

**State of Alaska**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**Division of Forestry & Fire Protection**  
**Southern Southeast Area Office**

**Preliminary Written Finding under AS 38.05.035(e) and AS 38.05.945**

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (DOF), gives formal notice under AS 38.05.945 that the Division has made a preliminary Best Interest Finding decision under AS 38.05.035(e) and proposes to adopt a site-specific Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) under AS 38.05.112 and the administrative standards of AS 41.17.060 regarding the sale of the following commercial timber sale: Backside(s) Timber Sale (SSE-1390-K).

Before this sale may be held, the Commissioner will make a written final decision that the sale is in the best interest of the State. This decision will set out the facts and applicable policies upon which the Commissioner bases his determination that the proposed timber sale will or will not best serve the interest of the State. The final decision is expected to be available to the public after February 14, 2025.

The draft Forest Land Use Plan is intended to provide the best available information regarding the proposed timber harvest on 82 acres and the management of other non-timber uses in compliance with AS 38.05.112 and AS 41.17.060 and must be adopted by the DOF before the proposed activity can occur. The Forest Land Use Plan is expected to be available to the public with or after the issuance of the final decision.

The area of the sale is proximate to the community of Thorne Bay, approximately 3 miles to the north. The timber sale area is found within Sections 14, 15 and 22, Township 71 South, Range 84 East, Copper River Meridian (CRM). The sale is found within the Craig C-2 NW and Craig C-2 NE USGS quadrangles. The main access for this sale is from the existing USFS Road System, specifically the Sandy Beach/3000 Road.

The two sale units total approximately 82 acres and contain approximately 2,000 MBF of timber. This volume will be advertised and sold under provisions of AS 38.05.118, in the form of one or multiple sales.

The public is invited to comment on any aspect of the preliminary decision. Comments can be mailed to the Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection, 2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 or emailed to [dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov). Comments must be received by the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection office no later than **February 14, 2025**, in order to be considered in the final best interest finding decision of whether or not this sale will be held in whole or in part or to be considered in the adopted FLUP. To be eligible to appeal the final decision or the adopted FLUP, a person must have provided written comment by **February 14, 2025**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SUBMIT COMMENTS CONTACT:

|   |          |  |
|---|----------|--|
| Alaska Division of Forestry and Fire Protection | Contact: | Greg Staunton  |
| 2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213                  | Phone:   | (907) 225-3070   |
| Ketchikan, AK 99901                             | Email:   | <a href="mailto:dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov">dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov</a> |

Copies of the preliminary decision are available for review at the Division of Forestry and Fire Protection at the above address and at the Ketchikan, Craig, Petersburg and Wrangell, and Edna Bay Public Libraries and the State Online Public Notice System at: <http://notice.alaska.gov/218101>.

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Fire Protection complies with Title II of the Americans 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.

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



**Coastal Region-Southeast Area Office**

**Preliminary Best Interest Finding  
and Draft Forest Land Use Plans**

**Backside(s) Timber Sale  
SSE-1390-K**

**January 2025**

## 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                                 |
| 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                    |

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## **I. PROPOSED ACTION**

The Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (DOF) is proposing to offer for sale approximately 82 acres of mature old growth timber composed of western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*), western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) and Alaska yellow-cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*) from Southeast State Forest (SESF) lands on the Prince of Wales Island area, approximately three miles north of the community of Thorne Bay (see Appendix A, Timber Sale Area Map). The volume to be offered totals approximately 2,000 thousand board feet (MBF). The DOF proposes to sell the commercial timber in one or more negotiated sales under provisions of AS 38.05.118. Negotiated timber sale methods have been chosen because of the State's interest in encouraging employment on POW by processing as much of the timber locally as feasible.

The DOF has received interest in the timber from several mills, consequently the DOF will use its typical request for proposal process (RFP) to determine the specific purchaser(s) with whom to negotiate. The RFP process will consider the track record of the purchaser to locally manufacture wood products (AS 38.05.118), the proposed quantity of value-added wood products to be produced, the projected payroll associated with processing the sale, and the proposed stumpage rates. Selling the timber in an open and competitive manner using the AS 38.05.120 authority in Southeast Alaska would likely generate higher stumpage revenue to the State. Purchasers of competitive sales typically use the round log export market and obtain higher returns on their investment. A competitive sale using the AS 38.05.120 authority could not be constrained through contract language to use local mills as much as feasible.

The management objectives for the proposed timber sale area 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 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 help the local economy of the communities within southern Southeast Alaska by creating additional jobs in Southeast Alaska due to the combination of road building, logging, trucking and potentially milling;

## **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-1390-K.

## **IV. SCOPE OF DECISION**

This best interest finding (BIF) is part three of a six-part process to design, sell, and administer timber sales. This BIF covers the sale of approximately 82 acres of mature old growth forest composed of western redcedar, western hemlock, Sitka spruce, and Alaska yellow-cedar on SESF land within the perimeter of the project area (see Appendix A1, Timber Sale Area Map). The following list summarizes the overall 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 Southeast State Forest Management Plan. The Land Classification of the area is SESF.

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 location, volume, and main access routes. The FYSTS is a scoping document that provides an opportunity for public, agency, and industry to identify potential issues and areas of interest for further consideration in the BIF. Under AS 38.05.113, proposed timber sales within the area covered by this BIF must appear in at least one of the two FYSTSs preceding the sale.

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. DOF has prepared draft FLUPs for the harvest area within the overall sale area covered by this best interest finding. 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 field work and site-specific analyses by the DOF. Appropriate regulatory agencies have been consulted, and the plan is subject to public review.

Part 5: Timber Sales and Contracts. Following adoption of the BIF, the DOF may offer the timber for sale using the identified authority. The Division will sign a contract with the purchaser for each sale. The contract will include stipulations to ensure compliance with the BIF, FLUP, and statutory requirements.

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 14, 15 and 22, Township 71 South, Range 84 East, Copper River Meridian (CRM). The sale area is found within the Craig C-2 NW and Craig C-2 NE USGS quadrangles. See Appendix A1, Area Map, Best Interest Finding, SSE-1390-K Backside(s) Timber Sale.

### **B. Title status**

Patented to the state (patent No. 2007-003173-0) under National Forest Community Grant 103 (NFCG 103).

### **C. Land use planning, classification, and management intent**

The proposed timber sale area is located entirely within the SESF. The State of Alaska's Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (DOF) is the land manager for all the harvest units within this proposed sale. The managing document is the Southeast State Forest Management Plan (SESFMP), adopted on February 29, 2016. The primary purpose of the state forest is, "timber management that provides for the production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources while allowing other beneficial uses of public land and resources" (AS 41.17.200(a)). SESF lands are classified as Forest land.

The Interagency Fire Management Plan includes all state lands in the project area in the modified or full protection category.

### **D. Current access and land use**

The main overland (road) access for this sale area is through the Alaska Highway System. The sale area is located off the Sandy Beach Road (USFS 3000 RD) on the Prince of Wales Road system, directly north of the community of Thorne Bay. The adjacent public landowners are the USFS and the City of Thorne Bay. The Sandy Beach Road is managed by the federal government and a permit is required before commercial traffic related to the harvest may occur.

The sale area with its proximity to the city experiences incidental use by the public for a variety of uses related to semi-remote recreation including, but not limited to foraging, hiking and hunting.

The City of Thorne Bay has its municipal drinking water intake in a small lake on State Forest land to the south of the Backside #1 sale area in Sections 15 and 22 along the Watershed Lake/3000140 Road. Portions of the watershed were logged approximately 35 years ago by the USFS, and those harvested areas presently support well stocked second growth timber stands. Access is through a locked gate controlled by the City of Thorne Bay near the spur junction with the Sandy Beach Road.

## **E. Background and description of proposal**

### **1. Background:**

The State seeks to use State Forest land on Prince of Wales Island to encourage sustainable development of the State's Forest resources, making timber available for sale and harvest. 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 & Fire Protection manages a timber sale program that makes timber volume available to help sustain the region's timber industry and economy. Much of the State land base in southeast Alaska is remote. The Thorne Bay area contains a large amount of raw land that is relatively proximate to the existing road system and offers forest resource values close to the remaining mills and processing facilities. Thorne Bay is also home to a skilled local work force. The legislature designated the northern part of the area as State Forest in 2010 and 2011. The DOF has been managing this portion of the project area for forest management since that time.

### **2. Timber Volume and Sustained Yield:**

The total estimated saw log volume identified in this sale is approximately 2,000 thousand board feet (MBF) based on past comparable timber cruise information from nearby state sales.

