

State of Alaska  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry  
Southeast Area Office  
Vallenar Bay Road Traffic Restriction

**Road Owner/ Manager:** Alaska Department of Natural Resources/ Division of Forestry (DOF)

**Principle Current User:**

Alcan Timber Incorporated (Alcan)  
(State timber purchaser)

**Authority:** AS 35.05.035 (a)(02) and (07)

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this restriction is to protect life, safety, and property per AS. 38.04.058 and AS 38.04.200(3).

**Background:**

The DNR/ DOF has a perpetual road easement across Ketchikan Gateway Borough Lot 2-B-2 of ASLS 95-12 to access State Forest land (ADL NO. 108338). The DOF constructed the Vallenar Bay Road between 2016 and 2018 across the easement and accessed State Forest land on Gravina Island for the purpose of forest management (i.e.- timber harvest, etc.) in the Vallenar Bay area. The road is a single lane forest road designed for coordinated commercial forest traffic. The State authorized by permit (LAS 32780) one private user to connect to the road (Pryor, ASLS 85-86, Block 6, Lot 9) in 2019. The DOF sold state and federal timber accessed by the road to Alcan in February of 2019. Alcan is harvesting DOF managed lands. Alcan requested restriction of public traffic in June of 2020 based on public safety and risk concerns.

**Order:**

1. The Vallenar Bay Road is restricted to commercial and administrative traffic associated with State and other timber harvest operations. Public use of the road is discouraged during periods of road construction, log hauling, cutting, or logging occurring on or adjacent to the road to protect public safety, equipment, and the value of the timber resource.
2. Vehicle use of the road system by the public is not authorized. Local business traffic shall coordinate with DOF and Alcan prior to the use of the road. Private landowners located adjacent to the road are encouraged to use alternate means or timing of access. Pedestrian use of the road is not restricted.
3. When log or rock hauling is not occurring, feasible measures may be used to restrict access to discrete portions of the project areas versus overall road restriction. Specific sections of the Vallenar Road or spur roads tributary to the Vallenar Road may be physically blocked to traffic.

4. Operations on the road shall utilize CB radio communications to regulate traffic flow and communicate right of way on the road. The operational channel used by traffic on the road shall be posted and readily visible on road signs. As required for the traffic state of use, mile markers and other explicit delineations shall actively be used to communicate traffic positions on the road by CB radio.
5. Traffic bound for the Gravina Island Industrial Complex shall be favored on the road. Log trucks shall have the right of way on the road.
6. The Vallenar Bay Road and associated spurs shall be posted at their beginning and other points determined necessary by the DOF and Alcan to convey traffic restrictions (open or closed). At minimum, the status of the road system will be communicated at the following locations:
  - a. The junction of the airport road and the Gravina Island Highway.
  - b. The DOF Ketchikan office.

#### Term of Restriction:

Start: September 1, 2020

End: At the conclusion of timber harvest operations. Approximately three years from the start date.

#### Revisions and Updates

The timber sale associated with this order has been extended. This restriction was revised July of 2023 and again in November 2025. The end of operations is estimated to occur in the fall of 2026.

This order and restriction will be reviewed when operating plans are updated to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential risks associated with timber and construction operations.

#### Approval:

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Area Forester

Date

#### Attachments:

Exhibit A: Road Closure Map



