

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



Coastal Region-Southeast Area Office
Forest Land Use Plan

Backside #2 Timber Sale
SSE-1390-2

March 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

Contents

I. Introduction	1
A. Legal description	2
B. Operational Period.....	2
C. Timber Disposal	2
D. Objectives and Summary.....	2
II. Affected Land Owners/Jurisdictions.....	3
A. State.....	3
B. Other Land Interests	3
III. Harvest Methods, Silvicultural Actions, and Management of Non-timber Resources	3
A. Timber Stand Description and History	4
B. Timber Harvest Activities	4
C. Site Preparation	4
D. Slash Abatement.....	5
E. Soil Stability / Erosion / Mass Wasting	5
F. Timber Harvest—Surface Water Protection.....	5
G. Wildlife Habitat.....	6
H. Cultural and Historical Resource Protection.....	7
I. Other Resources Affected by Timber Harvest and Management	7
J. Reforestation	8
IV. Roads and Crossing Structures	9
A. Road Design, Construction, and Maintenance.....	9
B. Soil Erosion / Mass Wasting	10
C. Crossing Structures	10
D. Road Closure.....	11
E. Material Extraction.....	11
F. Other Resources Affected by Roads or Material Extraction.....	12
V. Approvals	13
Appendix A: Timber Sale Maps	1
Appendix B: Supporting Information	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix C: Public Agency Comments and Responses (reserved)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix D. Appeal and Request for Reconsideration Regulations (reserved)...	Error! Bookmark not defined.

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.

This Forest Land Use Plan was made available for public comments with the Preliminary Best Interest Finding; the review period ended on January 13, 2025. After public and agency review of the draft FLUP, the DNR reviewed comments (Best Interest Finding Appendix D) and made no substantive changes to the Forest Land Use Plan operational content.

This Forest Land Use Plan is procedurally adopted by the Department of Natural Resources with the BIF decision. Site specific compliance with the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and the Regulations, as well as the Final Finding for this proposed project are reflected in this Forest Land Use Plan and will be implemented in the Timber Sale Contract.

An eligible person affected by this decision, and who provided timely written comment or public testimony to the department, may request reconsideration of 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 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 2025-2030

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 Easement	Harvest	Written Representative 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.
- ☒ Slash accumulations will be kept to less than 2 feet in height.
- ☒ Slash will be disposed of by the operator
- ☒ Utility logs will be decked in an orderly manner within one chain of the road.
- ☐ 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/ Station or Point Label	Identified Erosion 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 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	1002	24 IN	Corrugated Plastic Pipe (CPP)	Surface Water	--	Duration of harvest
3000150-101	1012	48 IN	Log Stringer/Culvert (LC)	Resident Fish Stream	--	Duration of 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

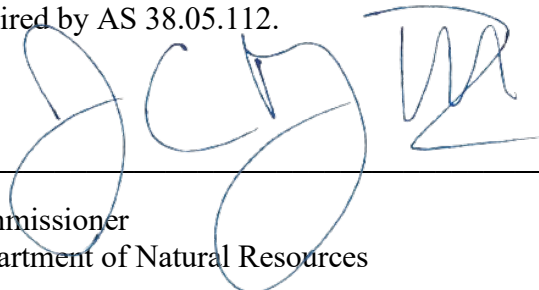
List resources other than water, habitat or cultural resources potentially impacted by road construction, and indicate how impacts will be mitigated. Other affected resources could be, but are not limited to mining claims, scenic areas, recreational trails, etc.

Table 9. Other Affected Resources

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

V. Approvals

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



Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources

3.13.25

Date

RECONSIDERATION

An eligible person affected by this decision of the department, and who provided timely written comment or public hearing testimony to the department, may request reconsideration to the DNR Commissioner per AS 44.37.011 and 11 AAC 02. Any request for reconsideration must be received by the Commissioner's Office within twenty (20) calendar days after issuance of the decision under 11 AAC 02.040. The Commissioner may order or deny a request for reconsideration within thirty (30) calendar days after issuance of the decision. If the Commissioner takes no action on a request for reconsideration within thirty (30) days after issuance of the decision, the request for reconsideration is considered denied. The Commissioner's decision on reconsideration, other than a remand decision, is a final administrative order and decision of the department. An eligible person must first request reconsideration to the Commissioner before seeking relief in superior court. The Alaska State Courts establish its own rules for timely appealing final administrative orders and decisions of the department.

