State of Alaska

Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry & Fire Protection

Northern Region—Tok Area Office
Draft Forest Land Use Plan

Young Negotiated Timber Sale, Harvest Units 1-8
NC-1783-T

July 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
ROW	Right-of-way

Contents

I. Introduction

Project File Number: NC-1783-T

Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Office: Tok Area Office
Area Forester: Kato Howard
Forest Practices Geographic Region (AS 41.17.950): Region III

This Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) covers proposed forest operations on approximately 343 acres of mature white spruce forest with minor components of poplar and aspen from land within the Tanana Valley State Forest approximately 12 miles southwest of the community of Tok. 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; Best Interest Finding, Timber Sale NC-1783-T. (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 06/27/2023 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.

Draft FLUP Statement:

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 by the DOF Tok Area Office by **August 30th, 2025** in order to ensure consideration for review. Comments should be mailed to the State of Alaska, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection, Tok/Copper River Area, Box 10 Tok, Alaska 99780 or by email to Kato.Howard@alaska.gov. 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:

Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan Young Negotiated Timber Sale Best Interest Finding, NC 1783-T

The administrative record for this sale is maintained at the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Tok Area Office filed as NC-1783-T.

A. Legal description

Township 16 North, Range 12 East, Sections 10, 11, 15, 16, 21, and 22 of the Copper River Meridian (CRM). The sale area is found within the Tanacross A-5 NE USGS Quadrangle. See also map in Appendix A.

B. Operational Period

Calendar years 2025-2033

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 encourage the development of the State's renewable resources, making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest and sustained yield. 2. To assist the State's economy by providing local jobs, purchases, and value-added wood products. 3. To improve forest health and vigor by harvesting and replacing mature and decadent stands with young healthy regenerating ones. 4. Create a mosaic of habitat conditions for game and non-game wildlife species while maintaining riparian habitat.

II. Affected Landowners/Jurisdictions

A. State

Activity on ownership:	Access Easement	Harvest	Written Representative Approval
☒ Tanana Valley State Forest	☐	☒	☐
☐ Other state land managed by DNR	☐	☐	☐
☐ University of Alaska	☐	☐	☐
☐ Mental Health Trust	☐	☐	☐
☐ School Trust	☐	☐	☐

B. Other Land Ownership

	☐	☐	☐

Landowner: None

Landowner Representative: None

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

Stands within this sale area are composed of primarily mature white spruce (*Picea glauca*) sawtimber with minor components of spruce pole timber. The average age of the spruce sawtimber was 115 with some trees exhibiting signs of sweeps, crooks, butt rot, and engraver beetle (*Ips spp.*). Decadent (cavities, butt rot) balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*) was found near riparian areas. Patches of windthrown trees were observed adjacent to the Tok River and were excluded from the harvest. These sites appeared thinned from natural disturbance with regenerating spruce of seedling and sapling size observed growing vigorously throughout. Evidence of seedling and sapling size poplar and Alaska paper birch (*Betula neoalaskana*) was also identified in minor expanses among the windthrow. Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) was the least abundant tree species and was only found in Unit 1 growing in small clusters. These trees were of varying condition (cavities, leaf miner (*Phyllocnistis populiella*), dieback) with many standing dead or downed.

All units are located approximately 1,840 feet above sea level among the forested alluvial flats of the Tok River corridor with several sloughs and small bodies of standing water observed in the lower elevations of the sale. Ground cover vegetation is primarily horsetail (*Equisetum*), prickly rose (*Rosa acicularis*), bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), and false toadflax (*Geocaulon lividum*). The soils overall appeared gravelly, overlain with silt, and contained a layer of moss with an average organic depth of 4 inches.

Evidence of past timber harvest was observed to the east and west of the sale area. There are several regenerating units to the west of Unit 4 and 8 that were observed to be partially harvested sometime in the 1980's. Another three regenerating units to the east of Unit 2 were partially cut around 2010.

B. Timber Harvest Activities

Timber Harvest Activities are displayed in Table 1.

Table 1. Timber Harvest Activities

Unit ID	Acres	Topography	Silvicultural Action	Logging Method
1	122	Flat	Even-aged management utilizing the clearcut system	Ground based logging (skidder, feller buncher)
2	20	Flat	Even-aged management utilizing the clearcut system	Ground based logging (skidder, feller buncher)
3	18	Flat	Even-aged management utilizing the clearcut system	Ground based logging (skidder, feller buncher)
4	9	Flat	Even-aged management utilizing the clearcut system	Ground based logging (skidder, feller buncher)
5	63	Flat	Even-aged management utilizing the clearcut system	Ground based logging (skidder, feller buncher)
6	51	Flat	Even-aged management utilizing the clearcut system	Ground based logging (skidder, feller buncher)
7	34	Flat	Even-aged management utilizing the clearcut system	Ground based logging (skidder, feller buncher)
8	26	Flat	Even-aged management utilizing the clearcut system	Ground based logging (skidder, feller buncher)
Total	**343**			

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
1	122	Mechanical patch scarification	Completed annually following the previous season's harvest

During mechanical site preparation operations should attempt to avoid driving heavy equipment over perceived wildlife denning sites.

