STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

FAIRBANKS-DELTA AREA FORESTRY

FINAL BEST INTEREST FINDING AND DECISION FOR
BONANZA CREEK TIMBER PROJECT AREA
NC-1236-F, NC-1638-F, NC-1833-F, NC-2331-F, NC-2341-F, NC-2342-F, NC-2344-F, NC-2582-F, NC-2583-F

NOVEMBER 2026

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
BIF	Best interest finding
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
TVSFMP	Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan 2025

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I. PROPOSED ACTION

DFFP is proposing to offer for sale approximately 544 acres of spruce and birch sales from Tanana Valley State Forest lands within the Bonanza Creek Road area south of the Parks Highway and west of Fairbanks. DFFP intends to sell the timber as commercial offerings through the competitive bid (AS 38.05.120) program and/or small negotiated sale program (AS 38.05.115) over at least a 2-year period. For this project area, the PBIF and Draft FLUP were issued for review at the same time. The land covered by this BIF appeared in the 2024 and/or 2026 Fairbanks-Delta Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales (FYSTS).

The management objectives for the proposed timber sales are:

- Provide raw material for the forest industry to produce timber products that provide benefits to the state and local economy through employment opportunities.
- Harvest the commercial sawtimber and fuelwood before a significant decrease in vigor occurs and return the site to a young, productive mixed 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 forest resources.

II. STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The Division is taking this action under the authority of

- AS 38.05.035(e) Best Interest Finding;
- AS 38.05.110-120 and 11 AAC 71, Timber Sale Statutes and Regulations; and
- AS 41.17.010-950 and 11 AAC 95 Forest Resources and Practices Statutes and Regulations.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The Division will maintain an administrative record regarding the decision of whether or not to proceed with the action as proposed. This record will be maintained at DFFP's Fairbanks-Delta Area Office filed as NC-1236-F, NC-1638-F, NC-1833-F, NC-2331-F, NC-2341-F, NC-2342-F, NC-2344-F, NC-2582-F, NC-2583-F.

IV. SCOPE OF DECISION

This final best interest finding (BIF) completes step three of a six-step process to design, sell, and administer timber sales. This BIF covers the sale of approximately 544 acres of spruce and birch sales from state lands in the Bonanza Creek Road area depicted in the attached maps (see Appendix A). The following list summarizes the overall process:

Step 1: Regional planning. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) develops area plans and state forest management plans to designate appropriate uses for state land, classify the land accordingly, and establish management guidelines for multiple use. These plans determine where timber sales are an allowed use, and what other uses must be considered when designing and implementing sales. Subsequent land use decisions must be consistent with the area plans. The

area in this BIF is covered by the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan and the Eastern Tanana Area Plan (ETAP), and the BIF is consistent with this plan.

Step 2: Five-year Schedule of Timber Sales (AS 38.05.113). A proposed timber sale must appear in at least one of the two Five-year Schedules preceding the sale. The land covered by this BIF appeared in the 2026 Fairbanks-Delta FYSTS.

Step 3: Best Interest Finding. DFFP must adopt a final BIF before selling timber. A best interest finding is the decision document that:

- Ensures that the best interest of the State will be served by this proposed action,
- Establishes the overall area within which the timber sale may occur,
- Determines the amount of timber that will be offered for sale and the duration of the sale,
- Sets the overall harvest and reforestation strategy for the sale area,
- Determines whether the sale proposal complies with the Constitutional requirement to manage for sustained yield by evaluating the amount of timber in the sale and the annual allowable cut for the affected area,
- Selects the appropriate method of sale (i.e., competitive or negotiated sale), and
- Determines the appraisal method that will be used to determine the sale price.

DFFP issued a Preliminary BIF on 10/8/2026 covering the decision to sell approximately 544 acres of spruce and birch sales from state lands in the Bonanza Creek Road area in a competitive bid sale for commercial use. DFFP considered all written comments received during the 30-day review period. Responses to the comments are listed in **Section VII**.

This document is the final BIF for Bonanza Creek Timber Project Area 2026. 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.

Step 4: Forest Land Use Plans (AS 38.05.112). Prior to authorizing harvest of timber on any area greater than 10 acres, the DFFP must adopt a site-specific Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) for the harvest area. DFFP will prepare FLUP(s) for the harvest area within the overall sale area covered by this BIF. FLUPs specify the site, size, timing, and harvest methods for harvest unit within the sale area. FLUPs also address site-specific requirements for access construction and maintenance, reforestation, and multiple use management. FLUPs are based on additional field work, agency and community consultation, and site-specific analyses by the DFFP, and are subject to public and agency review.

Step 5: Timber sales and contracts. Following adoption of the final BIF, and completion of the FLUP, DFFP will offer the timber for sale by auctioning competitive sales and/or negotiating some sales with purchasers. The Division will sign a contract with the winning bidder for each sale. The contract will include stipulations to ensure compliance with the best interest finding, FLUP, and statutory requirements.

Step 6: Sale administration. DFFP will administer the timber sale and conduct field inspections to ensure compliance with the final BIF, FLUP, timber sale contract, and applicable laws,

including the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and regulations (AS 41.17 and 11 AAC 95), and forest management statutes and regulations in AS 38.05 and 11 AAC 71.

V. PROJECT LOCATION, LAND STATUS, AND DESCRIPTION

A. Location

The proposed project area is located approximately 21 miles southwest of Fairbanks along the Bonanza Creek Forest Road, which connects to the Parks Highway at mile 338.7. The project area is within TVSF Subunit 5A. Access passes through Subunit 5B, the UAF Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest.

The proposed sales are located within the Fairbanks Meridian at:

- **NC-1236-F / Camp 78 Spruce:** a 1-unit, 135-acre spruce sale located 3.4 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road, then west 2.3 miles on the Camp 78 Spur Road. The proposed sale is within Sections 20, 21, 28 & 29, Township 2 South, Range 4 West.
- **NC-1638-F / Bonanza Creek South Spruce:** a 1-unit, 48-acre spruce sale located 4.5 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road, then west 3.0 miles on the Bonanza West Spur Road. 1.1 miles of new spur road must be constructed to reach the sale boundary. The proposed sale is within Sections 6-7, Township 3 South, Range 4 West.
- **NC-1833-F / Bonanza Birch #1:** a 1-unit, 22-acre birch sale located 2.6 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road, then west 0.8 miles on a spur road. The proposed sale is within Sections 16 & 21, Township 2 South, Range 4 West,.
- **NC-2331-F / Mantis Spruce:** a 1-unit, 45-acre spruce sale located 8.2 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road adjacent to the Tanana River. The proposed sale is within Sections 9 & 16, Township 3 South, Range 4 West.
- **NC-2341-F / Chili Bean Mixed:** a 1-unit, 28-acre mixed wood sale located 4.5 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road, then west 1.2 miles on the Bonanza West Spur Road. The proposed sale is within Section 32, Township 2 South, Range 4 West.
- **NC-2342-F / Green Bean Mixed:** a 1-unit, 19-acre mixed wood sale located 4.5 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road, then west 1.4 miles on the Bonanza West Spur Road. The proposed sale is within Sections 32-33, Township 2 South, Range 4 West,.
- **NC-2344-F / Soy Bean Spruce:** a 2-unit, 96-acre spruce sale located 3.4 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road, then west 3.9 miles on the Camp 78 Spur Road. The proposed sale is within Section 20, Township 2 South, Range 4 West.
- **NC-2582-F / Birchnanza:** a 1-unit, 109-acre birch sale located 4.5 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road, then west 3.0 miles on the Bonanza West Spur Road. 0.6 miles of new spur road must be constructed to reach the sale boundary. The proposed sale is within Sections 6-7, Township 3 South, Range 4 West,.
- **NC-2583-F / Butterfly Birch:** a 2-unit, 42-acre birch sale located 4.5 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road, then west 3.0 miles on the Bonanza West Spur Road. The proposed sale is within Sections 31-32, Township 2 South, Range 4 West, and Sections 5-6, Township 3 South, Range 4 West, F.M.

B. Title status

The proposed sale areas covered by this PBIF include land selected and patented by the State, and designated by the Legislature as part of the Tanana Valley State Forest. There are no known title restrictions on the area. These lands are subject to eventual conveyance to the University of Alaska as a land grant in 2055 (ADL 229382). Existing access roads to the proposed sales pass through the UAF Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest, designated as TVSF Subunit 5B. Subunit 5B is managed under a 55-year lease to the US Forest Service (ADL # 21408) which extends through 2074.

- **NC-1236-F / Camp 78 Spruce:** was selected by the State through GS542 and patented under 50-73-0010.
- **NC-1638-F / Bonanza Creek South Spruce:** was selected by the State through MH33 and patented under 1220531.
- **NC-1833-F / Bonanza Birch #1:** was selected by the State through GS540 (F002S004W16) and GS540 (F002S004W21), and patented under 50-73-0010.
- **NC-2331-F / Mantis Spruce:** was selected by the State through GS543 and patented under 50-73-0024 within F003S004W09, and was selected by the State through SCH174 and patented under 1227157 within F003S004W16.
- **NC-2341-F / Chili Bean Mixed:** was selected by the State through GS542 and patented under 50-73-0010.
- **NC-2342-F / Green Bean Mixed:** was selected by the State through GS542 and patented under 50-73-0010.
- **NC-2344-F / Soy Bean Spruce:** was selected by the State through GS542 and patented under 50-73-0010.
- **NC-2582-F / Birchnanza:** was selected by the State through MH33 and patented under 1220531.
- **NC-2583-F / Butterfly Birch:** was selected by the State through MH33 and patented under 1220531 within T2SR4W, and was selected by the State through GS542 and patented under 50-73-0010 within T3SR4W.

C. Land use planning, classification, and management intent

The proposed area is within the Tanana Valley State Forest (TVSF) in Management Subunit 5A. Subunit 5A will be managed “for timber production, wildlife habitat, and recreation

while minimizing impacts to scenic values along the Parks Highway and Tanana River where feasible and prudent." There are no specific restrictions on timber sales within Subunit 5A directed by the TVSF Management Plan.

Access to the project area crosses Subunit 5B, the Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest. Subunit 5B will be managed to protect research activities and to maintain its value for experimental and observational research.

The sale areas are open with respect to mining.

The Interagency Fire Management Plan includes these lands in the "Full" protection category.

