

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



Northern Region
Draft Forest Land Use Plan

Young Negotiated Timber Sale, Harvest Units 9-10
NC-1783-T

April 2026

Abbreviations

ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ADNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
AS	Alaska Statute
BIF	Best interest finding
CCF	One hundred cubic feet
DMLW	Division of Mining, Land and Water
DFFP	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
TVSF	Tanana Valley State Forest

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I. Introduction

Project File Number: NC-1783-T

Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Office: Northern Region
Forester: Tom Cheney
Forest Practices Geographic Region (AS 41.17.950): Region III

This Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) covers proposed forest operations on approximately 66 acres of mature white spruce forest located 14 miles southwest 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 **May 21, 2026** to ensure consideration for review. Comments should be mailed to the State of Alaska, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection, Northern Region Office, 3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99709 or by email to tom.cheney@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 DFFP 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:

ADNR-DFFP Forest Road and Bridge Standard Design

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 Northern Region Office filed as NC-1783-T.

A. Legal description

Township 16 North, Range 12 East, Sections 7, 8, 17, 18, 20 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 2026-2033

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 forest resources, making them available for maximum use under the sustained yield model.
2. To assist the State’s economy by providing local jobs, purchases, and value-added wood products.
3. To improve forest health by harvesting and replacing mature and decadent stands with young and vigorous regenerating ones
4. Create a mosaic of wildlife habitat conditions for game and non-game wildlife species while maintaining riparian habitat, water quality standards, and prompt reforestation.

II. Affected Land Owners/Jurisdictions

A. State

Activity on ownership:	Access Easement	Harvest	Written Representative Approval
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tanana Valley State Forest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 Ownership

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Land Owner: Quitclaim Deed (QCD) No. 1227, A public access easement twenty-five feet in width along the existing road that runs from the Glenn Highway northwesterly along the east bank of the Clearwater Creek through U.S. Survey No. 10185, Alaska to the Old Glenn Highway.

Land Owner Representative: N/A

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 approximately 1,950-2,150 feet above sea level within the valley bottom of the Clearwater Creek, a non-glacial tributary of the Tok River. Units are composed of primarily white spruce (*Picea glauca*) sawtimber with a minor component of spruce pole timber/fuelwood. Sawtimber on average was 140 years old with Unit 10 containing approximately 26 CCF/acre and Unit 9 18 CCF/acre. Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera*) of varying size and condition can be found in clusters near riparian areas. The stands most common defects are sweeps, crooks, broom rust, and butt rot. Numerous windthrown spruce sawtimber with unsound roots were noted with pockets of regenerating spruce and poplar of seedling and sapling size scattered throughout. Common vegetation found included willow (*Salix spp.*), alder (*Alnus spp.*), equisetum (*Equisetum spp.*), prickly rose (*Rosa acicularis*), and lingonberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*). The soil overall appeared rubble in substrate, overlain in silt with a moss/lichen layer of several inches.

Residents and visitors alike have utilized the area historically for hunting, trapping, and recreating. There is an existing dirt road/trail that parallels Clearwater Creek from the Tok Cutoff Highway northwest up the creek drainage.

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
9	9	Flat	Even-aged management utilizing the clearcut system	Ground-based logging
10	57	Flat	Even-aged management utilizing the clearcut system	Ground-based logging
TOTAL	66			

C. Site Preparation

- Site preparation will not be necessary. A shallow organic layer, soil disturbance by logging on the existing seedbed, and mature seed trees outside unitline boundaries are all expected to assist with regeneration post-harvest.
- Site preparation will be implemented and described in Table 2:

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 DFFP and DEC to be acquired.
- The operator will contact the DFFP 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: 5%

- 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(s) 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
9,10	Clearwater Creek	Type III-A	None	Retain timber per AS 41.17.118(a)(3)(B) and AS 41.17.119(3)	FRPA Riparian Standards & 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.

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.
- Retention of snags and hardwoods- Spruce snags and some live poplar may be left on site for cavity nesting species and other wildlife.
- Fine Woody Debris – logging debris interspersed within harvest units to provide cover left on site.
- Other actions: Slash piles (minor) – interspersed as habitat features for denning and cover.

- Spruce snags and live poplar may be left within units so long as they do not create hazardous situations. These trees may provide wildlife with nesting platforms, perches to hunt from, escape cover, and cavities for maternal dens.
- Some slash piles and fine woody debris may be retained within units to offer habitat for small mammals and other non-game species. Slash accumulation will to be kept to a minimum so as not to impede reforestation.