Reconsideration may be mailed or hand-delivered to the DNR Commissioner's Office, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501; or faxed to (907)-269-8918 or sent by electronic mail to dnr.appeals@alaska.gov. Reconsideration must be accompanied by the fee established in 11 AAC 05.160(d)(1)(F), which has been set at \$200 under the provisions of 11 AAC 05.160(a)-(b).]

If no request for reconsideration is filed by that date, this decision goes into effect as a final order and decision.

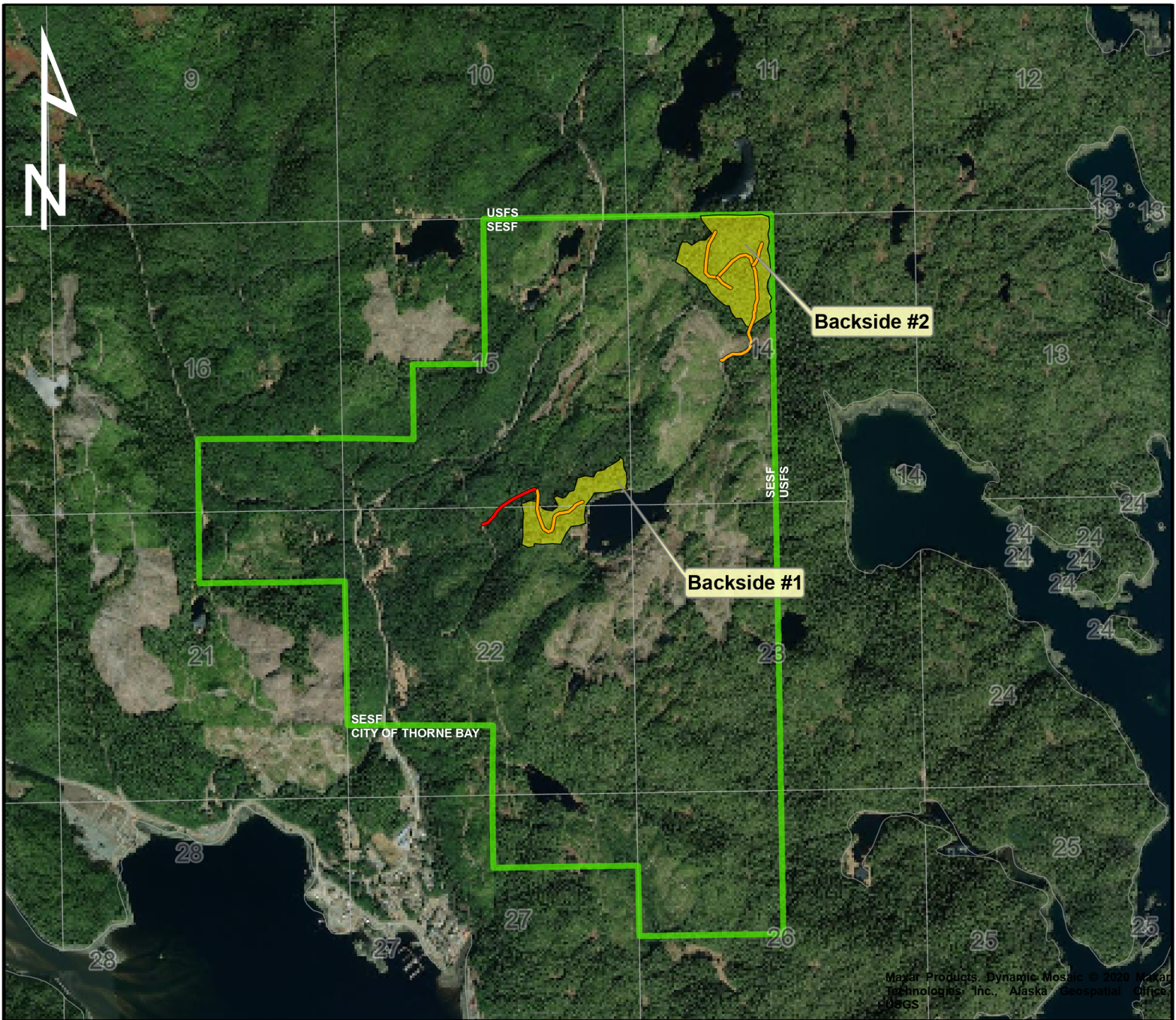
A copy of 11 AAC 02 is enclosed and is also available on the department's website at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/pdf/DNR-11-AAC-02.pdf>.