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 ≤50%
☐ Maximum percent side slopes are >50%

Percentage of sale area with slopes >50%: __0%__

Maximum percent slopes: ____<10%_____

☒ 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
2,3,6,7,8	Tok River	Type III-B	334-40-11000-2490-3660	Harvest may not be undertaken within 50 feet of the waterbody; between 50 and 100 feet up to 50% of standing white spruce trees having at least a 9" DBH may be harvested	FRPA Best Management Practices (BMPs)
3	Backwater slough	Type III-A	None	Harvest may not be undertaken within 66 FT of the waterbody	FRPA Best Management Practices (BMPs)

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: Several revegetated channels and sloughs were observed where water has not been present for several decades.

G. Wildlife Habitat

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

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

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

Notes: Retention of riparian corridor vegetation will occur along with the intent to maintain standing snags.

H. Cultural and Historical Resource Protection

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

I. Other Resources Affected by Timber Harvest and Management

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

Table 4. Other Affected Resources / Areas of Concern

Impacted Resource	Reviewing Agency	Impact/ Mitigation Actions
None	None	None

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

J. Reforestation

Reforestation will occur utilizing the clearcut method to create space and allow adequate light to reach the forest floor in support of natural regeneration of white spruce and other tree species. There will be some mechanical patch scarification post-harvest to assist the seedbed with germination. The sale area is found within Region III where FRPA requirements are that reforestation must be achieved within seven years after harvest, though the division may allow for a period of up to twelve years for natural regeneration where site conditions indicate a likelihood of success. In Region III the number of seedlings must average a minimum of 450 per acre and must have survived on site for a minimum of two years (11 AAC 95.375).

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: White Spruce (*Picea glauca*), Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), Alaska paper birch (*Betula neoalaskana*), Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)

☒ **Coppice**

List species: Alaska paper birch (*Betula neoalaskana*), Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)

☐ Artificial regeneration

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

_____

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

Source of seedlings (location of seed source): _____

IV. Roads and Crossing Structures

A. Road Design, Construction, and Maintenance

Roads will be designed, constructed, and maintained to prevent significant adverse impacts on water quality and fish habitat (AS 41.17.060(b)(5)), and site productivity (AS 41.17.060(c)(5)). Roads will comply with the best management practices in the Forest Resources and Practices Regulations (11 AAC 95.285 – 95.335). New roads will be constructed to geometric standards identified in the Tanana Valley State Forest Plan. The existing roads will be maintained to the all-season primary road standards set out in the DOF Road Standards.

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	Harvest Unit	Mile**	Road Class	Maximum Grade %*	Constructed By	Maintained By
Oxbow Trail Rd. (Haul Road)	All	1.19	Primary	6%	Purchaser	Purchaser

Table 5B. New Road Construction and Use

Road ID	Harvest Unit	Mile/ Station **	Road Class	Maximum Grade %	Constructed By	Maintained By
Oxbow Trail Spur	1	0.66	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 mile equals 5,280 feet.*

B. Soil Erosion / Mass Wasting

Maximum percent side slopes: _____<10%____

☒ Maximum percent side slopes are ≤50%

☐ Maximum percent side slopes are >50%

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

Table 6. Road Erosion Control Risk and Mitigation

Road ID	Segment	Identified Erosion Risk	Risk Level	Mitigation
Oxbow Trail Rd. (Haul Road)	All	None	Low	FRPA Best Management Practices (BMPs)

General Timber Sale Erosion Control:

☐ Grass seeding ☐ 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

Location	Point Label	Bridge Length (ft.) or Culvert Diameter (in.)	Structure Type [ex. Corrugated Metal Pipe, Ice Bridge]	AS 41.17.950 Stream Classification	ADF&G AWC Number	Duration of crossing structure in place
Tok River	P1	100 FT	Ice Bridge	Type III-B	(Tok River) 334-40-11000-2490-3660	Winter Only

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	Closure Type All Season/Winter	Estimated Closure Date	Projected Road Use after Timber Harvest
Oxbow Trail Rd. (Haul Road)	Inactive	End of harvest	Silviculture, firewood cutting, hunting, fishing, foraging
Oxbow Trail Spur	Inactive	End of harvest	Silviculture, firewood cutting, hunting, fishing, foraging

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:

F. Other Resources Affected by Roads or Material Extraction

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

Table 9. Other Affected Resources

Impacted Resource	Reviewing Agency	Impact / Mitigation Actions
None	None	None

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.