This area falls under the Fairbanks-North Star Borough's Regional Comprehensive Plan (2005), which supports forest development activities while aiming to minimize land use conflicts.

D. Current access and land use:

Access to the proposed project area is planned via an existing all-season road, the Bonanza Creek Forest Road, which has been used to access timber sales for over 60 years. The Bonanza Creek Forest Road system will be maintained according to the standards outlined in the 2016 DFFP Road Standards. New spur road construction is proposed in this project area to extend the Bonanza West Spur to **NC-1638-F**. Re-conditioning on existing inactive roads will facilitate access to **NC-2331-F** and **NC-2344-F**.

Current land uses include scientific research, hunting/trapping, recreational travel (e.g., biking, dog mushing), and OHV use. Nearby winter trails may be found on the Tanana River and to the east in the Rosie Creek drainage. No DNR-recognized RS-2477 trails pass through the project area.

E. Background and description of proposal

1. Background: According to the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan, Subunit 5A shall be managed "for timber production, wildlife habitat, and recreation while minimizing impacts to scenic values along the Parks Highway and Tanana River where feasible and prudent." DFFP is offering these sales with the intent to maintain a productive working forest while continuing to provide for compatible public uses.

2. Timber volume and sustained yield: The proposed project area is estimated at 324 acres of spruce sawlog, 47 acres of mixed, and 173 acres of birch fuelwood, comprising roughly 3,585 MBF (8,745 CCF) of spruce sawlog and 3,397 cords (3,057 CCF) of mixed fuelwood. Final harvest unit boundaries and timber volume estimates will be determined upon completion of sale preparation activities. The Fairbanks Area Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) is calculated at approximately 4,606 acres of harvest annually. The volumes proposed in these harvests alone, and in combination with

timber volumes from other proposed timber sales, will be within the Annual Allowable Cut and comply with sustained yield requirements.

These sales shall be offered over at least 2 years or more, depending on demand. **NC-2344-F** and **NC-2583-F** would be offered in Year 1.

3. Harvest unit design: Proposed sales range in size from 19 to 135 acres, with an average of 60 acres. Larger sale units are planned within timber stands where a second entry would be uneconomic. The sale areas will be harvested by the clearcut silvicultural system. Patches of nonmerchantable advanced regeneration and significant snags important for wildlife habitat will be preserved as much as possible. Residual trees will be protected from damage during harvest operations although in spruce stands, over-mature birch may be used as bumper trees to protect patches of advanced spruce regeneration. Harvesting will be by the whole tree yarding system. Slash disposal at the landings will be by burning or by salvage for fuelwood use. Cutting units that are near the Tanana River and other FRPA waterbodies will be buffered by 100' at a minimum.

    a. Reforestation and site preparation: The project area will be reforested in compliance with the Forest Resources and Practices regulations (11 AAC 95.375-.390). Except where planting is indicated below, natural regeneration will be utilized initially for reforestation, and areas adjacent to the boundary with mature, robust spruce or birch trees will be retained to provide seed to these units. It is expected that the harvest methods (heavy partial cut and clearcut) will open sites and increase light and soil warmth. Reforestation will be assessed within five years post-harvest, and a regeneration survey will be conducted if regeneration appears marginal or patchy. If the survey indicates inadequately stocked areas, then scarification may be performed in 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).
        - **NC-1236-F / Camp 78 Spruce** (a 1-unit, 135-acre spruce sale) and **NC-2344-F / Soy Bean Spruce** (a 2-unit, 96-acre spruce sale) are expected to be reforested through a combination of planted white spruce seedlings and natural regeneration, particularly of hardwoods. The proposed harvest represents the final harvest entry into this area (previous harvests between 1973-1994).
        - **NC-1638-F / Bonanza Creek South Spruce** (a 1-unit, 48-acre spruce sale) is expected to be reforested through a combination of planted white spruce seedlings and natural regeneration, particularly of hardwoods.
        - **NC-1833-F / Bonanza Birch #1** (a 1-unit, 22-acre birch sale) and **NC-2583-F / Butterfly Birch** (a 2-unit, 42-acre birch sale) are relatively narrow sales with the proposed harvest areas within the seed shadow of adjacent mature mixed forest. Portions of the sale with slopes less than 20% may be mechanically scarified to prepare a suitable seedbed where ordinary harvest operations may not sufficiently prepare the ground.

- **NC-2331-F / Mantis Spruce** (a 1-unit, 45-acre spruce sale) is relatively narrow and mostly within the seed shadow of retained spruce forest. Planting white spruce seedlings or retaining a wind-firm retention island of residual spruce seed source will be considered within the southern (wider) part of the proposed unit.
- **NC-2341-F / Chili Bean Mixed** (a 1-unit, 28-acre mixed wood sale) and **NC-2342-F / Green Bean Mixed** (a 1-unit, 19-acre mixed wood sale) are relatively narrow and are within the seed shadow of mature mixed forest.
- **NC-2582-F / Birchnanza** (a 1-unit, 109-acre birch sale) is designed to have wind-firm retention areas to ensure the harvested areas are within the seed shadow of mature birch trees. Portions of the sale with slopes less than 20% may be mechanically scarified to prepare a suitable seedbed where ordinary harvest operations may not sufficiently prepare the ground..

b. Access design and construction: Access design, construction, and maintenance will comply with the Forest Resources and Practices regulations (11 AAC 95.285-.355). The proposed project area is located approximately 21 miles southwest of Fairbanks along the Bonanza Creek Forest Road, which connects to the Parks Highway at mile 338.7. The project area is within TVSF Subunit 5A. Access utilizes existing roads through Subunit 5B, the UAF Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest. Scientific and research values within Subunit 5B as well as established installations within 5A will be protected from road development or harvest consistent with TVSFMP.

- **NC-1236-F / Camp 78 Spruce** is located 3.4 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road, then west 1.6 to 2.4 miles on the Camp 78 Spur Road. Multiple access spurs up to a quarter-mile in length will be needed north of Camp 78 Road to establish log landings within an efficient skidding distance.
- **NC-1638-F / Bonanza Creek South Spruce** is located 4.5 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road, then west 3.0 miles on the Bonanza West Spur Road. 1.1 miles of new spur road must be constructed to reach the sale boundary.
- **NC-1833-F / Bonanza Birch #1** is located 2.6 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road, then west 0.8 miles on an inactive spur road. The sale is on the downhill side of the road, and a 0.4 mile half-bench spur will be required to reach the lower areas of the sale. The sale boundary will be buffered at least 50 feet from the UAF Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest boundary.
- **NC-2331-F / Mantis Spruce** is located 8.2 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road adjacent to the Tanana River. The final 0.4 miles of the road may require some reconditioning for all-season access
- **NC-2341-F / Chili Bean Mixed** is located 4.5 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road, then west 1.2 miles on the Bonanza West Spur Road on the downhill side.

- **NC-2342-F / Green Bean Mixed** is located 4.5 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road, then west 1.4 miles on the Bonanza West Spur Road on the downhill side.
- **NC-2344-F / Soy Bean Spruce:** a 2-unit, 96-acre spruce sale located 3.4 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road, then west 3.9 miles on the Camp 78 Spur Road. Spur roads will need to be constructed to reach the lower portion of both sale units.
- **NC-2582-F / Birchnanza** is located 4.5 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road, then west 3.0 miles on the Bonanza West Spur Road. 0.6 miles of new spur road must be constructed to reach the sale boundary.
- **NC-2583-F / Butterfly Birch** is located 4.5 miles down Bonanza Creek Forest Road, then west 3.0 miles on the Bonanza West Spur Road.

c. Appraisal method: DFFP will appraise the timber value in compliance with 11 AAC 71.092. Results from past auctions will provide a basis for the appraisal. DFFP uses a transaction evidence appraisal system which will be used to determine base stumpage rates.

F. Resources and management

1. Timber.

a. Timber stand composition and structure:

- **NC-1236-F / Camp 78 Spruce:** a 1-unit, 135-acre spruce sale on an upland site from midslope to ridgeline. The sale area has an estimated white spruce sawlog component of 90 trees/ac and 100 ft^2/ac of basal area. Stand age at breast height is 160 years.
- **NC-1638-F / Bonanza Creek South Spruce:** a 1-unit, 48-acre spruce sale on an upland site from midslope to ridgeline. The sale area is primarily closed canopy mature spruce forest.
- **NC-1833-F / Bonanza Birch #1:** a 1-unit, 22-acre birch sale near the ridgetop on an upland site. The stand is a mature mixed wood forest dominated by birch with a small component of mature white spruce trees.
- **NC-2331-F / Mantis Spruce:** a 1-unit, 45-acre spruce sale along the Tanana River floodplain with a minimum 100-ft riparian buffer. The sale area has an estimated white spruce sawlog component of 110 ft^2/ac of basal area, and 30 ft^2/ac of mixed fuelwood. Stand age at breast height is 150 years.
- **NC-2341-F / Chili Bean Mixed:** a 1-unit, 28-acre mixed wood sale on the toe-slope of an upland site bounded by lower productivity valley bottom to the north. The stand is primarily white spruce sawtimber with a lesser component of merchantable mature birch.
- **NC-2342-F / Green Bean Mixed:** a 1-unit, 19-acre mixed wood sale on the toe-slope of an upland site bounded by lower productivity valley bottom to the north. The stand is primarily white spruce sawtimber with a lesser component of merchantable mature birch.

