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

FAIRBANKS-DELTA AREA FORESTRY

FINAL BEST INTEREST FINDING AND DECISION FOR
JENNY M-GRANGE HALL 2026 PROJECT AREA
NC-1850-F, NC-1955-F, NC-2051-F, NC-2058-F, NC-2064-F, NC-2322-F, NC-2370-F, NC-2548-F, NC-2570-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 388 acres of spruce and birch sales from Tanana Valley State Forest lands along the Pheasant Farm/Jenny M and Grange Hall roads south of Chena Hot Springs Road east 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 the DFFP's Fairbanks – Delta Area Office filed as NC-1850-F, NC-1955-F, NC-2051-F, NC-2058-F, NC-2064-F, NC-2322-F, NC-2370-F, NC-2548-F, NC-2570-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 approximately 388 acres of spruce and birch sales from Tanana Valley State Forest lands along the Pheasant Farm/Jenny M and Grange Hall roads south of Chena Hot Springs Road 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 388 acres of spruce and birch sales from Tanana Valley State Forest lands along the Pheasant Farm/Jenny M and Grange Hall roads south of Chena Hot Springs Road in competitive bid sales 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 Jenny M-Grange Hall 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 23 miles east of Fairbanks between Chena Hot Springs Road mileposts 20-21 and the Chena River along Pheasant Farm / Jenny M Hill Road and Grange Hall Road. The project area is within TVSF Unit 6.

The proposed sales are located within the Fairbanks Meridian at:

- **NC-1850-F / Mullen Floodplain Birch:** a 1-unit, 15-acre birch sale located 4.4 miles down Pheasant Farm Road, south at the fork beyond Jenny M Creek Bridge. The proposed sale is within Township 1 South, Range 3 East, Section 12, and Township 1 South, Range 4 East, Section 7, F.M.

- **NC-1955-F / Chena Bluff Spruce:** a 2-unit, 82-acre winter sawlog sale located 3 miles down Pheasant Farm Road, then north at Jenny M Creek Bridge onto Jenny M Hill Road for 3.3 miles. From here, roughly 1 mile of new all-season road construction, followed by 1.8 miles of winter-only road to reach both units 1 and 2. The proposed sale is within Township 1 South, Range 3 East, Sections 11 & 14, F.M.

- **NC-2051-F / Mullen Floodplain Birch #2:** a 1-unit, 14-acre birch sale located 4.7 miles down Pheasant Farm Road, south at the fork beyond Jenny M Creek Bridge. The proposed sale is within Township 1 South, Range 3 East, Sections 12 & 13, F.M.

- **NC-2058-F / Mullen Floodplain Birch #3:** a 1-unit, 11-acre winter-only birch sale located 2.7 miles down Pheasant Farm Road, followed by 0.2 miles of new winter road construction including an ice crossing of Mullen Slough. The proposed sale is within Township 1 South, Range 4 East, Sections 7 & 8, F.M.

- **NC-2064-F / Grange Hall Winter Spruce:** a 1-unit, 20-acre winter-only spruce sawlog sale located 2.4 miles down Grange Hall Road. The proposed sale is within Township 1 South, Range 4 East, Section 9, F.M.

- **NC-2322-F / Potlatch Creek Mixed:** a 3-unit, 121-acre winter-only mixed sale located 3 miles down Pheasant Farm Road, then north at Jenny M Creek Bridge onto Jenny M Hill Road for 3.3 miles. From here, roughly 1 mile of new all-season road construction, followed by 3.4 miles of winter-only road to reach units 1, 2 and 3. The proposed sale is within Township 1 South, Range 3 East, Section 15, F.M.

- **NC-2370-F / Mullen Island Spruce:** a 1-unit, 24-acre winter-only sawlog sale located 3 miles down Pheasant Farm Road, then south along an existing spur for 1 mile, followed by 0.5 miles of new winter road construction including an ice crossing of the Chena River. The proposed sale is within Township 1 South, Range 4 East, Section 18, F.M.

- **NC-2548-F / Granger than Fiction Mixed:** a 2-unit, 21-acre winter-only mixed sale located 2.6 miles down Grange Hall Road, then 0.3 miles down an existing secondary road, followed by 0.2 miles of new winter road construction. The proposed sale is within Township 1 South, Range 4 East, Section 8, F.M.

- **NC-2570-F / Moose Creek Mixed:** a 1-unit, 80-acre winter-only mixed sale located 3 miles down Pheasant Farm Road, then north at Jenny M Creek Bridge onto Jenny M Hill Road for 3.3 miles. From here, roughly 1 mile of new all-season road construction, followed by 2.7 miles of winter-only road to reach the sale. The proposed sale is within Township 1 South, Range 3 East, Section 16, F.M.

B. Title status

The proposed sale areas covered by this PBIF include land selected and patented by the State (see MH-29 Patent 50-2007-0247 for F001S004E Sections 7, 8, 9), as well as Tentatively Approved land selected but not yet patented by the State (see MH-29 for F001S003E Sections 11, 12, 13, 14; MH-30 for F001S003E Sections 9, 10, 15, 16; GS-1208 for F001S004E Section 18). As the land estate is Tentatively Approved, the State has management authority. There are no known title restrictions on the area.

C. Land use planning, classification, and management intent

The proposed area is within the Tanana Valley State Forest (TVSF) in Management Unit 6. The Unit will be managed for dispersed and developed recreation and commercial and personal use timber production. There are no specific restrictions on timber sales within the TVSF Management Plan.

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, Pheasant Farm Road/Jenny M Hill Road, and a winter road, Grange Hall Road, which begin as residential

roads near Chena Hot Springs Road, and have been used to access previous timber sales. Pheasant Farm Road/Jenny M Hill Road and Grange Hall Road will be maintained according to the standards outlined in the DFFP Road Standards document. New winter road construction is proposed in this project area, with multiple road extensions from Jenny M Hill Road to access the ridgeline to the south, a new winter spur to reach south across the Chena River from Pheasant Farm Road mile 3, and a short extension of Grange Hall Road to access a small unit beyond a terminated sale. Winter road construction will be planned to cross the network of winter trails rather than to follow or parallel and potentially widen and damage existing trails. Roads will be maintained according to the standards outlined in the DFFP Road Standards document. Upon completion of associated sales, any roads utilized by logging traffic will be left in a condition equal to or better than they were prior to the sale.

Current land uses include farming, hunting/trapping, dog mushing, and OHV use. A very robust winter trail network intersects the proposed area.

Historically scattered and incidental timber harvest throughout the project area has been noted during field reconnaissance efforts.

E. Background and description of proposal

1. Background: According to the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan, Unit 6 shall be "managed for dispersed and developed recreation and commercial and personal-use timber production". DFFP is offering these sales with the intent to maintain a productive working forest while continuing to provide opportunities for dispersed and developed recreation.

   Timber volume and sustained yield: The proposed project area should yield an estimated 125 acres of spruce sawlog, 220 acres of mixed, and 40 acres of birch fuelwood, comprising roughly 2,800 MBF (6,800 CCF) of spruce sawlog and 2,000 CCF of birch 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-1955-F** would be offered in Year 1.

