

# Senate Bill 188: Tanana Valley State Forest

## Senate State Affairs Committee



Presented by:

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Alaska Department of Natural Resources

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# Tanana Valley State Forest (TVSF)



- 1.81 million acre state forest stretching from Manley Hot Springs to Tok
- Established July 1, 1983
- Primary purpose is timber management while allowing other beneficial uses
- Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DFFP) works closely with Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADFG) on wildlife habitat and improvements
- Significant forest recreational use includes hunting, trapping, snowmachining, cross country skiing, mountain biking, all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and dirtbike riding, bird watching, floating, camping, shooting, firewood cutting

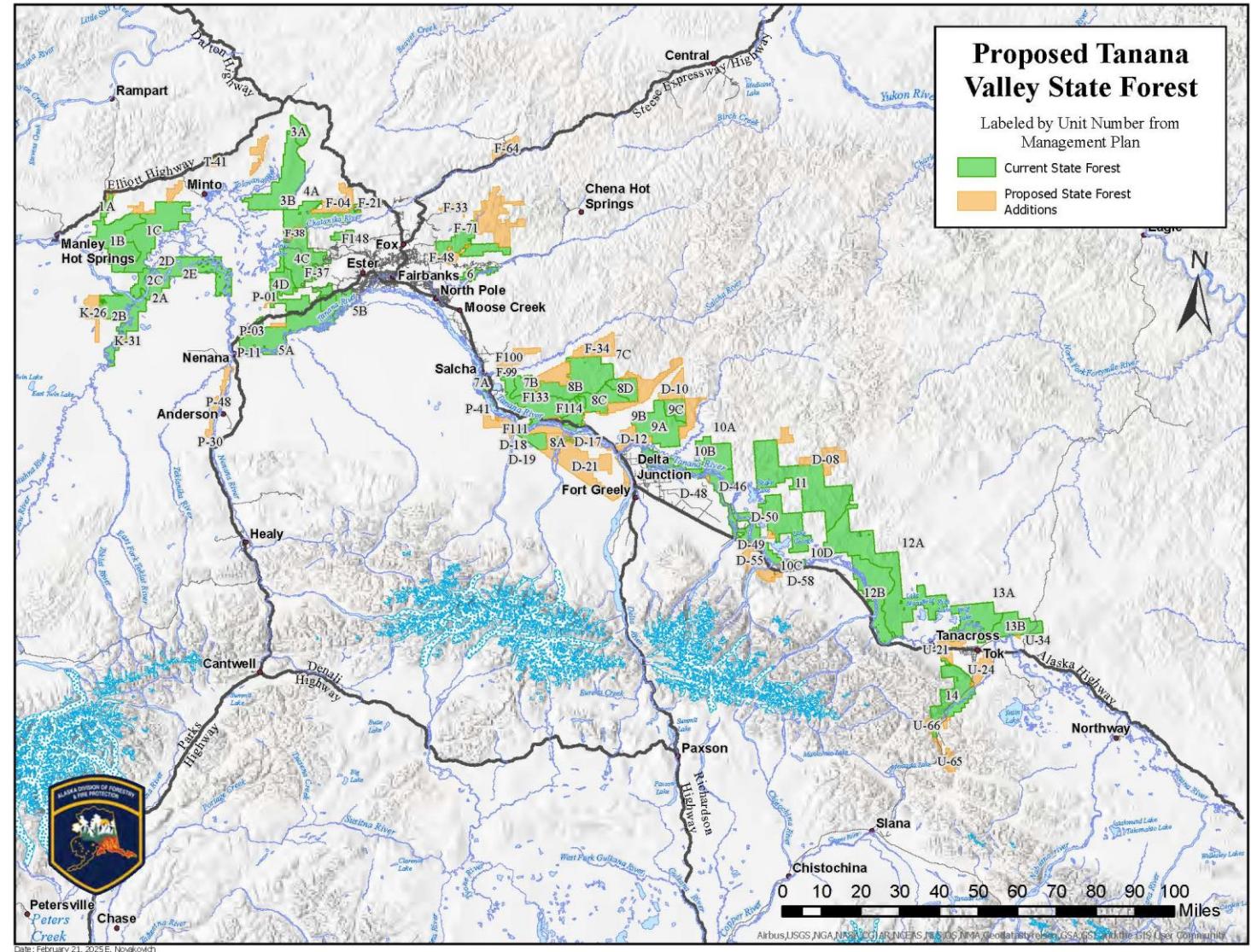




# Senate Bill 188 –Expanding TVSF



- Proposes adding approximately 600,000 acres to TVSF
- New additions are designated for forestry in the current area plan, some with a secondary designation of habitat
- Additions have been considered for inclusion in TVSF for several years
- DFFP is actively managing some of the additional areas