- **NC-2344-F / Soy Bean Spruce:** a 2-unit, 96-acre spruce sale on an upland site from midslope to ridgeline. The sale area has an estimated white spruce sawlog component of 110 ft^2/ac of basal area. Stand age at breast height is 160 years. Unit 2 (west-most unit) has a more open canopy with slightly lower spruce and 35 ft^2/ac of birch basal area.
- **NC-2582-F / Birchnanza:** a 1-unit, 109-acre birch sale on an upland site from midslope to ridgeline. The sale area has an estimated birch fuelwood component of 170 trees/ac and 75 ft^2/ac of basal area, with some incidental white spruce and aspen trees.
- **NC-2583-F / Butterfly Birch:** a 2-unit, 42-acre birch sale on an upland midslope site. The sale area has an estimated birch fuelwood component of 204 trees/ac and 96 ft^2/ac of basal area, with some incidental white spruce and aspen trees.

b. Stand silvics: The common merchantable tree species in the Tanana Valley include white spruce, birch, aspen, and balsam poplar. Data and research on the regeneration and growth characteristics of these species are compiled in the Resource Analysis of the Tanana Valley State Forest (TVSF) Management Plan. This analysis also reviews and lists the harvest and reforestation systems available in Interior Alaska. The outcomes of public and agency discussions on harvest and reforestation are included in the TVSF Management Plan. Silvicultural harvest systems that promote even-aged (natural) management are generally preferred. These systems mimic the ecological effects of wildfire and other disturbances, leading to the greatest increase in site productivity. Even-aged management is typically achieved through clear-cuts with reserves, patch cuts, and heavy partial cuts (such as seed tree or shelterwood systems), which open the site to maximum solar exposure. This approach results in the highest production of young hardwoods important for wildlife and spruce understory valuable for future timber. These techniques create young, vigorously growing stands next to older, undisturbed stands, optimizing natural seeding and enhancing the edge effect.

c. Topography and Soils: The proposed project area will be designed and managed to prevent significant impairment of the land and water with respect to renewable resources (AS 41.17.060(c)(5)).

- **NC-1236-F / Camp 78 Spruce:** is located on an upland site between 675-1,025’ elevation with a south aspect. Slopes are 10-25%, with the steepest areas just below the ridgetop. The sale area covers two distinct drainage basins, each dissected by hogback and swale topography on the upper slopes. The sale area is underlain by the Gilmore silt-loam soil type nearest the ridgetop, and the Fairbanks silt-loam on the lower elevations. These soil types are rated as well-drained, with weathered bedrock underlying the ridgetop areas, and deep (> 80 inches) layers of windblown loess on the lower elevation areas.
- **NC-1638-F / Bonanza Creek South Spruce:** is located on an upland midslope site between 625-775’ elevation with a west aspect. Slopes are 5-

15%. The sale area is underlain by the Fairbanks-Steese complex soil type. This soil type is rated as well-drained with deep (> 80 inches) layers of windblown loess.

- **NC-1833-F / Bonanza Birch #1:** is located on an upland ridgetop site between 1,075-1,175' elevation with an east aspect. Slopes are 10-30%, steepest at the lowest elevation parts of the sale. The sale area is underlain by the Gilmore silt-loam soil type nearest the ridgetop, and the Steese silt-loam on the steeper/lower elevations. These soil types are rated as well-drained, with weathered bedrock approximately 3 feet down.
- **NC-2331-F / Mantis Spruce:** is located along the Tanana River floodplain with a minimum 100-ft riparian buffer between the sale and the riverbank. The sale area is at 400 feet of elevation, and is mostly flat with inactive re-forested slough channels throughout. The sale is underlain by the Eielson-Piledrive complex soil type. This soil type is a sandy loam, moderately well-drained, and prone to flooding and continued alluvial deposition.
- **NC-2341-F / Chili Bean Mixed:** is located on the toe-slope of an upland site bounded by lower productivity valley bottom to the north. The proposed sale is between 650-725' elevation with a west aspect. Slopes are 5-8%. The sale area is underlain by the Fairbanks silt loam soil type. This soil type is rated as well-drained with deep (> 80 inches) layers of windblown loess.
- **NC-2342-F / Green Bean Mixed:** is located on the toe-slope of an upland site bounded by lower productivity valley bottom to the north. The proposed sale is between 650-725' elevation with a west aspect. Slopes are 5-8%. The sale area is underlain by the Fairbanks silt loam soil type. This soil type is rated as well-drained with deep (> 80 inches) layers of windblown loess.
- **NC-2344-F / Soy Bean Spruce:** is located on an upland site extending from ridgetop to the toe slope between 625-875' elevation. Unit 1 (east) has with a south aspect and extends around a single drainage basin with 10-15% slope. Unit 2 (west) has with a west-northwest aspect with 10-20% slope. Both units are defined by hogback and swale topography, especially on the upper slopes. Both units are underlain by the Gilmore silt-loam soil type nearest the ridgetop, and the Minto silt-loam (Unit 2) or Fairbanks silt-loam (Unit 1) on the lower elevations. These soil types are rated as well-drained, with weathered bedrock underlying the ridgetop areas, and deep (> 80 inches) layers of windblown loess on the lower elevation areas.
- **NC-2582-F / Birchnanza:** is located on an upland midslope site between 600-825' elevation with a northwest aspect. Slopes are 5-20%, with some incipient hogback and swale topography along the steeper upper elevations. The sale area is underlain by the Fairbanks silt-loam and Fairbanks Steese complex soil types. These soil types are rated as well-drained, with deep (> 80 inches) layers of windblown loess.
- **NC-2583-F / Butterfly Birch:** is located on an upland midslope site between 650-850' elevation with a west to northwest aspect. Slopes are 10-25%, with hogback and swale topography along the upper elevation areas. The sale area is underlain by the Fairbanks silt-loam soil type, with part of the southern unit including some soils from the Fairbanks-Steese complex. These soil types are

rated as well-drained, and are underlain by weathered bedrock in the steeper areas, with deeper (> 80 inches) layers of windblown loess on the flatter areas.

2. Agriculture. No known or anticipated future agricultural activity is expected in the proposed area.

3. Wildlife habitat and harvest. Wildlife typical of the Interior are found here, with signs of moose and grouse observed during field reconnaissance. Large portions of the proposed area offer excellent habitat for moose, black bear, and furbearing animals. There are no known raptor nests within the proposed area. If an eagle nest tree is discovered in the sale area, it will be marked on the ground and a 330-foot no-harvest radius will be established to protect the area.

   The proposed treatments for these stands are expected to enhance habitat conditions for ruffed grouse, moose, voles, hares, and, ultimately, lynx, marten, and fox. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation (ADFG), have historically recommended managing for as much diversity as possible when prescribing harvest unit size, shape, and position to mimic the results of wildfire or other stand replacement phases such as insect outbreaks or flood events. To achieve these objectives, snags will be retained to provide late-successional wildlife habitat for hole-nesting birds, woodpeckers, small mammals, and other species requiring perching habitat. The units will be laid out with uneven edges along and between timber types where possible, creating a varied edge effect beneficial to many wildlife species.

4. Fish Habitat, water resources, and water quality. The proposed project area will be designed and managed to protect fish habitat and water quality in compliance with the Forest Resources and Practices Act and regulations (AS 41.17 and 11 AAC 95). Tanana River is classified as Type III-B stream (glacial with resident fish) under the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA). FRPA allows for sustainable timber harvesting while ensuring the protection of its high-value resident fish habitats. The Tanana River system provides critical spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and is recognized by ADF&G as an anadromous stream for salmon habitat (AWC Code: 334-40-11000-2490).

   NC-2331-F is the only proposed sale near to the Tanana River in this BIF. **NC-2331-F** is adjacent to the Tanana River and will be buffered at least 100’ off the riverbank’s edge All other sales are at least 0.5-4.5 miles from the Tanana, though they are within 0.4-1.0 miles of perennial tributaries of Bonanza Creek.

   Two ponds each less than one acre in area are located downslope approximately 200 feet from the edge of **NC-2344-F** Unit 2.

5. Recreation, tourism, and scenic resources. The proposed project area lies between the Parks Highway and the Tanana River, an area that sees extensive use by a myriad of user groups in all seasons of the year. The Tanana River is important for recreational

boating, camping, snowmachining, and access to surrounding areas for hunting and fishing. The clearwater tributaries of the Tanana are also important for fishing and hunting. In the winter, the Tanana River corridor is used for winter recreation. The many logging roads in this unit provide access for recreational activities. Grouse and moose hunters use the area in the fall. Views of the Alaska Range and Tanana River are especially good from the Parks Highway in this unit. Tourism operators are known to utilize portions of the trail system as well, for example for dog mushing or snowshoeing. Operators take people out on the Tanana River and its tributaries for fishing, hunting for bear, moose, and birds, and camping, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Forest roads in this area are heavily used by non-timber forest product harvesters (e.g., for morels) and for other recreational and personal uses.

NC-2344-F Unit 2, and portions of **NC-1638-F** and **NC-2582-F** will be visible from the Parks Highway. Irregular stand edges and retention of mature forest between the harvest boundaries and the Highway will reduce the visual effect. **NC-2331-F** may be discernible from the Tanana River, though the retention of a riparian buffer will obscure the harvest's scenic impact.

6. Cultural Resources. DFFP works with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to identify and avoid known cultural, historic or prehistoric sites in planning the proposed access routes and harvest areas. If additional archaeological sites are identified, proposed harvest areas and road locations will be appropriately adjusted to avoid conflicts. If any historic or archaeological sites are encountered during road construction or harvest activities, DFFP will immediately inform SHPO and take action to protect the findings.

7. Subsurface Resources. All of TVSF Unit 5A is open to mineral entry and is available for leasing. The highly mineralized Cleary Sequence underlies most of the subunit. Existing quarries and bedrock outcrops provide sources of material near the Parks Highway. No active mining claims are established within the project area. No deleterious effects on subsurface activities are anticipated.

G. Costs and benefits

Local commercial logging operators and their customers will benefit from the inflow of raw timber into the market. In addition to generating royalties to the State's general fund, the proposed sales will create economic benefits for the communities of Fairbanks and Nenana and other locations in Alaska. The local business community will receive direct economic benefit from providing support services for the operators through sales of fuel, food, housing, medical and miscellaneous supplies. Local residents may receive an indirect benefit through any local taxes paid by the operator and employees during the timber harvest operations.

These sales are expected to benefit the local economy by providing jobs. It will have a positive impact on local employment by generating numerous man-hours of work associated with the harvest and transportation of wood products from this sale. Additionally, the public

may benefit from additional fuelwood availability, as home heating costs remain high in Interior Alaska.

Minimal negative effects are expected on fish and wildlife habitat or water quality. These sales are all buffered at least 100 feet from any perennial water source. Retention of adjacent areas of mature timber, as well as the creation of landscape heterogeneity through harvest, is expected to minimize any impacts to wildlife habitat.

