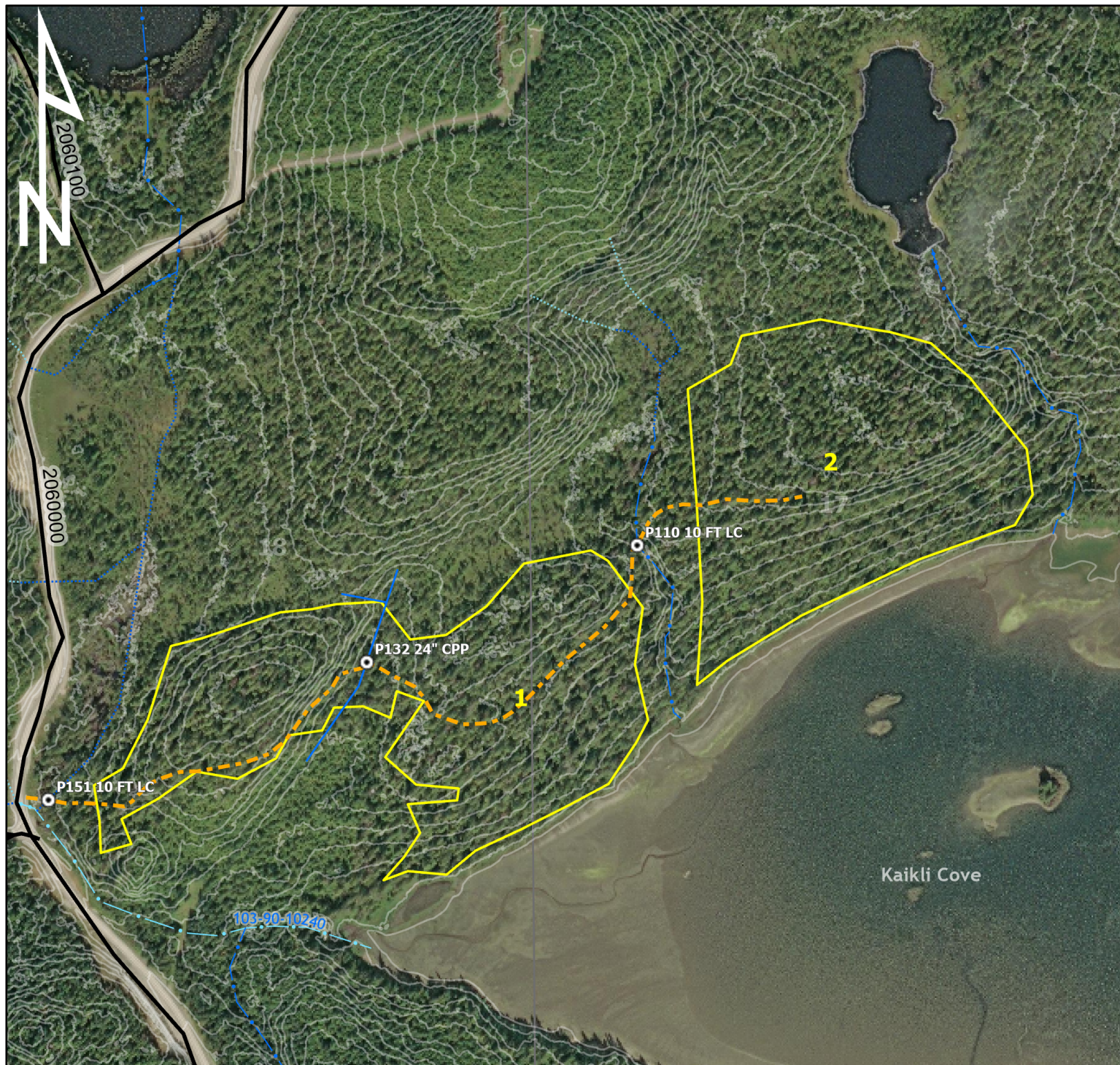
LEGEND



APPENDIX A1 SSE-1381 K KAIKLI COVE TIMBER SALE AREA MAP



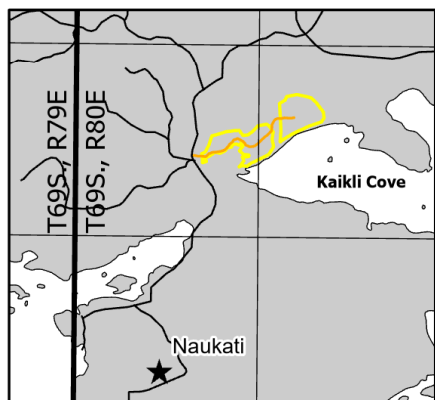
TC 9/8/2022



0 500 1,000 1,500 Feet
 Sale Map 1 in = 500 FT

T69S, R80E, Section(s) 17, 18
 Copper River Meridian

Contour Interval = 10 FT
 Source: USFS LiDAR 2018



Vicinity Map 1 in = 1 miles

Legend

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Proposed Harvest Unit | Cataloged Anadromous |
| Proposed Drainage Structure | Non-Cataloged Anadromous |
| Proposed Road | Tributary to Anadromous <12 |
| Existing Roads | Tributary to Anadromous >12 |
| | Surface Water |

APPENDIX A2 SSE-1381 K KAIKLI COVE TIMBER SALE MAP 1 UNITS 1, 2



TC 9/8/2022

Appendix B: Supporting Information

- Alaska Forest Practices and Regulations. Available for download at:
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/forestpractices>
- **Forest Road and Bridge Standards.**
 - http://forestry.alaska.gov/Assets/uploads/DNRPublic/forestry/pdfs/resources/forest_road_standard_design_20151231.pdf
 - http://forestry.alaska.gov/Assets/uploads/DNRPublic/forestry/pdfs/resources/forest_bridge_standard_design_20150128.pdf

Appendix C: Appeal and Request for Reconsideration Regulations

(See Appendix C, same as the Best Interest Finding)

Appendix D. Public and Agency Comments and Responses

(See Appendix D, same as the Best Interest Finding)