

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



Northern Region - Fairbanks-Delta Area Office
Draft Forest Land Use Plan

Nenana Ridge Complex Fire Salvage

**NC-2083-F, NC-2087-F, NC-2088-F, NC-2089-F, NC-2090-F, NC-
2091-F, NC-2092-F, NC-2093-F, NC-2094-F, NC-2095-F, NC-2096-F,
NC-2099-F, NC-2300-F, NC-2301-F, NC-2302-F, NC-2303-F, NC-
2304-F, NC-2305-F, NC-2306-F, NC-2307-F, NC-2308-F, NC-2309-F**

October 2025

Abbreviations

AAC	Alaska Administrative Code
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	100 cubic feet (timber volume)
DBH	Diameter at breast height (4.5 feet above ground)
DMLW	Division of Mining, Land and Water
DOF	Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
FLUP	Forest Land Use Plan
FNSB	Fairbanks-Northstar Borough
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
YTAP	Yukon Tanana Area Plan

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I. Introduction

Project File Numbers: NC-2083-F, NC-2087-F, NC-2088-F, NC-2089-F, NC-2090-F, NC-2091-F, NC-2092-F, NC-2093-F, NC-2094-F, NC-2095-F, NC-2096-F, NC-2099-F, NC-2300-F, NC-2301-F, NC-2302-F, NC-2303-F, NC-2304-F, NC-2305-F, NC-2306-F, NC-2307-F, NC-2308-F, NC-2309-F

Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Office: Fairbanks-Delta Area

Area Forester: Kevin Breitenbach

Forest Practices Geographic Region (AS 41.17.950): Northern Region (III)

This Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) covers proposed forest operations on approximately 200 acres of spruce sawlog and 300 acres of mixed fuelwood from state lands within the Tanana Valley State Forest along the north and south sides of the Parks Highway between mileposts 325 and 340 within the footprint of the Nenana Ridge Complex Fire. 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; Preliminary Best Interest Finding and Decision for Nenana Ridge Complex Fire Salvage, NC-2083-F, NC-2087-F, NC-2088-F, NC-2089-F, NC-2090-F, NC-2091-F, NC-2092-F, NC-2093-F, NC-2094-F, NC-2095-F, NC-2096-F, NC-2099-F, NC-2300-F, NC-2301-F, NC-2302-F, NC-2303-F, NC-2304-F, NC-2305-F, NC-2306-F, NC-2307-F, NC-2308-F, NC-2309-F.

☐ 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 by the DOF Fairbanks-Delta Area Office by **4:30pm AKST Friday November 21st, 2025** in order to ensure consideration for review. Comments should be mailed to the State of Alaska, Division of Forestry

& Fire Protection, 3700 Airport Way Fairbanks, AK 99701 or by email to andrew.allaby@alaska.gov. For more information you may contact Fairbanks-Delta Resource Forester Andrew Allaby at (907) 451-2603 or andrew.allaby@alaska.gov. To be eligible to participate in any appeal or request for reconsideration of the final decision, a person must be affected by the decision, and must have submitted comments 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
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The administrative record for this sale is maintained at the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Fairbanks-Delta Office filed as NC-2083-F, NC-2087-F, NC-2088-F, NC-2089-F, NC-2090-F, NC-2091-F, NC-2092-F, NC-2093-F, NC-2094-F, NC-2095-F, NC-2096-F, NC-2099-F, NC-2300-F, NC-2301-F, NC-2302-F, NC-2303-F, NC-2304-F, NC-2305-F, NC-2306-F, NC-2307-F, NC-2308-F, NC-2309-F, with additional NC-numbers to be catalogued as additional opportunities are reconned and laid out for sale within the scope of this project area.

A. Legal description

- Township 1 South, Range 5 West
- Township 1 South, Range 6 West
- Township 2 South, Range 4 West
- Township 2 South, Range 5 West
- Township 2 South, Range 6 West
- Township 2 South, Range 7 West
- Township 3 South, Range 4 West
- Township 3 South, Range 5 West
- Township 3 South, Range 6 West

B. Operational Period

Approximately 3 years from the “Effective Date” on the signed contract. Timber contracts administered by the Fairbanks-Delta Area Office generally have a 3-year operational period terminating on May 31st of the third year.