VI. PUBLIC NOTICE

The preliminary best interest finding and decision were publicly noticed in compliance with AS 38.05.945. Notice was posted on the Alaska Online Public Notice System, and both physical and electronic notices were mailed to previous timber sale bidders as well as any property owners or business interests known to the Division in the proposed sale area. Notice was also posted on the Division of Forestry public webpage and social media.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE

DFFP received the following comments:

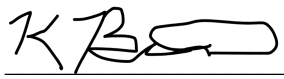
Commenter	Comment	Response
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game	No issue of concern.	Noted.
Tom Paragi	Recently observed whole tree harvest and mechanized processing at landing has resulted in dense accumulations of logging slash. This practice hinders reforestation, has resulted in lower utilization of smaller diameter merchantable firewood, and is visually startling to the public. Chainsaw felling with processing limbs and tops within the unit allows for lop & scatter slash abatement that is more favorable for reforestation, utilization, and aesthetics.	DFFP acknowledges concerns regarding large top piles impeding regeneration. Slash management is addressed in Contract: *The tops of all trees felled, and not yarded to the landing, must be lopped and scattered in such a manner as to lay away from residual trees…"Lopping" means that the top is cut into segments not greater than 3 feet in length, and treated as slash. Slash must be treated so that the slash height does not exceed two feet above the ground. All heavy accumulations of slash occurring at the landing must be piled. Slash must be wind-rowed or piled adjacent to the landing for burning...* Most commercial harvesters in the Interior do not utilize a cut to length logging system, so utilizing a whole tree harvest logging system with a feller-buncher and skidder is the primary means of harvest that results in consolidated piles that can be treated by DFFP fire personnel.

		Over the past few years DFFP has pursued slash pile burning once piles are deemed to no longer have firewood value to the public. In situations where the public can safely and effectively access top piles on closed sales, DFFP offers these personal use opportunities to firewood permit purchasers.
	A changing climate may increase post-harvest Calamagrostis grass growth, which directly competes with tree seedlings and reduces seedling growth. Scarification as specified in these documents is critical to reforestation.	Noted. DFFP's increasing use of post-harvest scarification is directly informed by years of regeneration surveys to inform best practices.
	Different logging operators may produce qualitatively different levels of slash abatement and scarification quality. Variation in post-harvest conditions should be assessed as soon as possible to allow for mitigation of challenges, rather than 7-12 years post-harvest.	DFFP routinely requires mechanical ground scarification on hardwood and mixed wood sales, and performs timely site inspections to verify contract performance.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND FINAL FINDING AND DECISION

After due consideration of all pertinent information and alternatives, the DNR has reached the following decision: To offer for sale approximately 544 acres of spruce and birch sales from Tanana Valley State Forest lands along Bonanza Creek Forest Road to provide sawtimber as proposed in Alternative 1 and described in the PBIF. Public notice has been accomplished in accordance with AS 38.05.945. The case file has been found to be complete and the requirements of all applicable statutes have been satisfied. The DFFP finds that this preliminary decision satisfies the objectives stated in this document and it is in the best interest of the State to proceed with this action under its authority of AS 38.05.035(e) (Powers and Duties of the Director) & AS 38.05.110-120; 11 AAC 71 (Timber Sale Statutes and Regulations); and AS 41.17.010-.950 and 11 AAC 95 (Forest Resources and Practices Statutes and Regulations).

IX. SIGNATURE



11/18/2026

Kevin Breitenbach
Fairbanks-Delta Area Forester
Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection

Date

X. APPEALS

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. Any appeal must be received within twenty (20) calendar days after issuance of this decision under 11 AAC 02.040. An eligible person must first appeal a decision 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. Appeals 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. Appeals must be accompanied by the fee established in 11 AAC 05.160(d)(6), which has been set at $200 under the provisions of 11 AAC 05.160 (a)-(b).]

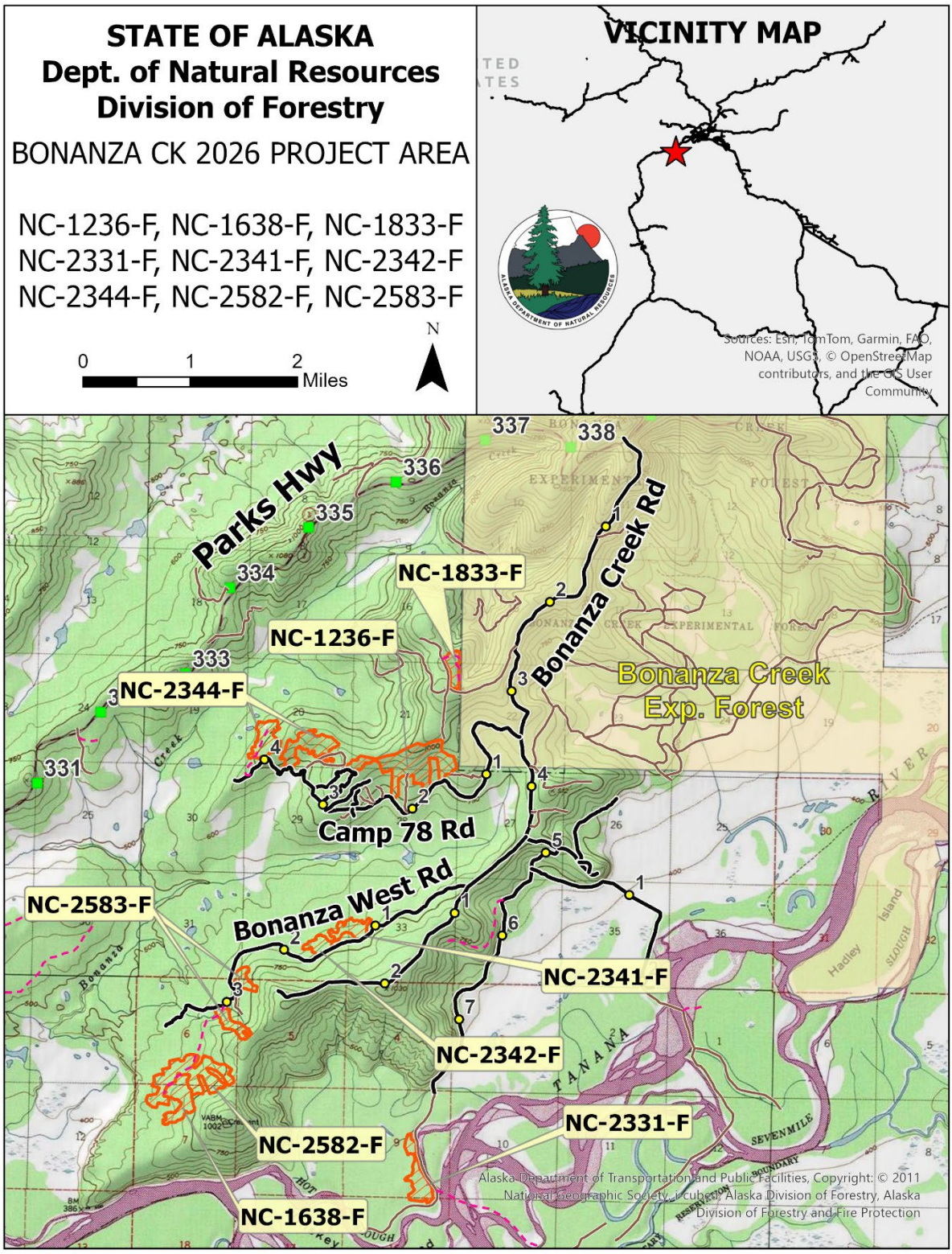
If no appeal is filed by that date, this decision goes into effect as a final order and decision on **December 7, 2026**.

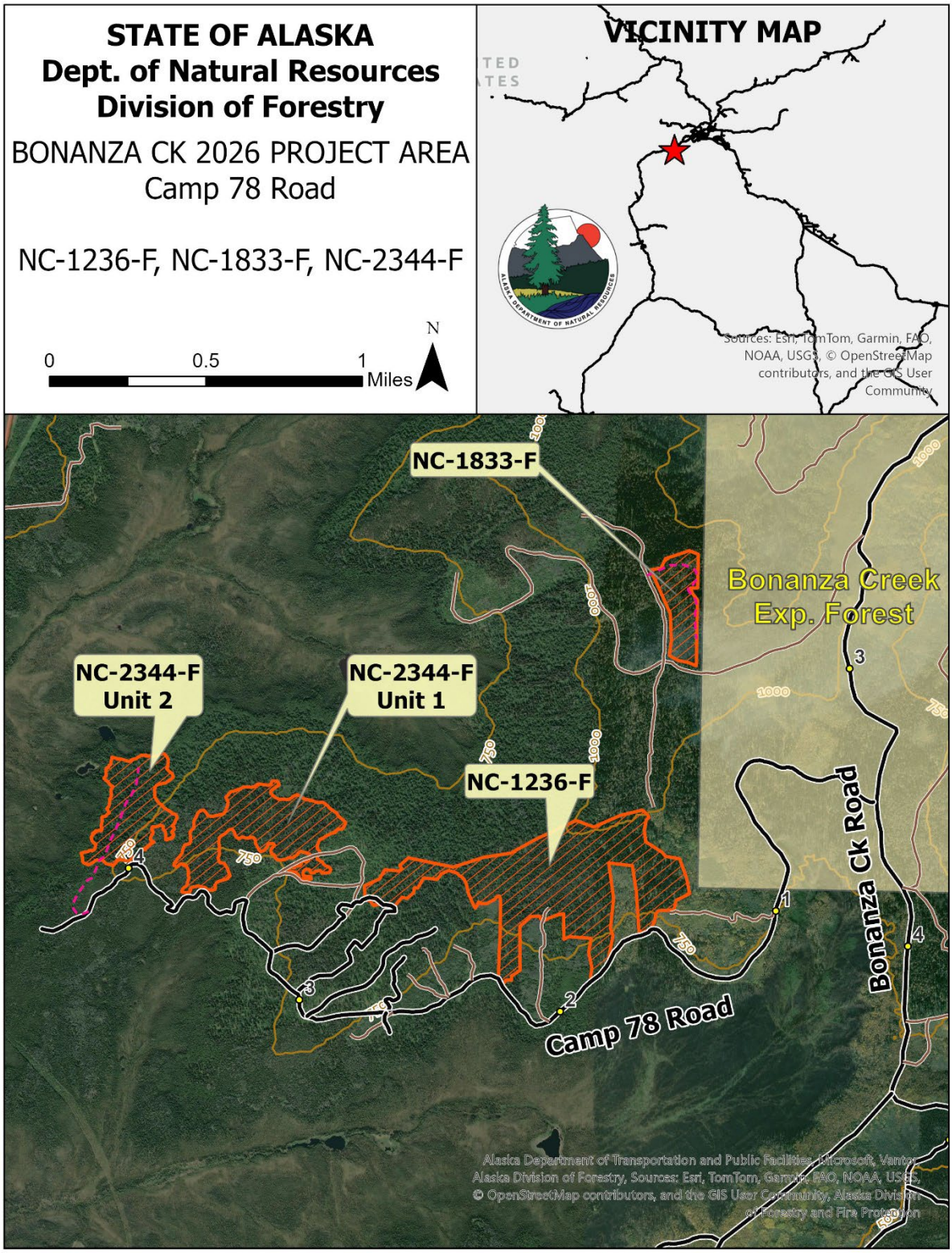
A copy of 11 AAC 02 is enclosed and is also available on the department's website at https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/pdf/DNR-11-AAC-02.pdf .