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

Appendix A: Timber Sale Maps

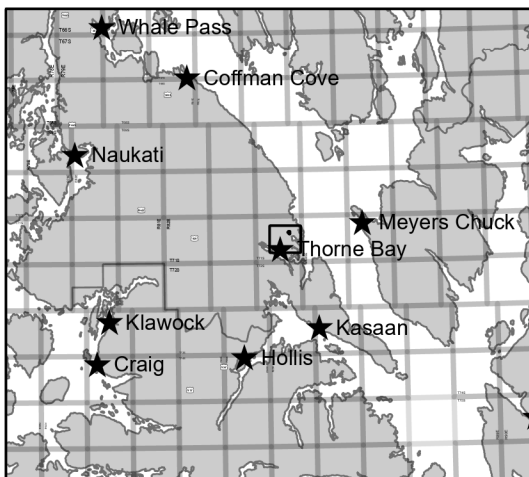
Appendix A1 Vicinity Map (1 page)

Appendix A2 Unit Map (1 page)

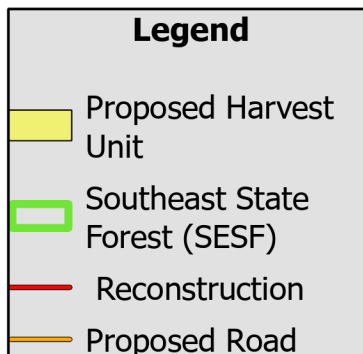


0 0.5 1
Miles
Area Map 1 IN = 1/2 Mile

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

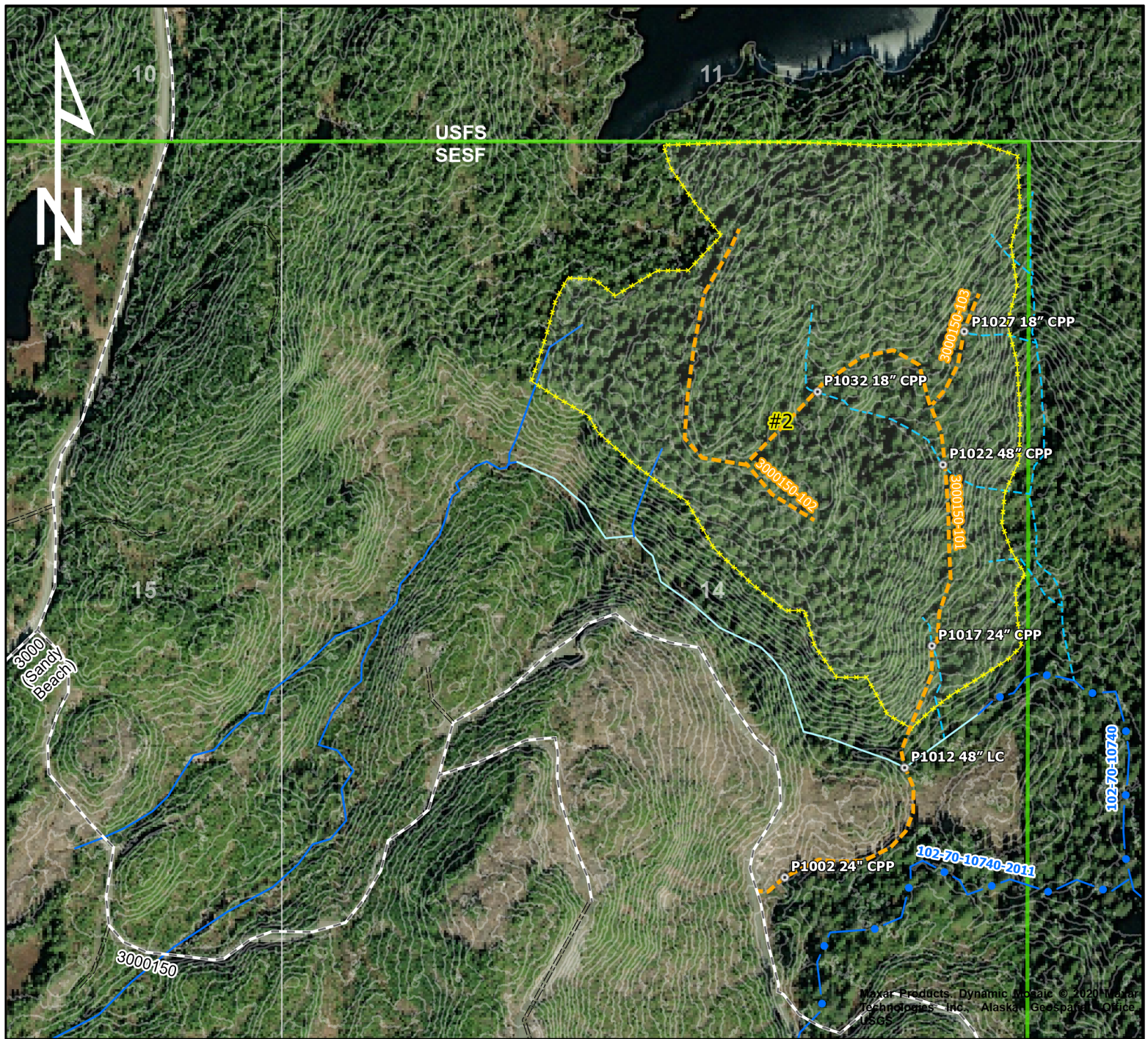


Vicinity Map 1 IN = 25 Miles



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

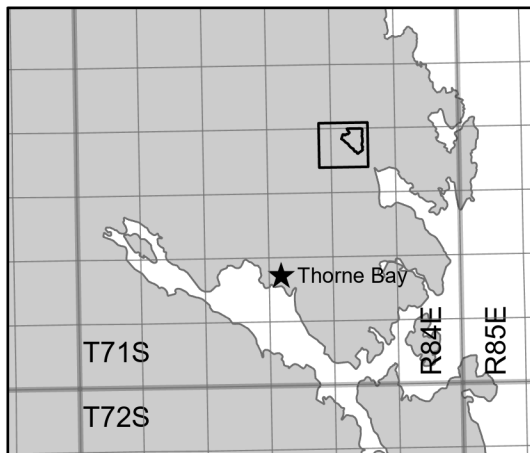




0 500 1,000 Feet
Sale Map 1 IN = 500 FT

Township: T71S R84E Section: 14
Copper River Meridian

Contour Interval = 10 FT
Source: USFS LiDAR 2018



Vicinity Map 1 IN = 3 Miles

Legend	
	Proposed Harvest Unit
	Southeast State Forest (SESF)
	Proposed Drainage Structure
	Closed Road
	Existing Road
	Proposed Road
	Cataloged Anadromous
	Tributary to Anadromous >12%
	Surface Water
	Resident Fish

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

Appendix C: Public Agency Comments and Responses

See BIF.

Appendix D: Appeal and Request for Reconsideration Regulations

See BIF.