Kato Howard — 07.29.2025

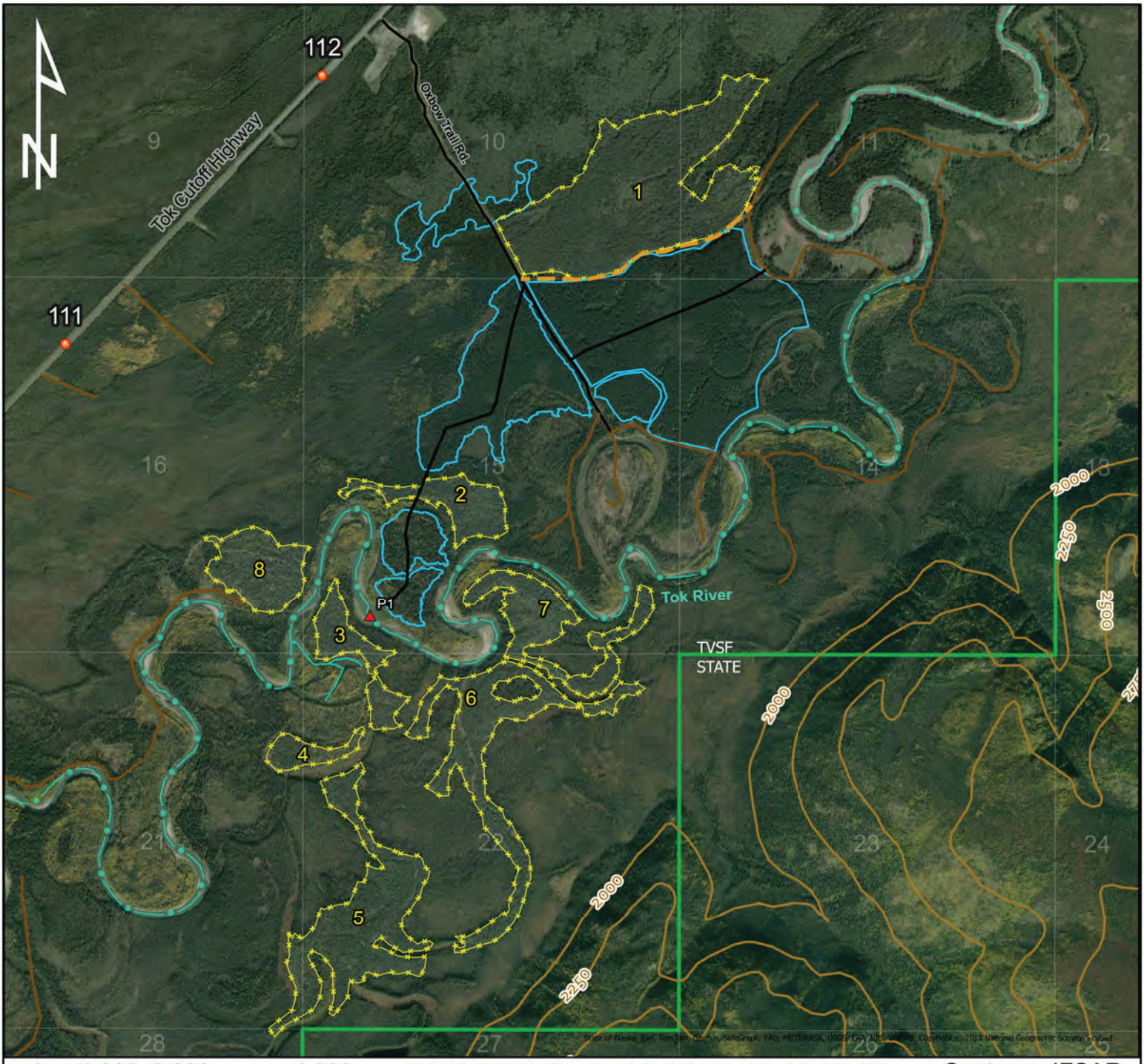
Area Forester — **Date**

K. Meany 2025.07.29 13:59:27 -08'00'

Regional Forester — **Date**

VI. Appendices

Appendix A. Timber Sale Area and Units Maps

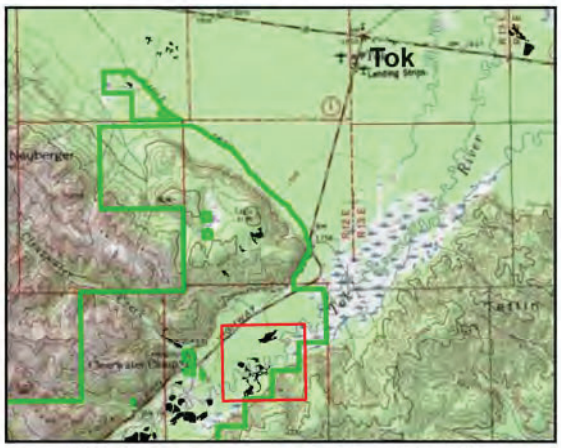


0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet

1 IN = 2000 FT

T16N R12E, Section(s): 10, 11, 15, 16, 21, 22
Copper River Meridian

Contours: IFSAR



Vicinity Map 1 IN = 7 MILES

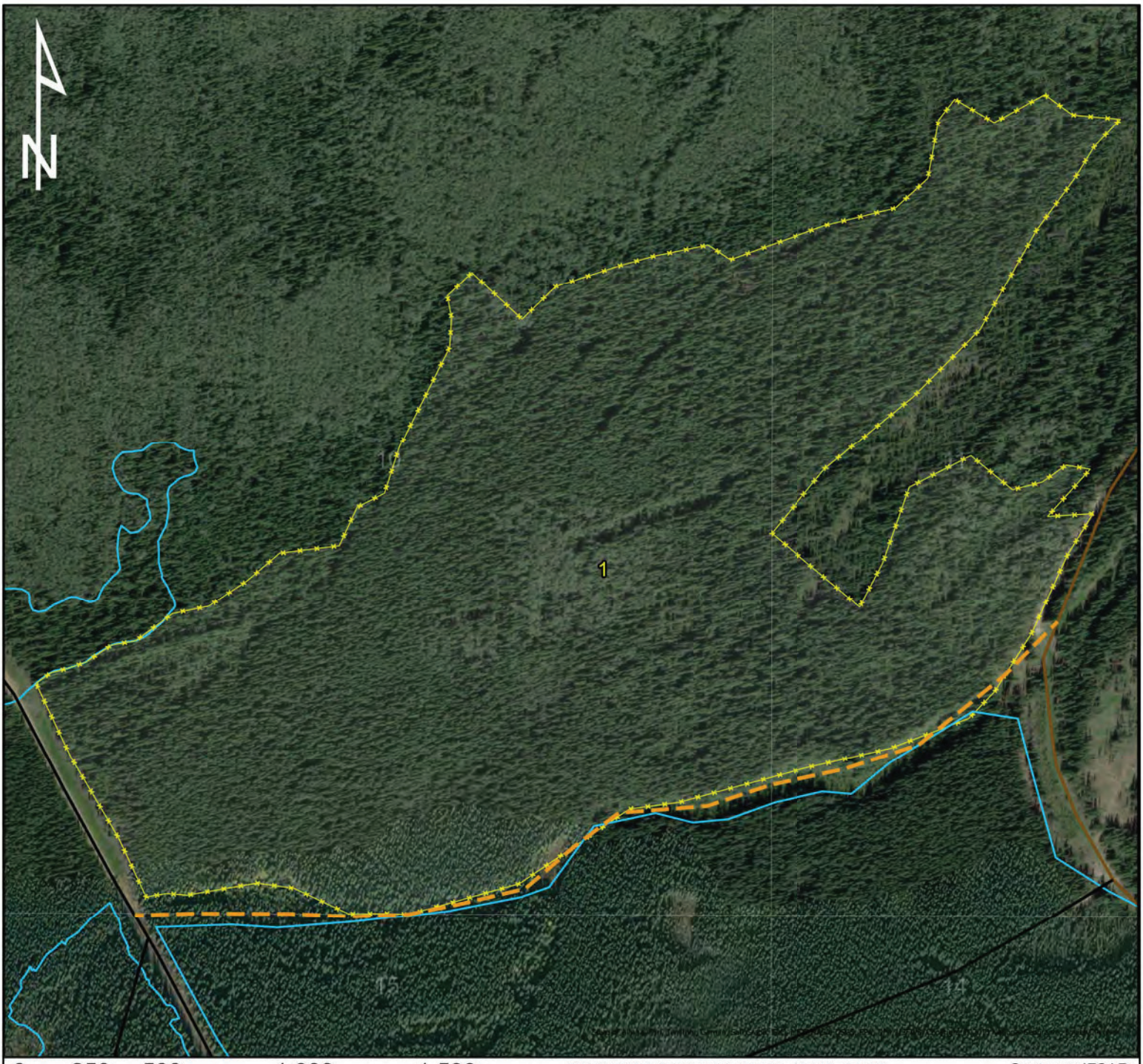
Legend

- Proposed Sale
- Active (Sold) Sale