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

- Provide the raw material for the industry to produce timber products providing benefits to the state and local economy through employment opportunities.
- Harvest the fire-killed sawtimber and/or fuelwood before a significant decrease in viability occurs and return the site to a young productive mixed stand forest.
- Provide firewood for the residential heating needs of interior Alaska communities.
- Promote multiple use management that provides for the production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources while perpetuating personal, commercial, and other beneficial non-timber uses of the forest resources.

II. Affected Land Owners/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

☐ ☐ ☐

Land Owner: N/A

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

These stands are fire-killed sawlog spruce on medium to high productivity upland sites. Stands are comprised largely of sawlog spruce with occasional spruce fuelwood and incidental birch fuelwood. Stands are generally in a late-successional spruce sawtimber stage. Fire severity varies across these stands from a mosaic of intense crown fire to areas of creeping ground burn. Sections with any severity of ground burning caused widespread damage to spruce root systems and are subject to widespread windthrow and toppling, as the crowns are still holding considerable weight. The areas directly adjacent to the black spruce lowlands that carried crown fire are largely remaining standing, as trees in these areas are not as top-heavy as the surface-burned areas.

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
All Units	500	Slopes 10-25%	Fire Salvage	Ground based, whole tree harvest

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
All Units	500	No site prep needed	N/A

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: 30%

- ☒ 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
	NONE				

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:

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:

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		

- ☒ 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

The sale area will be reforested in compliance with the Forest Resources and Practices regulations (11 AAC 95.375-.390) Natural regeneration will be utilized initially for reforestation. The sale has been laid out so that unburned areas adjacent to the boundary include mature, robust spruce and birch trees to provide seed to these units. Incidental root-collar sprouting of birch is also anticipated. The Nenana Ridge Complex fire removed much of the duff layer from the forest floor, resulting in abundant mineral soil that will provide suitable microsites for seedling establishment and limit grass competition. Reforestation will be assessed within five years post-harvest, and a regeneration survey will be conducted if regeneration appears marginal or sporadic. If the survey indicates inadequately stocked areas, then scarification may be performed on non-stocked areas. The goal for regeneration is to achieve a minimum of 450 evenly distributed trees per acre at the end of the regeneration survey period (any commercial tree species).

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 (these sale units require winter harvest: NC-2096-F Unit 2, NC-2095-F Units 1 and 2)
- ☐ Non-winter harvest only
- ☒ All-season harvest (the sale units not mentioned above may be considered for all-season harvest where soil erosion concerns are minimal and remnant organic layers may be thick enough to impair reforestation, and any additional units identified during future reconnaissance efforts situated on well-drained upland soil types)

Timber harvest will be limited to winter access within all proposed sales to facilitate safe operations and hasten stand regeneration, except in instances where Foresters identify favorable all-season operating conditions. Winter access will be beneficial on sites where hydrophobic ash layers and thin remnant organic layers make the ground surface slippery and difficult for equipment operation. Winter access will reduce soil compaction and erosion from equipment, as well as reduce impacts to any advanced regeneration and conserve topsoil. All-season access will be considered for sale areas where soil erosion concerns are minimal, and remnant organic layers are thick enough to impair tree seedling recruitment.

Regeneration type:

- ☒ Natural regeneration

List species: White spruce, Alaska Birch

- ☒ Coppice

List species: Alaska Birch, Quaking Aspen

- ☐ 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).

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 5.