2. Harvest unit design: Cutting units range in size from 9 to 80 acres, with an average of around 30 acres. Units accessed from Jenny M Hill Road are slightly larger (closer to 50 acres) due to the stand sizes being larger, and cost of road construction. 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 Chena 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). 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).

b. Access design and construction: Access design, construction, and maintenance will comply with the Forest Resources and Practices regulations (11 AAC 95.285-.355). To reach Pheasant Farm Road area sales, access begins at mile post 20 on Chena Hot Springs Road, where Pheasant Farm Road runs south for approximately 3 miles past a series of private properties before entering the Tanana Valley State Forest, heading toward the Chena River. To reach Grange Hall Road area sales, access begins just west of mile post 21 on Chena Hot Springs Road, where Grange Hall Road runs south for approximately 2.6 miles past a series of private properties before entering the Tanana Valley State Forest, heading toward the Chena River:

- **NC-1850-F / Mullen Floodplain Birch:** 4.4 miles down Pheasant Farm Road, south at the fork beyond Jenny M Creek Bridge.

- **NC-1955-F / Chena Bluff Spruce:** 3 miles down Pheasant Farm Road, then north at Jenny M Creek Bridge onto Jenny M Hill Road for 3.3 miles. From here, roughly 1 mile of all-season road construction, followed by 1.8 miles of winter-only road construction to reach both units 1 and 2.

- **NC-2051-F / Mullen Floodplain Birch #2:** 4.7 miles down Pheasant Farm Road, south at the fork beyond Jenny M Creek Bridge.

- **NC-2058-F / Mullen Floodplain Birch #3:** 2.7 miles down Pheasant Farm Road, followed by 0.2 miles of winter road construction including an ice crossing of Mullen Slough.

- **NC-2322-F / Potlatch Creek Mixed:** 3 miles down Pheasant Farm Road, then north at Jenny M Creek Bridge onto Jenny M Hill Road for 3.3 miles.

From here, roughly 1 mile of new all-season road construction, followed by 3.4 miles of winter-only road construction to reach units 1, 2 and 3. This access route crosses Mental Health Trust lands, pending concurrence.

- **NC-2370-F / Mullen Island Spruce:** 3 miles down Pheasant Farm Road, then south along an existing spur for 1 mile, followed by 0.5 miles of new winter road construction including an ice crossing of the Chena River.

- **NC-2570-F / Moose Creek Mixed:** 3 miles down Pheasant Farm Road, then north at Jenny M Creek Bridge onto Jenny M Hill Road for 3.3 miles. From here, roughly 1 mile of all-season road construction, followed by 2.7 miles of winter-only road construction to reach the sale. This access route crosses Mental Health Trust lands, pending concurrence.

- **NC-2064-F / Grange Hall Winter Spruce:** 2.4 miles down Grange Hall Road.

- **NC-2548-F / Granger than Fiction Mixed:** 2.6 miles down Grange Hall Road, then 0.3 miles down an existing secondary road, followed by 0.2 miles of winter road construction.

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-1955-F: This sale contains mature white spruce-dominant stands with an incidental birch component growing on upland sites. The history of firewood harvest in the area is evident, as decomposing, moss-covered stumps proliferate, and spruce stocking is approximately 100 trees per acre with a basal area of 110 square feet per acre. The surrounding understory is characterized by thin moss layers, horsetail, and wild roses, holding pockets of grass within the drainages of the hogback and swale topography.

NC-2064-F, and NC-2370-F: These sales are within floodplain spruce stands growing on the fertile margins of the Chena River. Stocking in these stands range from 100-150 trees per acre and a basal area of 90-160 square feet per acre. These sites contain a mix of moss, horsetail and rose.

NC-2322-F, NC-2548-F, NC-2570-F: These sales are mixed stands with a primary spruce sawlog component, including merchantable component of birch

fuelwood. These mixed stands occupy positions on the toe slopes of the upland as well as on the floodplain.

NC-1850-F, NC-2051-F, NC-2058-F: These sales are mature closed-canopy birch stands with incidental components of white spruce positioned in the floodplain.

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-1850-F, NC-2051-F, NC-2064-F, NC-2548-F: These sales are situated in the floodplain around 500’ on relatively flat ground. Soils in the area are classified as Jarvis-Salchaket complex 0 to 3 percent slopes, which is well drained with horizons dominated by sandy loam and gravelly sand. This soil type exists on floodplains.

NC-1955-F: Unit 1 of this sale is situated on a north-facing slope between 650’-750’ spanning from the toe slope to the ridgeline with a general slope of 20%. Unit 2 of this sale is situated on a south-facing slope between 650’-800’ spanning from the toe slope to the ridgeline with a general slope of 20%. Soils in the area are classified as Eielson-Piledriver complex and Fairbanks silt loam 12 to 20 percent slopes. Eielson-Piledriver complex is moderately well drained, with horizons dominated by fine sandy loams to gravelly sand. This soil type exists on floodplains. Fairbanks silt loam 12 to 20 percent slopes is well drained, with horizons dominated by silt loam. This soil type exists on hill backslopes.

NC-2058-F, NC-2370-F: These sales are situated in the floodplain around 500’ on relatively flat ground. Soils in the area are classified as Jarvis-Stratify complex

0 to 3 percent slopes, which is well drained with horizons dominated by fine sandy loam and gravelly sand. This soil type exists on floodplains.

NC-2570-F: This sale is situated on a west-facing slope between 600'-800' from the toe slope into the upland with a general slope of 15%. Soils in the area are classified as Minto silt loam 3 to 7 percent slopes, which is moderately well drained with horizons dominated by silt loam. This soil type exists on hill toeslopes.

NC-2322-F: This 3-unit sale is situated generally in a northeast-facing bowl between 750'-1000' from the toe slope to the ridgeline with a general slope of 25%. Soils in the area are classified as Fairbanks silt loam 7 to 12 percent slopes and Fairbanks silt loam 12 to 20 percent slopes. Fairbanks silt loam 7 to 12 percent slopes is well drained with horizons dominated by silt loam. This soil type exists on hill backslopes. Fairbanks silt loam 12 to 20 percent slopes is well drained, with horizons dominated by silt loam. This soil type exists on hill backslopes.

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, black bear, and grouse observed during field reconnaissance. Large portions of the proposed area offer excellent habitat for moose, black bears, 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). Access to the proposed area crosses Jenny M Creek (AWC Code 334-40-11000-2490-33014035-5015), which flows into Mullen Slough (AWC Code 334-40-11000-2490-3301-4035), and ultimately into the Chena River (AWC Code: 334-40-11000-

2490-3301), all of which are catalogued as anadromous (salmon-bearing) waters. Jenny M Creek, Mullen Slough and the Chena River are classified as Type III-A streams (non-glacial with resident fish, > 3 ft wide) 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 Chena River system provides critical spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and supports the most heavily used sport fishery in the Tanana Basin. NC-2064-F, NC-2548-F, NC-2370-F and NC-2051-F all sit adjacent to the Chena River and will be buffered at least 100' off the riverbank's edge. NC-2058-F and NC-1850-F sit adjacent to Mullen Slough and will be buffered at least 100' off the slough bank's edge.

5. Recreation, tourism, and scenic resources. The proposed area lies within the Chena River corridor, an area that sees extensive use by a myriad of user groups in all seasons of the year. Sport fishing, guided tours, paddling, rafting, hiking, hunting, trapping, foraging, OHV use and personal use firewood harvesting are common along the Chena River and the surrounding area, with additional winter uses such as snowmachining, dog mushing and skiing, with multiple guiding outfits contributing to the local tourism economy. The Chena River corridor provides for multiple use with a high scenic value that contributes to its popularity as a recreational hub in the Interior. Irregular stand edges and retention of mature forest between the harvest boundaries and the River/CHSR will reduce the visual impact. New winter road construction will cross perpendicular to existing winter trails, and contracts will specify mitigations to accommodate the existing uses in the area.

