

# Forest Management in Alaska

House Finance Committee

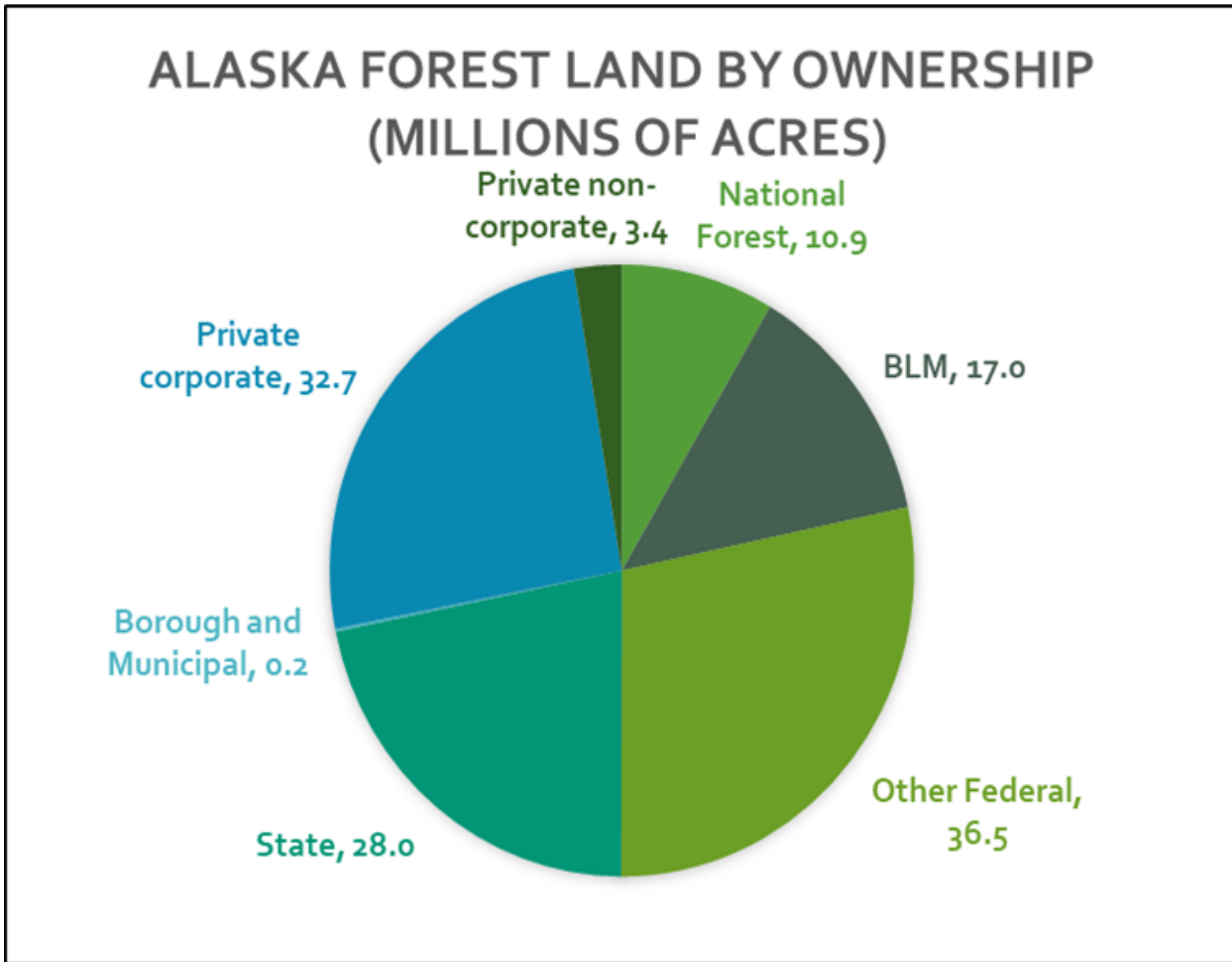
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Division of Forestry & Fire Protection  
Department of Natural Resources



