## STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION SOUTHEAST AREA OFFICE

## PUBLIC REVIEW FIVE-YEAR SCHEDULE OF TIMBER SALES STATE FISCAL YEARS 2026 – 2030

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DOF) Draft Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales for the Southern Southeast Area is available for public review. Per AS 38.05.113 this is a scoping document that outlines the proposed timber sale activity to be undertaken on State land over the next five years. The Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales is not a decision document.

The public is invited to comment on any aspect of the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales. Comments should be mailed to the DOF and must be received by the close of business at the DOF's office no later than <u>January 27, 2025</u> to be included as comment to the file in the adopted schedule. This document can be viewed at the Area Office in Ketchikan, the public libraries in Craig, Edna Bay, Ketchikan, Petersburg and Wrangell, the State of Alaska's on-line public notice website <u>http://notice.alaska.gov/217888</u> as well as the DOF's website <u>http://forestry.alaska.gov</u>.

After public comment has been received and reviewed, the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection may proceed with planning the proposed timber sales and associated developments. When each sale is prepared and ready for review, notice of the proposed decision and the opportunity for public comment will be given for that specific timber sale, as is required under state statutes and regulations.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SUBMIT COMMENTS CONTACT:

Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection	Contact:	Greg Staunton
2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213	Phone:	907-225-3070
Ketchikan, AK 99901	Email:	<u>dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov</u>

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Complies with Title II of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, or special modifications to participate in this review may contact the number above.

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



# **SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST AREA**

FIVE-YEAR SCHEDULE OF TIMBER SALES FISCAL YEARS 2026 THROUGH 2030

January 2025

## Abbreviations

ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
------	---

of Fish and Game
of Fish and Game

ADF&G-DWC Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation

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
MHT	Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
OHA	Office of History and Archeology
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
TBD	To be determined
UA	University of Alaska
USFS	United States Forest Service

# Table of Contents

Purpose of the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales	4
Timber Sale Land Base	6
Management Intent of the DOF Timber Sale Program	7
Timber Harvest Methodology	7
Existing Market Influences	9
Narrative Summary of Five-Year Schedule Activities	9
Small/ Medium Sized Sales	10
Larger Sales by Projected Fiscal Year	12
2026 Fiscal Year and the Remainder of Fiscal 2025	12
2027 Fiscal Year	14
2028 Fiscal Year	16
2029 Fiscal Year	17
2030 Fiscal Year	18
Table 1: Summary Table	19
Table 2: Maps	20

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

This Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales (FYSTS) provides information to State Agencies, commercial and non-commercial organizations, as well as the public concerning planning and uses of forest resources on the Southeast State Forest (SESF) as well as other State lands found within the Southern Southeast Area for the State fiscal years 2025- 2029 (State Fiscal Year is July 1 to June 30). This FYSTS meets the Alaska Statute (AS 38.05.113) requirements for periodic notification of planned activities, including timber sales, on the SESF as well as other State lands found within the Southern Southeast Area. The Southern Southeast Area encompasses lands from Tracy Arm/Frederick Sound south to Dixon Entrance and Portland Canal.

This FYSTS illustrates the general direction of the Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (DOF) regarding the possible development of forest resources on the SESF and on other State lands found within the Southern Southeast Area.

This document does not represent harvest activities or harvest levels proposed by the University of Alaska (UA) or the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (MHT). Their respective land offices manage the UA and MHT lands.

Salvage sales, emergency sales, sales of 160 acres or less, negotiated sales less than 500 thousand board feet (MBF), and personal use permits are exempt from the FYSTS requirements. All other timber sales must be included in one of the two five-year schedules preceding the sale (AS 38.05.113(b)). To give the public a responsible representation of Department of Natural Resources (DNR) activities, the five-year schedule will also include, whenever practical:

- 1. All sales less than 160 acres that require a Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP).
- 2. Salvage sales and areas of contiguous small sale activity on at least one FYSTS preceding the sale unless waiting on the schedule will:
  - a. cause substantial losses of economic value on salvage sales under AS 38.05.117, or,
  - b. for sales less than 160 acres, preclude a local economic enterprise or forest management project that is in the State's best interest.

The Southern Southeast Area Office of the DOF bases the FYSTS on lands that are available for timber harvest within the SESF, and on lands identified in the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan, the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan Amendment and the Central/Southern Southeast Area Plan as being available for timber harvest. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) develops area plans to designate appropriate uses for state land, classifies lands accordingly, and establishes guidelines for their use based on the multiple use principal. These plans determine where timber harvest is an allowed use and what other uses must be considered when designing and implementing timber sales. Subsequent land use decisions must be consistent with the area plans. The Southeast State Forest Plan likewise was developed by the DOF to guide the management of the legislatively designated Southeast State Forest.

The areas targeted for timber harvest and development are quantified in this FYSTS based on aerial

photo and/or satellite image interpretation, and on the basis of forest inventory data and timber stand mapping and classification. This information is augmented by limited ground reconnaissance and historical knowledge accumulated by DOF and other state agency personnel working in the field. To meet the State mandate of sustained yield according to AS 38.04.910, the DOF has taken a conservative approach to developing the Annual Allowable Cut. The DOF manages the Annual Allowable Cut on a decadal basis and will not exceed its allowable annual cut as averaged on a tenyear basis.

All State timber sales must comply with the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and Regulations (FRPA), the Alaska Land Act and Regulations, and must adhere to area wide land management policies for their respective management unit (Chapters 2 & 3) of the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan, the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan Amendment, or the Central/Southern Southeast Area Plan or the Southeast State Forest Management Plan for lands found within the SESF.

All commercial timber sales that exceed 500 MBF will have a Best Interest Finding (BIF). Additionally, a BIF will be completed on any timber sale that is a negotiated under AS 38.05.118. A BIF is the decision document that:

- 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 that 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 sale price.

The BIF will go through a preliminary decision process prior to adoption. This preliminary decision process includes opportunities for both public and agency review and comment. Within the process, DOF will review public and agency comments, and make changes, as appropriate, to its preliminary decision prior to final adoption of the BIF. The adopted BIF may be appealed in accordance with 11 AAC 02 by any person affected by the decision, provided that person submitted timely written comment and/or offered public hearing testimony on the preliminary decision.

The DOF may negotiate small timber sales under 500 MBF (AS 38.05.115) without a BIF while complying with regulations for these small sales as established in 11 AAC 71.045. Small mill operators have expressed an interest in such sales because they fit their mill capacity needs and are within their economic capacity to purchase timber. The Southern Southeast Area DOF will prepare small sales as demand, ground conditions, and timber sale economics allow. The DOF will strive to accommodate supply needs for as many operational small mills as possible while staying within its workforce and budget constraints.

Prior to authorizing harvest of timber on any area greater than 10 acres, the DOF must adopt a sitespecific Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) for the harvest area. The DOF will prepare FLUPs for harvest areas within the overall sale area covered by the BIF. FLUPs specify the site, size, timing and harvest methods for harvest unit(s) within each sale area. FLUPs also address site-specific requirements for access road construction and maintenance, reforestation, protection of other resources, and multiple use management. FLUP's will be based on additional fieldwork, agency and community consultation, and site-specific analysis by the DOF, and will be subject to public and agency review and comment.

Following adoption of the BIF, the DOF may offer the timber sale to prospective purchasers by competitive means (AS 38.05.120) or by negotiation (AS 38.05.115, AS. 38.05.118 and AS 38.05.123). Timber sale contracts will include clauses requiring purchaser compliance with the BIF, FLUP, FRPA and other statutory requirements.

Subsequent to contracting these timber sales, the DOF will perform timber sale contract administration activities for each sale, including field inspections to determine the level of purchaser compliance with the BIF, the FLUP, the timber sale contract, and all applicable laws including the FRPA, and when necessary, DOF will take actions designed to bring the purchaser's operations into compliance.

## **Timber Sale Land Base**

The dominant public landowner in the region is the United States Forest Service (USFS). Dominant trust entities in the region include the University of Alaska and the Alaska Mental Health Trust. The dominant private landowners in the region are Alaska Native village corporations including Shaan-Seet Corporation, Kootznoowoo Corporation, Klukwan, Klawock-Heenya Corporation, Kavilco, Kake Tribal Corporation, Haida Corporation, Long Island Trust, and Cape Fox Corporation. The regional Alaska Native corporation is Sealaska Corporation.

The State land base in Southern Southeast Alaska includes the major islands of Mitkof, Kupreanof, Kuiu, Wrangell, Prince of Wales and Revillagigedo, and the surrounding smaller islands south of Fredrick Sound. In addition, the land base includes the mainland from Tracy Arm to Hyder. The DOF operates its timber sale program primarily on two types of land classification in Southern Southeast Alaska: General Use (GU) lands and SESF lands. The General Use lands have been designated in the Areas Plans as being appropriate for timber harvest along with other multiple use activities. GU lands within their respective Area Plans may have harvest restrictions on a site-specific basis. These restrictions can be found within the Area Plans. The Area Plans designate several different uses of land in addition to GU such as Habitat, Settlement, Recreation and Water Resource Lands.

Outside the DOF's timber sale program, the Division manages timber resources on State lands not designated as GU lands or within the SESF. The DOF in these instances is only the timber manager and the land is managed by its respective managing State agency. These lands are not considered a part of the timber sale land base nor is the volume harvested considered or included in the Annual Allowable Cut. As an example, timber harvest on lands designated as Settlement is considered appropriate, "if intended to support the costs or design of subdivision activity." (POWIAP, pg. 2-22) Over the next five-year period, the DOF anticipates working with DMLW staff to facilitate the development of subdivisions in Southern Southeast Alaska.

There is currently a lack of timber supply in Southeast to accommodate existing timber purchaser's historic needs. In response to this situation, the DNR Commissioner has directed DNR to examine DOF Southern Southeast Area 6 FYSTS 2026-2030 all State land in Southeast regardless of its current classification to determine its suitability for providing timber. Several of the areas identified in this document are the result of this reexamination of the land base. The appropriateness of timber harvest remains to be determined. In some locations modification of the land classification or amendment of the land management plan is projected to be needed for harvest to occur.

In 2010 and 2011, the Legislature established the SESF. The State's third and newest Forest includes 48,472 acres of land located in Southern Southeast Alaska that originally was GU designated lands. Many of the Forest's 33 parcels are on Prince of Wales Island. Other parcels are located on Gravina, Heceta, Kosciusko, Revillagigedo, and Tuxekan Islands. The remaining parcels are located on the mainland.

By reserving the land ownership and designating it as State Forest lands, the Legislature defined the management intent of the parcels. While GU classified land allows for timber harvesting and other forestry activities, the State Forest designation focuses the long-term use of the land to providing timber and other forest resources. The primary purpose of SESF "is timber management that provides for production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources while allowing other beneficial uses of public land and resources." (AS 41.17.200) The DOF has and will continue to invest in an active manner to achieve long-term management and utilization of these forest resources. Examples of this investment include construction of roads and other infrastructure, and active forest management, such as pre-commercial thinning, to improve tree growth, forest health and wildlife habitat quality.

## Management Intent of the DOF Timber Sale Program

The DOF's management intent for Southern Southeast Area is to provide raw material for the local timber industry while maintaining the sustained yield of renewable resources. The intent of the timber sale program is to help support the wood product businesses in Alaska's southeastern communities. At the present time, most negotiated State timber sales in Southern Southeast Alaska require primary manufacture in the State, with emphasis on producing value-added and high value-added products. The percentage of required in-state manufacturing varies by timber sale. Resource protection, road construction costs, transportation costs, sale location, sale size, timber species, markets, and the world economy are all influences that affect the ability of a timber sale purchaser to process timber locally. The State will pursue processing as much of the timber locally as possible while maintaining a focus on delivering economically operable timber sales to local purchasers.

It is the DOF's intent to offer the annual allowable cut for Southern Southeast on a yearly basis while complying with the FRPA and Regulations; the Alaska Land Act and Regulations, management guidelines from Area Plans, and the SESF Management Plan. State timber sales will be targeted to offer opportunity to as many local processors as possible. The DOF also offers timber for sale by competitive bid under AS 38.05.120 to the highest qualified bidder. Timber volume sold under this authority is available for round log export.

## **Timber Harvest Methodology**

Most of the timber harvest in the Southern Southeast Area will be accomplished by the clear-cut

method. In its professional judgment and experience, the Division believes clear cutting is a proven, and effective silvicultural prescription, providing both adequate natural regeneration of harvested areas and an economically practical harvest method well-suited to the tree species, terrain and harvesting systems found in SE Alaska. Where silviculture goals can be achieved and it is economically practical with respect to a perceived need for specific species or type of timber, a selective harvest will be considered and designed.

The DOF is required to manage its timber harvest on a sustained yield basis (AS 38.05.065(b) (1)). "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). The Division's policy is to define "regular periodic output" as output over a tenyear period. Based on sold and harvest data, sales through 2024 were within the "sustained yield" management objective. When the total annual volumes listed in this FYSTS exceed the allowable cut on a yearly basis; it is done for planning purposes and to allow leeway within the DOF's timber sales program to react to unknown project constraints and market fluctuations.