# Why increase TVSF?



- Long-term stewardship of forest resources
- Develop and maintain forest infrastructure
- Commitment to reforestation, water quality and fish habitat protection (FRPA)
- Inclusion of more productive sites in Interior Alaska
- Assurance of timber supply to local industry
- Develop desired habitat conditions
- Protect public access to state lands in perpetuity





# State forest expansion process



- DFFP foresters identify productive forests
- Department of Natural Resources' Resource Assessment and Development Section
  - Area Plan update DFFP makes recommendations on forestry designation
  - Make recommendation as addition to state forests – public process
- Issue public notice and hold public meetings on proposed additions to the state forest system
- If the public is supportive, administration can submit legislation and
  - Summary of testimony offered at public hearings
  - Preliminary forest inventory
  - Cost estimate of operational inventory and forest management plan





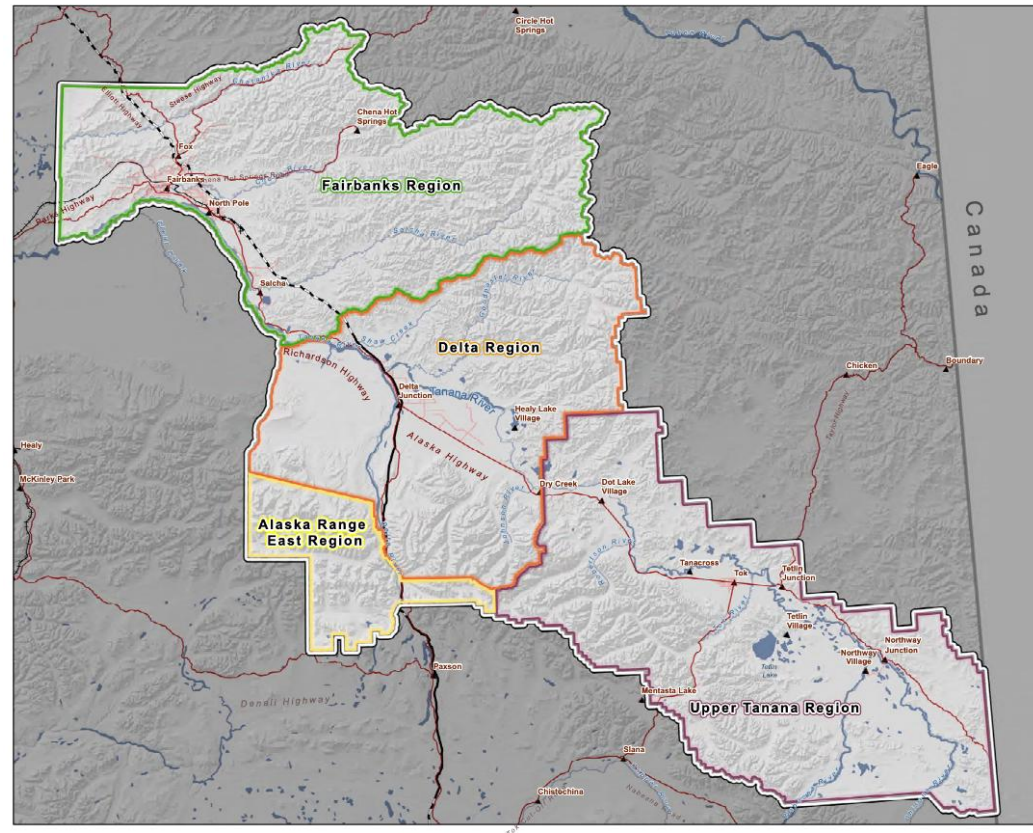
# Plan recommendations



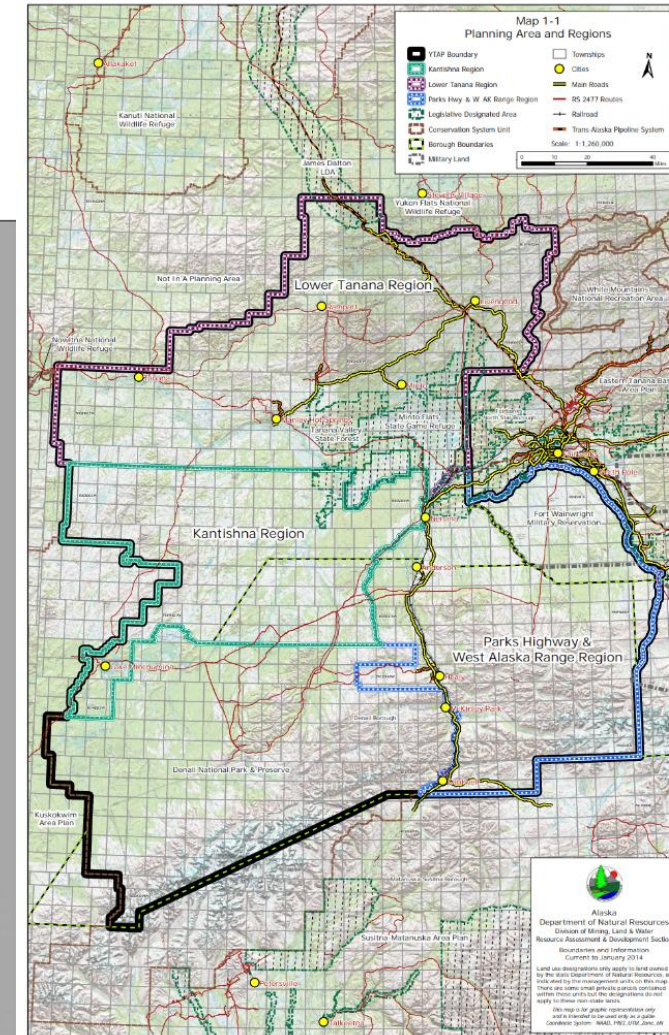
Proposed additions were selected through agency and publicly vetted planning efforts:

- Eastern Tanana Area Plan (ETAP) (2015) - 99,867 acres recommended
- Yukon Tanana Area Plan (YTAP) (2014) - 494,733 acres recommended
- Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan Revision (2025) - 594,600 acres recommended

ETAP Planning Area



YTAP Planning Area





# Public comment

- Received **general public support** for TVSF expansion
- Additional **strong public support** for TVSF expansion in recent Yukon Area Plan
- Frequently asked technical questions:
  - Requests to include additional areas, or asking why some areas were not included
  - Requests for emphasis on local use of lumber versus export
  - Interaction with potential carbon projects
  - General questions on planning and land management processes

Public Comment Opportunities	
May 28, 2025	DFFP virtual public meeting