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.)
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.

I. Reforestation

Reforestation will occur utilizing the clearcut system to create space and allow adequate light to reach the forest floor in support of the natural regeneration of white spruce and other commercial tree species. The proposed sale area is found within Region III where 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). If natural regeneration does not occur within the required timeframe or evidence suggests the unlikelihood, artificial regeneration will be prescribed in the form of planting (seedlings or cuttings), direct seeding or a combination.

Harvest type as it relates to reforestation requirement:

- Clearcut, Even-Aged Management
- 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*)

- Coppice

List species: Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera*)

- 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). New and existing roads will be constructed and maintained to the road standards set out in the ADNR-DFFP Road and Bridge Standard Design. 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
Eagle Trail Road	9,10	1.0	All Season Secondary Road	8%	Purchaser	Purchaser

Table 5B. New Road Construction and Use

Road ID	Harvest Unit	Mile **	Road Class	Maximum Grade %	Constructed By	Maintained By
Spur 83-9	9	0.08	All Season Spur	12%	Purchaser	Purchaser
Clearwater Road	10	0.9	All Season Spur	12%	Purchaser	Purchaser

Road Class is defined in the DFFP 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: 5%

- 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	Identified Erosion Risk	Risk Level	Mitigation
Eagle Trail Road	Existing Road Route	Low	Upgrade Road to ADNR-DFFP Road Standards & FRPA Best Management Practices (BMPs)
Spur 83-9	None	None	FRPA Best Management Practices (BMPs)
Clearwater Road	None	None	FRPA Best Management Practices (BMPs)

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 needed to prevent water quality degradation:

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 managed as inactive post-harvest subject to standards under 11 AAC 95.315(c), or closed, subject to standards under 11 AAC 95.320.

Table 8. Road Closures

Road ID	Unit	Closure Type	Estimated Closure Date	Projected Road Use after Timber Harvest
Eagle Trail Road	9,10	Inactive	End of harvest	Silvicultural activities, hunting, trapping, mining, recreating
Spur 83-9	9	Inactive	End of harvest	Silvicultural activities, hunting, trapping, recreating
Clearwater Road	10	Inactive	End of harvest	Silvicultural activities, hunting, trapping, recreating