The Annual Allowable Cut calculation is determined by using the area regulation method, a method that best utilizes existing forest stand information. The area regulation method involves determining the net-forested acres available for commercial timber harvest and then dividing that number by the rotation period. The rotation period is the time it takes to establish and grow a commercial stand of trees. A 100-year rotation has been the established standard for Southeast Alaska and is currently being used by the DOF. This rotation age could be adjusted in the future as more information on growth patterns of even-aged timber stands become available. Initial studies indicate that the more productive growing sites could be managed on a rotation age as low as 65 to 80 years in Southern Southeast Alaska.

The Area Plans and the SESF Management Plan are the governing sources for determining gross available acreage. The DOF has determined that within the Area Plans there is an estimated 27,200 acres on GU and other classified lands that can be considered for timber harvest. The SESF has an estimated 47,355 acres that can be considered for timber harvest. Together, these figures identify a total of 74,555 gross acres which can be considered for timber harvest. The total gross acreage is further refined through reductions in acreage for such variables as vegetative cover that is incapable of growing commercial timber (timber type mapping and forest inventory data and information), known resident high value and anadromous streams and their corresponding timber retention areas, exclusion zones listed in the Area Plans, coastal buffers, and isolated remote areas with a high percentage of low volume and/or low site quality timber stands. This further refinement of acreage is called the net timber base (NTB). The DOF estimates the NTB to be 33,216 acres. When the total NTB acreage (33,216 acres) is divided by the 100-year rotation period, an annual allowable cut of 332 acres is derived. The Division conducted a field inventory cruise in 2019 and audited the available land base for timber harvest in 2020 to arrive at these figures. Based on the forest stand inventory information, an average volume of 27.5 MBF per acre was applied yielding an allowable cut of 9,147 MBF per year. The Division will periodically adjust and refine the acreage used in annual allowable cut calculation based on continuing fieldwork, which will be dependent upon; future land management actions, staff availability and available travel funds.

## **Existing Market Influences**

The timber market in Southeast Alaska is influenced in large part by its location on the Pacific Rim. Due to the limited local market demand, products are marketed in lumber and the round log form to the North American continental market and to foreign markets abroad. Western redcedar for the past decade or more has been a strong contributor to timber revenue in the Southern Alaska Panhandle, either processed domestically or shipped in the round. Timber sales without a redcedar component or larger high-quality Sitka spruce component typically have had low net value returned for stumpage to the landowner. During this period, China has assumed the major role in consuming the lower-quality old growth spruce and hemlock as well as the young growth timber that is now achieving commercial size in an increasing number of merchantable timber stands which have resulted from historic harvests. Legacy markets in Japan and Korea have generally waned. At the time of this FYSTS, export markets into China and Japan are at a functional level and domestic demand is present. Inflation has impacted purchaser resilience and tempered market demand.

Changing management perspective by the USFS has terminated significant old growth harvest on federal land in SE Alaska. Efforts to substitute old growth harvest with significant young growth harvest on the Tongass National Forest have been slow to be realized. Because of supply uncertainty from federal lands, focus for the regional timber supply has shifted to State sources such as DOF managed State lands and the parcels managed by the Alaska Mental Health Trust. In addition to these factors, carbon sequestration and restoration projects have influenced the perspective of landowners with respect to the timber market.

# Narrative Summary of Five-Year Schedule Activities

This schedule includes timber sale area maps for all potential sales over 10 acres in size for FY 2026- FY 2030 proposed at this time. At present, and due to a variety of reasons, including budget constraints, lack of personnel, sale program direction and market uncertainties, most of the sales in the last three years of this schedule are conceptual in nature unless otherwise noted. Conceptual timber harvests planned through aerial photo/satellite image interpretation will be refined based on field reconnaissance. Field work to refine and develop the proposed timber sales will commence as staffing levels, other workload responsibilities, and budgets allow. Right-of-way sales, blowdown sales and sales less than ten acres in size are not generally depicted on the maps included with this FYSTS.

There is currently a lack of timber supply in the region and a significant amount of low volume per acre timber on State land. The DNR Commissioner has directed DOF to; solicit sale-specific input from industry, provide more flexibility in timber sale configuration(s) and development procedures, and reflect market opportunities for high value species such as redcedar that grow in these low volume areas that are currently underutilized. Industry recommendations and opportunities for direct involvement in sale preparation, will support the purpose of each individual timber sale and will conform to statute and regulation. The scope and configuration of the sale development process, including opportunities for purchaser layout, will be defined in the best interest finding for each individual timber sale. Comments on timber sale areas where this process may or may not be appropriate are germane to this FYSTS.

Total annual timber harvest volumes for this FYSTS are collectively higher than the Annual Allowable Cut. Timber volume estimates are necessarily coarse in nature for most of the sales listed but were developed using the best available sources of information and will be refined through future field reconnaissance and sale layout activities. **Under no condition will the annual allowable cut be exceeded as averaged over a ten-year period.** 

## Small/ Medium Sized Sales

Small sales will be located and developed throughout Southern Southeast Alaska so long as there is demand. The DOF has historically sold small sales each year totaling less than 500 MBF per sale per year. The demand for this size of State timber sale has varied over the past several decades due to the timber made available by the USFS. Small scale operators often experience financing and logistical issues when road construction is required for access to a small timber sale; this is a fundamental barrier to implementation of small-scale timber operations. The USFS generally has a more significant existing road system and management area overall that can solve the access challenge. Another hurdle common to all sale sizes can be the species configuration and quality of the timber, but smaller operators tend to have fewer market options. To the extent feasible, the Division will continue to work towards meeting demand for this level of timber sale as access, markets and Division staffing allow.

Existing infrastructure and mill location favor this size class of sales on Prince of Wales Island. The following sale series have potential to be configured and offered in units that could potentially fit the observed business profiles of smaller mills.

North Thorne Bay

**Backside Sales** 

#### **OLD GROWTH ACRES: 82**

#### ROAD MILES: 1.14

Two proposed timber harvest units are shown on the North Thorne Bay map and are located near the City of Thorne Bay on POW. Both units are bounded by young growth stands in the northern part of the tract. Based on the results of a timber cruise completed in 2022, both units together contain an estimated 1,800 MBF of merchantable timber volume. The southern unit, referred to as Backside #1 Timber Sale, is accessed from the Water Lake access road (3000140); it is not located within the watershed of the City of Thorne Bay. The Backside #1 Timber Sale is projected to require 0.5 miles of access spur (new road construction) and reconditioning of 0.22 miles of the existing 3000142 Spur. The northern unit, referred to as Backside #2 Timber Sale, would require approximately 0.92 miles of access spur (new road construction) from the 3000150 Road. Both units contain a mixed redcedar-hemlock forest type with minor components of Sitka spruce and Alaska yellow cedar.

In 2022 the DOF field located and flagged proposed harvest unit boundaries, stream related timber retention areas, necessary drainage structure locations, and proposed road routes for both Backside Sales. As a result of field work, no significant cultural resources, wildlife denning sites, or major karst geology were identified within either of the sale areas.

Overlook Sale OLD GROWTH ACRES: 25

ROAD MILES: 0.4

DOF Southern Southeast Area FYSTS 2026-2030

This proposed timber sale includes one harvest unit located on Settlement classified land near the City of Thorne Bay on POW. Timber harvest would establish initial road access for possible future subdivision actions by the State. The DMLW and the DOF have requested access to the area from the USFS managed 3018050 Road. Further timber sale planning is pending access authorization from the USFS.

## Stairway Sales

## OLD GROWTH ACRES: 183

This area is located on Settlement classified land in the South Thorne Bay area, near the City of Thorne Bay on POW. The potential harvest units identified along the ridge are isolated patches of timber remaining following previous harvest entries, and each unit would require the construction of new access spurs. The sale area will likely not be utilized for Settlement purposes due its isolated location and topography. Timber in these ridge units is primarily hemlock and may not be feasible at this time given the projected timber values and the procedural and economic challenges of access from the federal land and road system. The configuration and location of proposed harvest units are proximate to the Goose Creek area sawmills. The geology will be confirmed, via field reconnaissance, as stable relative to other important resources/infrastructure in the area, including the Thorne Bay/ Kasaan Road, prior to beginning the BIF and FLUP planning processes. A small unit containing old growth timber with a redcedar component has also been identified in the northwest corner of Section 33; access to this timber could involve extending an existing subdivision road. Placement of the spur would be coordinated with the DNR-Land Development Section to support a long-term goal of providing an alternate access route for the existing subdivision and other lands in the area.

### Naukati Area

## OLD GROWTH ACRES: TBD

Located on Prince of Wales Island near the community of Naukati, this area consists of several small, proposed harvest units. Each harvest unit will require the construction of a new spur road. A variety of land classifications are present. Harvest within the Settlement lands will only occur in coordination with the DMLW and if the requirements of Chapter 2 of the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan can be met. The extent of anadromous fish habitat will be determined in coordination with ADF&G during field reconnaissance and sale preparation.

## Control Lake Area

## OLD GROWTH ACRES: 170

Located on Prince of Wales Island near Control Lake and the junction of Highways 925 and 929, this sale area consists of seven residual patches of timber and one larger unit. Proposed harvest units total approximately 170 acres containing an estimated 3,400 MBF of timber. Approximately half of the harvest area is located within the SESF, the other half of the acreage is located on lands designated as General Use. Preliminary field reconnaissance of the units has identified significant timber defect and access constraints that may make much of the area unfeasible for harvesting.

## ROAD MILES: 1.4

## ROAD MILES: TBD

#### **ROAD MILES: TBD**

## Larger Sales by Projected Fiscal Year

### 2026 Fiscal Year and the Remainder of Fiscal 2025

#### El Capitan North and South

OLD GROWTH ACRES: 241

Viking Timber LLC has voiced interest in accessing isolated patches of timber and low volume per acre timber in this location omitted when the DOF developed the El Capitan timber sale in 2022. These areas are predominately on SESF land. The proposed harvest area is based on timber identified by the Alaska Forest Association in 2020.

#### Exchange Cove

**OLD GROWTH ACRES: 87** 

Viking Timber LLC has voiced interest in accessing low volume per acre timber at the general location. The timber from this location is proximate to Whale Pass and the timber sale purchased by Viking Timber LLC in 2024. Due to operations occurring in the area it may be feasible to operate as identified. The area is predominately low volume per acre timber composed of western redcedar.

#### Whale Pass Addition OLD GROWTH ACRES: 195

#### 1.6

This sale is composed of two general locations. The northern unit has not been examined on the ground. The southern unit was looked at in the fall of 2024 and is projected to be accessed through an existing platted State subdivision right of way that connects existing public road to General Use land to the south. Reconnaissance indicated a low volume per acre redcedar timber type. The timber from these locations is proximate to Whale Pass and the timber sale purchased by Viking Timber LLC in 2024. Due to operations occurring in the area they may be feasible to operate as identified. Viking Timber LLC has voiced interest in accessing low volume per acre timber at the general location.

#### Tuxekan Peninsula

MIXED AGE ACRES: 174

The area is General Use classified land opposite the community of Naukati. The stand was partially logged during the 1940's. The timber is predominately a young growth stand of spruce and hemlock with interspersed residual old growth hemlock and redcedar. The hemlock has some evidence of mortality associated with the outbreak of hemlock saw-fly and black bud worm from 2020 through 2023. Endemic wind throw was observed in the fall of 2024 in the areas adjacent to the beach on either side of the peninsula that were partially logged in the 1940s. Windthrown timber is also found in the Young Growth stands.

#### George Inlet Area

**OLD GROWTH ACRES: 373** 

George Inlet is located on Revillagigedo Island. Approximately 68 acres of this proposed sale area is located on SESF, the remainder is located on land classified as General Use, Settlement and Habitat. The DMLW is also considering a subdivision near Leask Cove and harvest activities may occur in support of it. Alcan Timber Inc. the purchaser of the adjacent MHT timber, has indicated interest in the entire area. Specifically, they have identified and requested to harvest lands currently

#### ROAD MILES: TBD

ROAD MILES: 0.6

## ROAD MILES:

## ROAD MILES: TBD

**ROAD MILES: 1.7** 

classified as Habitat adjacent to the salt chuck. The DOF has developed several small timber sales at Alcan's request in the area to facilitate access to MHT land, none of which have been executed due to market conditions. Office review of inventory data and aerial/satellite imagery has identified the likely timber polygons depicted. Field efforts in 2024 to refine the operable timber volume indicated obstacles to feasibility such as low volume per acre and significant road costs for the timber on Settlement classified land in the southeast portion of the ownership in Township 73 S, R92 East, CRM. The extent of anadromous fish habitat has generally been defined in the area and will be confirmed by ADF&G during the development of the BIF and FLUP. The OHA has previously requested to survey the timber sale area as part of the timber sale planning process. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough will also be coordinated with respect to resources of concern in the area.