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). The Division's policy is to define "regular periodic output" as output over a ten-year period. This is done to allow for market fluctuations and operational restrictions. Based on the DOF inventory of the land and the timber base, it uses an annual allowable cut of 9,100 MBF per year for the Southern Southeast Area. Timber sales that are sold in the Southeast Area will remain within the constraints of the allowable cut and will comply with sustained yield requirements at the time they are sold. The duration of the timber sale contract(s) will be governed by the economic conditions at the time of the sale. This timber sale is well within the annual allowable cut for forest managed state land.

### **3. Harvest Unit Design:**

Reconnaissance by the DOF indicates that the Backside sale areas are harvestable using ground-based logging techniques. This logging system will need to take advantage of directional timber falling techniques and utilize benches and uneven terrain to access all included timber. Areas of wet and or saturated soils will require adequate puncheon in skid trails to minimize impacts to the soil and water quality.

### **4. Unit Access:**

- a. Access to the Backside Timber Sale(s) (SSE-1390-K, SSE-1390-2) occurs off the Sandy Beach Road (USFS 3000 Road) north of the community of Thorne Bay. Use of this road will require the authorization of the Thorne Bay District Ranger by means of a Road Use Permit (RUP).
- b. Entry to the Backside #1 (SSE-1390-K) area will require use of the Sandy Beach Road and the Water Lake/3000140 Road. Approximately 1500 FT of Water Lake Road and permission from the City of Thorne Bay would be necessary.

- c. Entry to the Backside #2 (SSE-1390-2) area will require use of the Sandy Beach Road and 1 mile of 3000150 Road which is currently being used to access the Bay View Timber Sale.

## **F. Resources and management**

### **1. Timber**

#### **a. Timber Stand Composition and Structure:**

Western redcedar and western hemlock are the primary commercial tree species, with minor amounts of Sitka spruce and Alaska yellow-cedar dispersed throughout. The timber overall contains common defects such as sweeps, crooks, mistletoe, fruiting bodies/conks, and dead or broken tops. Windthrow is the major natural disturbance observed within the stand.

#### **b. Stand Silvics:**

Adjacent timber stands vary in age class and species composition with uneven-aged old growth timber on the steeper terrain north and east of Backside #1. Regenerating stands of even-aged hemlock-spruce-cedar less than 25 years old can be found to the south and west, some precommercially thinned. The Backside #2 area contains old growth timber of uneven age with similar timber types to the north and east of the property boundary. Stands of even-aged hemlock-spruce-cedar less than 25 years old is regenerating to the south and west.

Stand improvement tools such as pre-commercially thinning overly dense stands have occurred in the area historically. The benefits of thinning are an overall decrease in tree density and competition with an increase in tree growth rate and vigor. Thinning of other regenerating stands within this operating area of the SESF is planned within the next five years.

#### **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). 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 after utilizing the clearcut harvest method. 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 western redcedar are the preferred species for reforestation. Spruce and cedar will likely be the favored and dominant species due to anticipated increase in available light, nutrients and scarification in the units during harvesting operations. Scarification disturbs the vegetative mat to open protective seed coatings which in turn provides a more receptive seed bed. Western hemlock will be a major component of the regenerated stand as well since it currently occupies the site, is an aggressive shade tolerant pioneer species, and is providing a seed source.

#### **d. Topography and Soils:**

The Backside #1 sale area is located on rolling near-coastal terrain and along the north shore of a small lake (not associated with the City of Thorne Bay's Watershed Lake). Approximately 400 feet above sea level. Predominant geology is conglomerate and other non-limestone bedrock types overlain with brown mineral and organic soils. Steeper slopes contain moderately well-drained soils. Benches and more level terrain contain poorly drained soils including areas of saturated soils.

The Backside #2 sale area is located among coastal rolling uplands with elevations ranging from approximately 70 to 430 feet above sea level. Glacial rubble under a thick organic layer on irregular terrain is the most prevalent soil profile. Some drainages are heavily organic with little to no rock/parent material observed. No karst features or large fissures were located within the timber sale area, but rock outcrops are present.

2. Wildlife habitat and harvest.

As required by AS 41.17.098, DOF provides due deference to ADF&G to ensure all wildlife habitat issues are addressed by the proposed timber sale design. The proposed timber sale was identified in the 2025-2029 FYSTS sent to ADF&G. No specific design issues were identified in those comments.

The United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) publishes a geodatabase of identified bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nest locations. Per 11 AAC 95.340 (c), the DOF avoids the nest locations in the planning of state timber sales. No eagle nest locations were indicated by the database or observed in the field.

Evidence of Sitka black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus sitkensis*) (tracks/scat/sightings) and black bear (*Ursus americanus*) (tracks/scat) was observed throughout the proposed timber sale area.

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

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.

Surface waters within and near the proposed timber sale were surveyed by field foresters. Streams were categorized with assistance from ADF&G GIS stream data related to the cataloged anadromous and high value resident fish streams.

Cataloged stream 102-70-1070 and its tributaries run along the southern side of Backside #2. During the Fall of 2022 foresters flagged and designed Backside #2 to incorporate a 100-foot stream retention area along the north side of cataloged stream 102-70-1070. This stream runs along the southeast boundary of Backside #1 for approximately 350 FT before flowing out of the SESF.

A resident fish stream above an anadromous fish blockage tributary to cataloged stream 102-70-1070 was located by DOF and ADF&G during the planning process of the Thorne Bay #1 Timber Sale (SE-978-K) in 2000. The fish trapped were observed to be cutthroat and Dolly Varden fry. The location of the stream along with the use and size of the fish were all considered when classifying this stream. This stream runs below the southwestern side of the timber sale boundary of the design of Backside #2 incorporates a 150-foot retention of timber above this resident stream due to timber type

and operational objectives to maintain slope stability of the soils by the stream. The small lake to the south of Backside #1 is also tributary to the cataloged stream 102-70-1070; the lake was found in the early 2000's to also contain an anadromous gradient barrier downstream near its crossing of the 3000150 Road; resident fish have not been documented in the lake.

4. Recreation, Tourism, and Scenic Resources.

There are no known commercial recreation operations that use the proposed sale area where harvest will occur. Residents and visitors alike use the numerous roads on POW to access nearby areas for firewood cutting, hunting, foraging, hiking, and wildlife viewing uses among others. Incidental uses such as these will be limited during active harvest operations. Scenic resources associated with aesthetics will be temporarily altered due the removal of trees though will be limited in visual impact due to size and remoteness.

5. Cultural Resources.

The DOF works with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to identify and avoid known cultural, historic or prehistoric sites in planning the proposed access routes and harvest areas.

## **G. Costs and benefits**

The DOF will appraise the timber value in compliance with 11 AAC 71.092. The sale area will be appraised by using a residual value appraisal method. Selling values and extraction cost data are obtained from industry sources, the United States Forest Service, and previous operations.

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 possibly provide stumpage royalty to the State. The DOF will encourage domestic processing to the extent feasible at the time of sale. The initial analysis of the costs of removal and the potential value of the timber indicates that some of the smaller hemlock and spruce timber may need to be exported in the round to generate adequate return for expenses.

One management goal for the timber sale is to encourage as much of the timber as is economically feasible to be locally processed in Southeast Alaska. While scoping this decision in the community of Thorne Bay, several commenters thought it appropriate that small mill operators located in the Thorne Bay vicinity be provided the priority and opportunity to benefit from some or all of the timber. Partitioning the timber into smaller blocks and over a longer period was suggested by several operators. The use of a competitive process was also suggested due to interest in the timber.

The DOF has sold significant amounts of timber in the Thorne Bay area to smaller mills located in Goose Creek and to the larger mill owned by Viking Lumber Company in Klawock. The DOF will continue a similar approach in SE to the extent that timber sale project economics and budgetary conditions make it prudent. Based on past performance, the DOF projects that it will need a sale format covering one or possibly both units of the proposed area to attract the capital to access the site(s). Access will be improved on State Forest land for timber management which increases the long term operational flexibility of the forest to meet its purpose.



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

While the DOF encourages utilization of the timber resource by the timber purchaser, significant residual firewood potential typically is present after a timber sale is logged. The DOF will consider leaving the road systems open or inactive to some degree if demand is indicated by the community. At this time there is significant firewood resources located several miles south of this location.