Table 5. Road Construction and Use

Road ID	Segment	Harvest Unit	Mile/ Station	Road Class	Maximum Grade %*	Constructed By	Maintained By
Bonanza Creek Road	1	All Bonanza Creek Units	4.5	Primary	8%	DOF	Operator
Camp 78 Road	2	All Bonanza Creek Units except: NC-2092-F NC-2093-F NC-2094-F	4.3	Secondary	8%	DOF	Operator
Bonanza 4.5 Mile Spur	2	NC-2092-F NC-2093-F NC-2094-F	2.2	Secondary	8%	DOF	Operator
Nenana Ridge Road	1	NC-2095-F	9	Primary	8%	DOF	Operator
Upper Grouse Road	2	NC-2095-F	1.5	Secondary	8%	DOF	Operator
Skinny's Road	1	Personal Use Areas and additional harvest units	6	Primary	8%	DOF	Operator
Incidental secondary road construction	N/A	All units & Personal Use Areas	<5 miles	Secondary	8%	DOF or Operator	Operator
Incidental spur road construction	N/A	All units	<5 miles	Spur	8%	Operator	Operator
Incidental winter road construction	N/A	Personal Use Areas	<5 miles	Winter	8%	Operator	Operator

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.*

Notes: Existing roads are listed as DOF-constructed and must be maintained as part of these timber sales. Any new road construction to access the proposed harvest areas will be constructed by the Operator to the standards set out in AFRPA and the 2016 DNR-DOF Road Standards. Bonanza Creek Road is gated and shall remain locked when not in use

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.

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:

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.

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
Bonanza Creek Long-Term Ecological Research Station (LTER)	DOF	Bonanza Creek Road will remain gated and locked by purchasers to protect research activities and to maintain its value for manipulative and observational research.

V. Approvals for Draft FLUP

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.

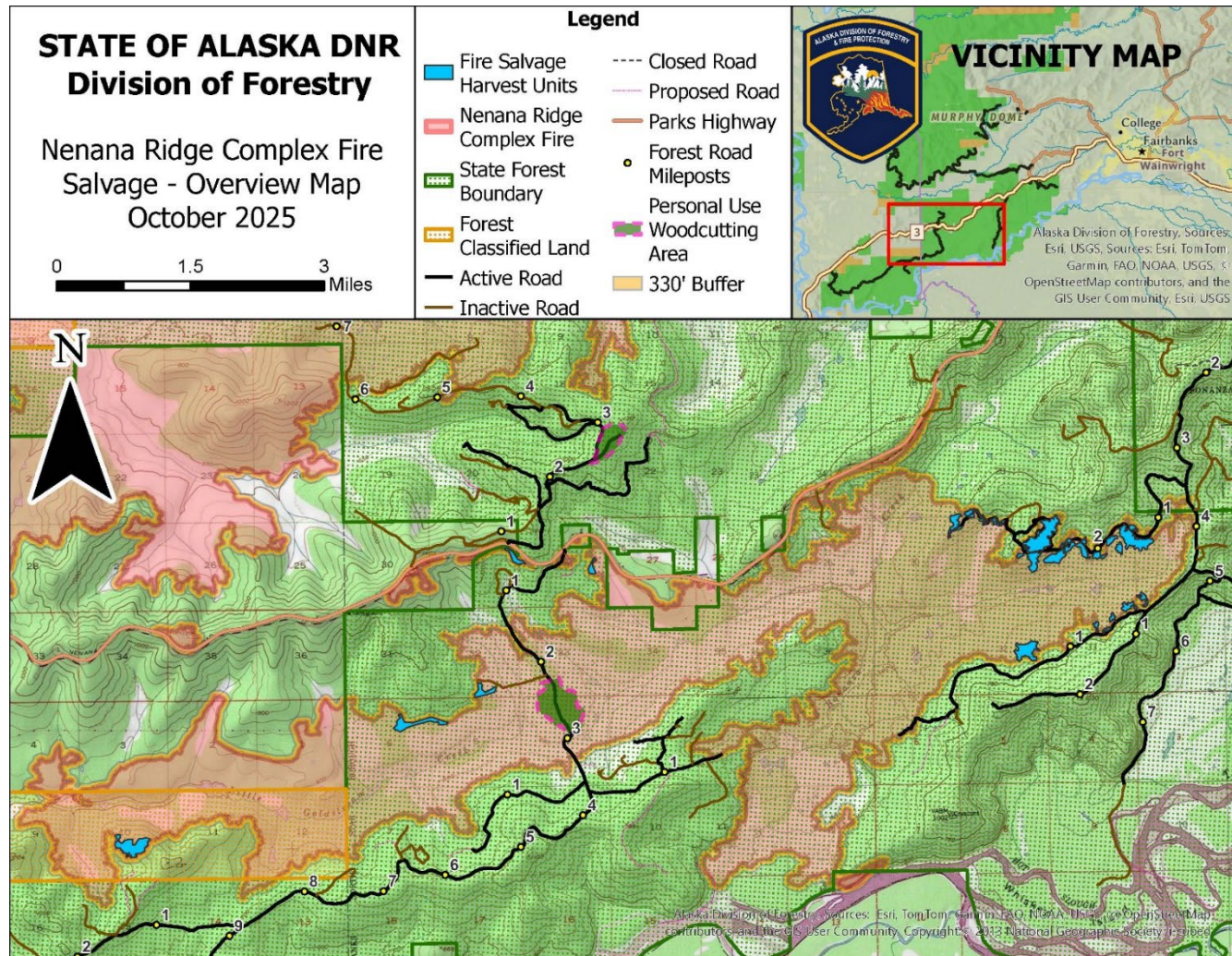
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Area Forester	Date