- TVSF Boundary
- Active Road
- Inactive Road
- Proposed Road
- Type III-A Stream
- Type III-B Stream
- Ice Bridge/Crossing
- Mile Marker

Units 1-8
NC-1783-T
Area Map

ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

TC 7/29/2025



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1 IN = 500 FT

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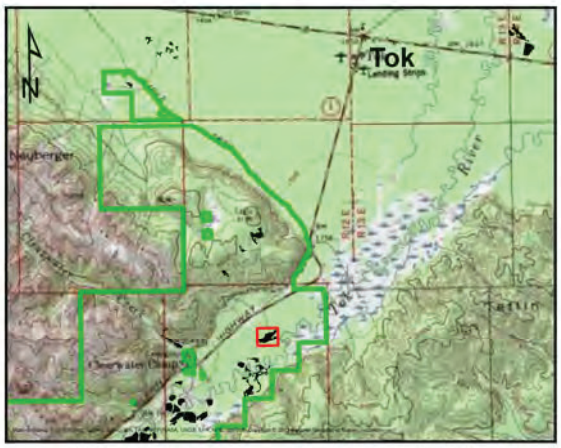

Vicinity Map 1 IN = 7 MILES

Legend

- Proposed Sale
- Active (Sold) Sale
- TVSF Boundary
- Active Road
- Inactive Road
- Proposed Road