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

## **VI. PUBLIC REVIEW**

The public and agencies are invited to review and comment on this Preliminary Best Interest Finding and draft Forest Land Use Plan. Objections or comments pertaining to the proposed action must be received in writing by the DOF Southeast Area Office **by 4:00 pm February 14, 2025**, to ensure consideration and review. Commenters are encouraged to confirm receipt of their comments by the DOF prior to the submission deadline. Comments should be mailed to the State of Alaska, Division of Forestry and Fire Protection, 2417 Tongass Avenue, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 or emailed to [dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov). For more information, please contact Greg Staunton at 907-225-3070 or by email at [dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov). To be eligible to appeal the final decision, a person must have provided written comment on this Preliminary Best Interest Finding and draft Forest Land Use Plan by the deadline of: **4:00 pm February 14, 2025**.

## **VII. PUBLIC NOTICE**

The preliminary best interest finding, and decision is publicly noticed in compliance with AS 38.05.945. Notice is posted on the Alaska Online Public Notice System. Notices are 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 Edna Bay, Ketchikan, Ward Cove, Craig, Klawock, Thorne Bay, Coffman Cove, Naukati, Metlakatla, Wrangell and Petersburg. A legal notice is also provided in the Ketchikan Daily News and the Island Post.

## **VIII. RECOMMENDATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION**

After due consideration of all pertinent information, the ADNR has reached the following preliminary decision: to offer for sale approximately 82 acres of old growth timber composed of western hemlock, western red cedar, Sitka spruce, and Alaska yellow-cedar on Southeast State Forest land. Harvest activities on the Southeast State Forest lands will follow the management intent of the of the Southeast State Forest 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**

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Greg Staunton, Area Forester  
Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection

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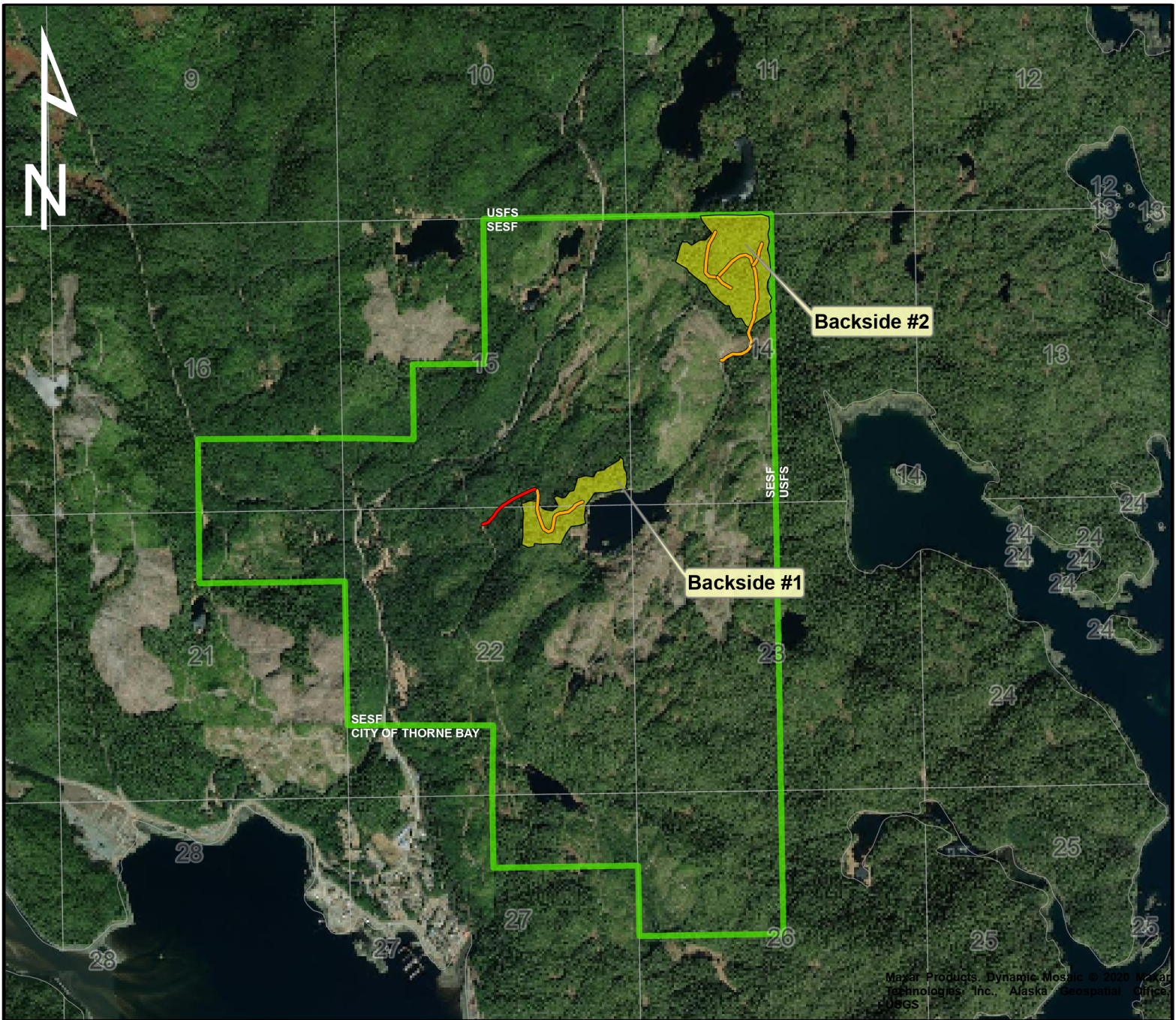
Date

**X. APPENDICES**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Appendix A</b> | SSE-1390-K Backside(s) Timber Sale Area Map             |
| <b>Appendix B</b> | References  |
| <b>Appendix C</b> | Appeal Regulations (reserved)                           |
| <b>Appendix D</b> | Backside(s) Timber Sale Comments & Responses (reserved) |
| <b>Appendix E</b> | SSE-1390-K Backside(s) Forest Land Use Plans (2)        |

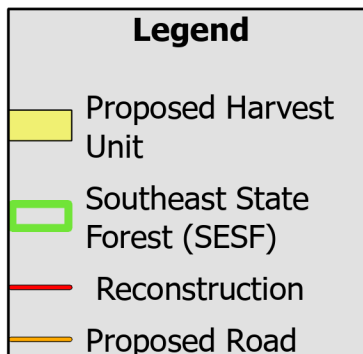
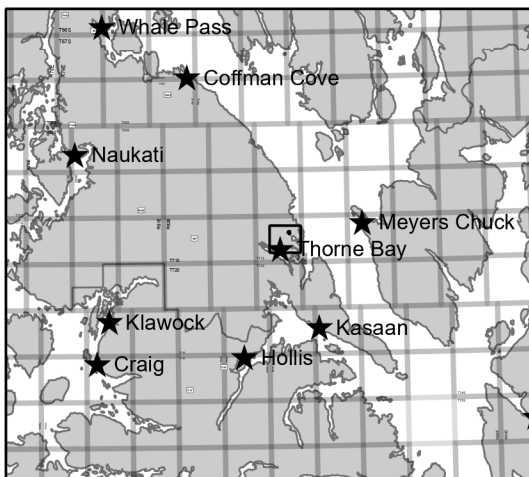
## **Appendix A SSE-1390-K Backside(s) Timber Sale Area Map**

Vicinity Map (one page)



0 0.5 1  
Miles  
Area Map 1 IN = 1/2 Mile

T71S R84E Section(s): 14, 15, 22  
Copper River Meridian



## APPENDIX A1 SSE-1390-K BACKSIDE(S) TIMBER SALE AREA MAP



## **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>

Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, *Southeast State Forest Management Plan*, Adopted February 29, 2016. Maps and general information retrievable from: <http://forestry.alaska.gov/stateforests.htm>

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**Appendix C Appeal and Request for Reconsideration Regulations (reserved)**



**Appendix D SSE-1390-K Backside(s) Timber Sale Comments & Responses (reserved)**

## **Appendix E SSE-1390-K Backside(s) Timber Sale Forest Land Use Plans**

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



**Coastal Region-Southeast Area Office**  
**Draft Forest Land Use Plan**

**Backside #1 Timber Sale**  
**SSE-1390-K**

**January 2025**

## **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                    |

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## **I. Introduction**

Project File Number: SSE-1390-K

Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Office: Southeast

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 28 acres of land on Prince of Wales Island, approximately 1 mile to the north of the community of Thorne Bay. It is intended to provide the best available information regarding the proposed harvest of timber, and management of other non-timber uses in compliance with AS 38.05.112 and AS 41.17.060, and must be adopted by the DNR before the proposed activity can occur.