May 8, 2025	DFFP community meeting in Delta Junction
May 7, 2025	DFFP community meeting in Tok
May 6, 2025	DFFP community meeting in Nenana
May 5, 2025	DFFP community meeting in Fairbanks
Jan. 29, 2025	DFFP virtual public meeting
Sept. 17 – Dec. 20, 2024	TVSF Management Plan Revision Public review period
2014	Public review period of draft Eastern Tanana Area Plan
2012-2013	Public review period of draft Yukon Tanana Area Plan
Summer 2009	Public scoping meetings of Yukon Tanana Area Plan



# Non-timber use of TVSF



- Personal use recreation
- Tanana River Challenge – Endurance North
- Audubon Society
- OneTree Alaska
- Week in the Woods – The Folk School
- Ruffed Grouse Society
- Fairbanks Cycle Club
- Running Club North
- Two Rivers Dog Mushers
- Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks
- Fairbanks Trails Challenge





# Senate Bill 188 Sectional



Section	Page	Description
1	1	Repeals and reenacts AS 41.17.400(d), the legal description of the current TVSF, to include legal description of 43 additional units
2	67	Adds a new subsection to AS 41.17.400 defining “section” and “sections” as both surveyed and surveyed protracted sections
3	67	Adds a new section to uncodified law allowing the Department of Natural Resources to adopt regulations necessary to implement the bill
4	67	Sets an immediate effective date for section 3, authority to adopt regulations
5	67	Sets a July 1, 2025, effective date for sections 1 and 2, expanding the state forest



# Thank You



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## The logo of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources is a circular emblem. It depicts a landscape with a large evergreen tree on the left, a winding river in the foreground, and a mountain range in the background. A red sun is positioned on the right side of the mountain. The text "ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES" is written in a circular path around the central image.





# Proposed TVSF east