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 6 is open to mineral entry and is available for leasing. Mineral potential in this Unit has been rated moderate to high. No active mining claims are established within the sale area, but claims do exist near to the northwest and to the northeast. 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 access to personal use fuelwood areas, as home heating costs remain high in Interior Alaska.

Minimal negative effects are expected on fish and wildlife habitat or water quality due to the mid to upper slope landscape position of these sales and the retention of adjacent seed source which may provide additional travel corridors for wildlife.

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:

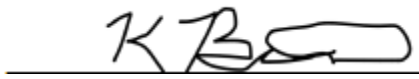
Commenter	Comment	Response
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game	No issue of concern.	Noted.
Tom Paragi	Recently observed whole tree harvest and mechanized processing at landing has resulted in dense accumulations of logging slash. This practice hinders reforestation, has resulted in lower utilization of smaller 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	Noted. DFFP's increasing use of post-harvest scarification is directly informed by years of regeneration surveys to inform best practices.

	these documents is critical to reforestation.	
	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 388 acres of spruce and birch sales from Tanana Valley State Forest lands along the Pheasant Farm/Jenny M and Grange Hall roads south of Chena Hot Springs Road to provide sawtimber and fuelwood 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



11/18/26

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).]

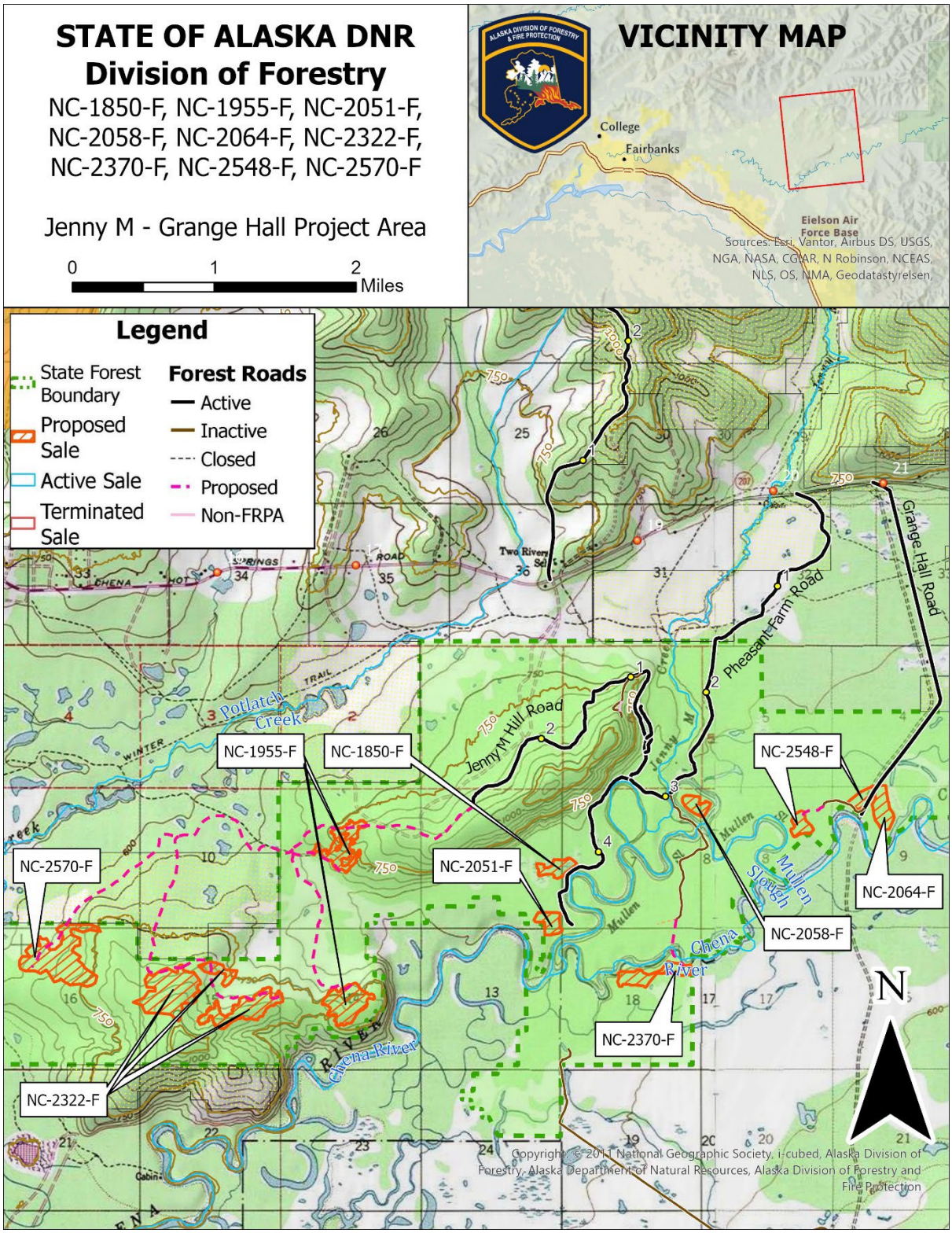
If no appeal is filed by that date, this decision goes into effect as a final order and decision on **December 7, 2026**.

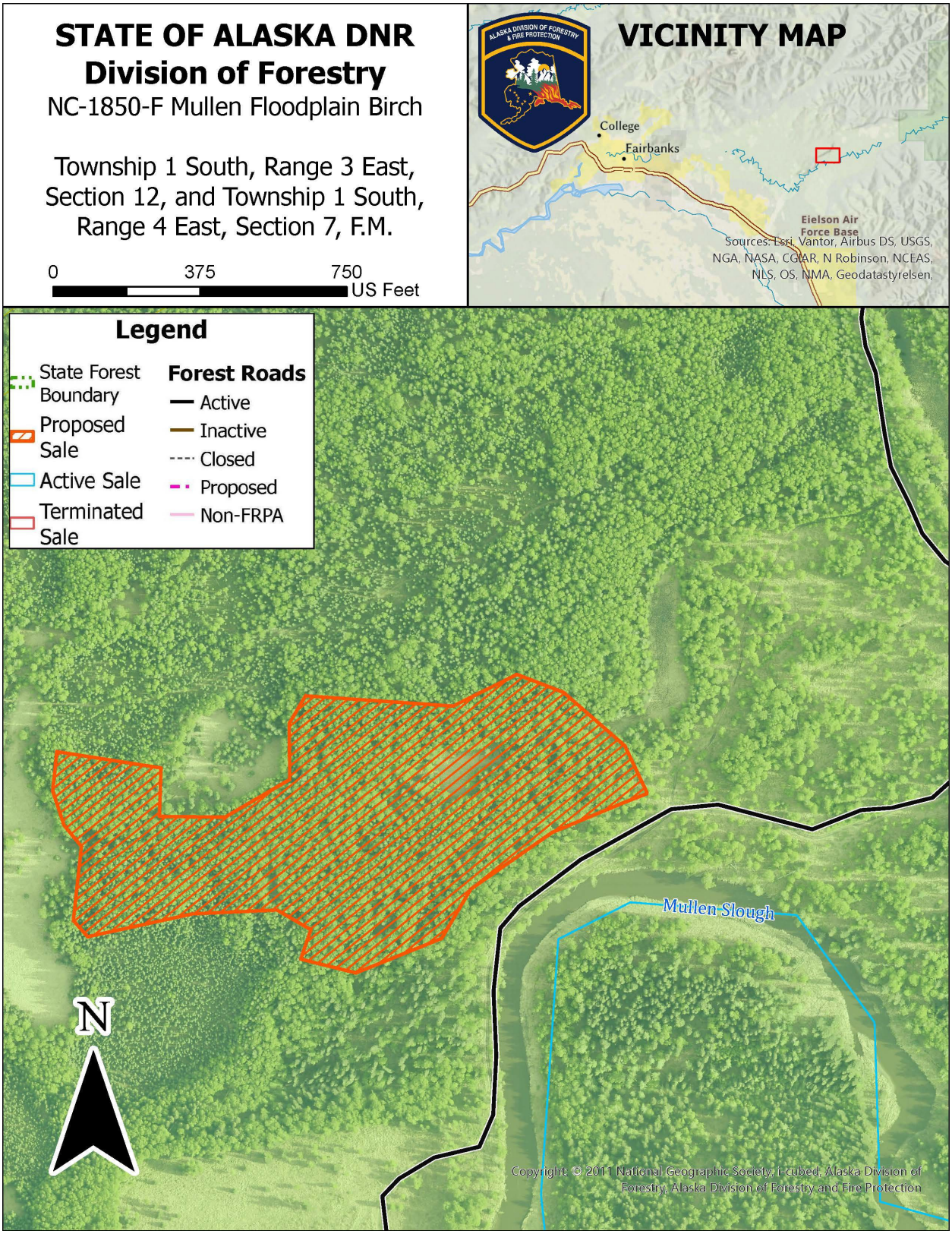
A copy of 11 AAC 02 is enclosed and is also available on the department's website at https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/pdf/DNR-11-AAC-02.pdf .