☐ This Draft Forest Land Use Plan is for timber sale(s) which have been determined to be in the best interest of the state pursuant to AS 38.05.035 (e) and AS 38.05.945. This FLUP does not determine whether or not to access and sell timber within the timber sale area, nor the method of sale. Those decisions have been made previously in the Best Interest Finding and are not appealable under this FLUP.

☒ This Draft Forest Land Use Plan is for timber sale(s) for which a Preliminary Best Interest Finding is currently out for 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.

☐ This Draft Forest Land Use Plan is for timber to be harvested that does not require a final finding pursuant to AS 38.05.035 (e) and notification under AS 38.05.945.

A draft of this plan 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).

The public and agencies are invited to comment on specific requirements for harvest, access, and reforestation operations in this draft FLUP. The decision on whether or not to offer timber for sale is made through the best interest finding process and is not subject to review under the FLUP. Objections or comments pertaining to the draft FLUP must be received in writing to DOF Southeast Area Forester's Office by February 14, 2025 in order to ensure consideration for review. Comments should be mailed to the State of Alaska, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection, 2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213, Ketchikan, AK 99901 or by email to [dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov). For more information you may contact the Southeast Area Forester at: 907-225-3070. To be eligible to participate in any appeal or request for reconsideration to the final decision, a person must be affected by the decision and must have submitted comment to the preliminary decision during the comment period.

After public and agency review of the draft FLUP, the DOF will review comments, make changes as appropriate, and adopt the FLUP. 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.]

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

- Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act
- Southeast State Forest Management Plan
- Backside Timber Sale Preliminary Best Interest Finding, SSE-1390-K

The administrative record for this sale is maintained at the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Southeast Area Office filed as SSE-1390-K.

#### **A. Legal description**

Sections 15 and 22, Township 71 South, Range 84 East, Copper River Meridian (CRM). The sale area is found within Craig C-2 NW and Craig C-2 NE USGS quadrangles. See also map in Appendix A.

#### **B. Operational Period**

Calendar years 2025-2026

#### **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 help the local economy of the communities within southern Southeast Alaska by creating additional jobs due to the combination of road building, logging, trucking and potentially milling.

## II. Affected Land Owners/Jurisdictions

### A. State

| Activity on ownership:                                     | Access<br>Easement       | Harvest                             | Written<br>Representative<br>Approval |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Southeast State Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other state land managed by DNR   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input 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 Interests

Land Interest, Representative: USFS Road Reservations, USFS District Ranger and Engineering Staff

## 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 is made up of old-growth timber primarily sawlog size western redcedar and hemlock with minor amounts of Sitka spruce and Alaska yellow-cedar. Stands are primarily on wet sites where numerous narrow surface waters meander south towards a small lake. Adjacent stands were logged prior to the creation of the SESF in the late 1990's and are now fully stocked with hemlock, spruce and cedar saplings.

## 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                   |
|-------------|-------|------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Backside #1 | 28    | Irregular Slopes | Even-aged Management<br>utilizing the clearcut system | Ground Based (Shovel)<br>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 |
|---------|-------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| --      | --    | Not Applicable          | --                 |

#### 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.

#### 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 |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Backside #1 | Unnamed Lake   | Surface Water               | --          | FRPA Best Management Practices (BMPs) | Directional felling  |

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: Ephemeral and annual surface waters narrow and incised were observed throughout the sale area. Adjacent to the southeast side of the harvest unit boundary is one non-fish bearing lake.

## **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

## **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.
- ☒ 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

Reforestation utilizing the clearcut method is expected to result in optimal growing conditions for regenerating Sitka spruce, western hemlock, western redcedar and Alaska yellow-cedar. Increased availability of light and nutrients along with moderately scarified ground from track-based logging equipment is expected to result in a stocked stand within five years of harvest. Historically natural regeneration after a timber harvest in Southeast Alaska has been satisfactory in meeting FRPA reforestation requirements.

Harvest type as it relates to reforestation requirement:

- ☒ Clearcut
- ☐ Region I: Partial Harvest leaving more than 50% live basal area (11 AAC 95.375(b)(3))
- ☐ Region II or III: Partial Harvest relying on residual trees to result in a stocking level that meets standards of 11 AAC 95.375(b)(4).

Season of harvest:

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

Regeneration type:

- ☒ Natural regeneration

List species: Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*), Alaska yellow-cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*).

- ☐ Coppice
- ☐ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

See Appendix B for further reforestation details.

## 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). All roads used in this timber sale will conform at a minimum to the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Road Standards, site specific design may supersede this standard and will typically be specified and applied through the timber sale contract.

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 5A and 5B.

**Table 5A. Road Reconstruction and Use**

| Road ID | Segment                 | Harvest Unit | Mile** | Road Class | Maximum Grade %* | Constructed By | Maintained By |
|---------|-------------------------|--------------|--------|------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 3000140 | 3000 Rd. to 3000142 Rd. | All          | 0.26   | Existing   | 12               | Existing       | Purchaser     |
| 3000142 | All                     | All          | 0.22   | Existing   | 12               | Existing       | Purchaser     |

**Table 5B. New Road Construction and Use**

| Road ID | Segment | Harvest Unit | Mile/ Station ** | Road Class | Maximum Grade % | Constructed By | Maintained By |
|---------|---------|--------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 3000142 | All     | All          | 0.52             | Spur       | 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.*

## B. Soil Erosion / Mass Wasting

Maximum percent side slopes: 40%

☒ 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 | Mile/<br>Station<br>or<br>Point<br>Label | Identified<br>Erosion<br>Risk | Risk Level | Mitigation                              |
|---------|--|-------------------------------|------------|---|
| All     | --                                       | None                          | <i>Low</i> | Standard FRPA Best Management Practices |

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 | Point<br>Label | Bridge<br>Length<br>(ft.) or<br>Culvert<br>Diameter<br>(in.) | Structure Type<br>[ex.<br>Corrugated<br>Plastic Pipe,<br>Log Stringer,<br>Fabricated,<br>Ice] | AS 41.17.950<br>Stream<br>Classification | ADF&G AWC<br>Number | Duration of<br>crossing<br>structure in<br>place |
|---------|----------------|--|---|--|---------------------|--|
| 3000142 | P440           | 18 IN  | Corrugated<br>Plastic Pipe<br>(CPP)   | Surface Water                            | --                  | Duration of<br>harvest                           |
| 3000142 | P428           | 18 IN  | Corrugated<br>Plastic Pipe<br>(CPP)   | Surface Water                            | --                  | Duration of<br>harvest                           |

| Road ID | 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 |
|---------|-------------|---|---|------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| 3000142 | P427        | 18 IN   | Corrugated Plastic Pipe (CPP)   | Surface Water                      | --               | Duration of harvest                     |
| 3000142 | P421        | 18 IN   | Corrugated Plastic Pipe (CPP)   | Surface Water                      | --               | Duration of harvest                     |
| 3000142 | P420        | 18 IN   | Corrugated Plastic Pipe (CPP)   | Surface Water                      | --               | Duration of harvest                     |
| 3000142 | P418        | 18 IN   | Corrugated Plastic Pipe (CPP)   | Surface Water                      | --               | Duration of harvest                     |
| 3000142 | P416        | 5 FT  | Log Stringer/Culvert (LC)   | Surface Water                      | --               | Duration of harvest                     |

#### 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 |
|---------|---------|------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 3000142 | All     | All  | All Season                     | End of harvest         | Silviculture                            |

#### 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 the unit 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 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   |
|---|------------------------|---|
| Traffic on the Sandy Beach Road/3000 Road | DOF                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added heavy haul traffic with restricted maneuverability/</li> <li>• Safety signs specific to logging truck traffic posted at all road junctions</li> <li>• Follow speed limits and always take the Bypass Road around the City of Thorne Bay</li> </ul>     |
| City of Thorne Bay Water Source           | DOF/City of Thorne Bay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existing gate will be maintained in a closed and locked condition during operations or an acceptable temporary barrier established meeting the needs of the city at a point south of the 3000142 Road prior to the city's codified watershed.</li> </ul> |



## **V. Approvals**

This Draft Forest Land Use Plan has been reviewed by the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection and provides the information necessary for public and agency review of the project described in this document.