Unit 1, Map A
NC-1783-T
Sale Map

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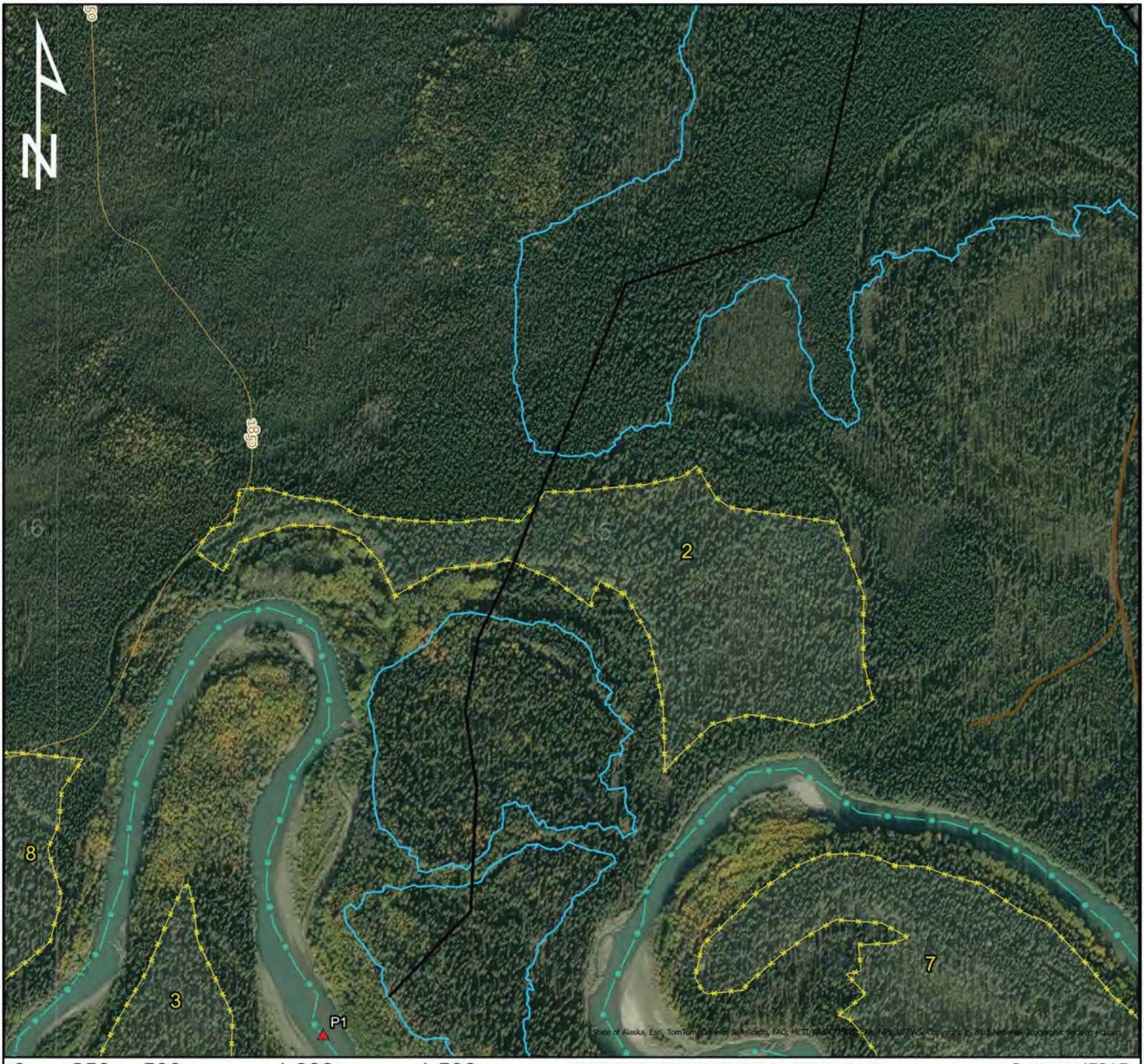

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1 IN = 500 FT

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Copper River Meridian

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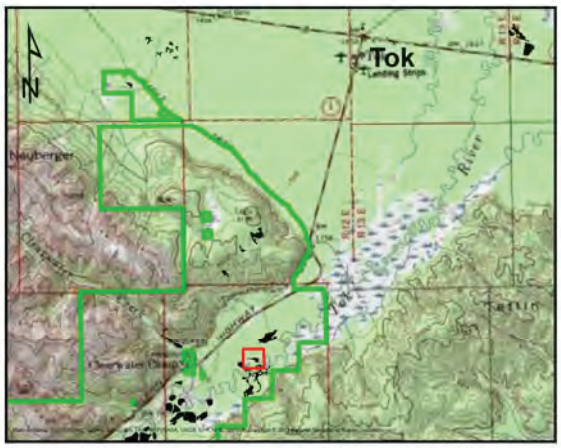

Vicinity Map 1 IN = 7 MILES

Legend

- Proposed Sale
- Active (Sold) Sale
- TVSF Boundary
- Active Road
- Inactive Road
- Type III-B Stream
- Ice Bridge/Crossing