## Gravina Island (Bostwick and Vallenar Point)

## OLD GROWTH ACRES: 453

#### ROAD MILES: TBD

The entire timber sale area is located on Gravina Island, and within the SESF. The area is located west of the Ketchikan International Airport in two distinct areas, the west side of Vallenar Point and the Bostwick drainage accessed by the existing Bostwick Road. Harvest units were estimated to contain approximately 6,000 MBF of merchantable timber volume when helicopter logging operators were available in the region. The DOF has considered the use of helicopter harvest methods due to the timber location, terrain and the land ownership configuration. Due to the exit of that type of operator from the region, some of the operable areas previously represented have been adjusted. The area may be further adjusted as it is examined. Part of this area consists of the reoffer of 38 acres of the Bostwick #1 timber sale which was not completed under a prior timber sale contract in 2007. Access to a portion of the Bostwick area may require construction of a new access spur and a new bridge crossing on the east fork of Bostwick Creek. The secondary road into the area is also needing deferred maintenance efforts in several areas. The DOF will work with the ADF&G, Habitat Division for bridge placement across Bostwick Creek. The proposed harvest prescription is projected to include a combination of medium to small clear cuts where terrain and timber types allow.

#### El Capitan Passage

OLD GROWTH ACRES: 318

The timber identified is based on course forest inventory information of El Capitan Island. The land classification is a combination of General Use, Recreation and Settlement classified land. The island is isolated in the sense that it does not have an established log transfer facility, but it is proximate to the community and infrastructure of Naukati and thus is projected to be operationally feasible to support from POW island.

#### Earl West Cove Area

**OLD GROWTH ACRES: 160** 

Earl West Cove is located on the east shore of Wrangell Island. An estimated total volume of 3,000 MBF has been proposed for harvest on approximately 160 acres of SESF land. The operability of the area is considered marginal due to mobilization costs and because the stand is predominately a hemlock dominant forest type. Recent demand for larger hemlock has made the area of interest to timber purchasers and may provide opportunity to expand the footprint previously identified. Approximately 1.0 mile of new road construction has been identified along with 0.5 miles of light road reconstruction. Access to the area will use the existing USFS road system. The ADF&G has conducted field inspections to verify the extent of anadromous fish habitat. The Wrangell Borough will be coordinated with respect to resources of concern in the area.

#### Patterson River Area

#### MIXED AGE ACRES: 261

The area is predominately General Use classifications. Reconnaissance in the summer of 2024 identified a young growth stand and a pioneer stand on the west side of the uplifted flood plain of the Patterson River that are merchantable. An old growth stand on the east side of the Patterson River at the mouth of the Thomas Bay also has merchantable timber present. Access to the identified stands would likely use the existing public and USFS road systems with some added spur construction. The old growth stand is isolated on the east side of the bay and may require several large bridge structures to approach the area from the inactive forest road system on the west side of the Patterson River that serves remote residences to the west in the Muddy River area or a separate tidewater access point on the east side of the bay. The DOF will coordinate with ADF&G, SHPO and the Petersburg Borough with respect to resources of concern in the area. The Alaska Forest Association has encouraged the forest managers in the area to coordinate timber offering(s) to promote economic feasibility. Assuming the USFS continues with a timber sale to the west, it leads to the identified State stands being more feasible to operate on. Sales offered in a similar timeframe would have the potential to distribute fixed costs and be economically more resilient.

#### Fredrick Point Area

#### **OLD GROWTH ACRES: 205**

Fredrick Point is located approximately 5.6 miles east of Petersburg on Mitkof Island. The proposed sale area is composed of primarily old growth timber with immature young growth timber stands found throughout. The sale would utilize the 620400 Road to haul logs. Anadromous streams of interest are Cabin Creek (#108-50-10050) and Pan Creek (#108-50-10040) with several associated tributaries and surface waters nearby. ADF&G will be consulted regarding wildlife and fisheries habitat. According to USF&W vector data there are a total of eight potential eagle nest tree sites located near the beachline on the east side of the 620400 Road outside the proposed

## ROAD MILES: 1.0

## ROAD MILES: TBD

## ROAD MILES: TBD

#### ROAD MILES: TBD

timber sale footprint. This sale is in the pre-fieldwork stage. The Petersburg Borough will be coordinated with respect to resources of concern in the area.

#### Heceta Area

MIXED AGE ACRES: 451

Based on prior field layout, an estimated 5,000 MBF of merchantable timber is potentially available on Heceta Island in two units: Heceta East and Heceta West. Heceta East is located within the SESF, and Heceta West is located on General Use classified land. The proposed harvest units contain a mix of young growth and residual old growth timber. The OHA has visited the East and West areas and advised the DOF on sale configurations. The ADF&G has conducted stream inspections several times to verify extent of anadromous habitat. Coordination with the multiple agencies will take place during the BIF and FLUP planning process to ensure that requirements of Chapter 3, Subunit 10a of the <u>Prince of Wales Island Area Plan</u> are met. The routes across USFS are the shortest routes for both units and would reduce the risk in the area by avoiding known resources of concern (cultural/ historic sites, karst, and anadromous waters) but this route does not appear to feasible due to the significant costs associated with a NEPA process that are the current responsibility of the State. The timber harvest on Camp Island has been added to the proposed sale configuration in response to timber purchaser interest. Access to the island will require identifying and permitting a marine transfer point for barge loading of logs.

#### Northeast Coffman

OLD GROWTH ACRES: 342

This sale area is on a mix of SESF, GU, and Settlement classifications. Access is from the existing 3030500 Forest Road. A wet area on the west side of the area has precluded prior access; two proposed crossings have been identified for engineering evaluation during field reconnaissance in in the fall of 2024. Observation to date indicates merchantability and values to potentially support forest access on the SESF and GU and possibly the existing State subdivision on the west side of Coffman Cove.

#### ROAD MILES: 2.5

ROAD MILES: 3.7

Upper Twelve Mile Arm

**OLD GROWTH ACRES: 147** 

**ROAD MILES: TBD** This sale area is on Settlement classified land at the junction of the Hydaburg Road with the Klawock Hollis Highway.

## Suemez Island

**OLD GROWTH ACRES: 120** 

This area is within the SESF and was examined in detail in 2019 by the DOF. That work developed an operational level estimate of the merchantable timber (3,100 MBF) available by conventional methods (shovel and cable). Access to the units is predicated on the use of the existing USFS road system and USFS authorization to construct approximately 0.2 miles of new road across federal land. The ADF&G has inspected the area to verify the extent of anadromous fish habitat. OHA has previously indicated a desire to conduct a field survey of the area if development is proposed proximate to tidewater which is not anticipated. The economic operability of the area is constrained by a low volume per acre timber type and the species composition. The amount of required road construction and mobilization costs to access the area will be reevaluated based on current demand. Viking Timber LLC has voiced interest in accessing low volume per acre timber at the general location for several years. The project was mothballed in 2019 by DOF as forest operations were clearly not feasible at that time and a methodology for access across federal land was not apparent.

## Uphill Nanny

#### YOUNG GROWTH ACRES: 92

ROAD: 0.4 +Reconstruction This sale area is accessed by road developed by the DOF in 2017 behind the Hollis Ferry Terminal tributary to the Aurora Road system. The timber is predominately 60-year-old young growth. Initial reconnaissance in 2017 indicated that portions of this area were merchantable in size.

## Harris Hills

Old Growth Acres: 155 Road: TBD This area is Recreation classified land west of Hollis adjacent to the Klawock-Hollis Highway. A portion of the proposed area is adjacent to an interpretive young growth trail that also accesses the Harris River.

## **ROAD MILES: 2.2**

Herring Cove

OLD GROWTH ACRES: 353

This area is on Remote Recreation and Habitat classified land adjacent to Tongass Highway on Revilla Island near Ketchikan. Timber harvest is currently indicated as inappropriate in the area plan.

## Tyee Area

OLD GROWTH ACRES: 322

This area is west and north of the Tyee Lake power facility in the Bradfield Canal area. This area is on SESF and GU classified land. The area is a relatively remote location in Southeast Alaska. The remoteness and the shallow tidewater access will influence the feasibility of removing timber from the location. Construction of the power facility in the early 1980's and timber operations in the 1960's solved many of these issues.

## ROAD MILES: TBD

ROAD MILES: 4.25

East CholmondeleyOLD GROWTH ACRES: 535The area is a combination of GU, SESF and Remote Recreation land classifications.

<u>Traitors Cove West</u> OLD GROWTH ACRES: 188 The area is Remote Recreation classified land.

## South Mitkof Area

MIXED AGE ACRES: 625

The sale area consists of coastal mountainous terrain on the southeast side of Mitkof Island on SESF land. According to satellite imagery and inventory data, the forest types are a mix of old growth and young growth timber types. Stands of pole timber exist adjacent to the proposed units. Access to this sale area is along the 7000000/Mitkof Highway. Anadromous streams of interest include stream #108-40-10660, #108-40-10600, #108-40-10648, #108-40-10632, #108-40-10550, #108-40-10602, and #108-40-10576. Most of these small streams are located on the shoreline opposite the Mitkof Highway where the harvest unit layout would not occur. ADF&G will be consulted during the pre-fieldwork stage regarding wildlife habitat values. The DOF is aware of two eagle nests east of Favor Peak. Eagle nest tree locations will be investigated during reconnaissance. Recreational use exists near the Ernie Haugen Public Use Area. The Petersburg Borough will be coordinated with respect to resources of concern in the area.

#### Woodpecker Cove Area

#### **OLD GROWTH ACRES: 369**

Woodpecker Cove is a sale area located on Mitkof Island. The entire proposed timber sale is located on SESF land. Office review of inventory data and aerial/satellite imagery indicates merchantable timber is likely present within the sale area, but the operability has not been field verified and has geology that indicates it may have soil stability risks in some areas. Approximately 0.9 miles of new road construction would likely be needed for access to the sale area. Access to this sale area will require the use of the 6245000 Road. Anadromous streams of interest are streams #108-30-10400 and #108-40-10430. ADF&G will be consulted prior to layout with respect to wildlife and fisheries habitat. The Petersburg Borough will be coordinated with respect to resources of concern in the area.

# ROAD MILES: TBD

**ROAD MILES: TBD** 

#### ROAD MILES: TBD

## **Table 1: Summary Table**

## Southern Southeast Alaska Five-Year Schedule of Timber Harvests Fiscal Years 2025-2030

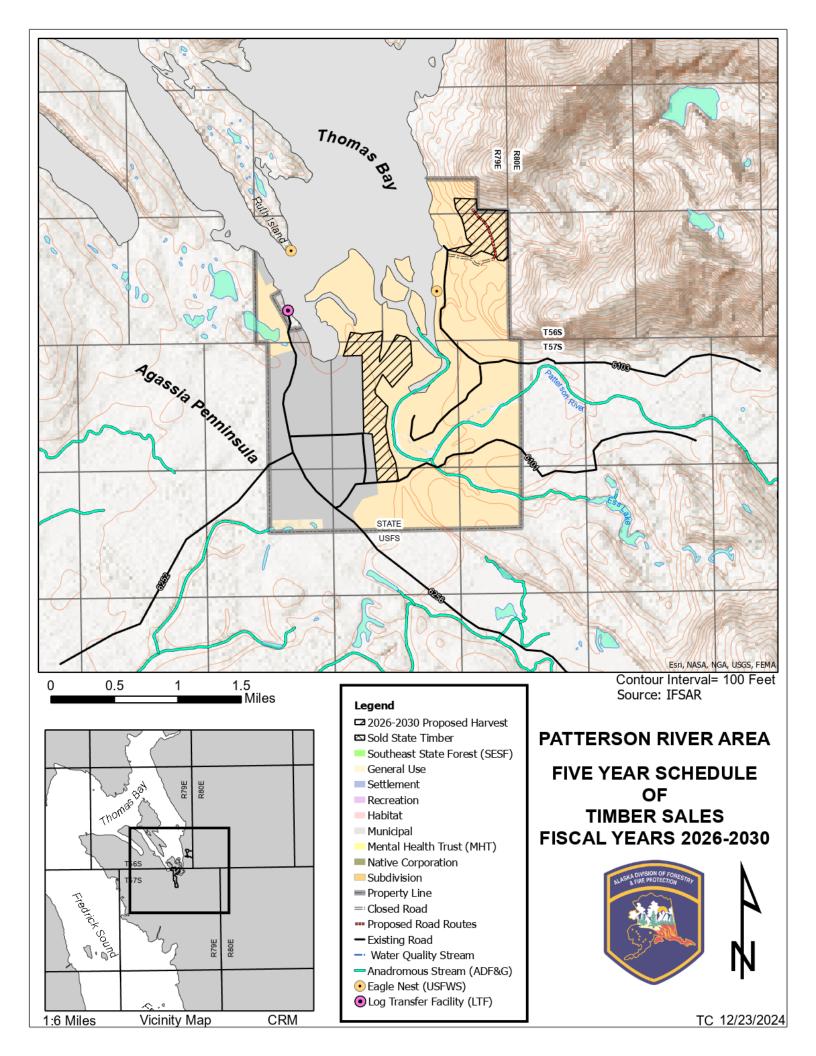
Fiscal Year	Timber Sale Name	Land Class	Acres	Assumed Vol./ Acre (MBF)	Est. Volume (MBF)	Туре
2025/26	El Capitan North	SESF	203	7	1,500	OG
2025/26	El Capitan South	SESF	38	26	1,000	OG
2025/26	Exchange Cove	GU	87	11	1,000	OG
2025/26	Whale Pass Addition	GU/S	195	10	2,000	OG
2025/26	Tuxekan Peninsula	GU	174	30	5,200	Mix
2025/26	George Inlet	GU/S	373	8	3,000	OG
2025/26	Bostwick	SESF	299	15	4,500	OG
2025/26	Vallenar Point	SESF	154	15	2,300	OG
2025/26	Subtotal		1,523		20,500	
2027	El Capitan Passage	GU,R, S	318	17	5,500	OG
2027	Earl West Area	SESF	161	22	3,500	OG
2027	Patterson River	GU	261	31		Mix
					8,000	
2027	Fredrick Point	SESF	205	27	5,500	OG
2027	Heceta Island	SESF/GU	451	16	7,400	Mix
2027	Northeast Coffman	SESF/GU/S	342	20	6,800	OG
2027	Subtotal		1,738		36,700	
2028	Upper Twelve Mile Arm	S	147	20	3,000	OG
2028	Suemez	SESF/GU	120	29	3,500	OG
2028	Uphill Nanny	S/GU	92	27	2,500	YG
2028	Harris Hills	R	155	19	3,000	Mix
	Subtotal		514		12,000	
2029	Herring Cove	R/Ha	353	20	7,000	Mix
2029	Tyee Area	SESF/GU	322	15	4,800	Mix
2029	Subtotal	<u>BEBI/GC</u>	675		11,800	
2030	East Cholmondeley	GU/R/SESF	535	15	8,000	OG
2030	Traitors Cove West	R	188	16	3,000	OG
2030	South Mitkof	SESF	625	20	12,500	Mix
2030	Woodpecker Cove	SESF	369	15	5,535	OG
	Subtotal		1,717		29,035	
Total			6,167		110,035	