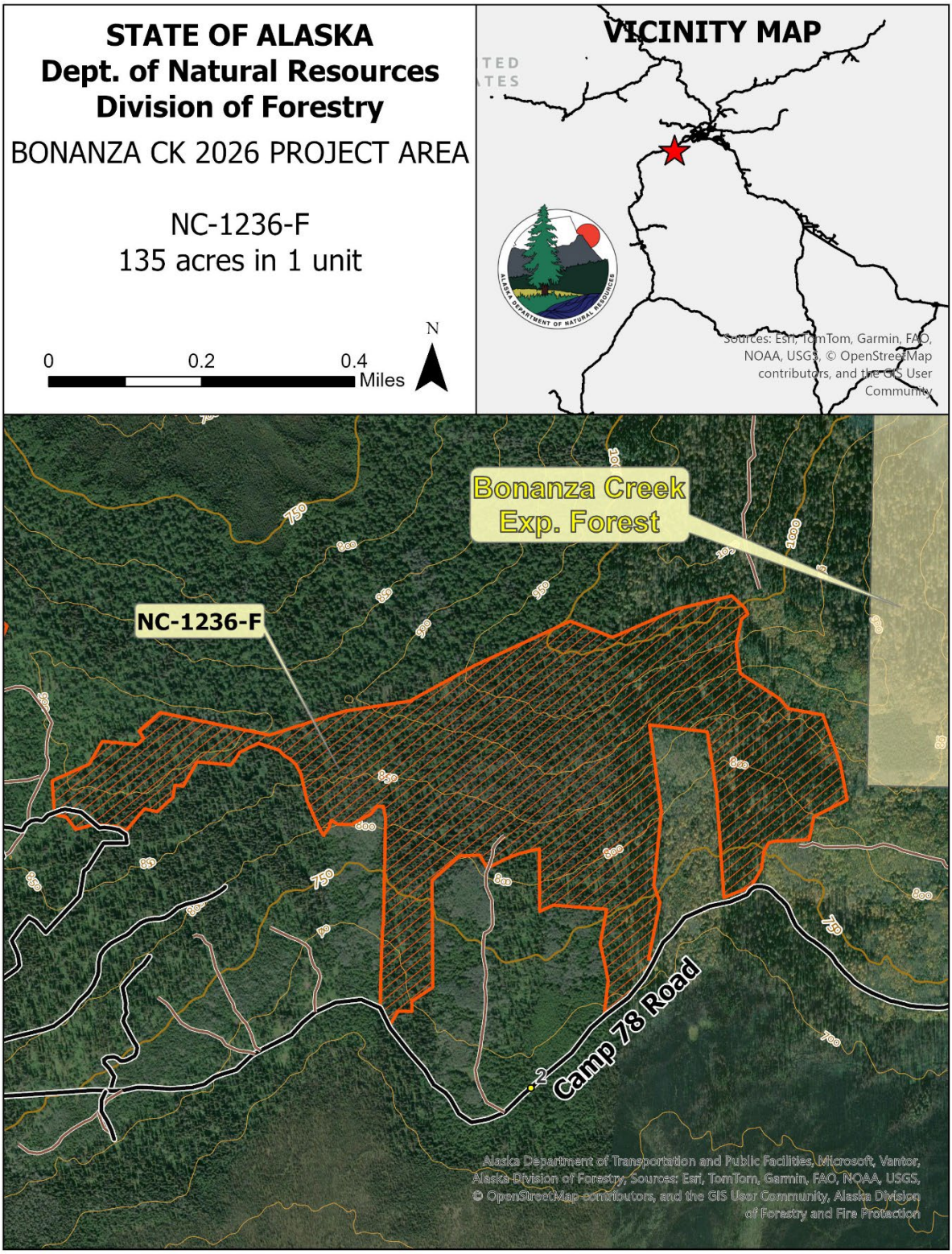
If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Allaby, Fairbanks-Delta Resource Forester, andrew.allaby@alaska.gov, 907-451-2603, 3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks AK 99709.