---

**Area Forester**

---

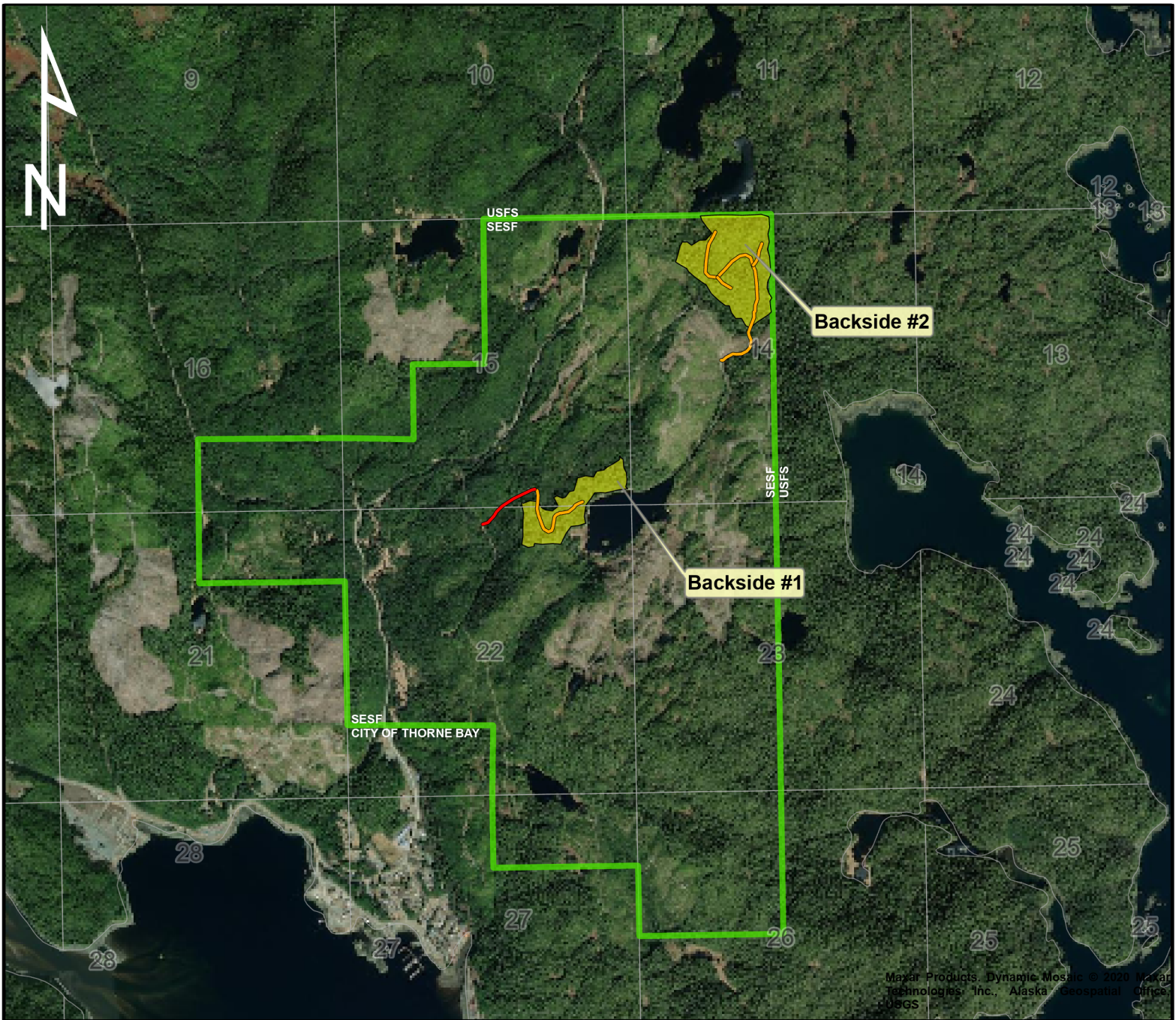
**Date**

If you have any questions, please contact the Southeast Area Office at (907) 225-3070 or email at [dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov)

***Appendix A: Timber Sale Maps***

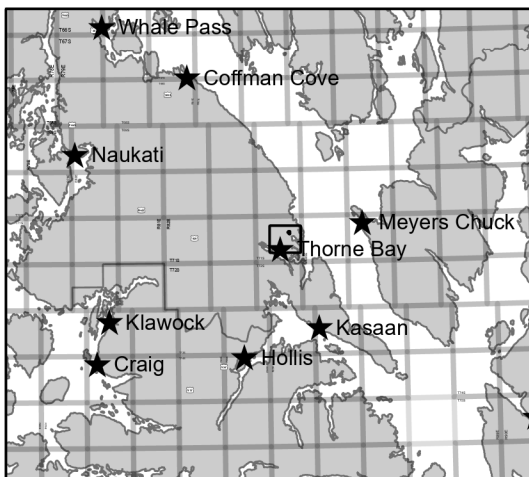
Appendix A1 Vicinity Map (1 page)

Appendix A2 Unit Map (1 page)