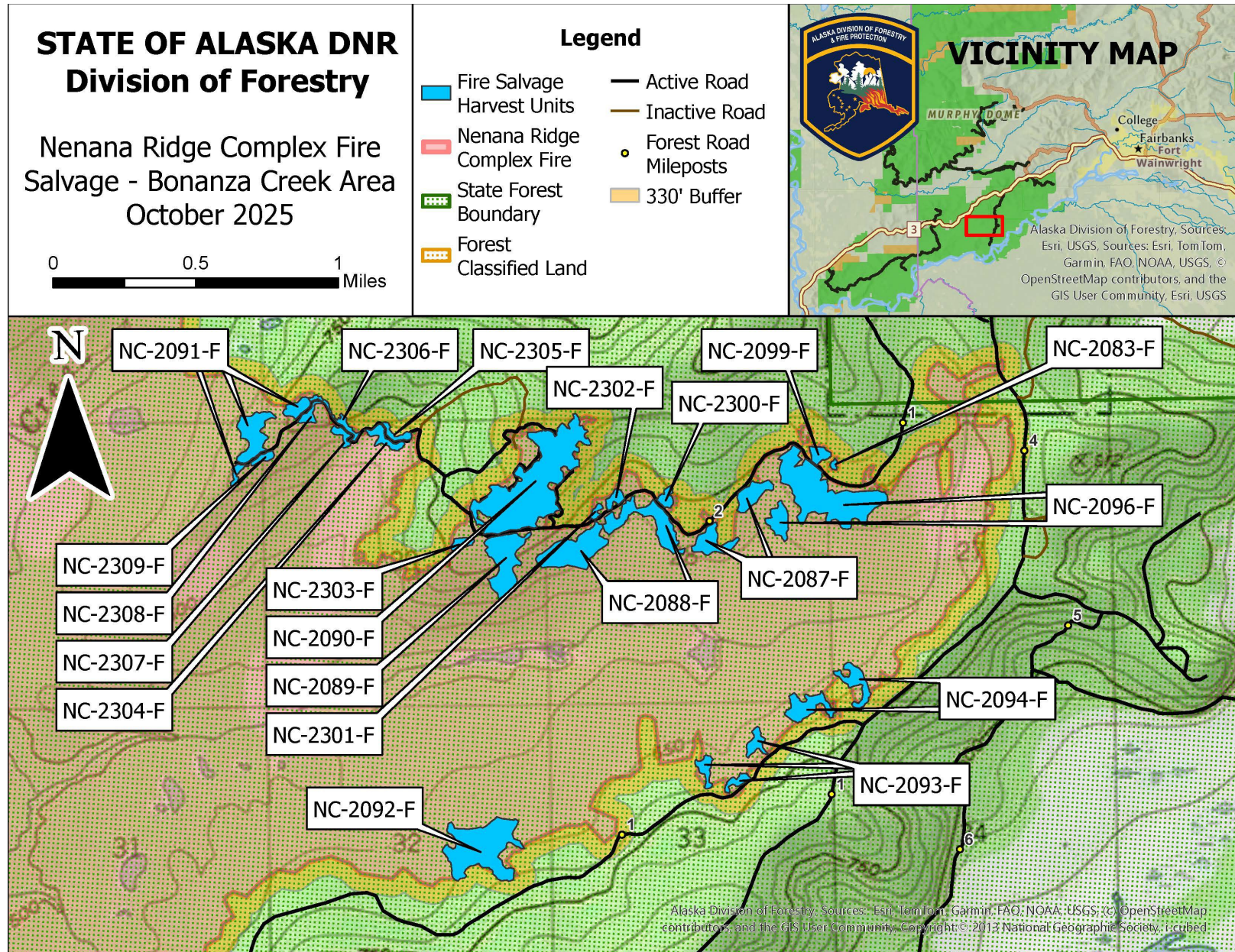
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Regional Forester	Date