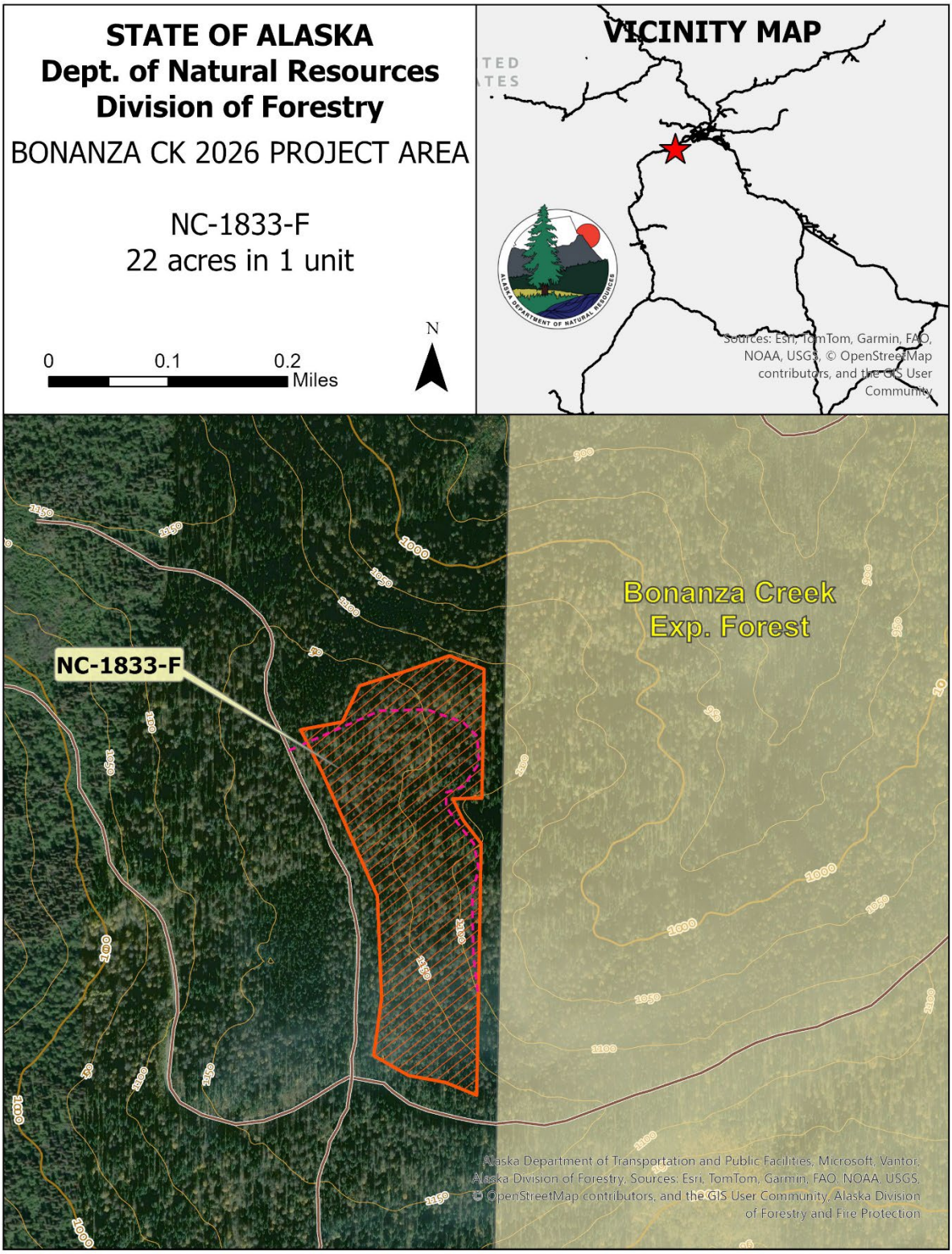
XI. APPENDICES

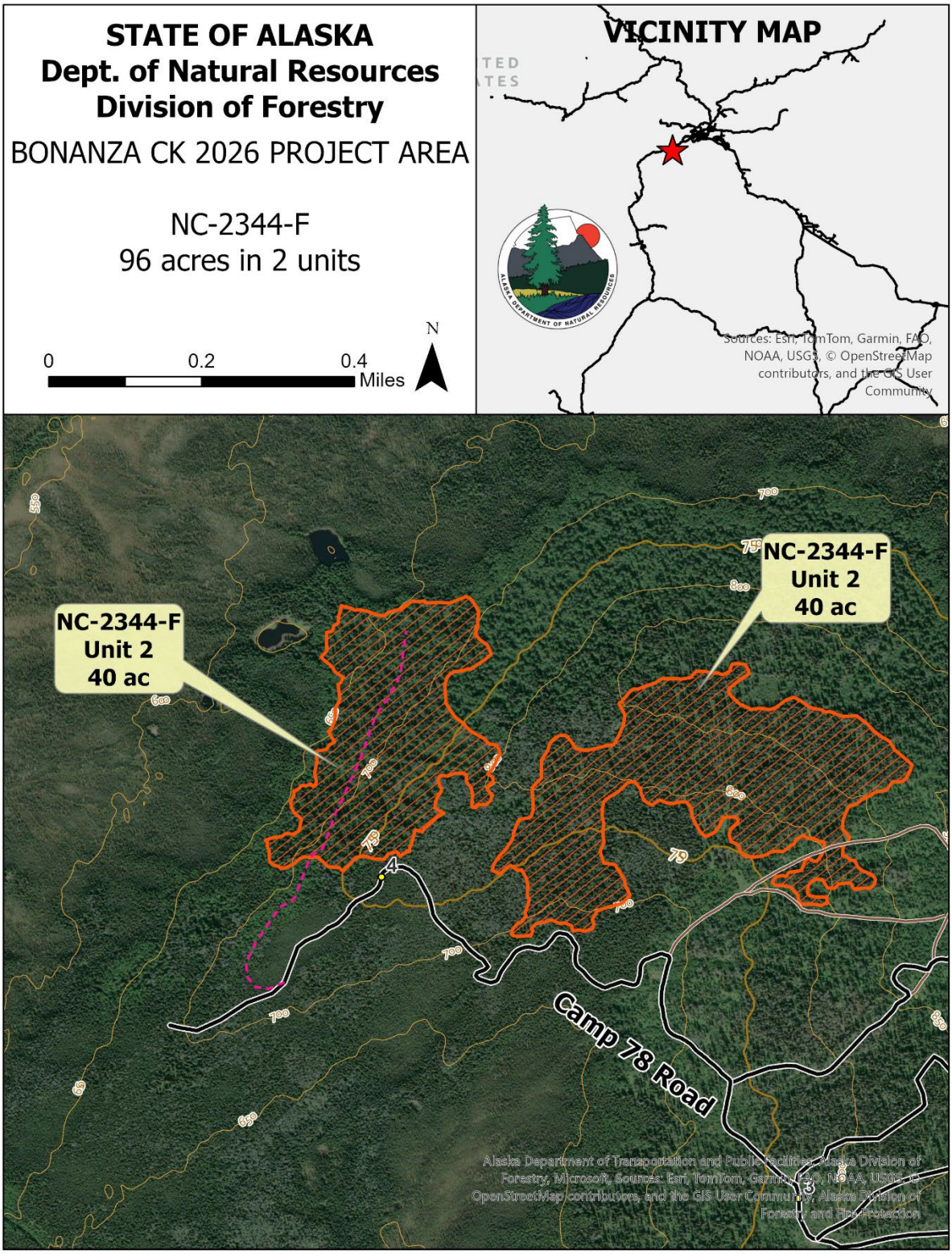
APPENDIX A: MAPS

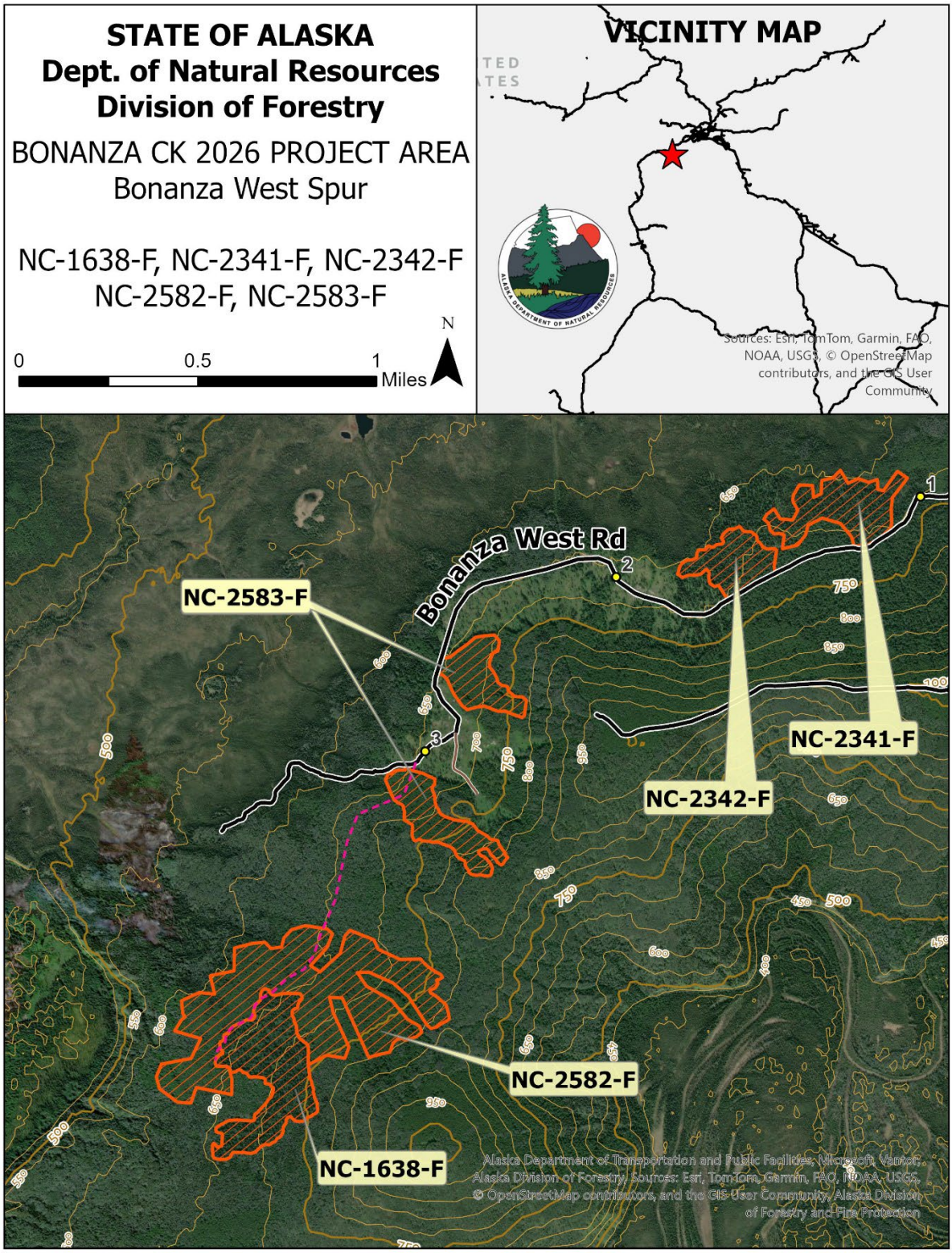


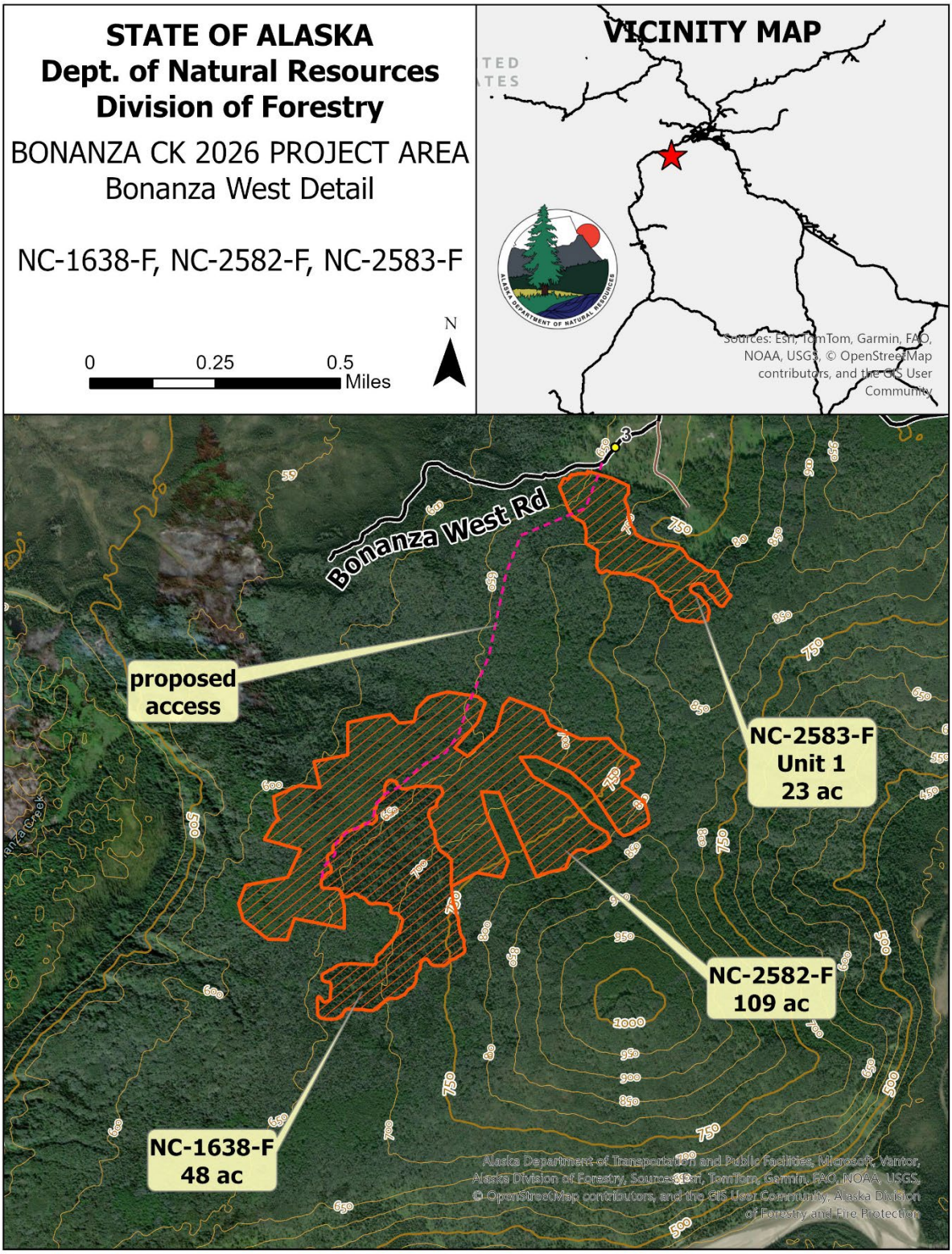

STATE OF ALASKA
Dept. of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
BONANZA CK 2026 PROJECT AREA
Camp 78 Road
NC-1236-F, NC-1833-F, NC-2344-F
0
0.5
1
Miles
N
VICINITY MAP
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
NC-1833-F
NC-2344-F Unit 2
NC-2344-F Unit 1
NC-1236-F
Bonanza Creek Exp. Forest
Bonanza Ck Road
Camp 78 Road
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Microsoft, Vantor, Alaska Division of Forestry, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Alaska Division of Forestry and Fire Protection