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

Thomas Cheney _____ 04/16/2025 _____

Resource Forester

Date



_____ 4/2/2026 _____

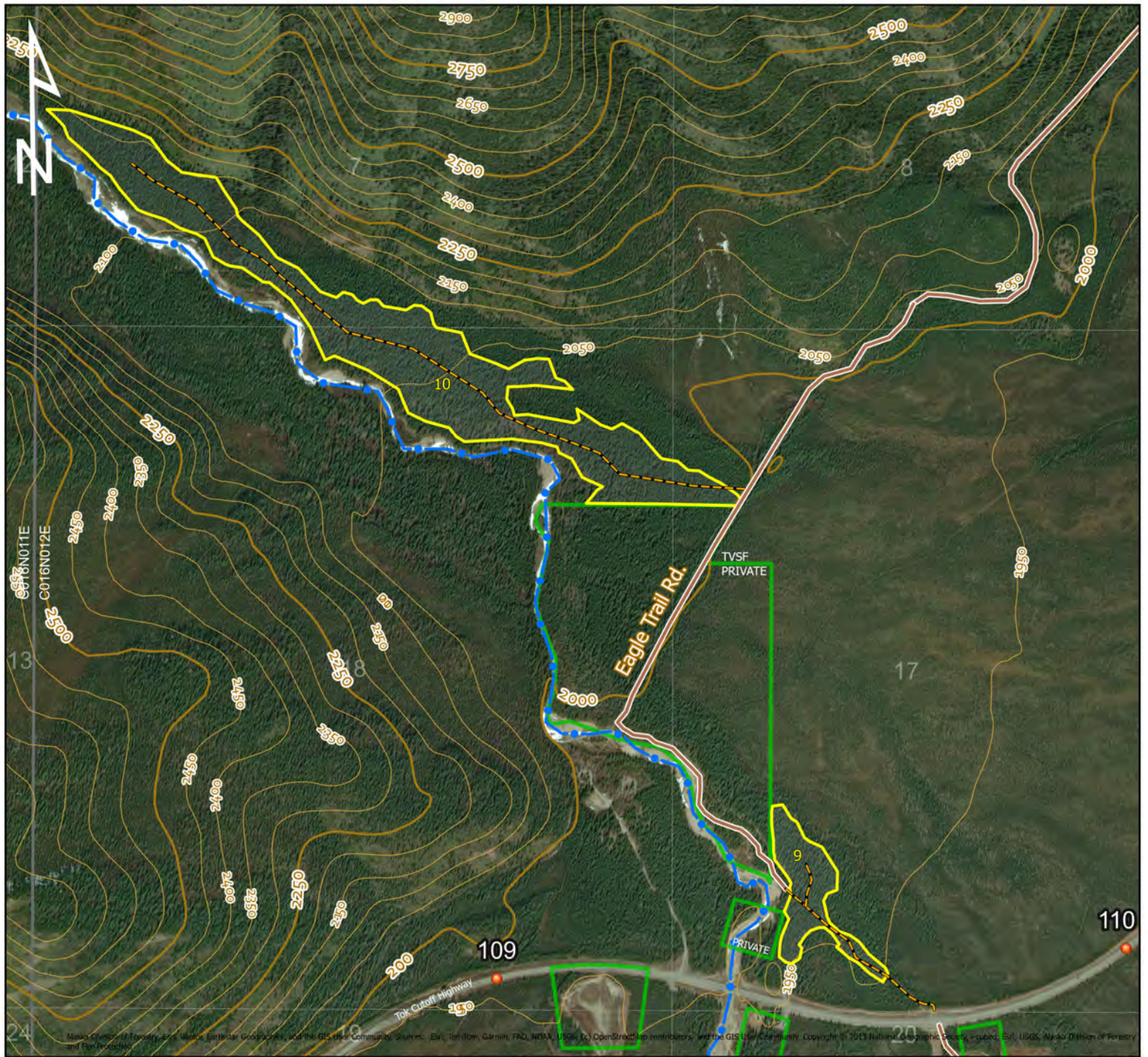
Regional Forester

Date

KEVIN MEANY

VI. Appendices

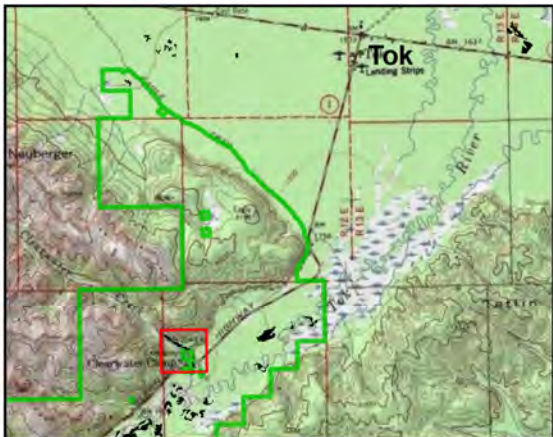
Appendix A: Timber Sale Area and Unit Maps