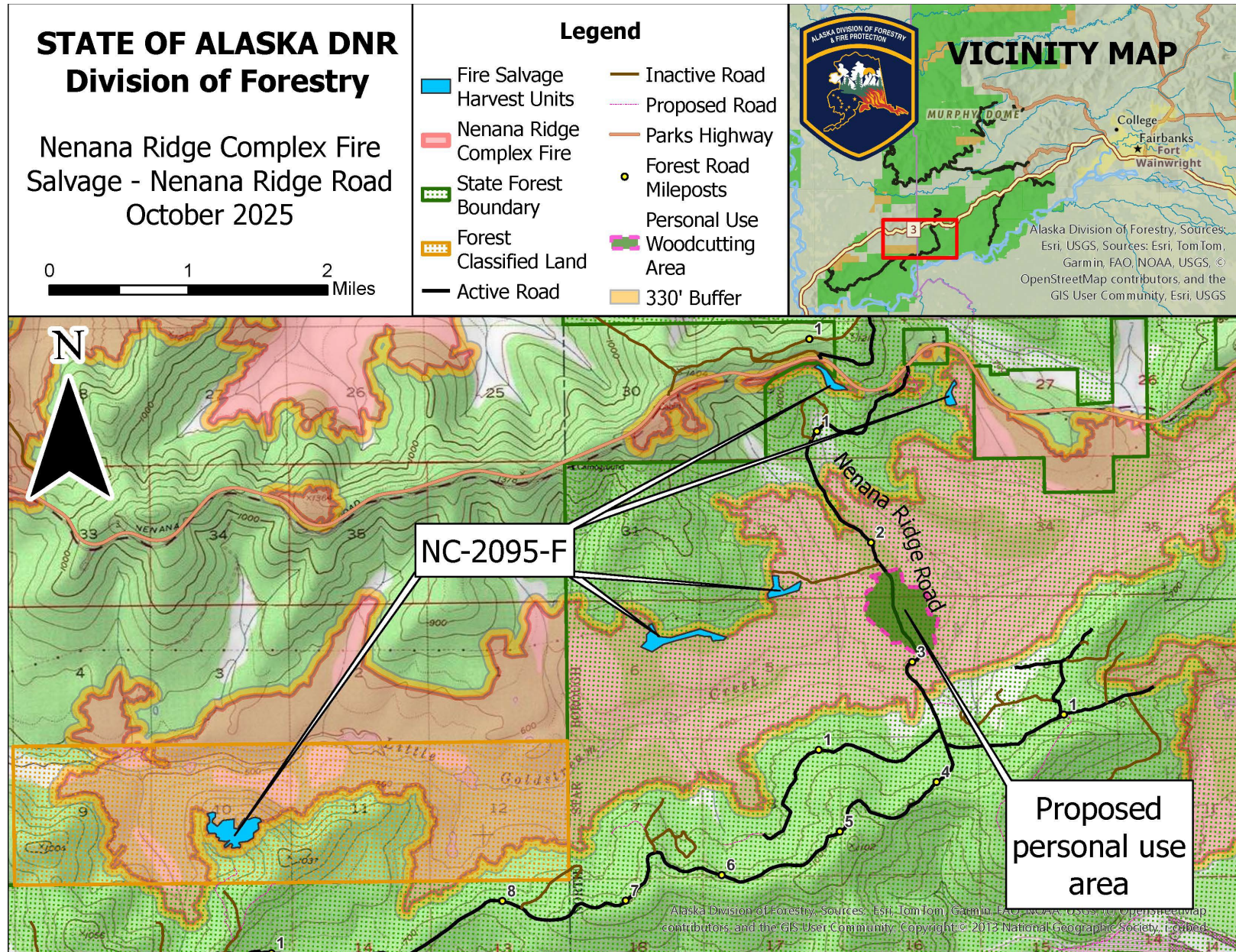
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