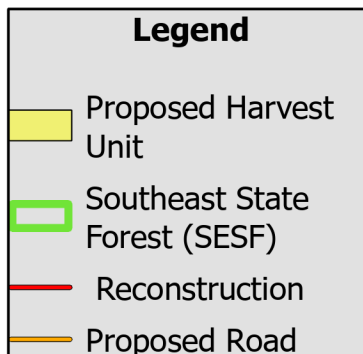


0 0.5 1  
Miles  
Area Map 1 IN = 1/2 Mile

T71S R84E Section(s): 14, 15, 22  
Copper River Meridian



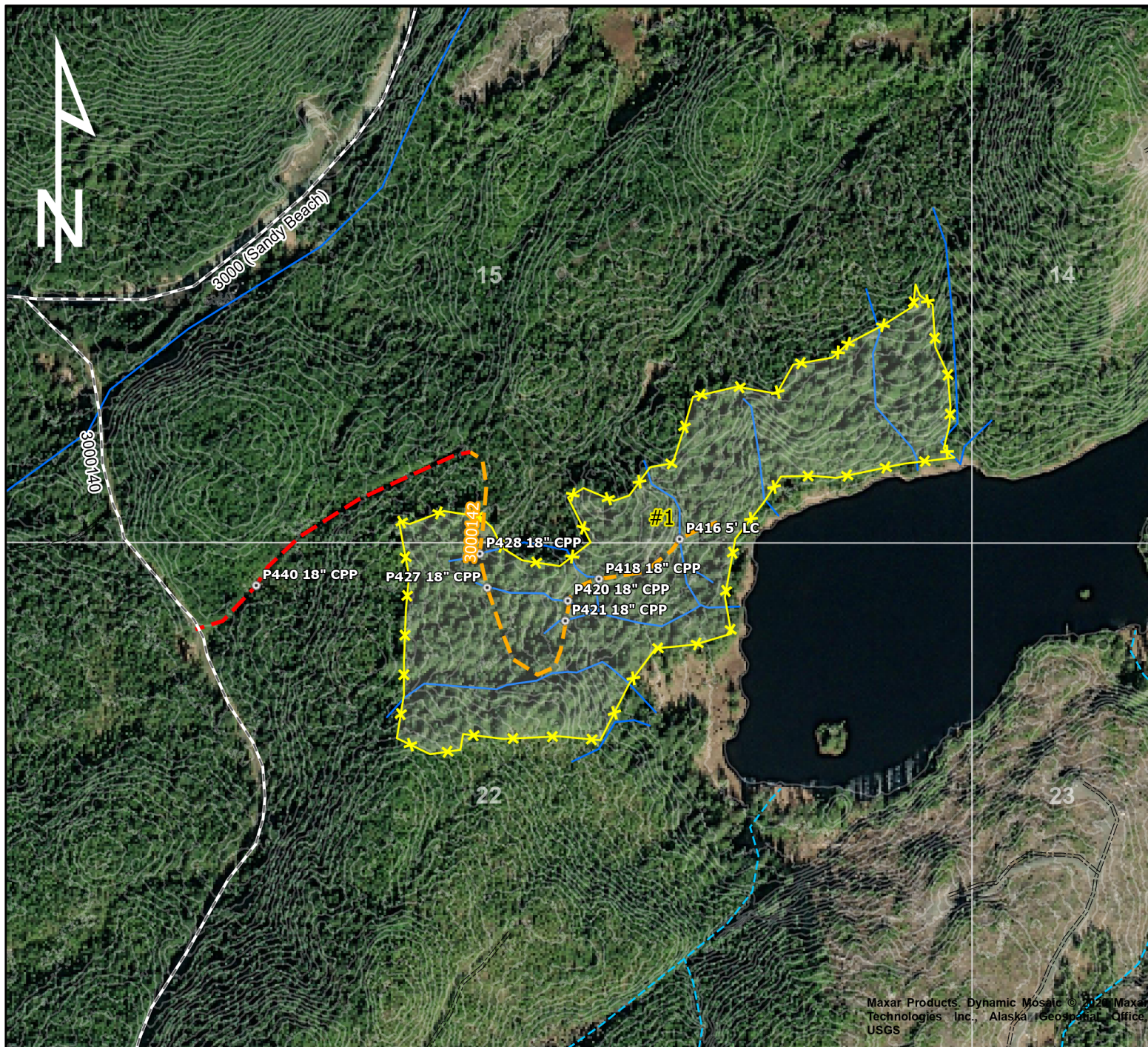
Vicinity Map 1 IN = 25 Miles



## APPENDIX A1 SSE-1390-K BACKSIDE(S) TIMBER SALE AREA MAP



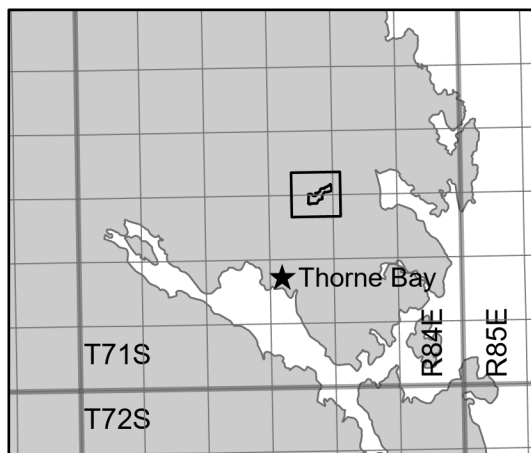




0 500 1,000 Feet  
Sale Map 1 IN = 500 FT

Township: T71S R84E Section(s): 15, 22  
Copper River Meridian

Contour Interval = 10 FT  
Source: USFS LiDAR 2018



Vicinity Map 1 IN = 3 Miles

| Legend |                              |
|--------|------------------------------|
|        | Proposed Harvest Unit        |
|        | Proposed Drainage Structure  |
|        | Closed Road                  |
|        | Existing Road                |
|        | Reconstruction               |
|        | Proposed Road                |
|        | Tributary to Anadromous >12% |
|        | Surface Water                |

## APPENDIX A2 SSE-1390-K BACKSIDE #1 TIMBER SALE SALE MAP



## ***Appendix B: Supporting Information***

Note: Silvicultural and stand information has also been described in the BIF.

### **Alaska Forest Practices and Regulations.**

<http://forestry.alaska.gov/forestpractices>

### **Forest Road Standards.**

[http://forestry.alaska.gov/Assets/pdfs/resources/forest\\_road\\_standard\\_design\\_20151231.pdf](http://forestry.alaska.gov/Assets/pdfs/resources/forest_road_standard_design_20151231.pdf)

***Appendix C: Public Agency Comments and Responses (reserved)***

***Appendix D: Appeal and Request for Reconsideration Regulations  
(reserved)***

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



**Coastal Region-Southeast Area Office**  
**Draft Forest Land Use Plan**

**Backside #2 Timber Sale**  
**SSE-1390-2**

**January 2025**



## **Abbreviations**

|        |   |
|--------|---|
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| ADF&G  | Alaska Department of Fish and Game              |
| ADNR   | Alaska Department of Natural Resources          |
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| POWIAP | Prince of Wales Island Area Plan                |
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| SESFMP | Southeast State Forest Management Plan          |
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| USFS   | United States Forest Service                    |

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## **I. Introduction**

Project File Number: SSE-1390-2

Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Office: Southeast

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 54 acres of land on Prince of Wales Island, approximately 1 mile to the north of the community of Thorne Bay. It is intended to provide the best available information regarding the proposed harvest of timber, and management of other non-timber uses in compliance with AS 38.05.112 and AS 41.17.060, and must be adopted by the DNR before the proposed activity can occur.

☐ This Draft Forest Land Use Plan is for timber sale(s) which have been determined to be in the best interest of the state pursuant to AS 38.05.035 (e) and AS 38.05.945. This FLUP does not determine whether or not to access and sell timber within the timber sale area, nor the method of sale. Those decisions have been made previously in the Best Interest Finding and are not appealable under this FLUP.

☒ This Draft Forest Land Use Plan is for timber sale(s) for which a Preliminary Best Interest Finding is currently out for 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.

☐ This Draft Forest Land Use Plan is for timber to be harvested that does not require a final finding pursuant to AS 38.05.035 (e) and notification under AS 38.05.945.

A draft of this plan 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).

The public and agencies are invited to comment on specific requirements for harvest, access, and reforestation operations in this draft FLUP. The decision on whether or not to offer timber for sale is made through the best interest finding process and is not subject to review under the FLUP. Objections or comments pertaining to the draft FLUP must be received in writing to DOF Southeast Area Forester's Office by February 14, 2025 in order to ensure consideration for review. Comments should be mailed to the State of Alaska, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection, 2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213, Ketchikan, AK 99901 or by email to [dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov). For more information you may contact the Southeast Area Forester at: 907-225-3070. To be eligible to participate in any appeal or request for reconsideration to the final decision, a person must be affected by the decision and must have submitted comment to the preliminary decision during the comment period.

After public and agency review of the draft FLUP, the DOF will review comments, make changes as appropriate, and adopt the FLUP. 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.]

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

- Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act
- Southeast State Forest Management Plan
- Backside Timber Sale Preliminary Best Interest Finding, SSE-1390-K

The administrative record for this sale is maintained at the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Southeast Area Office filed as SSE-1390-2.

#### **A. Legal description**

Section 14, Township 71 South, Range 84 East, Copper River Meridian (CRM). The sale area is found within Craig C-2 NW and Craig C-2 NE USGS quadrangles. See also map in Appendix A.

#### **B. Operational Period**

Calendar years 2025-2026

#### **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 help the local economy of the communities within southern Southeast Alaska by creating additional jobs due to the combination of road building, logging, trucking and potentially milling.

## II. Affected Land Owners/Jurisdictions

### A. State

| Activity on ownership:                                     | Access<br>Easement       | Harvest                             | Written<br>Representative<br>Approval |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Southeast State Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other state land managed by DNR   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input 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 Interests

Land Interest, Representative: USFS Road Reservations, USFS District Ranger and Engineering Staff

## 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

Timber types are primarily composed of old growth western redcedar and western hemlock with minor amounts of Sitka spruce and Alaska yellow-cedar. Stands are present among coastal rolling uplands and contain known defects such as broken and dead tops, conks/fruiting bodies and fluting. Adjacent stands were logged by the state during the late 90s early 2000's and are now fully stocked with vigorous young hemlock, spruce and cedar saplings.

### 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                |
|-------------|-------|------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Backside #2 | 54    | Irregular Slopes | Even-aged Management utilizing the clearcut system | Ground Based (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 |
|---------|-------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| --      | --    | Not Applicable          | --                 |

#### 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.

#### 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  $> 50\%$ : 10%

Maximum percent slopes: 60%

- ☒ 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 |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|--|
| Backside #2 | 102-710-740      | Cataloged Anadromous        | 102-7010-740      | Harvest may not be undertaken within 100 FT of this waterbody | Retain timber per AS 41.17.118(a)1(A) and (B)              |
| Backside #2 | 102-710-740-2011 | Cataloged Anadromous        | 102-7010-740-2011 | Harvest may not be undertaken within 100 FT of this waterbody | Retain timber per AS 41.17.118(a)1(A) and (B)              |

| Unit        | Waterbody Name | AS 41.17.950 Classification  | ADF&G AWC #               | Required Riparian Protection          | Site-specific actions to minimize impacts on riparian area  |
|-------------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Backside #2 | None           | Resident Fish Stream         | None                      | FRPA Best Management Practices (BMPs) | Retention of standing timber below the break of the hillside  |
| Backside #2 | None           | Tributary to Anadromous >12% | Tributary to 102-7010-740 | FRPA Best Management Practices (BMPs) | Split yarding, directional felling, removal of logging debris from waters, site specific crossing approval from DOF |

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: Narrow perennial and ephemeral tributaries were observed flowing in a mostly southerly direction. Surface waters were primarily narrow, heavily organic, and ephemeral in nature with small pockets of standing water concentrated in a few locations.