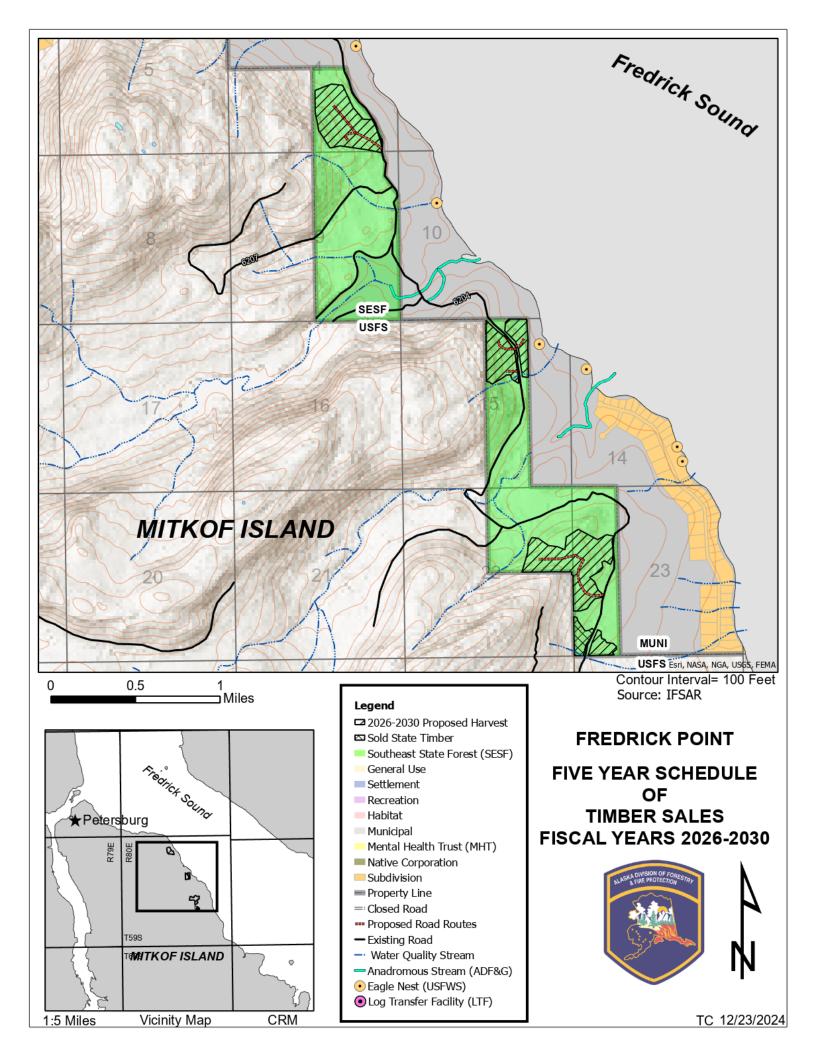
#### Table 2: Maps

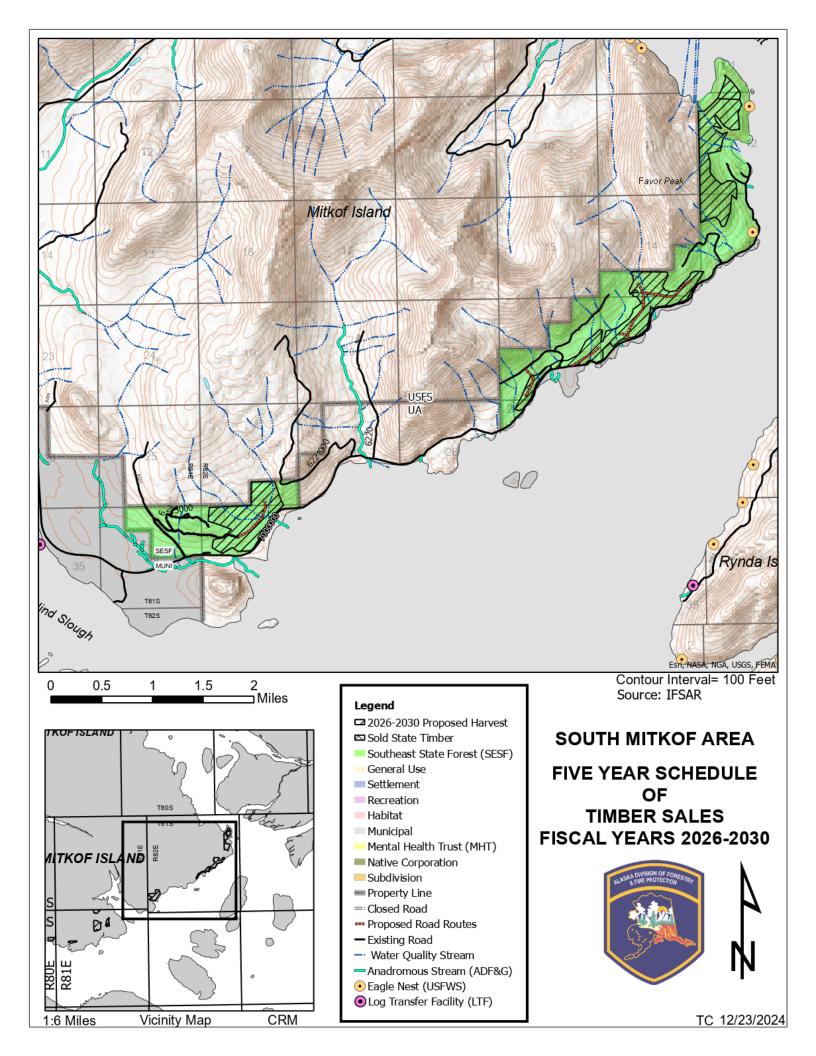
## Southern Southeast Alaska Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales List of Supporting Maps

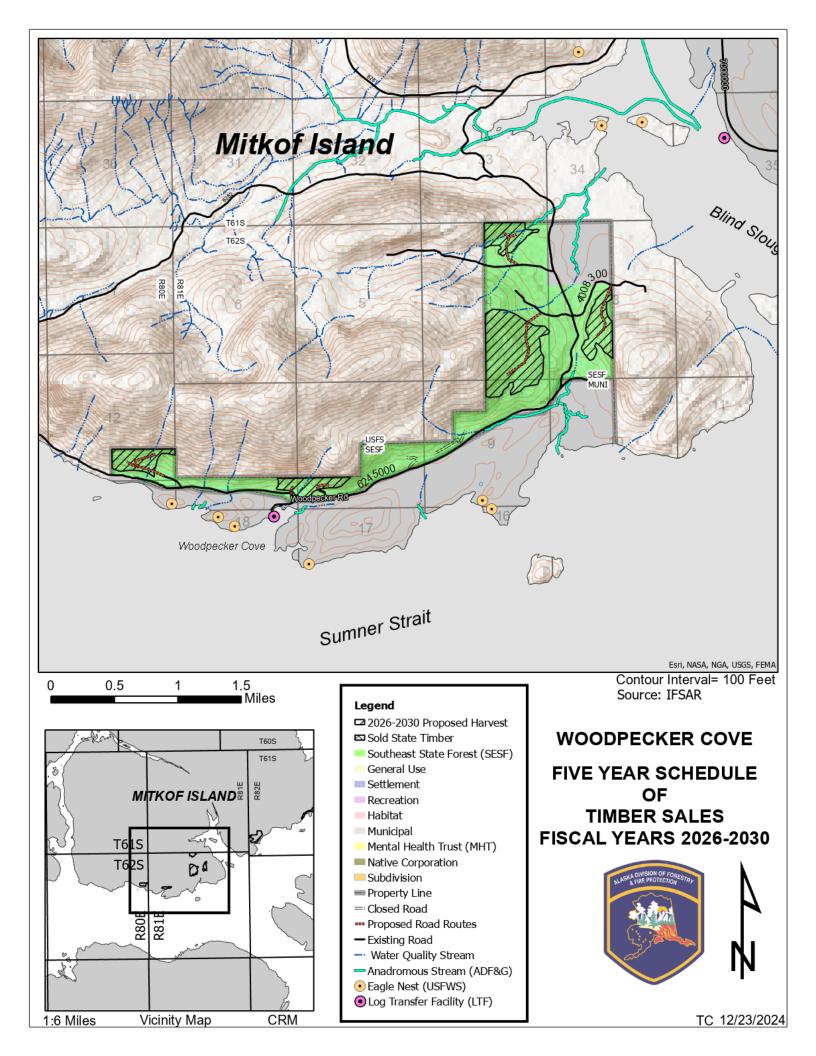
Note: Maps are packaged generally in a north to south order based on areas proximate to Petersburg, Wrangell, POW and Ketchikan.