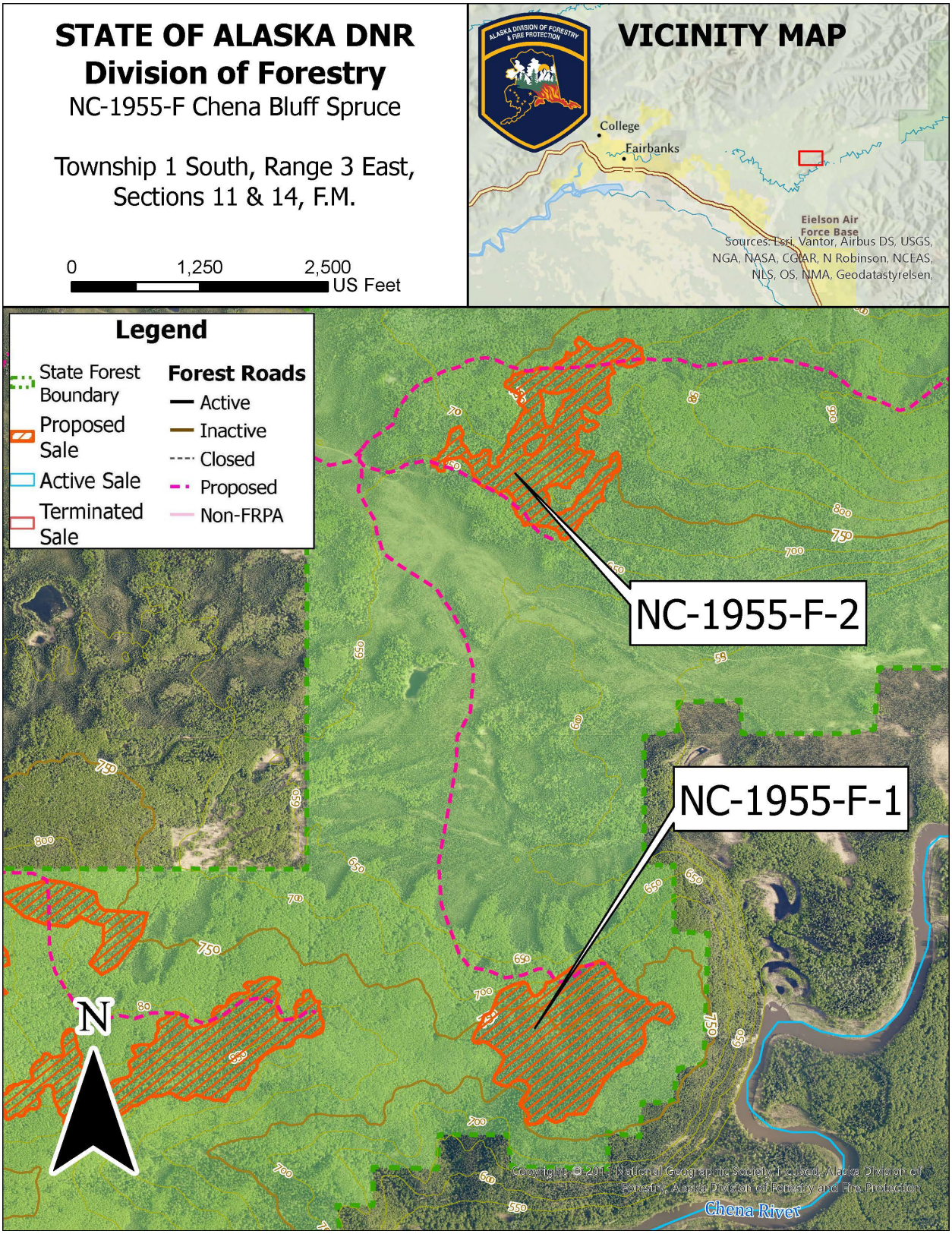
If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Allaby, Fairbanks-Delta Resource Forester, andrew.allaby@alaska.gov, 907-451-2603, 3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks AK 99709.