# Who Owns Alaska's Forests?





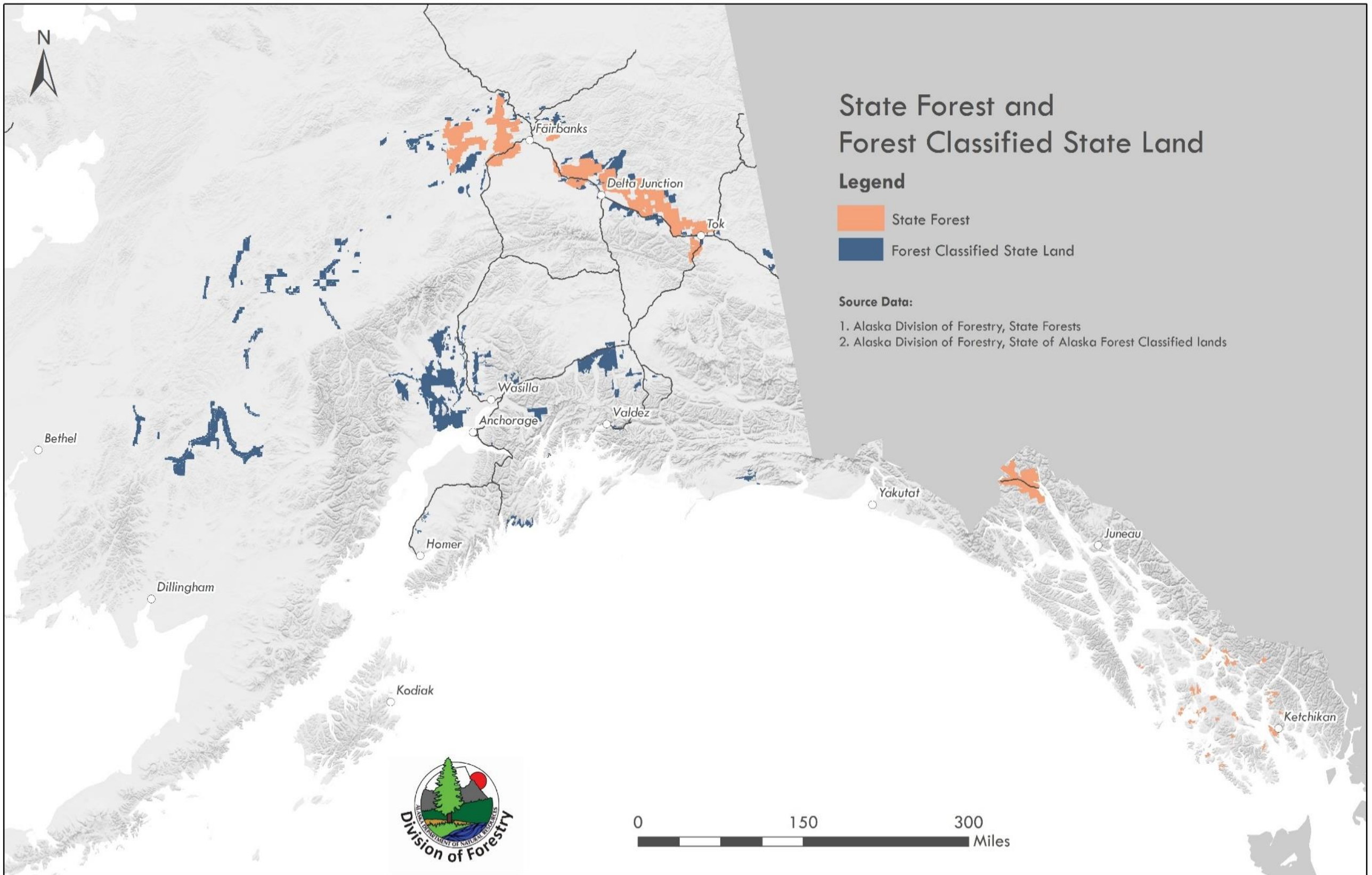


# Division of Forestry and Fire Protection State Forests

Tanana Valley State Forest (*1.81 million acres*)  
Haines State Forest (*286,000 acres*)  
Southeast State Forest (*46,592 acres*)



# Division of Forestry and Fire Protection State Forests





# State Forests

State Forests, managed by the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection, are generally more evenly managed and less event-driven than private lands or other State lands with a profit maximization objective:

- Multiple use mandates, including recreation
- Sustained yield mandate
- Provide the timber industry with a perpetual, stable, non-declining supply of raw material year after year
- Consider and incorporate public input

For these and other reasons, State Forests in most years harvest less than the sustained yield. They may therefore be sought after for forest carbon offset projects.



# State Forests

- AS 41.17.200: The primary purpose in the establishment of State Forests is timber management that provides for the production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources while allowing other beneficial uses of public land and resources
- AS 41.17.230: To the extent they are found to be compatible with the primary purpose of State Forests under AS 41.17.200, the forest management plan must consider and permit uses of forest land for nontimber purposes, including recreation, tourism, mining, mineral exploration, mineral leasing, material extraction, consumptive and nonconsumptive uses of wildlife and fish, grazing and other agricultural activities, and other traditional uses





# Forest Management

Alaska Constitution, Article VIII sections 1 and 4 require that timber resources are to be made available for maximum use consistent with the public interest and to be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle.







# Sustained Yield

Definition: Harvesting at most the amount of timber growth that accumulates in any given year. This is often referred to as the annual allowable cut (AAC).

