



Alaska Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

Sectional Analysis
HB 79: Susitna State Forest; Sale of Timber
Division of Forestry
February 24, 2014

Section 1 amends AS 38.05.110, related to the sale of timber and timber receipts amount, to add new subsection (c) clarifying that the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may determine which applicable sale method is in the best interest of the state for each timber sale.

Section 2 amends AS 38.05.118(a) to allow DNR to offer negotiated timber sales to a local manufacturer of wood products or a user of wood fiber for up to 25 years statewide upon finding that the sale is in the best interest of the state. Specifies that negotiated sales must comply with the requirements for Forest Land Use Plans (AS 38.05.112) and Five-year Schedules of Timber Sales (AS 38.05.113) to ensure that large negotiated sales are developed with adequate notice to the industry and general public, and necessary site-specific design. For negotiated sales, AS 38.05.115 related to limitations and conditions of sale and AS 38.05.120 related to disposal procedures through sealed bids or public auction would no longer apply.

Section 3 amends AS 41.17, related to forest resources and practices, to add a new section to article 6 creating the Susitna State Forest. This section designates state-owned or acquired land and water lying within the listed parcels as the Susitna State Forest. It requires the commissioner of DNR to prepare a management plan for the forest, and authorizes the commissioner to establish transportation corridors within the forest.

Section 4 repeals AS 38.05.118(c), removing the restrictions that negotiated sales of timber are only allowed in areas of high unemployment, excess manufacturing capacity, and excess allowable cut.

Section 5 amends uncodified law specifying that Sections 1, 2, and 4 of this Act apply to sales of timber on state land made on or after the effective date of this Act.

Sections 6 and 7 set effective dates for different sections of the bill. Sections 1, 2, and 4 would be effective immediately. The other sections would be effective July 1, 2013.