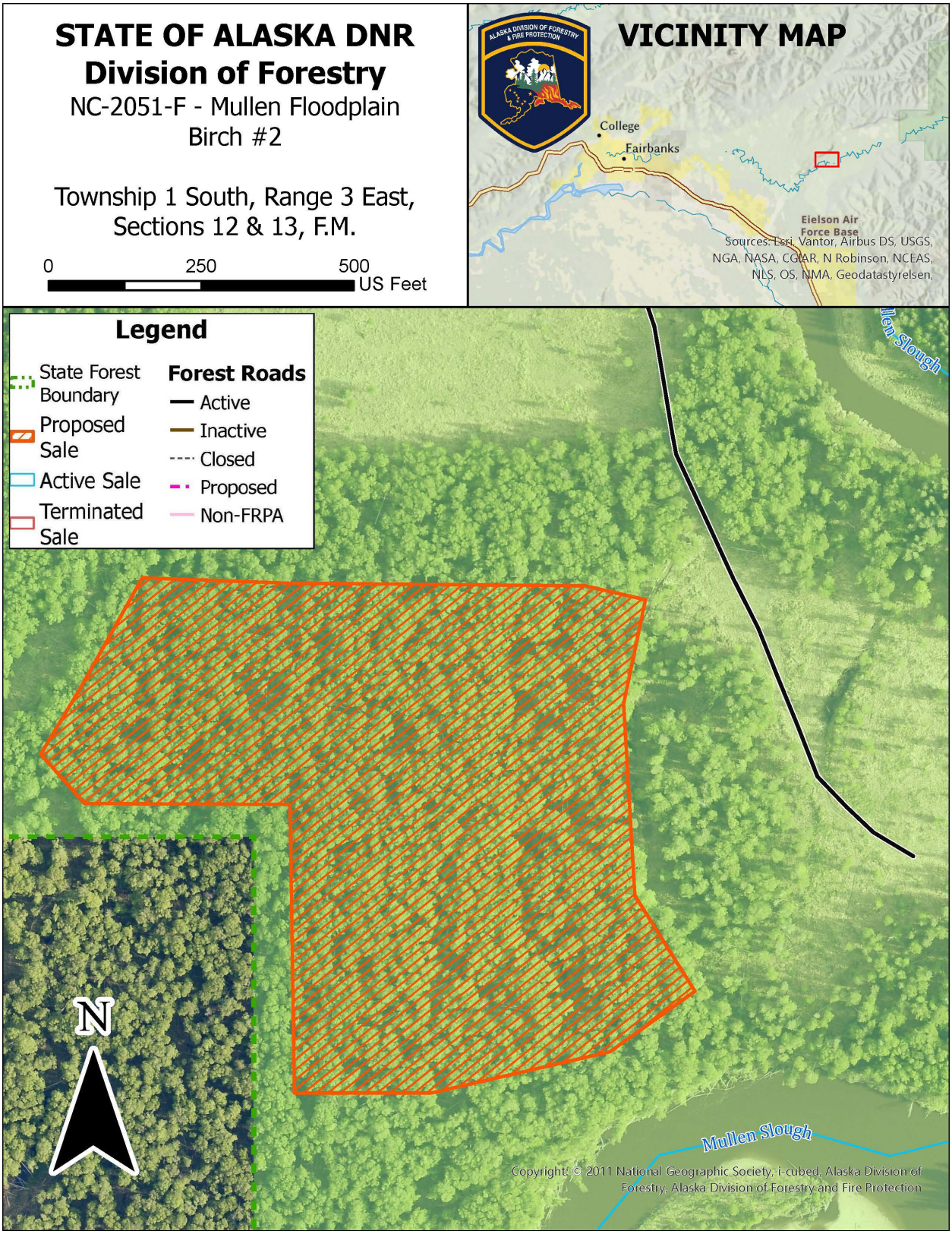
XI. APPENDICES

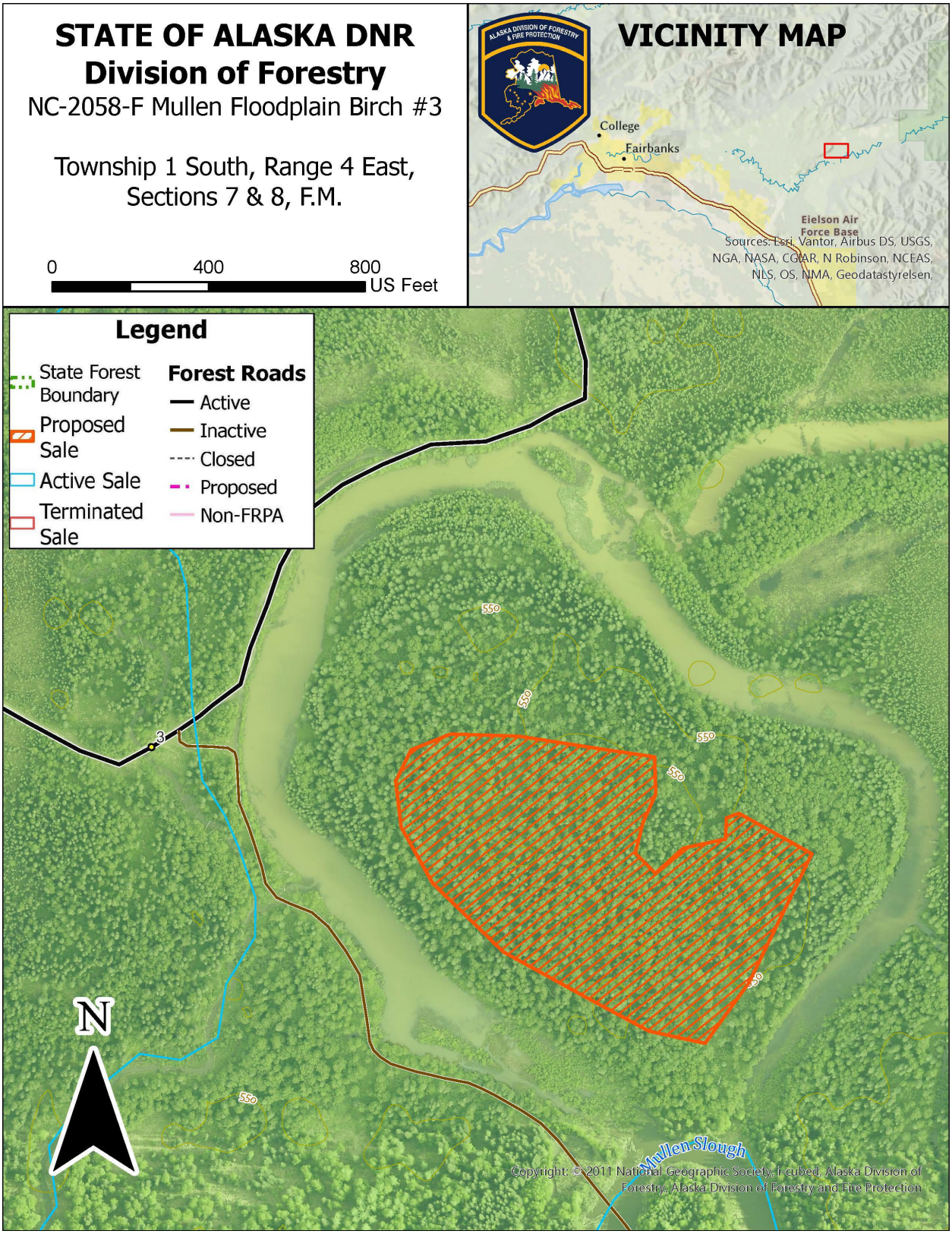
APPENDIX A: MAPS

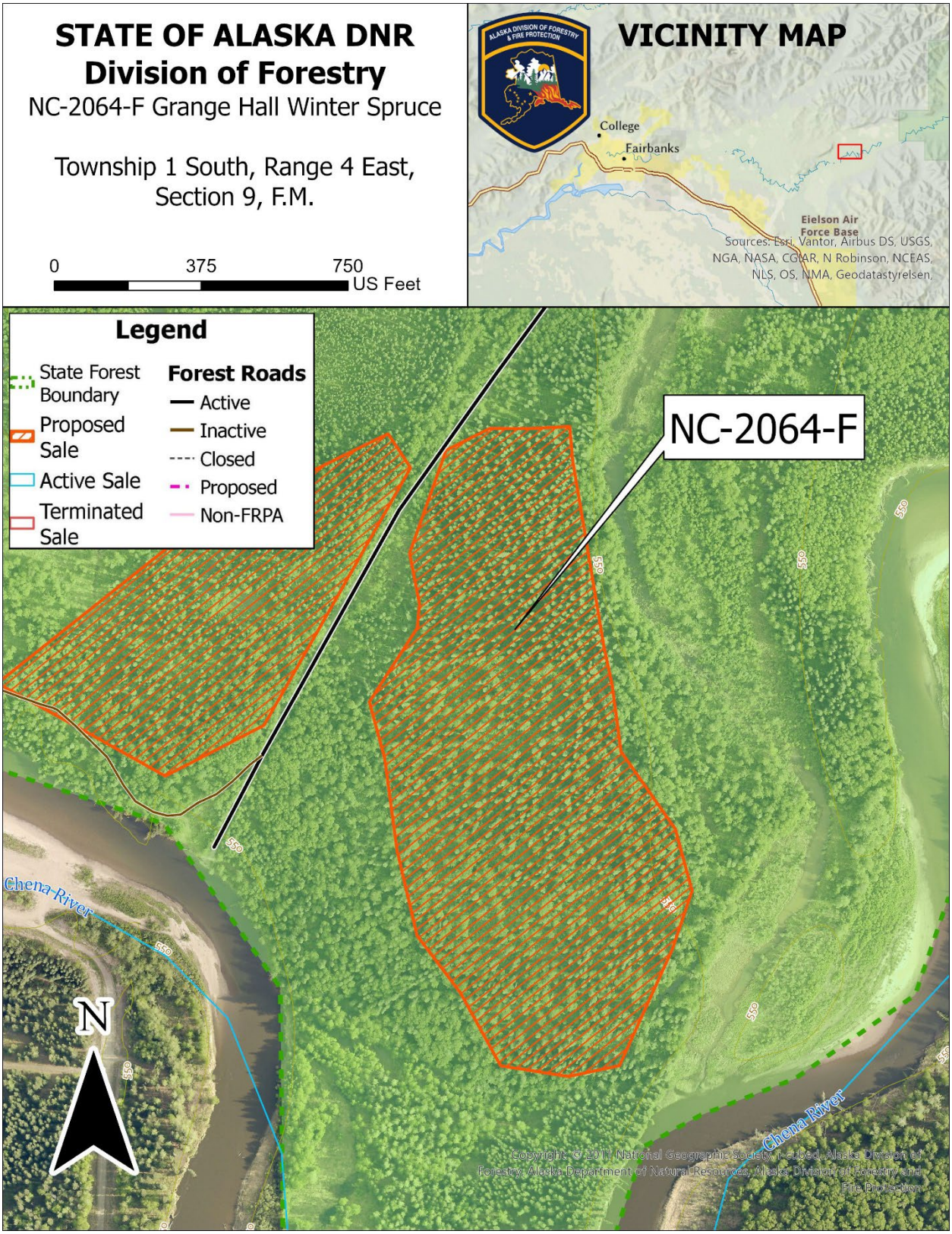


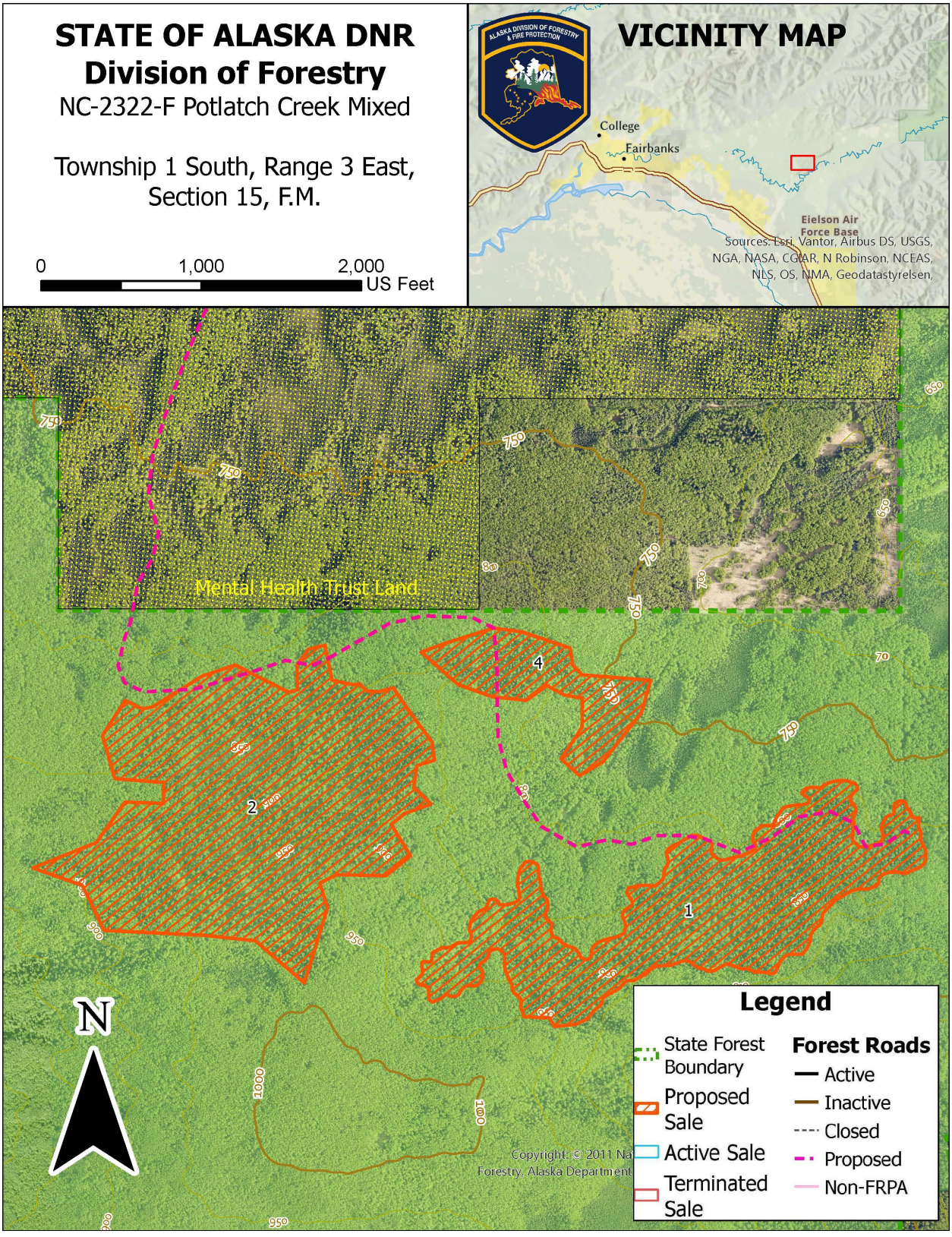

STATE OF ALASKA DNR
Division of Forestry
NC-1850-F Mullen Floodplain Birch
Township 1 South, Range 3 East, Section 12, and Township 1 South, Range 4 East, Section 7, F.M.
0
375
750
US Feet
VICINITY MAP
College
Fairbanks