Unit 2, Map B
NC-1783-T
Sale Map

ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

TC 7/29/2025

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1 IN = 500 FT

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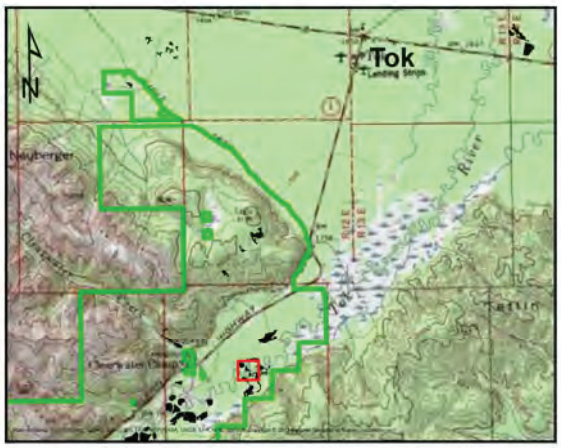
Copper River Meridian

Contours: IFSAR



Vicinity Map 1 IN = 7 MILES

Legend

- Proposed Sale
- Active (Sold) Sale
- TVSF Boundary
- Active Road
- Inactive Road
- Type III-A Stream
- Type III-B Stream
- Ice Bridge/Crossing

Unit 3, Map C
NC-1783-T
Sale Map

ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

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1 IN = 300 FT

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Copper River Meridian

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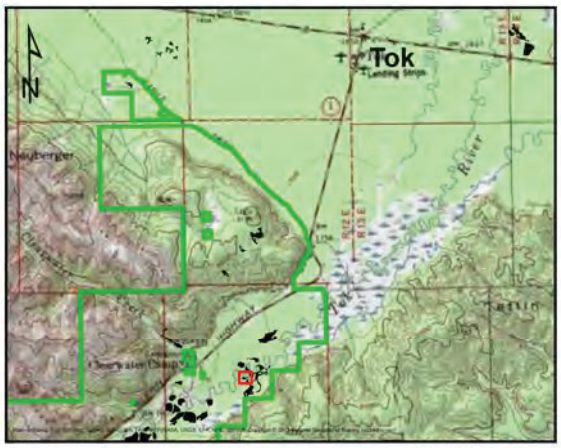

Vicinity Map 1 IN = 7 MILES

Legend

- Proposed Sale
- TVSF Boundary
- Type III-A Stream
- Type III-B Stream

Unit 4, Map D
NC-1783-T
Sale Map

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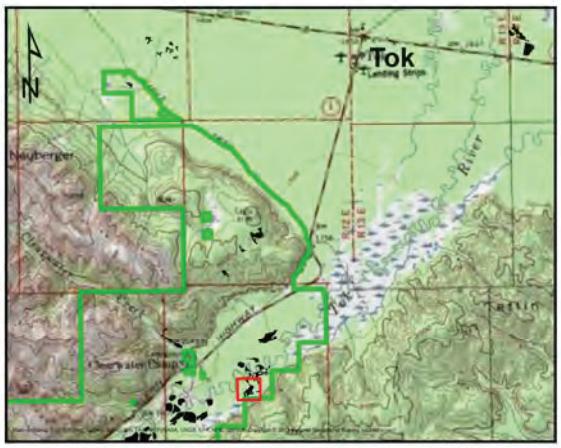

Vicinity Map 1 IN = 7 MILES

Legend

- Proposed Sale
- TVSF Boundary

Unit 5, Map E
NC-1783-T
Sale Map

ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

TC 7/29/2025

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1 IN = 600 FT

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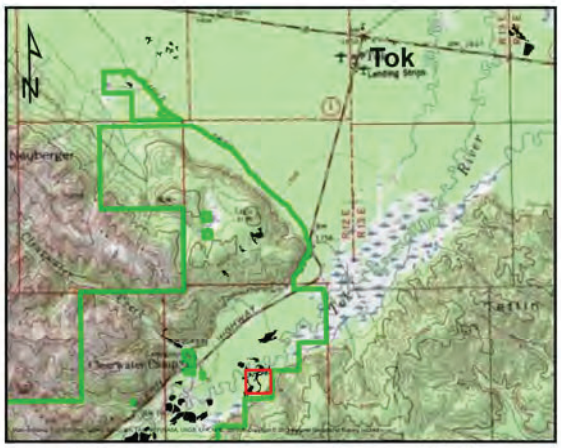