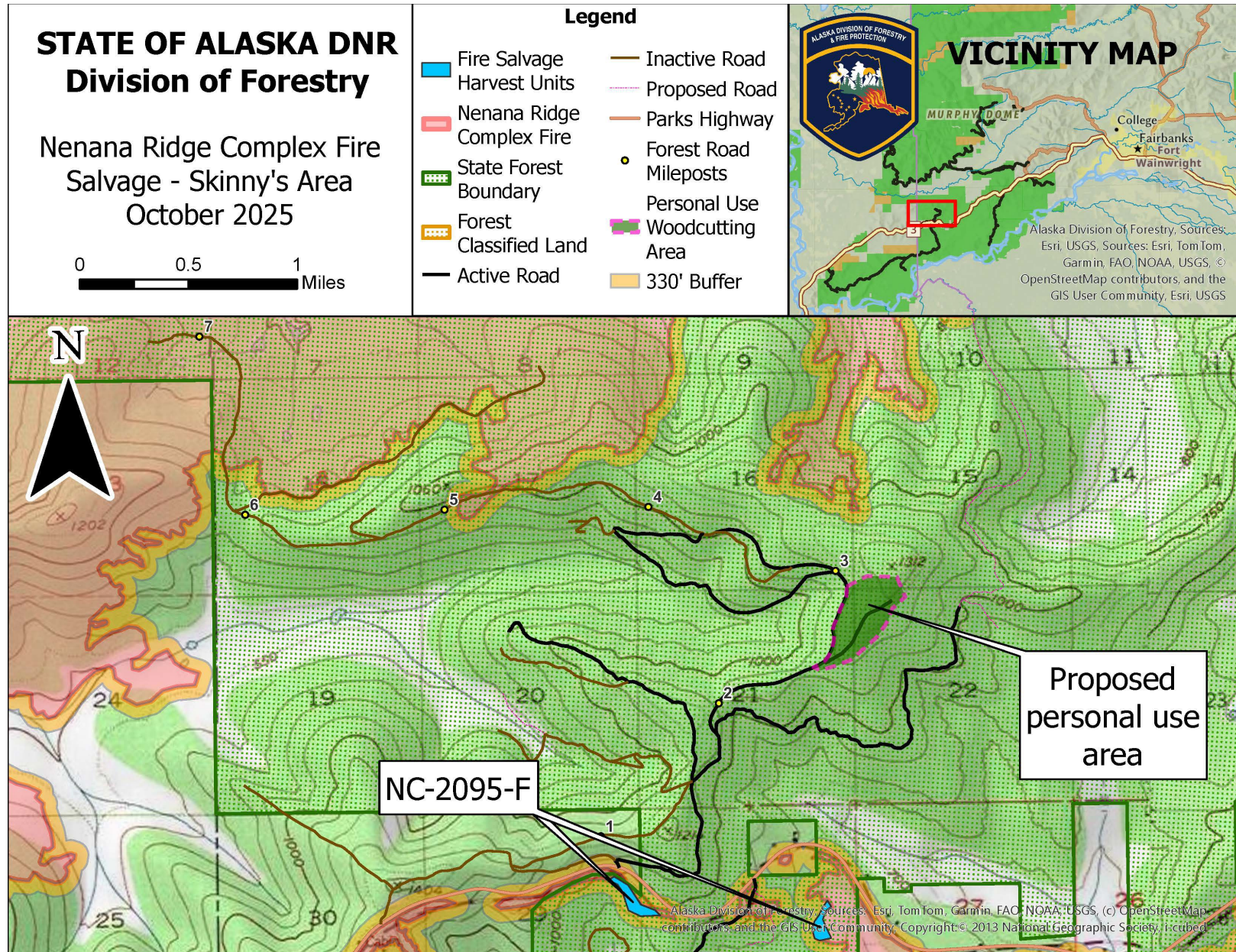
VI. Appendices

