

# Alaska Board of Forestry Meeting – February 10, 2026

## Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Program Updates

### Current GNA Timber Sales

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#### **Kosciusko Island GNA Timber Sale**

The Kosciusko Island GNA Timber Sale SPA expired December 31, 2025. All timber harvest and related activities have been completed, except for natural regeneration surveys, which are scheduled to be completed by Forest Service silviculture staff during the 2026 field season. A third-party independent “Lessons Learned Review” of the project was also completed and included recommendations to improve future GNA and Young-Growth timber sales. DFFP staff are working closely with Forest Service staff in its Washington and Regional offices to officially close out the project. Final project accounting and close-out are scheduled to be completed prior to April 2026. Project revenue derived from the sale and harvest of federal timber has been transferred to the Thomas Bay GNA SPA. Project revenue necessary for the Forest Service to complete natural regeneration stocking surveys at Kosciusko will be tracked and accounted for through the Thomas Bay GNA SPA.

#### **Vallenar Bay GNA Timber Sale**

The Vallenar Bay GNA Timber Sale SPA and timber sale contract were both extended for another one-year period; the new project expiration date is October 1, 2026. To date, the state portion of the timber sale is substantially completed, and the timber sale purchaser has completed construction of the road needed to access the federal timber and has hauled and scaled the ROW timber volume associated with constructing the road. With the lifting of the Chinese phytosanitary constraints in November, the purchaser stated late in 2025, that it plans to harvest the remaining federal timber in 2026. The DFFP continues to coordinate with the Forest Service to provide timber sale administration services, including both office and field-related tasks.

#### **Thomas Bay GNA**

Discussions between DFFP and Forest Service staff concerning project implementation are ongoing. Currently unresolved issues revolve around the projected need to expand the upland log storage area at the MAF/LTF, the disrepair of public float dock, and the need to replace a log culvert on a Forest Service system road. The discussion also involves developing a strategy to accommodate the various commercial users of the site (the USFS IRSC contractor, Gravel operator, and a separate GNA timber sale operator). DFFP staff are continuing to investigate a possible road location needed to cross the Patterson River to access state timber located on the east side of the River. The current strategy is to prepare and offer a GNA timber sale in 2026 or later, depending on industry demand for Young-Growth timber from the project area.

### Planning for Future GNA Timber Sales

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#### **New GNA Master Agreement**

The Forest Service’s updated GNA Master Agreement (MA) template is currently undergoing Department-level review which has delayed implementation in Alaska. DFFP staff are working closely with Forest Service Regional office staff to draft a new Agreement, recognizing it may need minor

modifications once the new template is officially approved. The Agreement may also need to be updated to reflect provisions contained in the Shared Stewardship Agreement, once that document is finalized. Once finalized, the new MA will be in place for at least ten years and will authorize development of GNA projects on both the Tongass and Chugach National Forests.

### **El Cap North on Prince of Wales Island (POW)**

DFFP staff, working closely with Forest Service staff, have identified a potential unit pool to form the basis of a GNA project involving timber harvest and resource restoration in the vicinity of Neck Lake on Prince of Wales Island. The greatest difficulty in designing this project is the relative lack of NEPA-cleared timber harvest units on POW. In early February, DFFP and FS staff will meet to formulate a strategy around NEPA-clearing the proposed harvest units so far identified; all harvest units currently planned for inclusion in the near-term project will require some level of new NEPA analysis since most were originally NEPA-cleared over a decade ago or not at all. A concerted effort will be made to clear newly designed units by means of Categorical Exclusion. The current unit pool contains areas of both Old-Growth and Young-Growth timber. Resource restoration will likely focus on improving forest health and wildlife habitat. The DFFP and Forest Service staff continue to investigate the feasibility of incorporating timber harvest from existing 4407 easements proximate to the project area to improve public safety, reduce road maintenance costs, and provide additional timber volume to the project. The short-term goal is to prepare and offer a modest GNA timber sale in 2026, and the longer-term goal is to design and implement a large GNA timber sale in 2027 or later, by including planned harvest units located on northern POW and which are currently undergoing NEPA analysis by the Forest Service.

### **South Revilla Island**

DFFP and Forest Service staff had previously agreed to put GNA project discussions on hold until the NEPA process was finalized. The Forest Service recently published its draft Record of Decision (ROD) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the South Revilla Island timber sale. The project area is accessed from Ketchikan via the Shelter Cover road system. DFFP staff and Forest Service staff will resume discussions aimed at identifying which portions of the project should be considered for a near-term GNA timber sale, including areas designated for helicopter harvest. The goal is to prepare and offer a GNA timber sale in 2026 or 2027.

### **Heceta Island**

Forest Service staff have nearly completed the NEPA process necessary to authorize DFFP to construct two temporary roads cross NFS land to access state owned lands and timber located on portions of Heceta Island. Once road access to state timber is approved by the Forest Service, DFFP and Forest Service staff will begin designing a GNA timber sale to involve harvest and removal of both state and federal timber, mainly Young-Growth timber. The current vision is to prepare and offer a GNA timber sale in 2027.

### **Permanent GNA Forester PCN**

Included in the current budget request before the Legislature, the Division has requested a new permanent GNA Forester position. This new position, if approved and hired, will increase total program staffing from one to two GNA Foresters, and will enable DFFP to provide for long-term GNA program durability and expansion in Alaska.