Vicinity Map 1 IN = 7 MILES

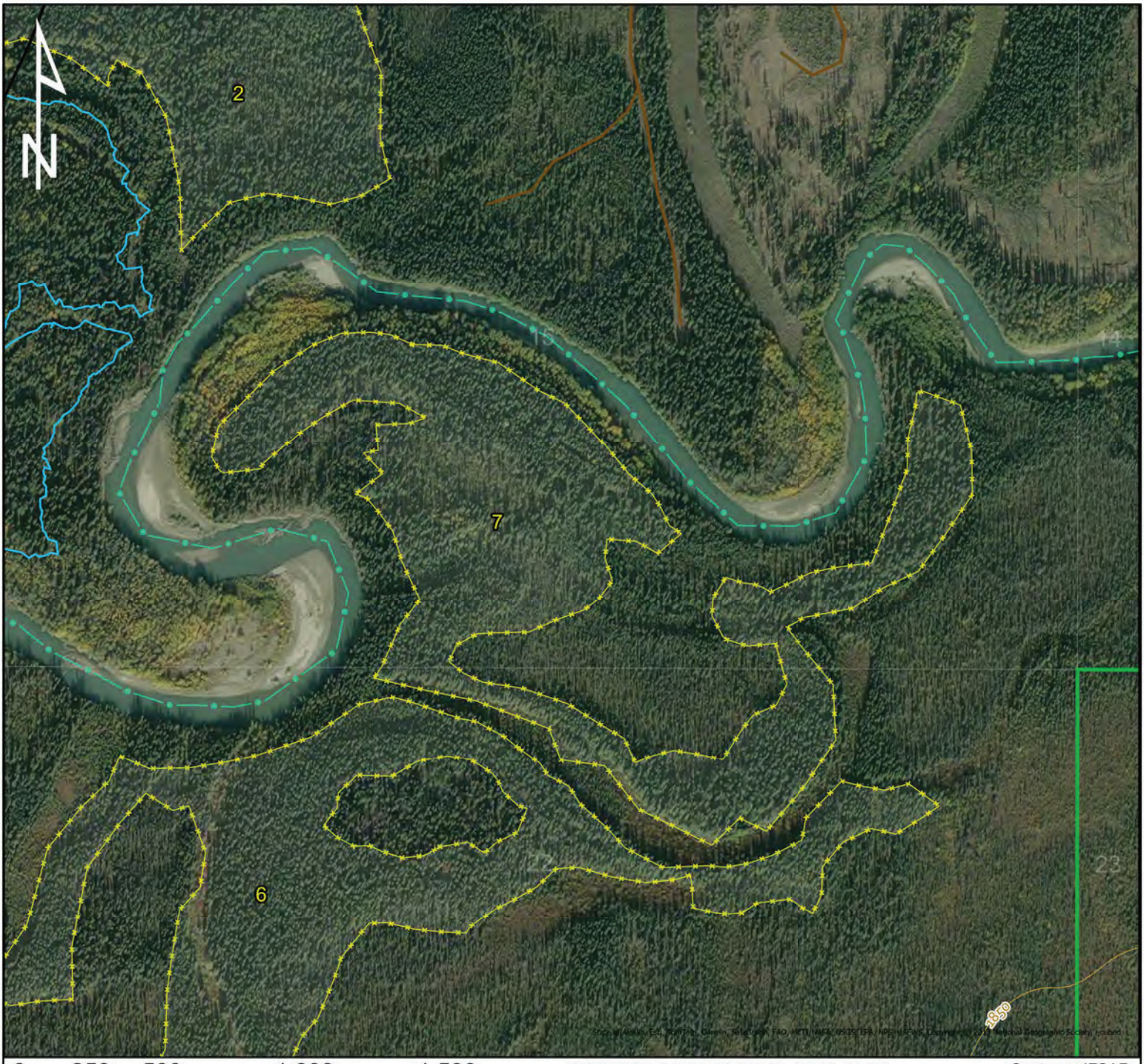
Legend

- Proposed Sale
- TVSF Boundary
- Type III-A Stream
- Type III-B Stream

Unit 6, Map F
NC-1783-T
Sale Map

ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

TC 7/29/2025



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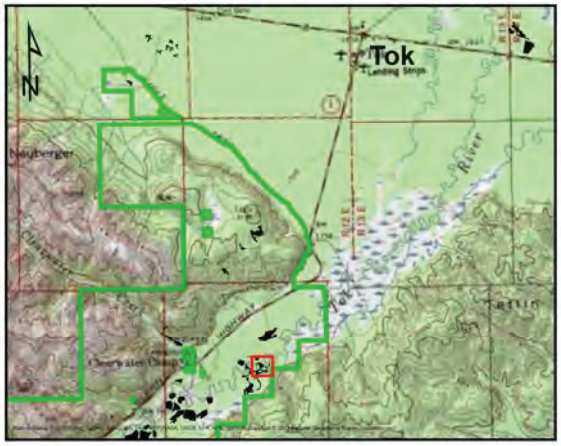
1 IN = 500 FT