## 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



#### **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.
- ☒ 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

Reforestation utilizing the clearcut method is expected to result in optimal growing conditions for regenerating Sitka spruce, western hemlock, western redcedar and Alaska yellow-cedar. Increased availability of light and nutrients along with moderately scarified ground from track-based logging equipment is expected to result in a stocked stand within five years of harvest. Historically natural regeneration after a timber harvest in Southeast Alaska has been satisfactory in meeting FRPA reforestation requirements.

Harvest type as it relates to reforestation requirement:

- ☒ Clearcut
- ☐ Region I: Partial Harvest leaving more than 50% live basal area (11 AAC 95.375(b)(3))
- ☐ Region II or III: Partial Harvest relying on residual trees to result in a stocking level that meets standards of 11 AAC 95.375(b)(4).

Season of harvest:

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

Regeneration type:

- ☒ Natural regeneration

List species: western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*), Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), Alaska yellow-cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*).

- ☐ Coppice
- ☐ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

See Appendix B for further reforestation details.

## 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). All roads used in this timber sale will conform at a minimum to the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Road Standards, site specific design may supersede this standard and will typically be specified and applied through the timber sale contract.

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 5A and 5B.

**Table 5A. Road Reconstruction and Use**

| Road ID | Segment                                  | Harvest Unit | Mile ** | Road Class | Maximum Grade %* | Constructed By | Maintained By |
|---------|--|--------------|---------|------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 3000150 | 3000 Rd. to Mile Marker 1 of 3000150 Rd. | All          | 0.95    | Existing   | 16               | Existing       | Purchaser     |

**Table 5B. New Road Construction and Use**

| Road ID     | Segment | Harvest Unit | Mile ** | Road Class | Maximum Grade % | Constructed By | Maintained By |
|-------------|---------|--------------|---------|------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 3000150-101 | All     | All          | 0.78    | Secondary  | 12              | Purchaser      | Purchaser     |
| 3000150-102 | All     | All          | 0.06    | Spur       | 12              | Purchaser      | Purchaser     |
| 3000150-103 | All     | All          | 0.08    | Spur       | 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.*

**B. Soil Erosion / Mass Wasting**Maximum percent side slopes: 40%☒ 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 | Mile/<br>Station<br>or<br>Point<br>Label | Identified<br>Erosion<br>Risk | Risk Level | Mitigation                              |
|---------|--|-------------------------------|------------|---|
| All     | --                                       | None                          | <i>Low</i> | Standard FRPA Best Management Practices |

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     | Point<br>Label | Bridge<br>Length<br>(ft.) or<br>Culvert<br>Diameter<br>(in.) | Structure Type<br>[ex.<br>Corrugated<br>Plastic Pipe,<br>Log Stringer,<br>Fabricated,<br>Ice] | AS 41.17.950<br>Stream<br>Classification | ADF&G AWC<br>Number | Duration of<br>crossing<br>structure in<br>place |
|-------------|----------------|--|---|--|---------------------|--|
| 3000150-101 | 1002           | 24 IN  | Corrugated<br>Plastic Pipe<br>(CPP)   | Surface Water                            | --                  | Duration of<br>harvest                           |
| 3000150-101 | 1012           | 48 IN  | Log<br>Stringer/Culvert<br>(LC)   | Resident Fish<br>Stream                  | --                  | Duration of<br>harvest                           |

| Road ID     | 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 |
|-------------|-------------|---|---|------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| 3000150-101 | 1017        | 24 IN   | Corrugated Plastic Pipe (CPP)   | Tributary to Anadromous >12%       | --               | Duration of harvest                     |
| 3000150-101 | 1022        | 48 IN   | Corrugated Plastic Pipe (CPP)   | Tributary to Anadromous >12%       | --               | Duration of harvest                     |
| 3000150-101 | 1032        | 18 IN   | Corrugated Plastic Pipe (CPP)   | Tributary to Anadromous >12%       | --               | Duration of harvest                     |
| 3000150-103 | 1027        | 18 IN   | Corrugated Plastic Pipe (CPP)   | Tributary to Anadromous >12%       | --               | Duration of harvest                     |

#### 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     | Unit | Closure Type All Season/Winter | Estimated Closure Date | Projected Road Use after Timber Harvest |
|-------------|------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 3000150     | None | All Season                     | TBD                    | Silviculture                            |
| 3000150-101 | All  | All Season                     | End of Harvest         | Silviculture                            |
| 3000150-102 | All  | All Season                     | End of Harvest         | Silviculture                            |
| 3000150-103 | All  | All Season                     | End of Harvest         | Silviculture                            |

#### 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 south end of the unit 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 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**

| <b>Impacted Resource</b>                  | <b>Reviewing Agency</b> | <b>Impact / Mitigation Actions</b>  |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| Traffic on the Sandy Beach Road/3000 Road | DOF                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Added heavy haul traffic with restricted maneuverability/</li><li>• Safety signs specific to logging truck traffic posted at all road junctions</li><li>• Follow speed limits and always take the Bypass Road around the City of Thorne Bay</li></ul> |

**V. Approvals**

This Draft Forest Land Use Plan has been reviewed by the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection and provides the information necessary for public and agency review of the project described in this document.

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| _____                | _____       |
| <b>Area Forester</b> | <b>Date</b> |

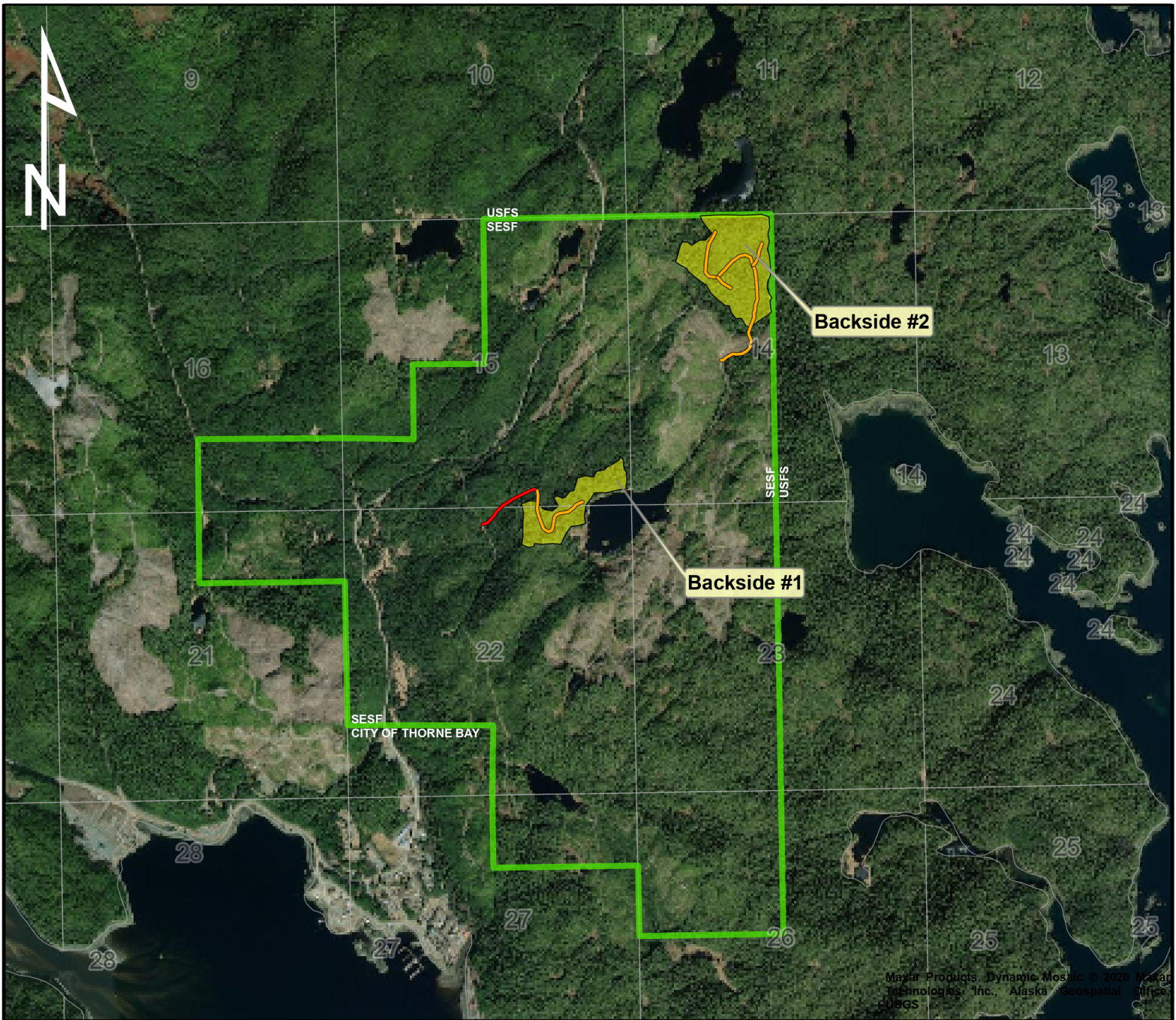
If you have any questions, please contact the Southeast Area Office at (907) 225-3070 or email at [dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov).