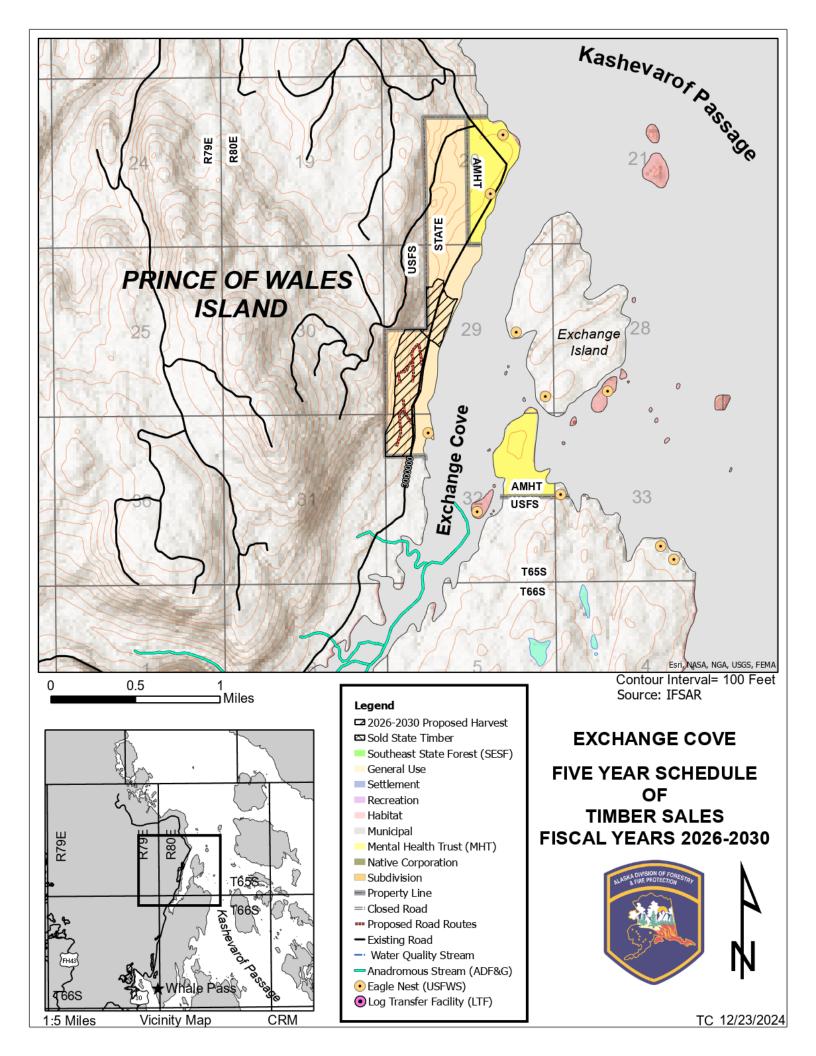
Patterson River (Thomas Bay) Fredrick Point South Mitkof Woodpecker Cove Exchange Cove El Capitan North El Capitan South Whale Pass Addition Northeast Coffman El Capitan Passage Naukati Area Tuxekan Peninsula Heceta Island Area Control Lake Area North Thorne Bay Area South Thorne Bay Area Twelve Mile Arm Harris Hills Uphill Nanny Suemez Island Cholmondeley Earl West Area Tyee Area Traitors Cove West George Inlet Area Herring Cove Bostwick Area Vallenar Bay Area