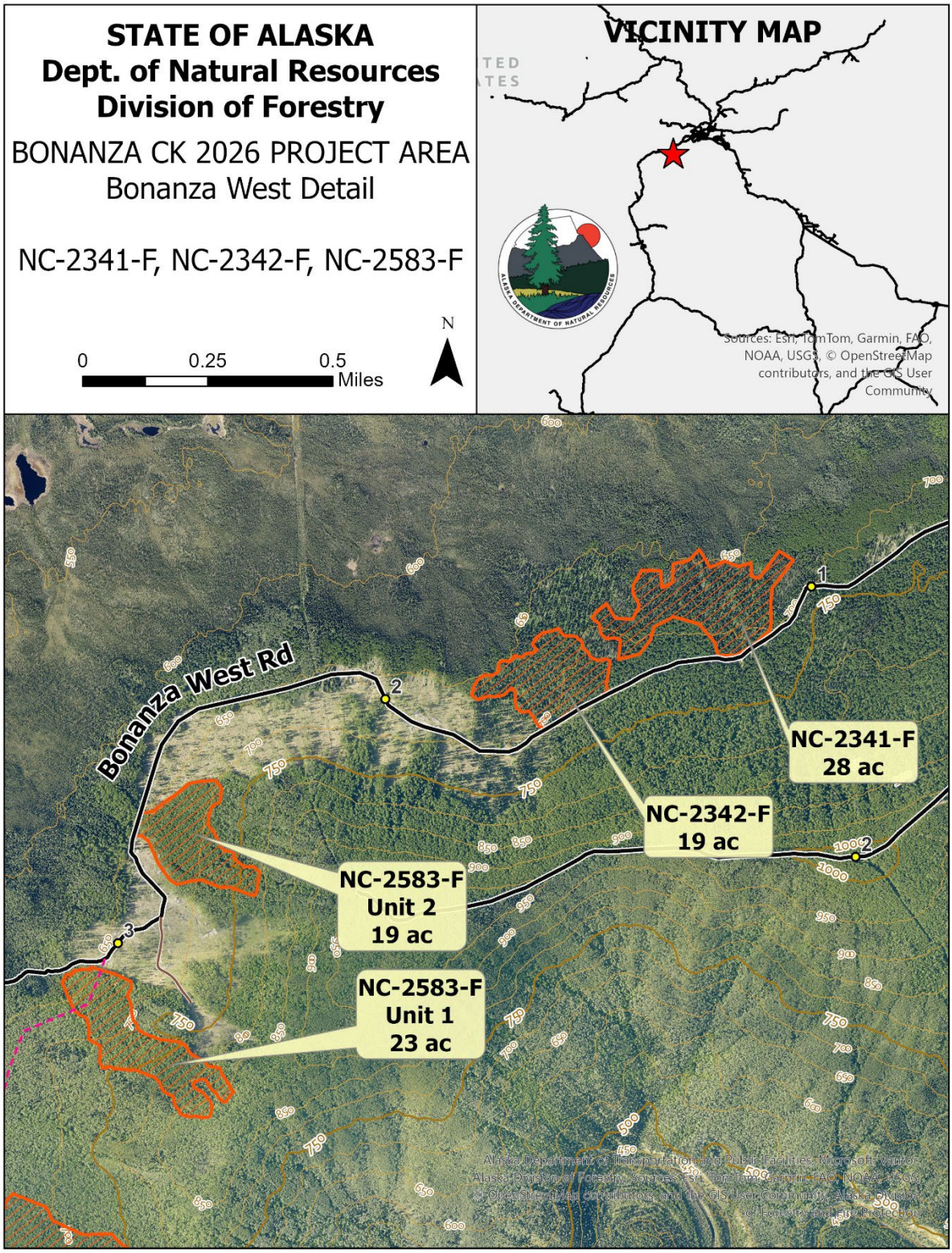

STATE OF ALASKA
Dept. of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
BONANZA CK 2026 PROJECT AREA
NC-1236-F
135 acres in 1 unit
0
0.2
0.4
Miles
N
VICINITY MAP
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Bonanza Creek Exp. Forest
NC-1236-F
Camp 78 Road
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Microsoft, Vantor, Alaska Division of Forestry, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Alaska Division of Forestry and Fire Protection

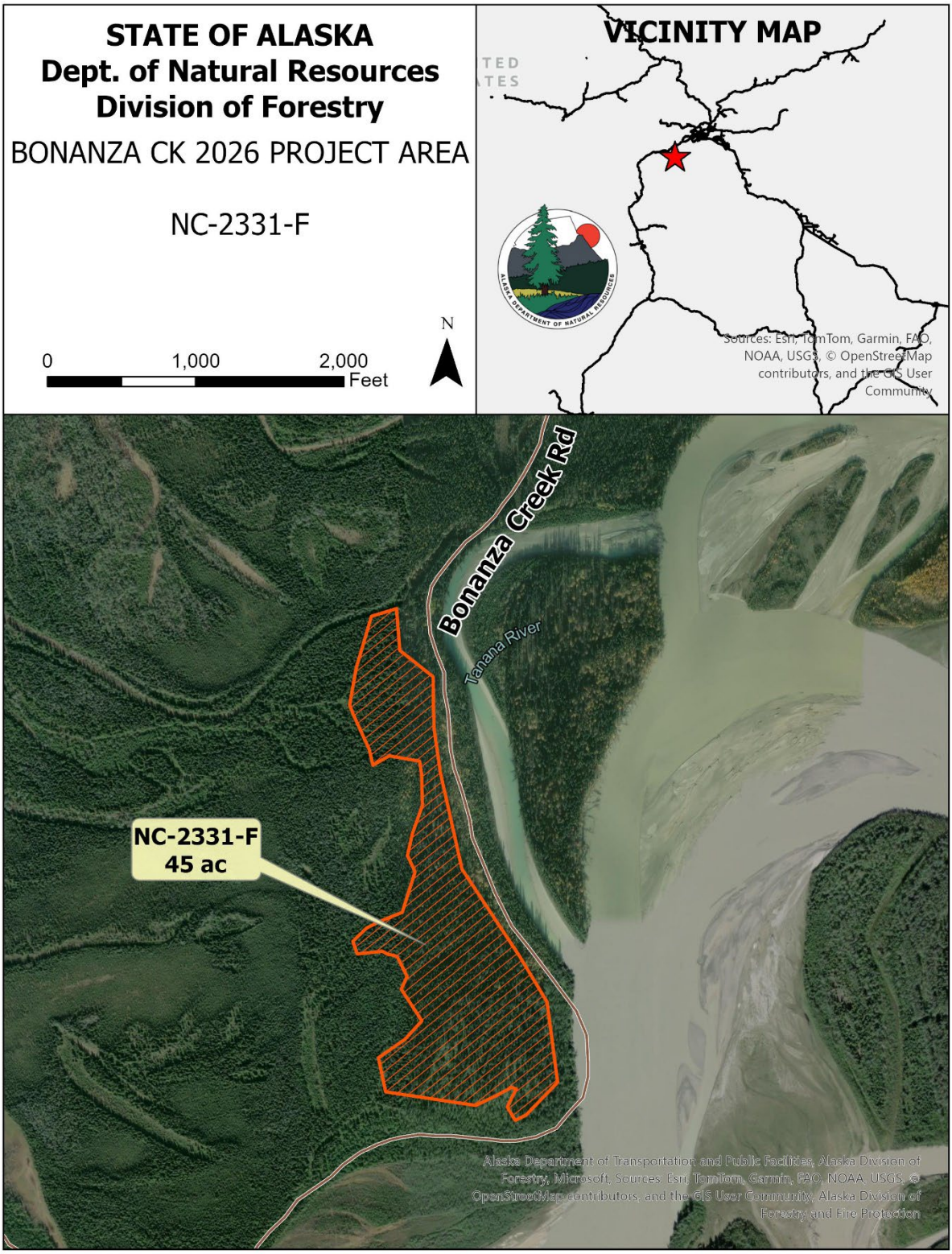

STATE OF ALASKA
Dept. of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
BONANZA CK 2026 PROJECT AREA
NC-1833-F
22 acres in 1 unit
0
0.1
0.2
Miles
N
VICINITY MAP
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
NC-1833-F
Bonanza Creek
Exp. Forest
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Microsoft, Vantor, Alaska Division of Forestry, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Alaska Division of Forestry and Fire Protection


STATE OF ALASKA
Dept. of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
BONANZA CK 2026 PROJECT AREA
NC-2344-F
96 acres in 2 units
0
0.2
0.4
Miles
N
VICINITY MAP
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
NC-2344-F
Unit 2
40 ac
NC-2344-F
Unit 2
40 ac
Camp 78 Road
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Alaska Division of Forestry, Microsoft, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Alaska Division of Forestry and Fire Protection


STATE OF ALASKA
Dept. of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
BONANZA CK 2026 PROJECT AREA
Bonanza West Spur
NC-1638-F, NC-2341-F, NC-2342-F
NC-2582-F, NC-2583-F
N
0
0.5
1
Miles
VICINITY MAP
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Bonanza West Rd
NC-2583-F
NC-2341-F
NC-2342-F
NC-2582-F
NC-1638-F
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Microsoft, Vantor, Alaska Division of Forestry, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Alaska Division of Forestry and Fire Protection


STATE OF ALASKA
Dept. of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
BONANZA CK 2026 PROJECT AREA
Bonanza West Detail
NC-1638-F, NC-2582-F, NC-2583-F
0
0.25
0.5
Miles
N
VICINITY MAP
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Bonanza West Rd
proposed access
NC-2583-F
Unit 1
23 ac
NC-2582-F
109 ac
NC-1638-F
48 ac
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Microsoft, Vantor, Alaska Division of Forestry, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Alaska Division of Forestry and Fire Protection


STATE OF ALASKA
Dept. of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
BONANZA CK 2026 PROJECT AREA
Bonanza West Detail
NC-2341-F, NC-2342-F, NC-2583-F
0
0.25
0.5
Miles
N
VICINITY MAP
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Bonanza West Rd
NC-2341-F
28 ac
NC-2342-F
19 ac
NC-2583-F
Unit 2
19 ac
NC-2583-F
Unit 1
23 ac
1
2
3


STATE OF ALASKA
Dept. of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
BONANZA CK 2026 PROJECT AREA
NC-2331-F
0
1,000
2,000
Feet
N
VICINITY MAP
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Bonanza Creek Rd
Tanana River
NC-2331-F
45 ac
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Alaska Division of Forestry, Microsoft, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Alaska Division of Forestry and Fire Protection

APPENDIX B. APPEAL AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION REGULATIONS

Note: "Appeal" means a request to the commissioner to review a decision that the commissioner did not sign or cosign. "Request for reconsideration" means a petition or request to the commissioner to review an original decision that the commissioner signed or cosigned.