AS 41.17.950(26): Sustained Yield. The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of forest land and water without significant impairment of the productivity of the land and water; does not require that timber be harvested in a non-declining yield basis over a rotation period

AS 38.04.910(12): Sustained Yield. The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the state land consistent with multiple use





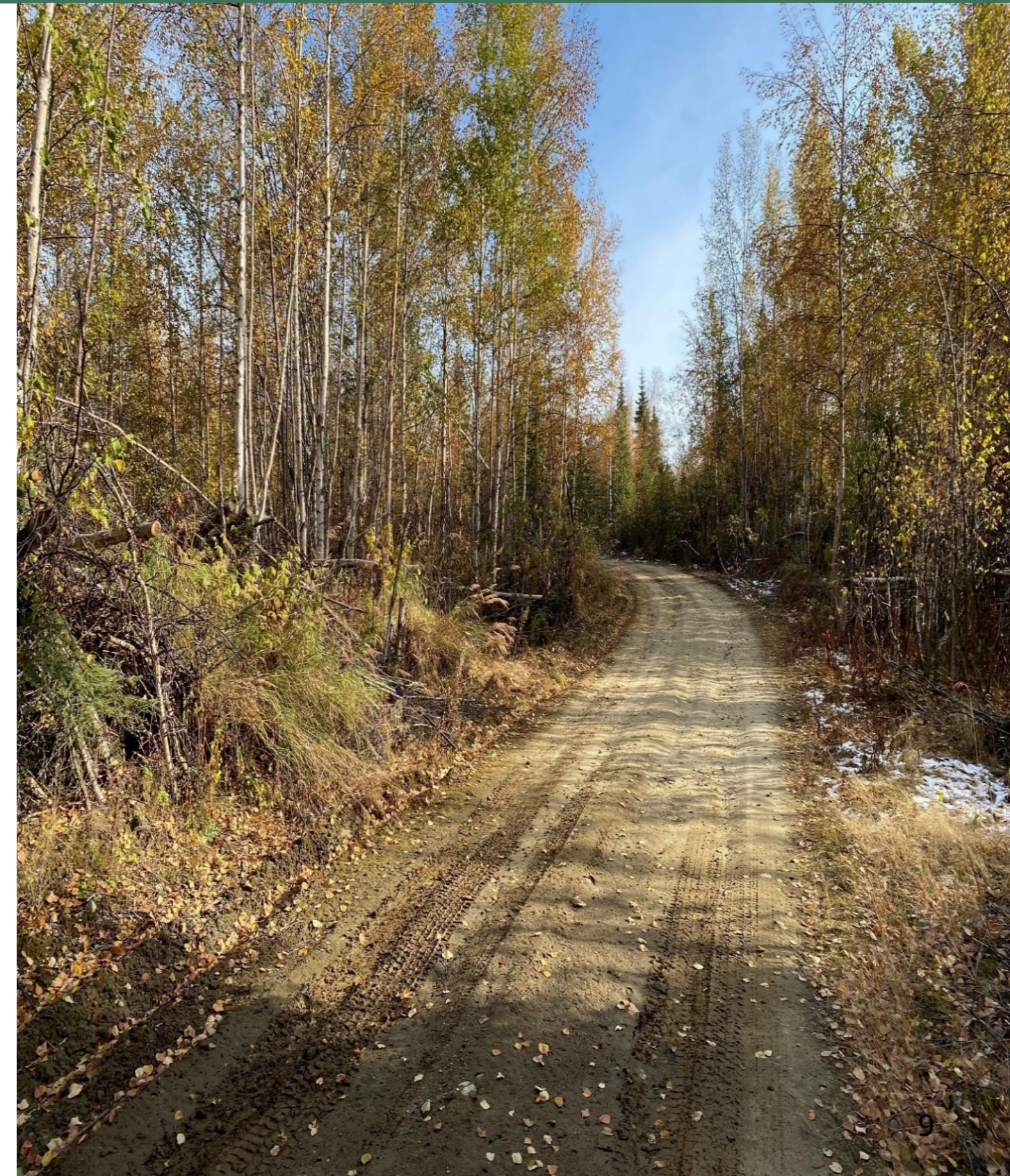


# Multiple Use

AS 38.04.910(5): The management of state land and its various resource values so that it is used in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the people of Alaska, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; it includes

(A) the use of some land for less than all of the resources; and

(B) a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the short-term and long-term needs of present and future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific, and historic values.







# Forest Resources and Practices Act

- The Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA, AS 41.17) governs timber harvesting, reforestation and access on state, private, and municipal land.
- FRPA protects fish habitat and water quality, and ensures prompt reforestation while providing for a healthy timber industry.





# Timber Sales



## Steps in a Timber Sale

*Public and agency comment gathered at each step*

1. Regional Planning: Area Plans & State Forest Plans\*
2. Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales
3. Best Interest Finding\*

Timber may be sold after BIF adopted

4. Forest Land Use Plans\*

Not all FLUPs must be issued before timber is offered for sale

For large sales, prepare FLUPs in phases, as access is developed

*\*Subject to appeal*







# Would Forest Management Change Under HB 49?

- State Forest Management Plans would have to be updated to incorporate forest carbon offset projects
- State Forests remain actively managed working forests where timber harvesting is a regular occurrence





# Thank You! Questions



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