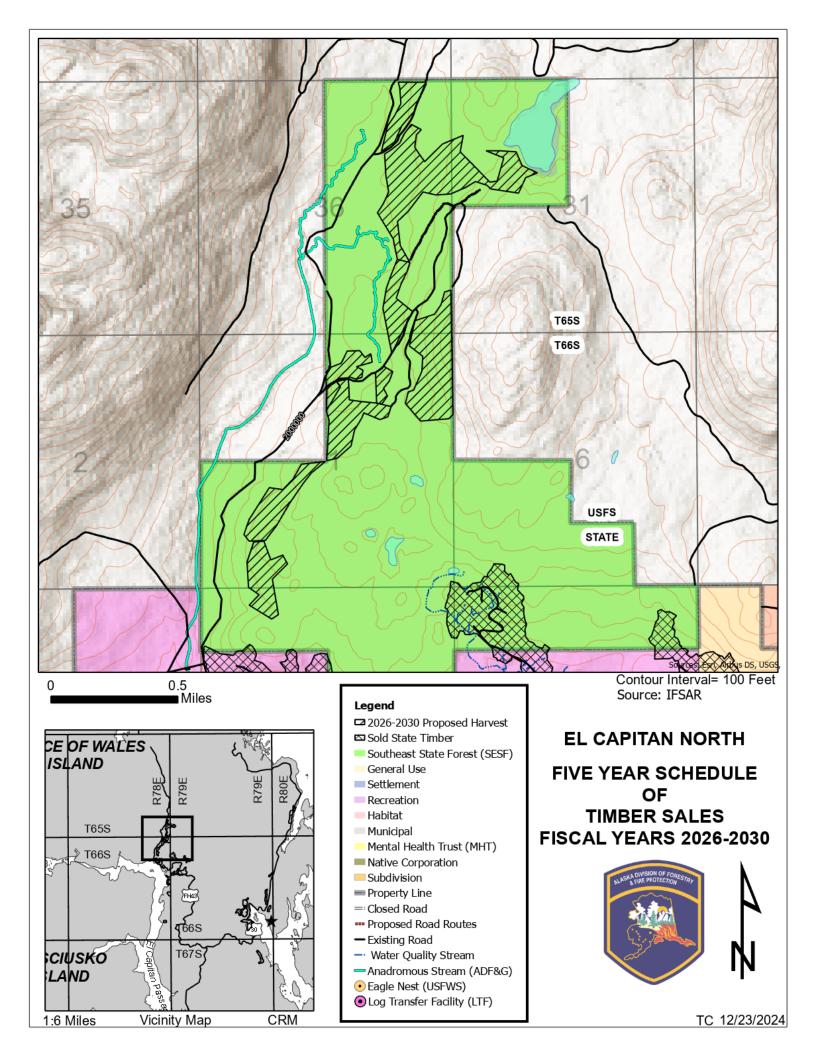


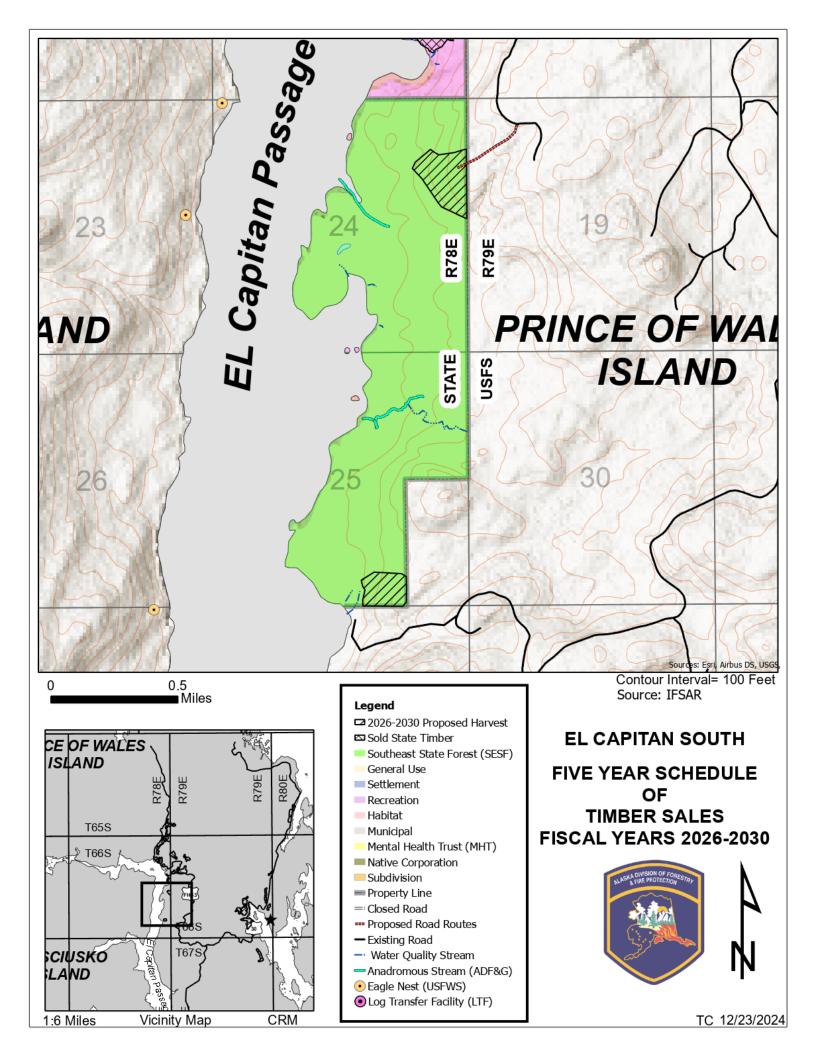


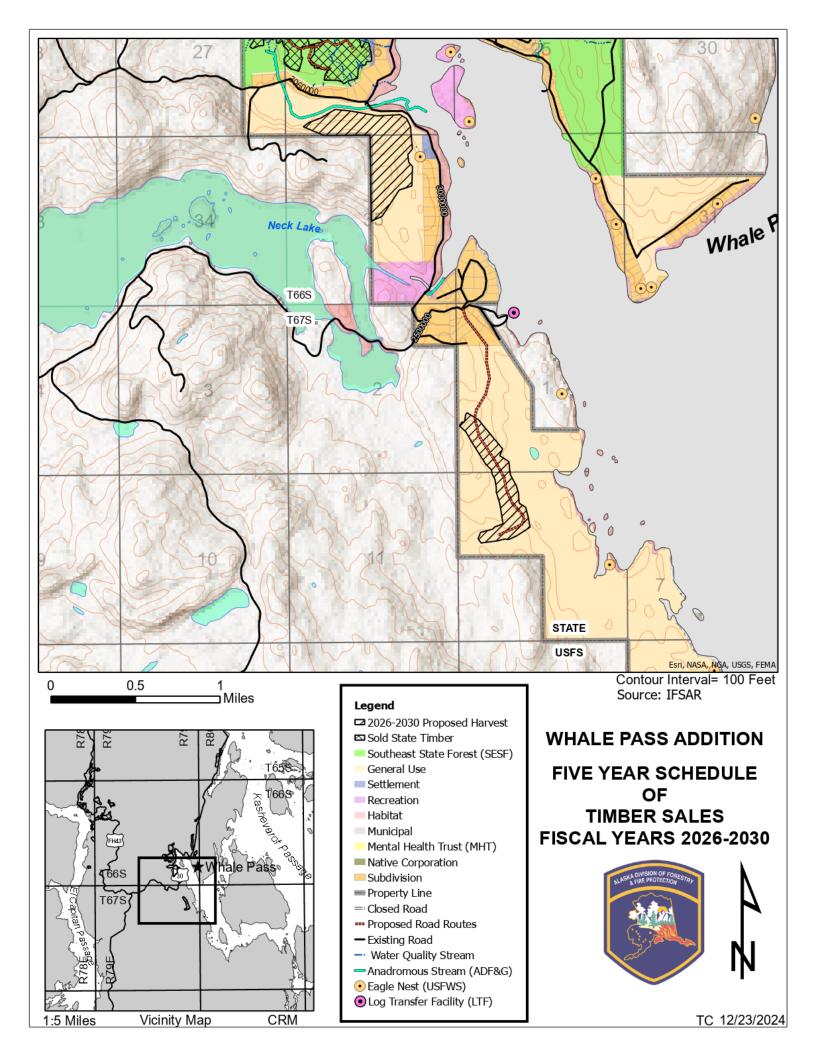


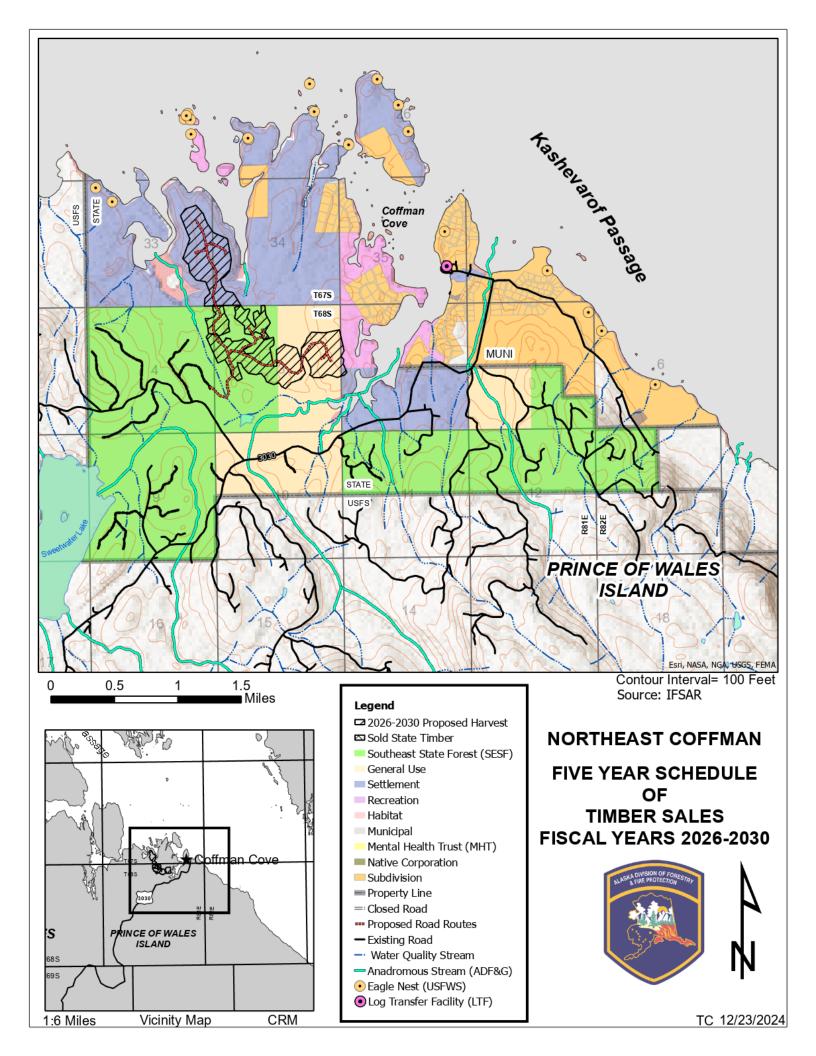


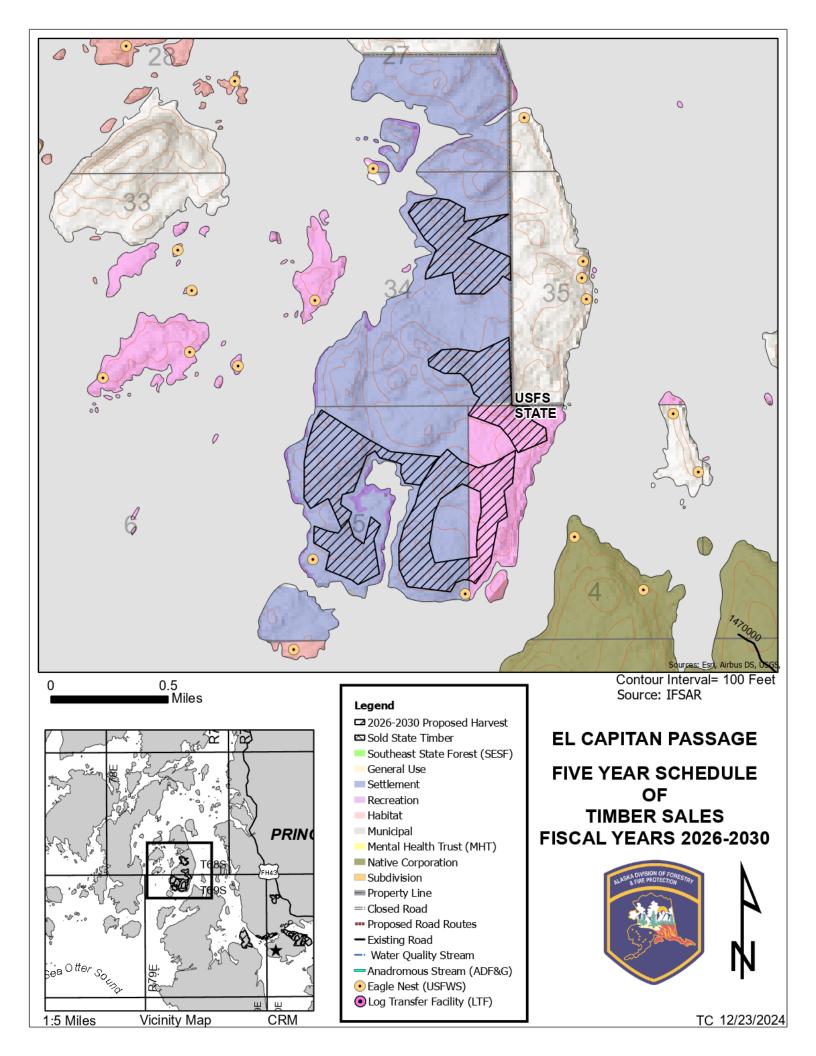


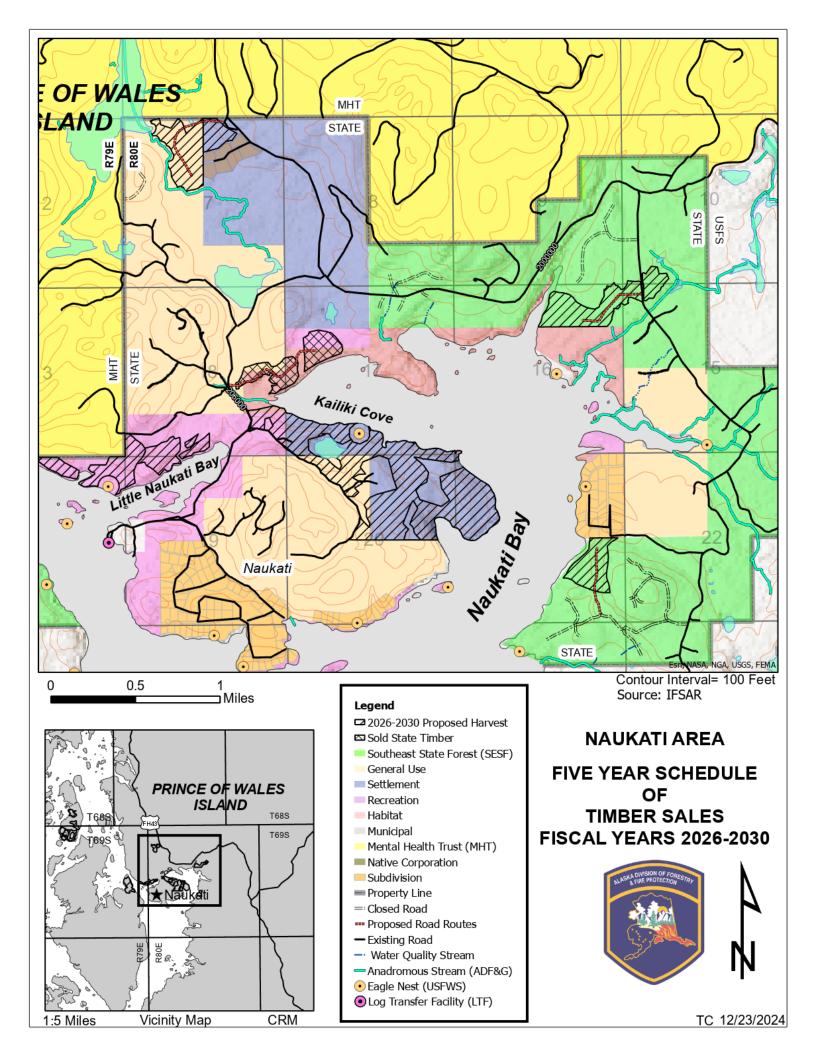