11 AAC 02 Regulations

11 AAC 02.010. Applicability and eligibility.
(a) This chapter sets out the administrative review procedure available to a person affected by a decision of the department. If a statute or a provision of this title prescribes a different procedure with respect to a particular decision, that procedure must be followed when it conflicts with this chapter.
(b) Unless a statute does not permit an appeal, an applicant is eligible to appeal or request reconsideration of the department's decision on the application. An applicant is eligible to participate in any appeal or request for reconsideration filed by any other eligible party.
(c) If a statute restricts eligibility to appeal or request reconsideration of a decision to those who have provided timely written comment or public hearing testimony on the decision, the department will give notice of that eligibility restriction as part of its public notice announcing the opportunity to comment.
(d) If the department gives public notice and allows a public comment period of at least 30 days on a proposed action, and if no statute requires opportunity for public comment, the department may restrict eligibility to appeal or request reconsideration to those who have provided timely written comment or public hearing testimony on the proposed action by including notice of the restriction as part of its public notice announcing the opportunity to comment.
(e) An eligible person affected by a decision of the department that the commissioner did not sign or cosign may appeal the decision to the commissioner within the period set by 11 AAC 02.040.
(f) An eligible person affected by a decision of the department that the commissioner signed or cosigned may request the commissioner's reconsideration within the period set by 11 AAC 02.040.
(g) A person may not both appeal and request reconsideration of a decision.

11 AAC 02.015. Combined decisions.
(a) When the department issues a combined decision that is both a final disposal decision under AS 38.05.035(e) and any other decision, including a disposal decision combined with a land use plan decision, or a disposal decision to grant certain applications combined with a decision to deny others, the appeal process set out for a disposal decision in AS 38.05.035(i) - (m) and this chapter applies to the combined decision.
(b) Repealed 12/27/2012.

11 AAC 02.020. Finality of a decision for purposes of appeal to court.
(a) Unless otherwise provided in a statute or a provision of this title, an eligible person must first either appeal or request reconsideration of a decision in accordance with this chapter before appealing a decision to superior court.

(b) The commissioner's decision on appeal is the final administrative order and decision of the department for purposes of appeal to the superior court.
(c) The commissioner may order or deny a request for reconsideration within 30 calendar days after issuance of the decision, as determined under 11 AAC 02.040(c) - (e). If the commissioner takes no action during the 30-day period, the request for reconsideration is considered denied. Denial of a request for reconsideration is the final administrative order and decision of the department for purposes of appeal to the superior court.
(d) If the commissioner timely orders reconsideration of the decision, the commissioner may affirm the decision, issue a new or modified decision, or remand the matter to the director for further proceedings. The commissioner's decision, other than a remand decision, is the final administrative order and decision of the department for purposes of appeal to the superior court.

11 AAC 02.030. Filing an appeal or request for reconsideration.
(a) An appeal or request for reconsideration under this chapter must
(1) be in writing;
(2) be filed by personal service, mail, facsimile transmission, or electronic mail;
(3) be signed by the appellant or the appellant's attorney, unless filed by electronic mail; an appeal or request for reconsideration filed by electronic mail must state the name of the person appealing or requesting reconsideration and a single point of contact to which any notice or decision concerning the appeal or request for reconsideration is to be sent;
(4) be correctly addressed;
(5) be timely filed in accordance with 11 AAC 02.040;
(6) specify the case reference number used by the department, if any;
(7) specify the decision being appealed or for which reconsideration is being requested;
(8) specify the basis upon which the decision is challenged;
(9) specify any material facts disputed by the appellant;
(10) specify the remedy requested by the appellant;
(11) state the address to which any notice or decision concerning the appeal or request for reconsideration is to be mailed; an appellant may also provide a telephone number where the appellant can be reached during the day or an electronic mail address; an appeal or request for reconsideration filed electronically must state a single address to which any notice or decision concerning the appeal or request for reconsideration is to be mailed;
(12) identify any other affected agreement, contract, lease, permit, or application by case reference number, if any;
(13) include a request for an oral hearing, if desired; in the appeal or request for reconsideration, the appellant may include a request for any special procedures to be used at the hearing; the appeal or request for reconsideration must describe the factual issues to be considered at the hearing; and
(14) be accompanied by the applicable fee set out in 11 AAC 05.160.
(b) At the time an appeal is filed, and up until the deadline set out in 11 AAC 02.040(a) to file the appeal, an appellant may submit additional written material in support of the appeal, including evidence or legal argument.
(c) If public notice announcing a comment period of at least 30 days was given before the

decision, an appellant may not submit additional written material after the deadline for filing the appeal, unless the appeal meets the requirements of (a) of this section and includes a request for an extension of time, and the department determines that the appellant has shown good cause for an extension. In considering whether the appellant has shown good cause, the department will consider factors including one or more of the following:

(1) comments already received from the appellant and others;
(2) whether the additional material is likely to affect the outcome of the appeal;
(3) whether the additional material could reasonably have been submitted without an extension;
(4) the length of the extension requested;
(5) the potential effect of delay if an extension is granted.

(d) If public notice announcing a comment period of at least 30 days was not given before the decision, an appellant may submit additional written material after the deadline for filing the appeal, if the appeal meets the requirements of (a) of this section and includes a notice of intent to file the additional written material. The department must receive the additional written material within 20 days after the deadline for filing the appeal, unless the appeal also includes a request for an extension of time, and the department determines that the appellant has shown good cause for an extension. In considering whether the appellant has shown good cause, the department will consider factors including one or more of the following:

(1) comments already received from the appellant and others;
(2) whether the additional material is likely to affect the outcome of the appeal;
(3) whether the additional material could reasonably have been submitted without an extension;
(4) the length of the extension requested;
(5) the potential effect of delay if an extension is granted.

(e) At the time a request for reconsideration is filed, and up until the deadline to file a request for reconsideration, an appellant may submit additional written material in support of the request for reconsideration, including evidence or legal argument. No additional written material may be submitted after the deadline for filing the request for reconsideration.
(f) If the decision is one described in 11 AAC 02.060(c), an appellant may ask for a stay as part of the appeal or request for reconsideration. The appellant must include an argument as to why the public interest requires a stay.

11 AAC 02.040. Timely filing; issuance of decision.
(a) To be timely filed, an appeal or request for reconsideration must be received by the commissioner's office within 20 calendar days after issuance of the decision, as determined under (c) or (d) of this section, unless another period is set by statute, regulation, or existing contract. If the 20th day falls on a day when the department is officially closed, the appeal or request for reconsideration must be filed by the next working day.
(b) An appeal or request for reconsideration will not be accepted if it is not timely filed.
(c) If the appellant is a person to whom the department delivers a decision by personal service or by certified mail, return receipt requested, issuance occurs when the addressee or the addressee's agent signs for the decision. If the addressee or the addressee's agent neglects or refuses to sign for the certified mail, or if the address that the addressee provided to the department is not correct, issuance by certified mail occurs when the decision is deposited in a United States general or branch post office, enclosed in a postage-paid wrapper or envelope,

addressed to the person's current address of record with the department, or to the address specified by the appellant under 11 AAC 02.030(a)(11).
(d) If the appellant is a person to whom the department did not deliver a decision by personal service or certified mail, issuance occurs
(1) when the department gives public notice of the decision; or
(2) if no public notice is given, when the decision is signed; however, the department may state in the decision a later date of issuance and the corresponding due date for any appeal or request for reconsideration.
(e) The date of issuance constitutes delivery or mailing for purposes of a reconsideration request under AS 44.37.011(d) or AS 44.62.540(a).

11 AAC 02.050. Hearings.
(a) The department will, in its discretion, hold a hearing when questions of fact must be resolved.
(b) The hearing procedure will be determined by the department on a case-by-case basis. As provided in 11 AAC 02.030(a)(13), any request for special procedures must be included with the request for a hearing.
(c) In a hearing held under this section
(1) formal rules of evidence need not apply; and
(2) the hearing will be recorded, and may be transcribed at the request and expense of the party requesting the transcript.

11 AAC 02.060. Stays; exceptions.
(a) Except as provided in (c) and (d) of this section, timely appealing or requesting reconsideration of a decision in accordance with this chapter stays the decision during the commissioner's consideration of the appeal or request for reconsideration. If the commissioner determines that the public interest requires removal of the stay, the commissioner will remove the stay and allow all or part of the decision to take effect on the date set in the decision or a date set by the commissioner.
(b) Repealed 9/19/2001.
(c) Unless otherwise provided in a statute or a provision of this title, a decision takes effect immediately if it is a decision to
(1) issue a permit that is revocable at will;
(2) approve surface operations for a disposal that has already occurred or a property right that has already vested; or
(3) administer an issued oil and gas lease or license, or an oil and gas unit agreement.
(d) Timely appealing or requesting reconsideration of a decision described in (c) of this section does not automatically stay the decision. However, the commissioner will impose a stay, on the commissioner's own motion or at the request of an appellant, if the commissioner determines that the public interest requires it.
(e) A decision takes effect immediately if no party is eligible to appeal or request reconsideration and the commissioner waives the commissioner's right to review or reconsider the decision.

11 AAC 02.070. Waiver of procedural violations.
The commissioner may, to the extent allowed by applicable law, waive a requirement of this

chapter if the public interest or the interests of justice so require.

11 AAC 02.900. Definitions.

In this chapter,

(1) “appeal” means a request to the commissioner to review a decision that the commissioner did not sign or cosign;

(2) “appellant” means a person who files an appeal or a request for reconsideration;

(3) “commissioner” means the commissioner of natural resources;

(4) “decision” means a written discretionary or factual determination by the department specifying the details of the action to be allowed or taken;

(5) “department” means, depending of the particular context in which the term is used, the Department of Natural Resources, the commissioner, the director of a division within the Department of Natural Resources, or an authorized employee of the Department of Natural Resources;

(6) “request for reconsideration” means a petition or request to the commissioner to review an original decision that the commissioner signed or cosigned.