0 550 1,100 2,200 Feet
 1 IN = 1100 FT

T16N R12E, Section(s): 7, 8, 17, 18, 20
 Copper River Meridian

Contours: 50 FT
 Source: IFSAR

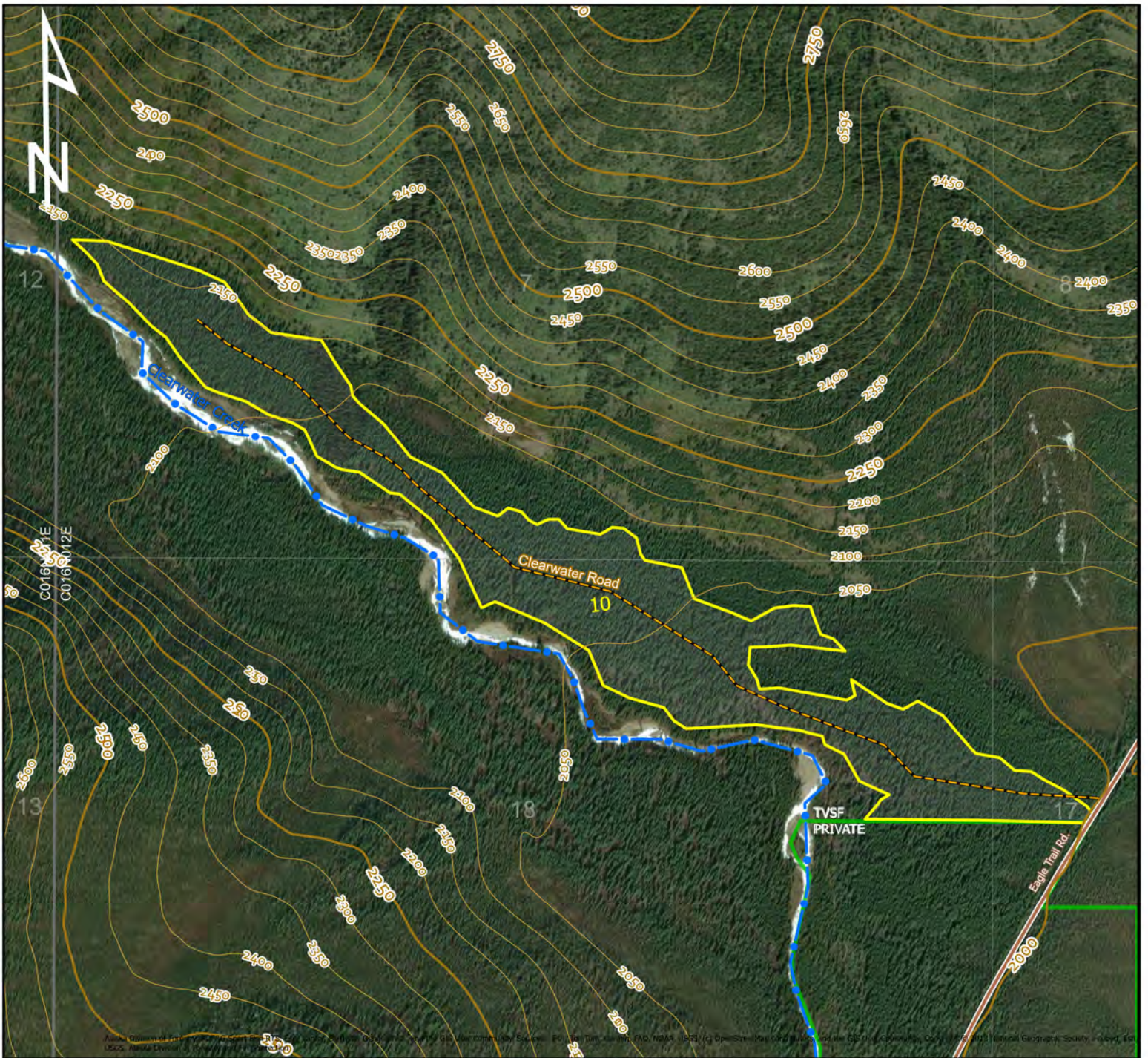


Vicinity Map 1 IN = 7 MILES

Legend	
	Proposed
	TVSF Boundary
	Inactive Road
	Proposed Road
	Type III-A Stream
	Mile Marker

Units 9-10 NC-1783-T Area Map

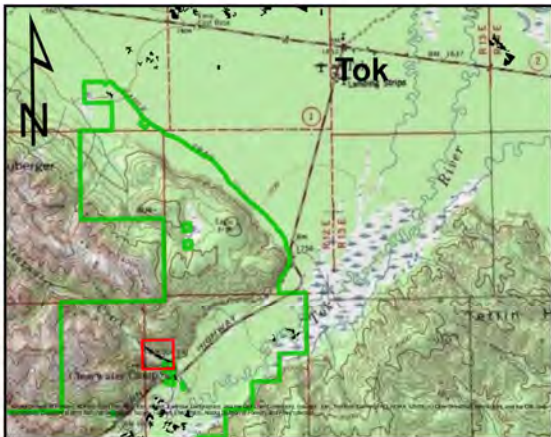




0 250 500 1,000 1,500
 US Feet
 1 IN = 750 FT

T16N R12E, Section(s): 7, 8, 17, 18
 Copper River Meridian

Contours: IFSAR
 Interval: 50 FT



Vicinity Map 1 IN = 7 MILES

Legend

- TVSF Boundary
- Proposed Sale
- Type III-A Stream
- Inactive Road
- Proposed Road

**UNIT 10
 NC-1783-T
 Sale Map**