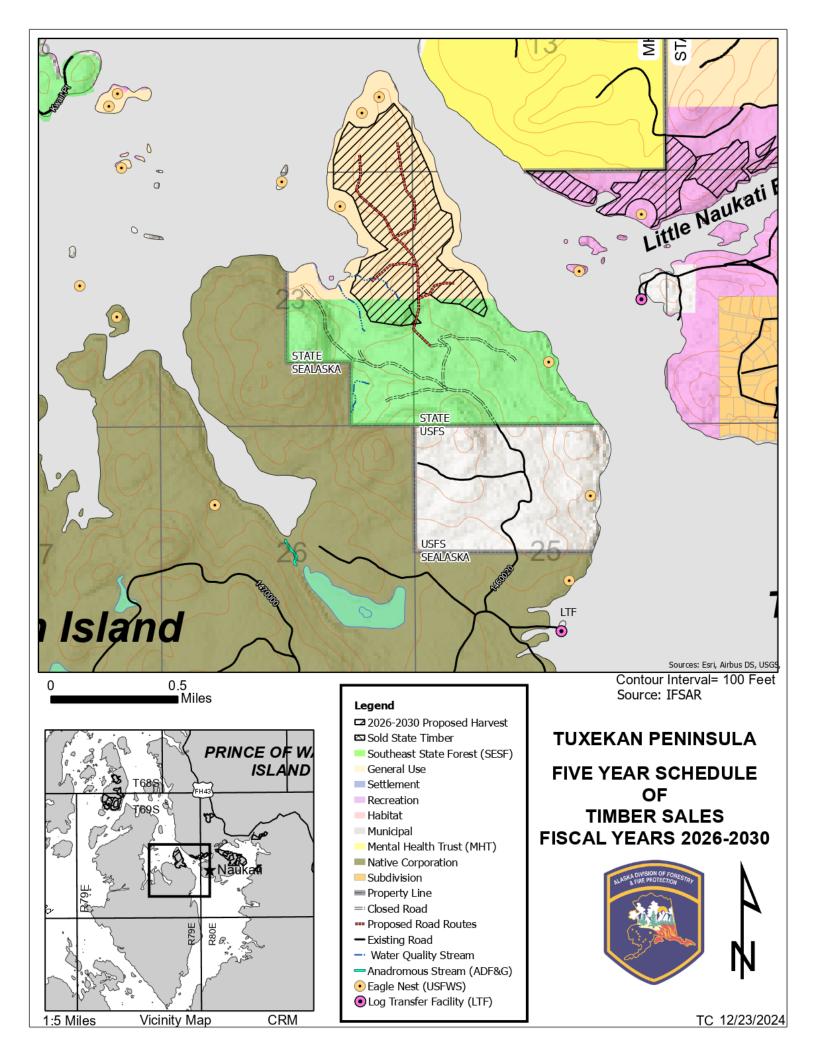


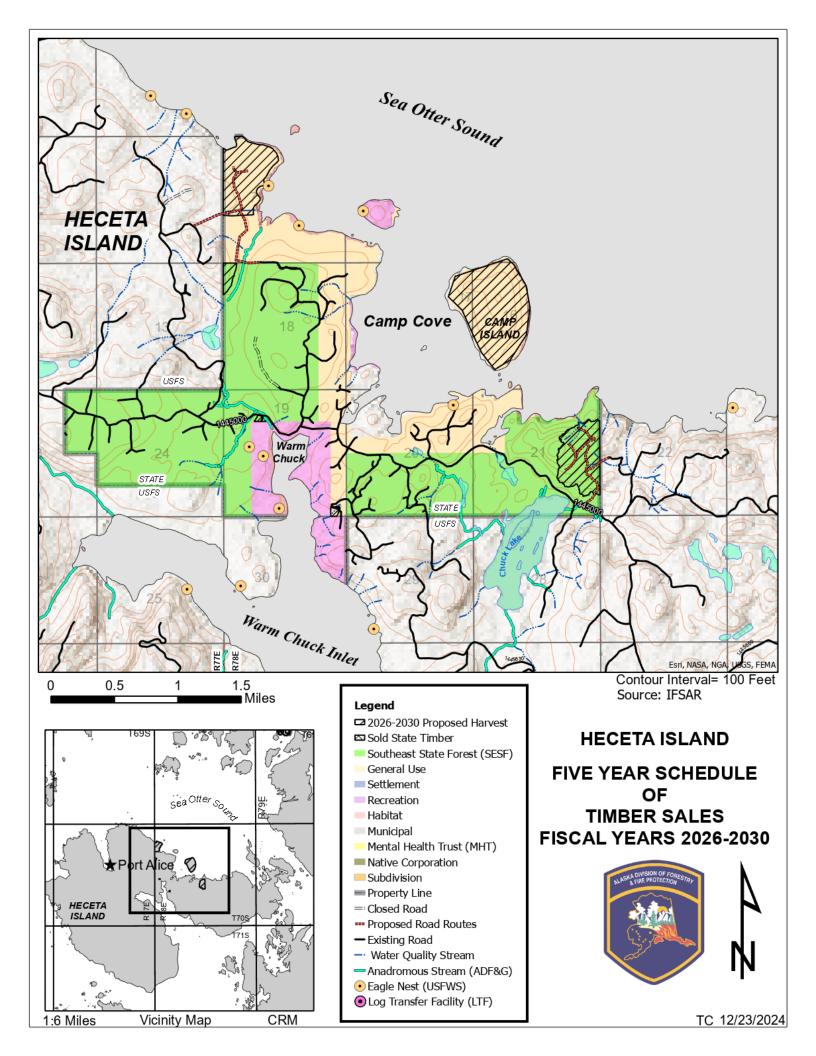


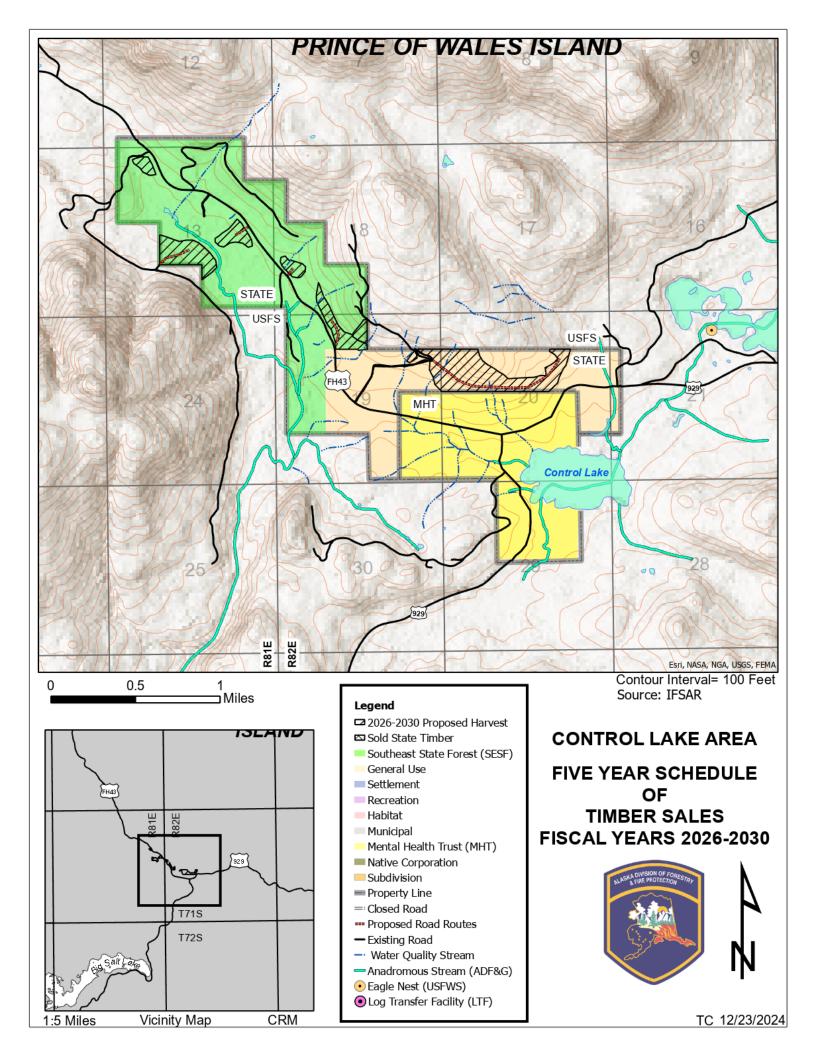


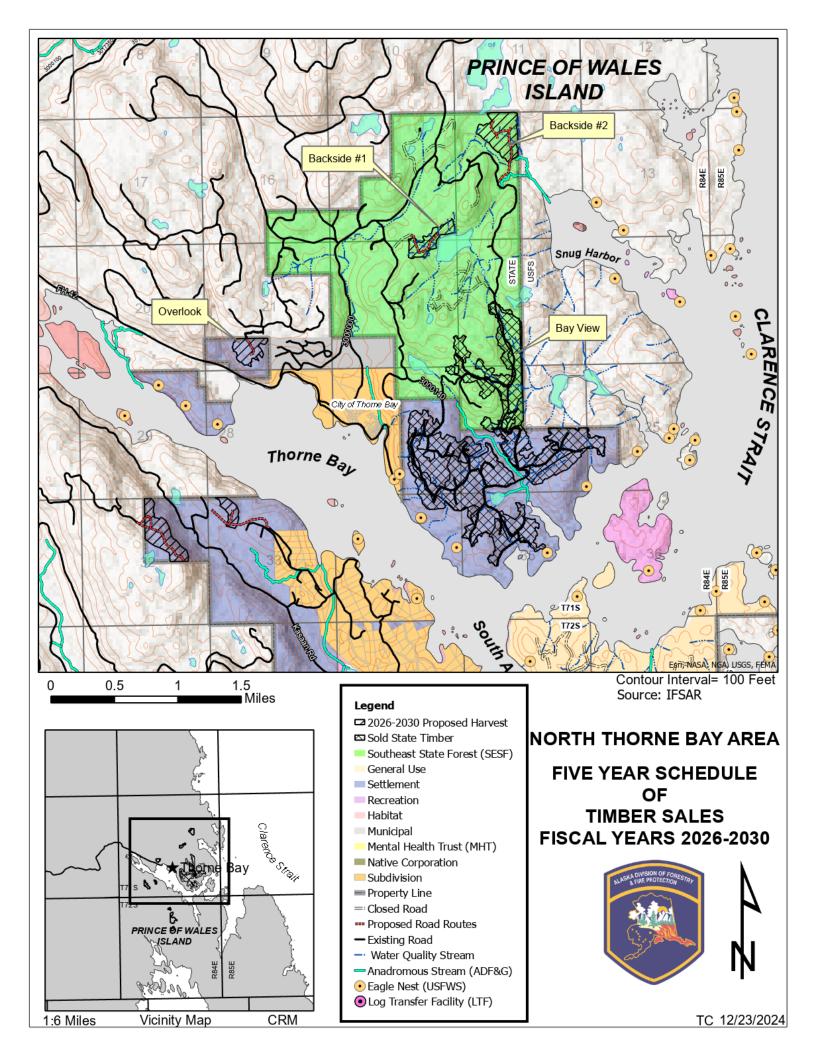


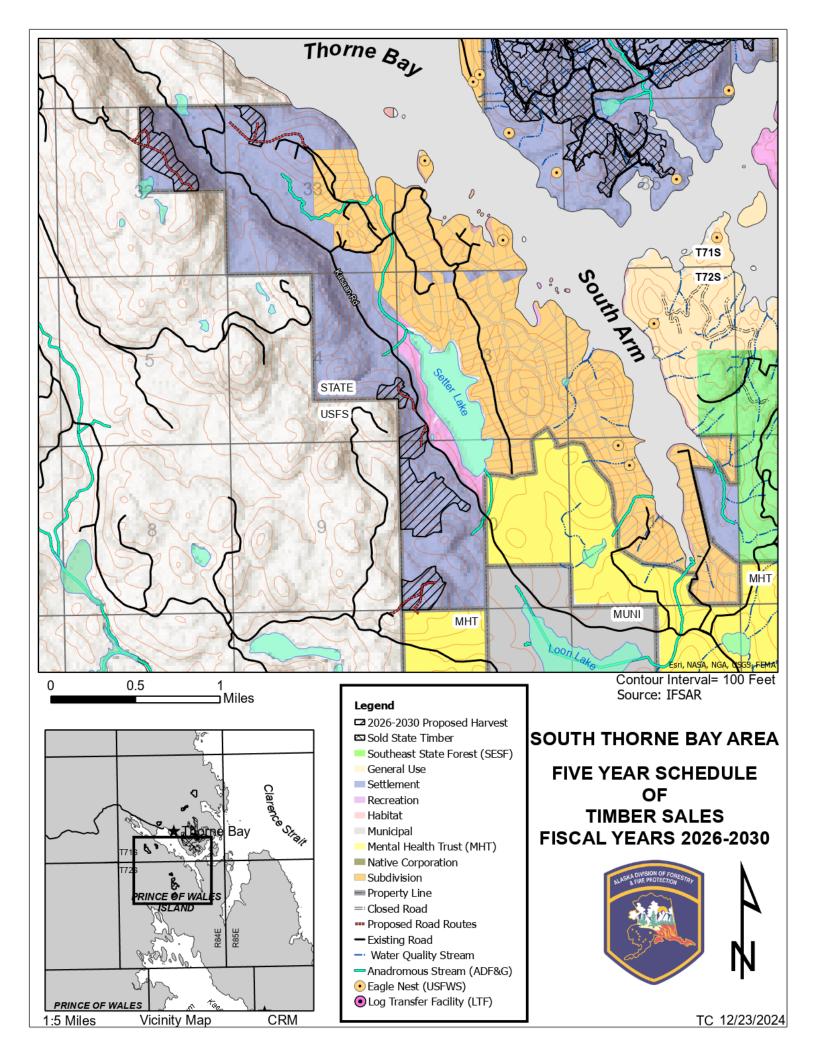


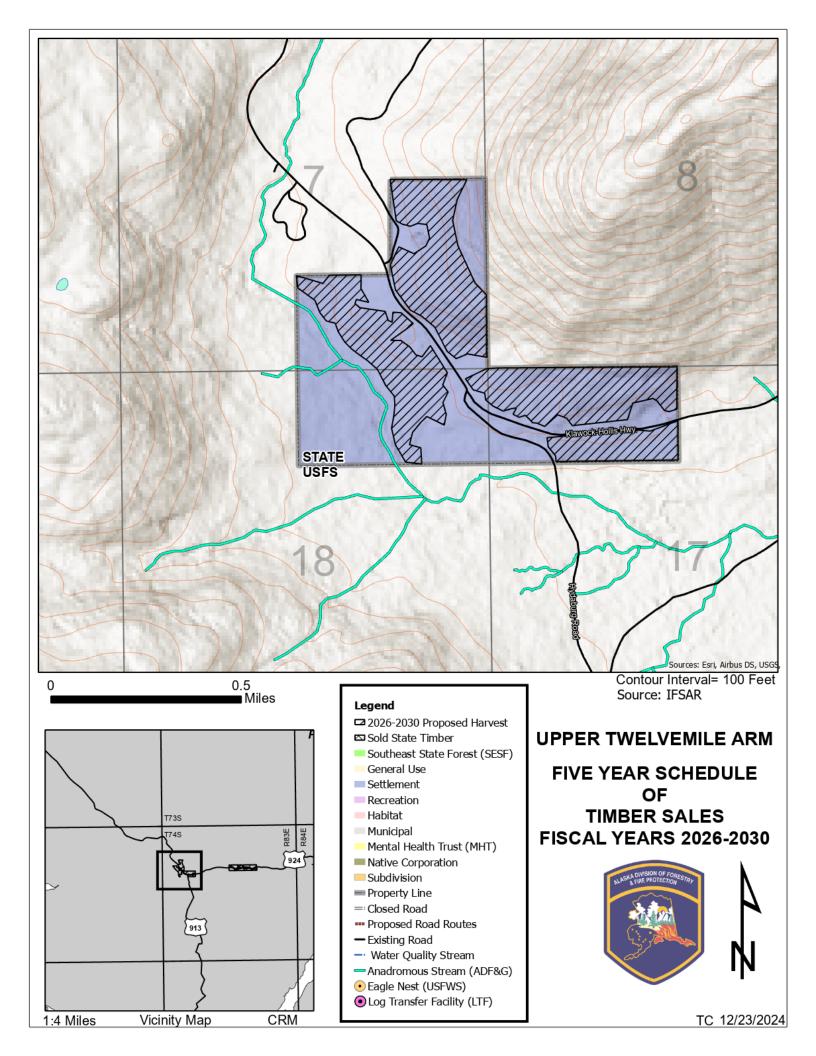