T16N R12E, Section(s): 10, 11, 15, 16, 21, 22
Copper River Meridian

Contours: IFSAR



Vicinity Map 1 IN = 7 MILES

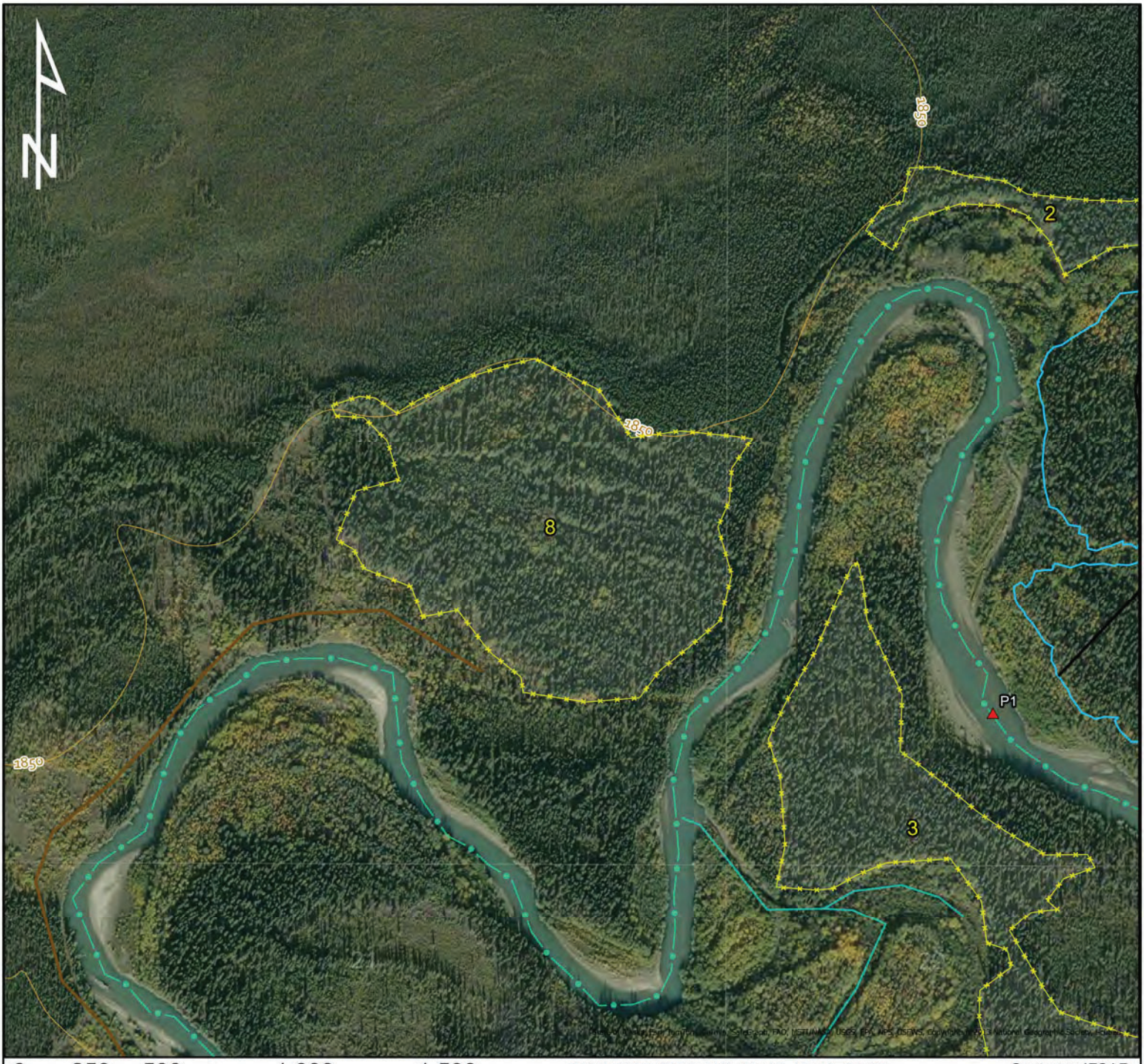
Legend

- Proposed Sale
- Active (Sold) Sale
- TVSF Boundary
- Active Road
- Inactive Road
- Type III-B Stream

Unit 7, Map G
NC-1783-T
Sale Map

ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

TC 7/29/2025

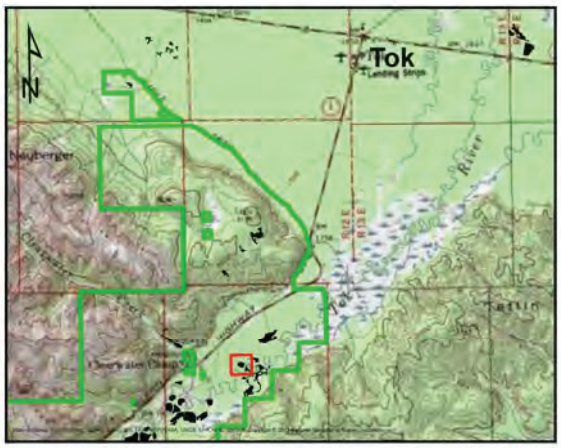


0 250 500 1,000 1,500 Feet

1 IN = 500 FT

T16N R12E, Section(s): 10, 11, 15, 16, 21, 22
Copper River Meridian

Contours: IFSAR



Vicinity Map 1 IN = 7 MILES

Legend

- Proposed Sale
- Active (Sold) Sale
- TVSF Boundary
- Active Road
- Inactive Road
- Type III-A Stream
- Type III-B Stream
- Ice Bridge/Crossing

Unit 8, Map H
NC-1783-T
Sale Map

ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

TC 7/29/2025