Eielson Air Force Base
Sources: Esri, Vantor, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen,
Legend
State Forest Boundary
Proposed Sale
Active Sale
Terminated Sale
Forest Roads
Active
Inactive
Closed
Proposed
Non-FRPA
Mullen Slough
N
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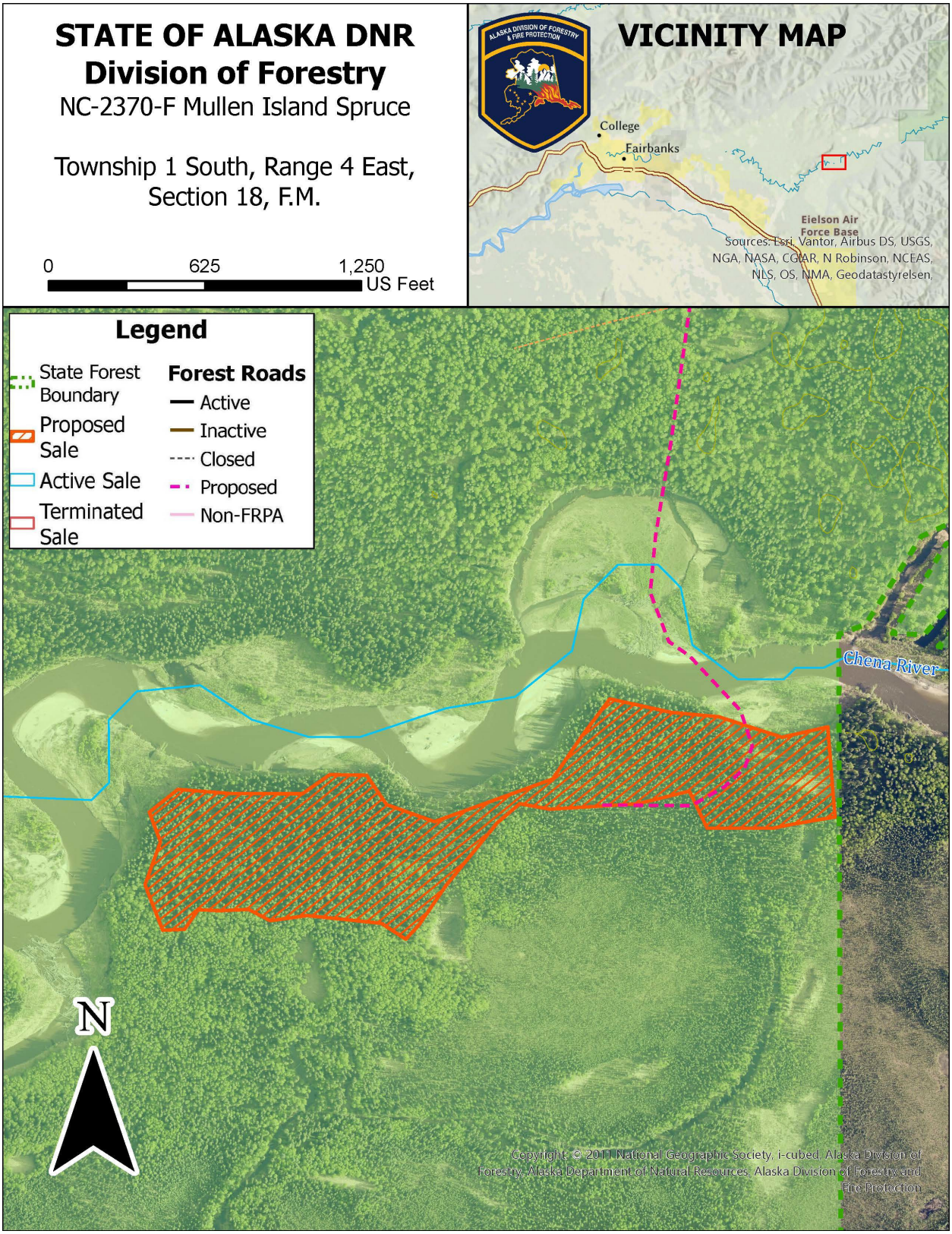

STATE OF ALASKA DNR
Division of Forestry
NC-1955-F Chena Bluff Spruce
Township 1 South, Range 3 East,
Sections 11 & 14, F.M.
0
1,250
2,500
US Feet
VICINITY MAP
College
Fairbanks
Eielson Air Force Base
Sources: Esri, Vantor, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen,
Legend
State Forest Boundary
Proposed Sale
Active Sale
Terminated Sale
Forest Roads
Active
Inactive
Closed
Proposed
Non-FRPA
NC-1955-F-2
NC-1955-F-1
N
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Chena River