***Appendix A: Timber Sale Maps***

Appendix A1 Vicinity Map (1 page)

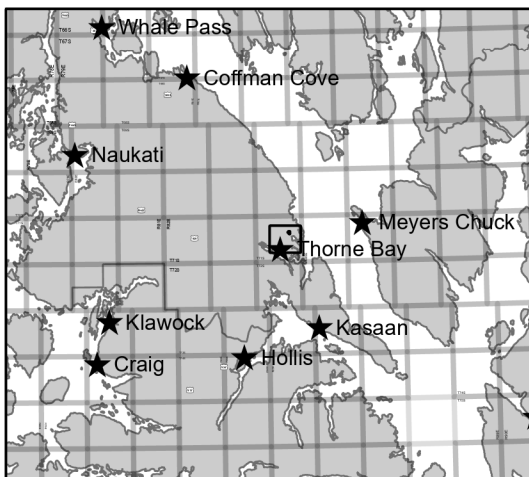
Appendix A2 Unit Map (1 page)



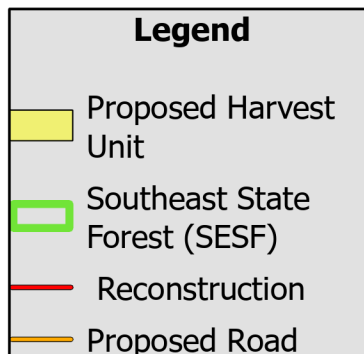


0 0.5 1  
Miles  
Area Map 1 IN = 1/2 Mile

T71S R84E Section(s): 14, 15, 22  
Copper River Meridian



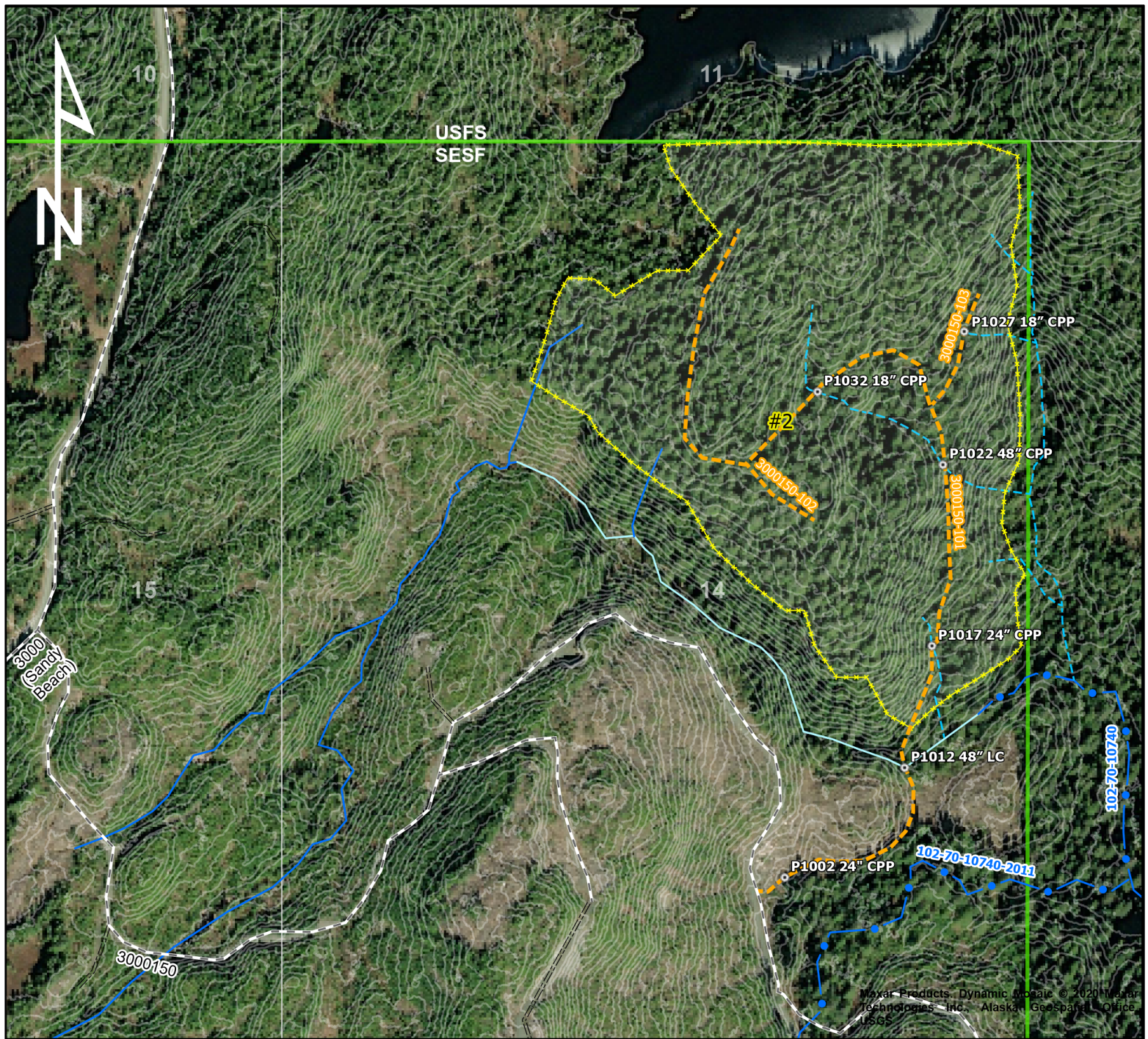
Vicinity Map 1 IN = 25 Miles



## APPENDIX A1 SSE-1390-K BACKSIDE(S) TIMBER SALE AREA MAP



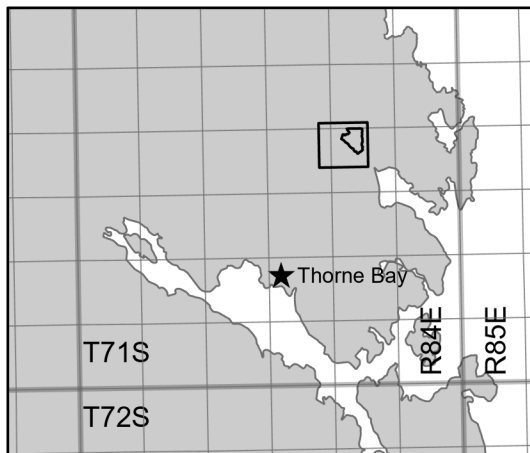




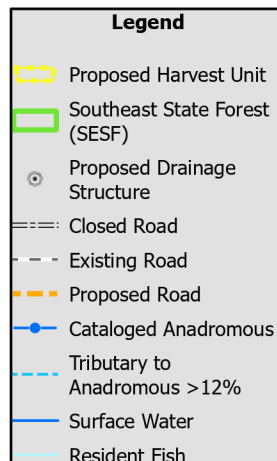
0 500 1,000 Feet  
Sale Map 1 IN = 500 FT

Township: T71S R84E Section: 14  
Copper River Meridian

Contour Interval = 10 FT  
Source: USFS LiDAR 2018



Vicinity Map 1 IN = 3 Miles



## APPENDIX A2 SSE-1390-2 BACKSIDE #2 TIMBER SALE SALE MAP



## ***Appendix B: Supporting Information***

Note: Silvicultural and stand information has also been described in the BIF.

### **Alaska Forest Practices and Regulations.**

<http://forestry.alaska.gov/forestpractices>

### **Forest Road Standards.**

[http://forestry.alaska.gov/Assets/pdfs/resources/forest\\_road\\_standard\\_design\\_20151231.pdf](http://forestry.alaska.gov/Assets/pdfs/resources/forest_road_standard_design_20151231.pdf)

***Appendix C: Public Agency Comments and Responses (reserved)***

***Appendix D. Appeal and Request for Reconsideration Regulations  
(reserved)***