Appendix A: Timber Sale Maps









Appendix B: Supporting Information

Reforestation Supporting Information

For Region II or Region III partial harvest relying on residual trees to result in a stocking level that meets standards of 11 AAC 95.375(b)(4). Stocking levels will be calculated as follows:

Table 1. Stocking Level Requirements

Average DBH (Diameter at breast height)	Residual Trees (Trees/acre)	Minimum Stocking Standard (Trees/acre)	Percent Stocking
≥ 9"		120	%
6" to 8"		170	%
1" to 5"		200	%
Total Residual Stocking			%

Seedlings Required:

Percentage Under stocked = 100 – Total Residual Stocking %

Percentage Under stocked = 100 – _____ % = _____ %

Seedlings/ Acre Required = Percentage Understocked/100 x 450

Seedlings/ Acre Required = _____ % /100 x 450 = _____

☐ 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): _____

☒ Natural regeneration: provide known information on the following indicators of suitability for natural regeneration. If a box is checked “no,” please explain/describe the condition. N/A means “not applicable.”

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Yes No N/A Unknown

Seedbed and soil conditions suitable for natural regeneration

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | Moss layers are shallow ($\leq 4''$) or absent |
| ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | Where birch or spruce regeneration is targeted, exposed mineral soil will exist on at least 25% of the harvest area and is well-distributed across the unit |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | Where aspen regeneration from suckering is targeted, root damage will be minimal and soil exposure will encourage warming. |

Yes No N/A Unknown

Seed/vegetative reproduction sources available

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | Exposure to prevailing winds, if known |
| ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | Adequate seed trees exist within 3 tree heights of the reforestation site for spruce or within 2 tree heights for birch
<i>Explanation: unburned forest stands within 0.1 mile of >75% of the sale areas. Fire creates receptive seedbed for light-seeded hardwood species. Regeneration has been seen in similar salvage harvests in the Gilles Creek, Carla Lake, and Camp Creek fires.</i> |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | Where spruce regeneration is targeted, large seed crop in year prior to harvest or current year |
| ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | Where vegetative reproduction is targeted the harvest area contains sufficient, well-distributed paper birch, aspen, balsam poplar, western black cottonwood, red alder, or other species known to regenerate vegetatively as approved by the Division |

Yes No N/A Unknown

Competition and infestation risk

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | <i>Calamagrostis</i> (bluejoint grass) is not visually evident. If <i>Calamagrostis</i> is visually evident, describe abundance and distribution. <u>Note:</u> <i>Calamagrostis</i> coverage of more than 1-2% distributed across the site indicates that grass coverage may expand rapidly after harvest without treatment. |
| ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | <i>Equisetum</i> (horsetail) is present prior to harvest |
| ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | The site is not currently subject to intense herbivory due to peaks in the hare cycle, dense moose populations, or scarcity of browse in the surrounding landscape. |
| ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | Existing stands are not infested with bark beetles (<i>Dendroctonus</i> or <i>Ips</i>) |
| ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | Where spruce regeneration is targeted, harvest areas are free of known incidence of <i>Onnia tomentosus</i> root rot. <u>Note:</u> <i>tomentosus</i> can kill regeneration of spruce and, to a lesser degree, pine and larch. If <i>tomentosus</i> is present, describe the extent of the problem in the notes box below. Design reforestation to minimize continuation or spread of the disease. |