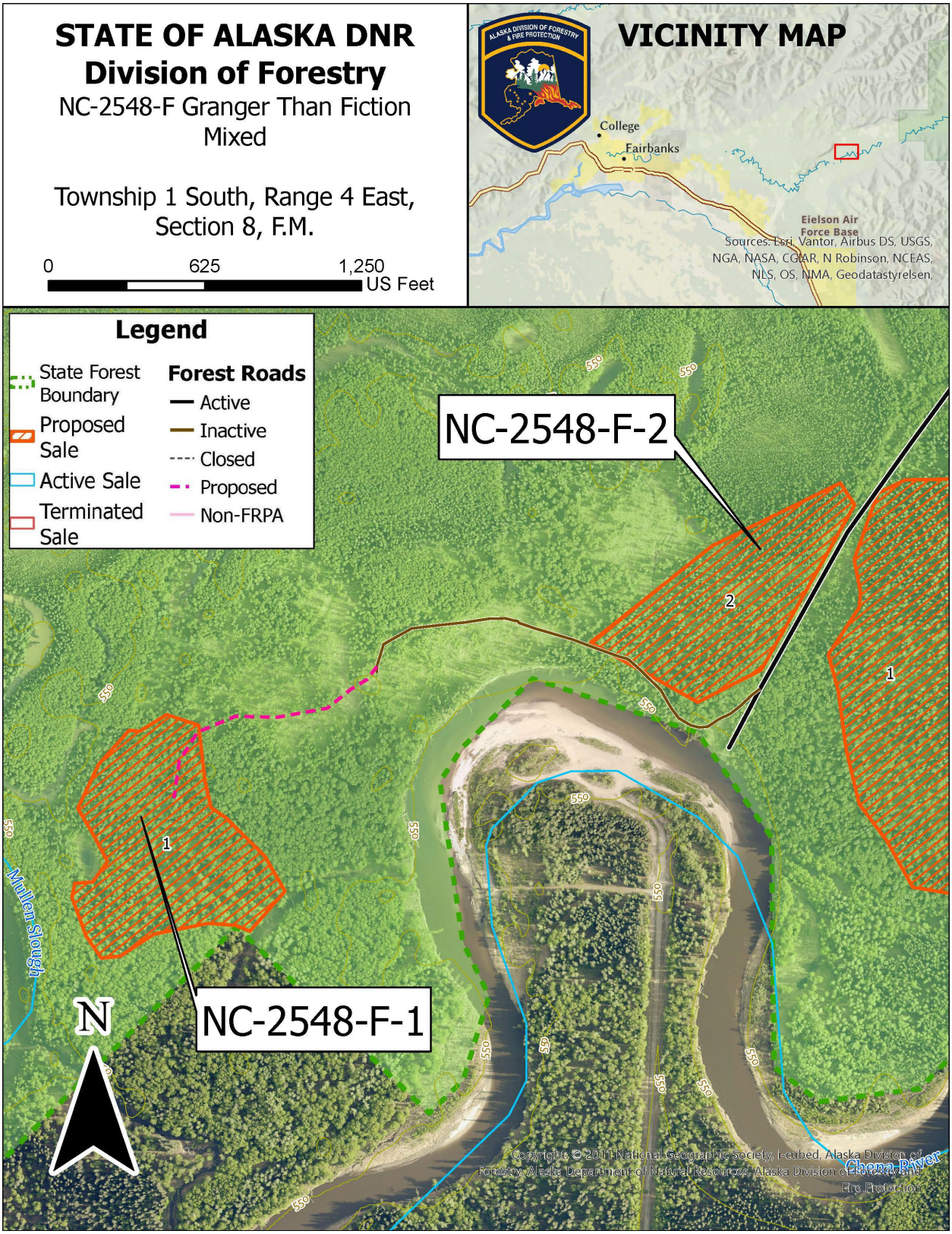

STATE OF ALASKA DNR
Division of Forestry
NC-2051-F - Mullen Floodplain
Birch #2
Township 1 South, Range 3 East,
Sections 12 & 13, F.M.
0
250
500
US Feet
VICINITY MAP
College
Fairbanks
Eielson Air Force Base
Sources: Esri, Vantor, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen,
Legend
State Forest Boundary
Proposed Sale
Active Sale
Terminated Sale
Forest Roads
Active
Inactive
Closed
Proposed
Non-FRPA
N
Mullen Slough
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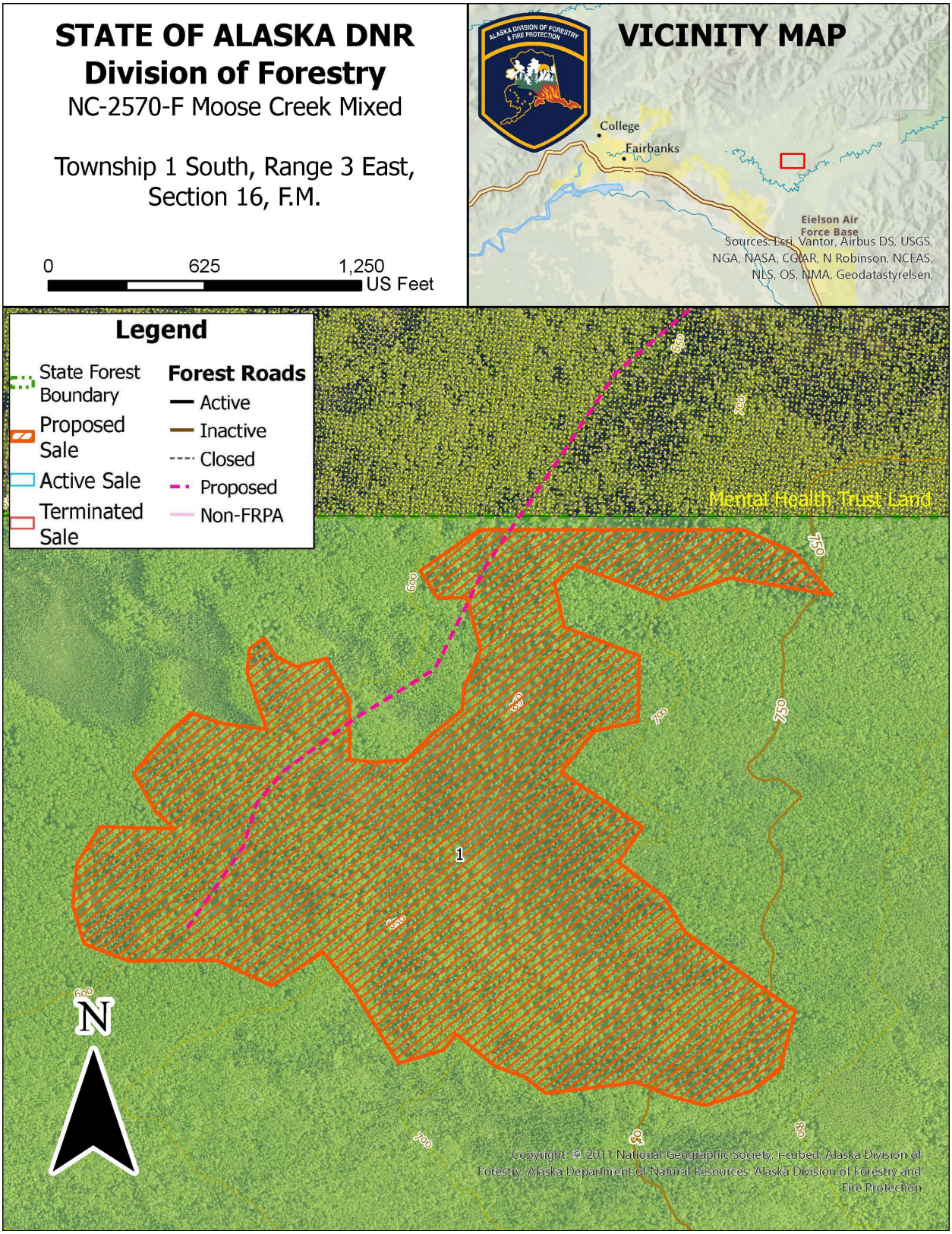

STATE OF ALASKA DNR
Division of Forestry
NC-2058-F Mullen Floodplain Birch #3
Township 1 South, Range 4 East,
Sections 7 & 8, F.M.
0
400
800
US Feet
VICINITY MAP
College
Fairbanks
Eielson Air Force Base
Sources: Esri, Vantor, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen,
Legend
State Forest Boundary
Proposed Sale
Active Sale
Terminated Sale
Forest Roads
Active
Inactive
Closed
Proposed
Non-FRPA
550
3
N
Mullen Slough
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STATE OF ALASKA DNR
Division of Forestry
NC-2064-F Grange Hall Winter Spruce
Township 1 South, Range 4 East,
Section 9, F.M.
0
375
750
US Feet
VICINITY MAP
College
Fairbanks
Eielson Air Force Base
Sources: Esri, Vantor, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen,
Legend
State Forest Boundary
Proposed Sale
Active Sale
Terminated Sale
Forest Roads
Active
Inactive
Closed
Proposed
Non-FRPA
NC-2064-F
Chena River
Chena River
N
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STATE OF ALASKA DNR
Division of Forestry
NC-2322-F Potlatch Creek Mixed
Township 1 South, Range 3 East,
Section 15, F.M.
0
1,000
2,000
US Feet
VICINITY MAP
College
Fairbanks
Eielson Air Force Base
Sources: Esri, Vantor, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen,
Mental Health Trust Land
1
2
4
N
Legend
State Forest Boundary
Proposed Sale
Active Sale
Terminated Sale
Forest Roads
Active
Inactive
Closed
Proposed
Non-FRPA


STATE OF ALASKA DNR
Division of Forestry
NC-2370-F Mullen Island Spruce
Township 1 South, Range 4 East,
Section 18, F.M.
0
625
1,250
US Feet
VICINITY MAP
College
Fairbanks
Eielson Air Force Base
Sources: Esri, Vantor, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen,
Legend
State Forest Boundary
Proposed Sale
Active Sale
Terminated Sale
Forest Roads
Active
Inactive
Closed
Proposed
Non-FRPA
Chena River
N
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STATE OF ALASKA DNR
Division of Forestry
NC-2548-F Granger Than Fiction
Mixed
Township 1 South, Range 4 East,
Section 8, F.M.
0
625
1,250
US Feet
VICINITY MAP
College
Fairbanks
Eielson Air Force Base
Sources: Esri, Vantor, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen,
Legend
State Forest Boundary
Proposed Sale
Active Sale
Terminated Sale
Forest Roads
Active
Inactive
Closed
Proposed
Non-FRPA
NC-2548-F-2
NC-2548-F-1
1
2
N
Mullen Slough
Chena River
550
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STATE OF ALASKA DNR
Division of Forestry
NC-2570-F Moose Creek Mixed
Township 1 South, Range 3 East,
Section 16, F.M.
0
625
1,250
US Feet
VICINITY MAP
College
Fairbanks
Eielson Air Force Base
Sources: Esri, Vantor, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen,
Legend
State Forest Boundary
Proposed Sale
Active Sale
Terminated Sale
Forest Roads
Active
Inactive
Closed
Proposed
Non-FRPA
Mental Health Trust Land
650
700
750
1
N
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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.