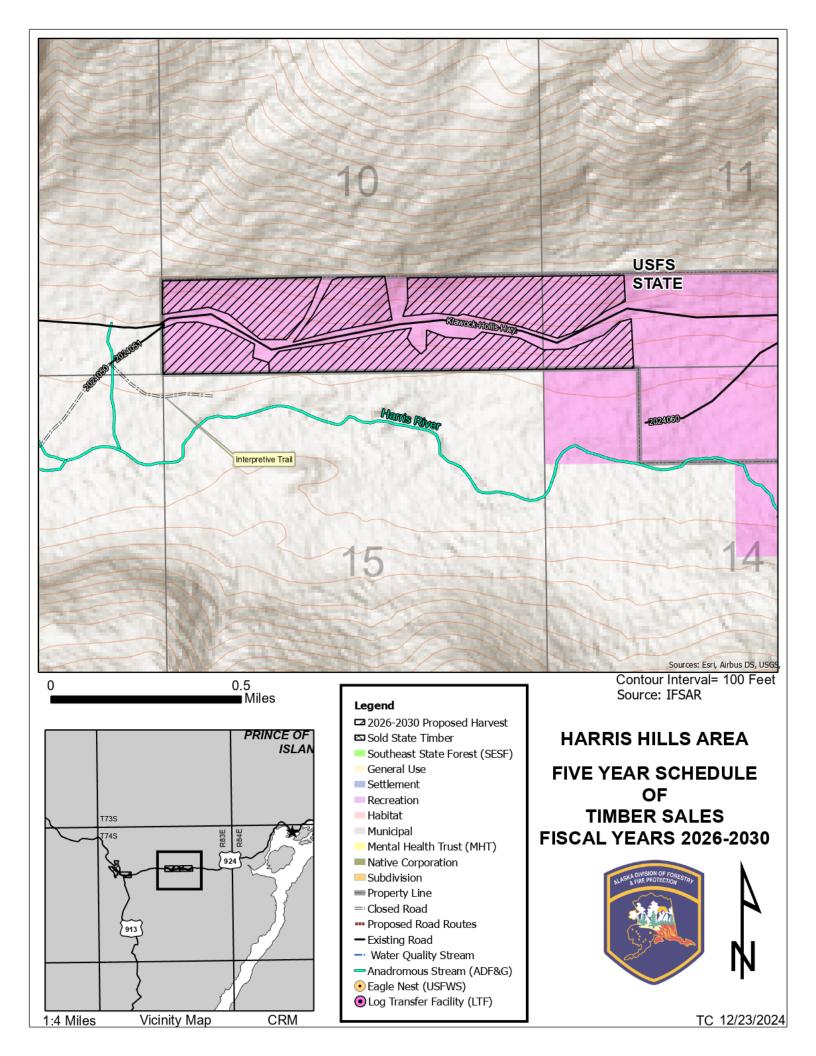


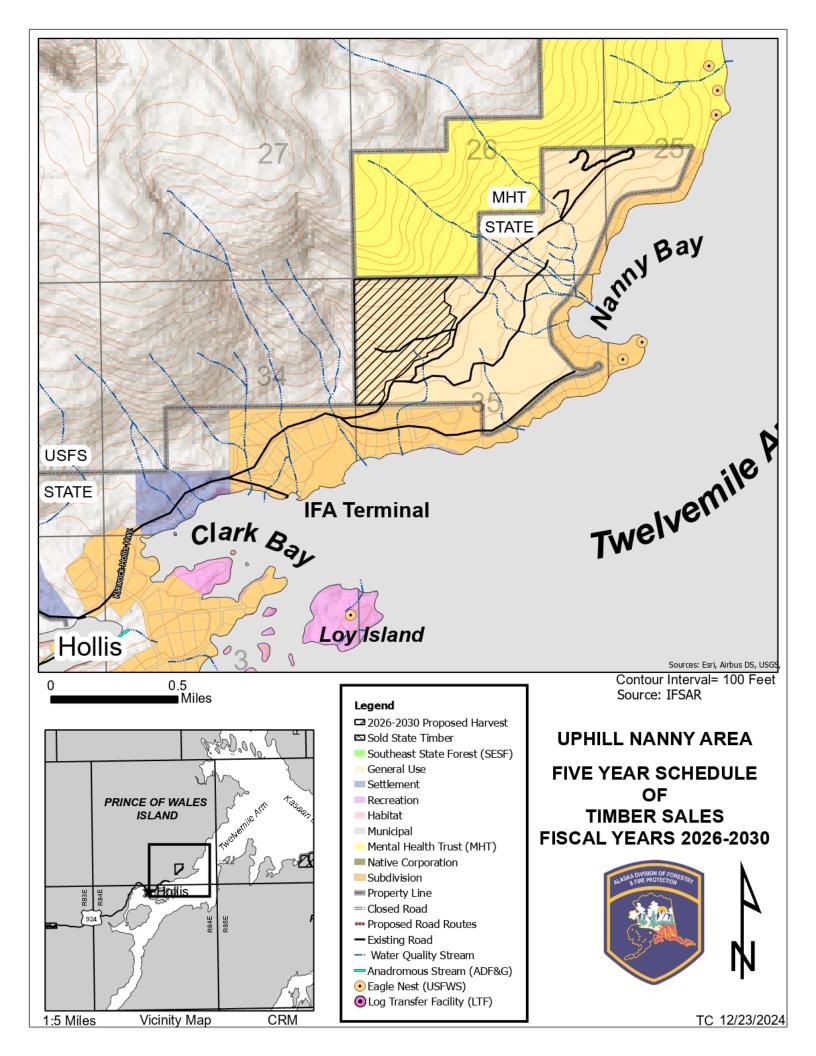


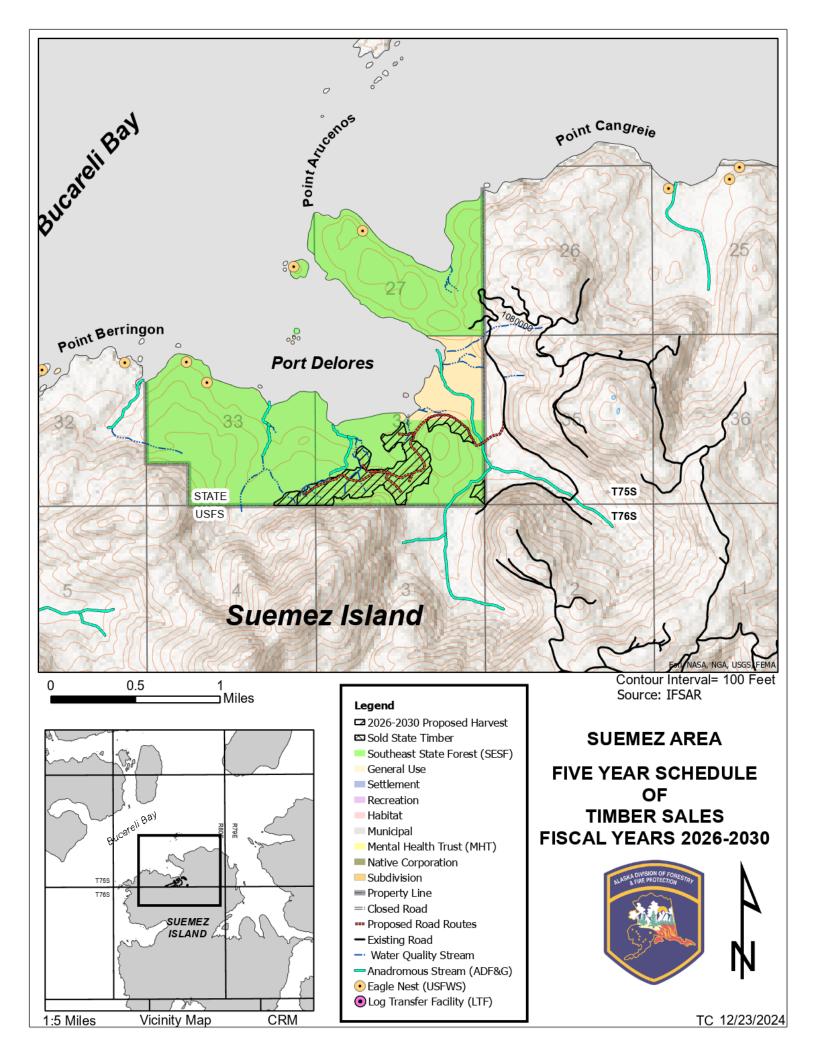


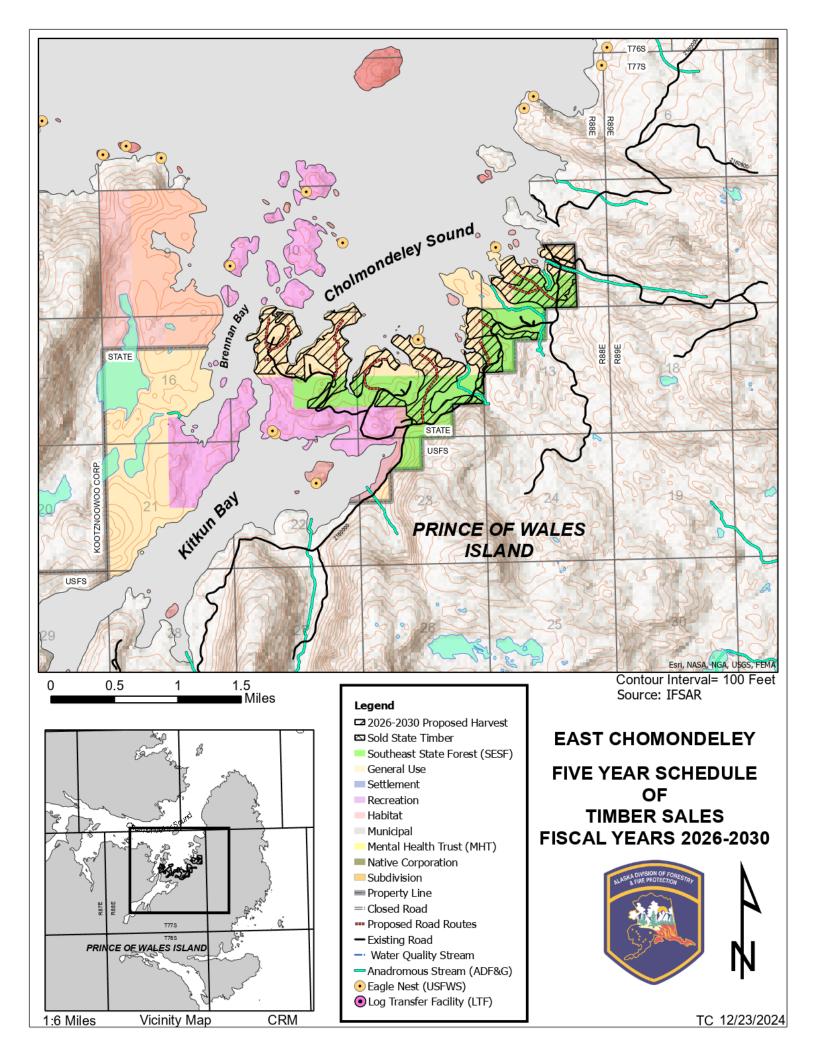


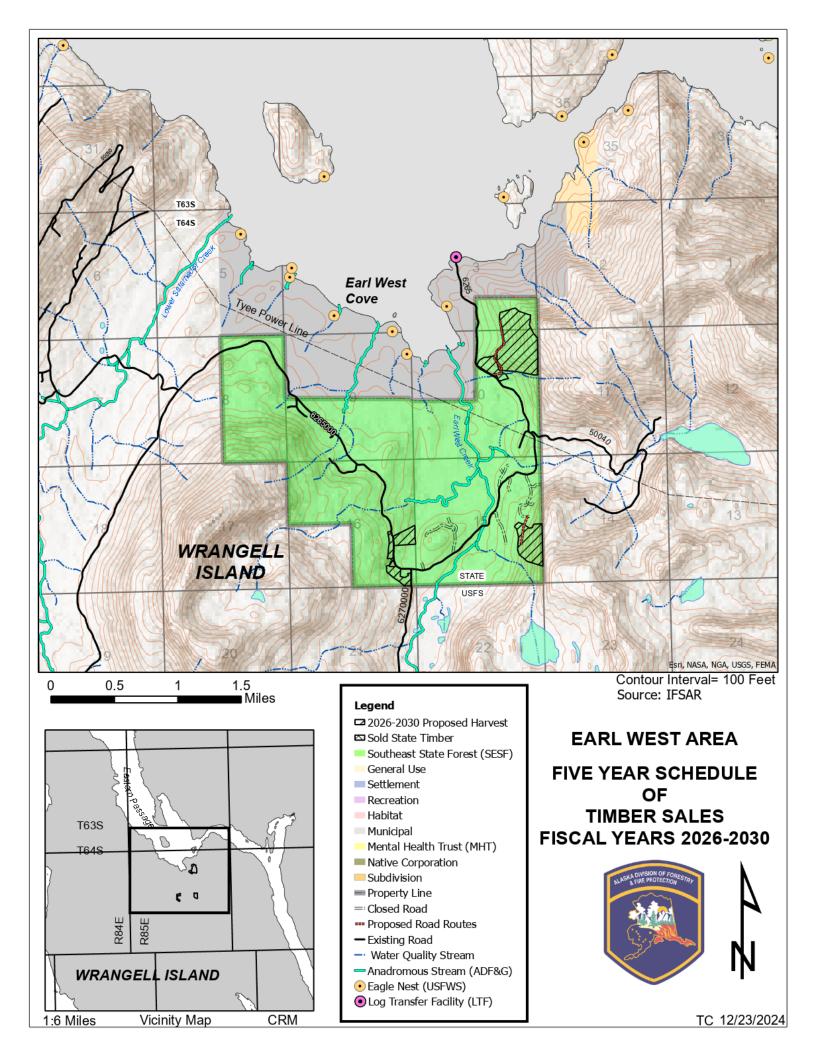


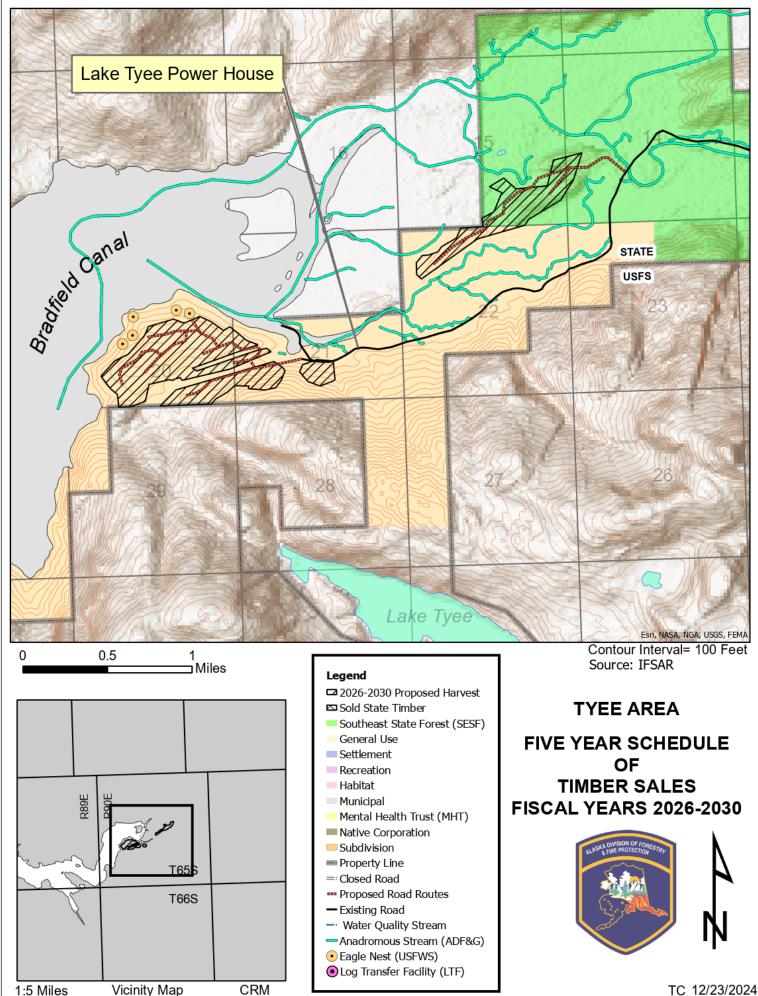












TC 12/23/2024

