

H B

356

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(9)

Date Referred: May 8, 1989

FURTHER REFERRALS: FINANCE

Date of Committee Action: 4/18/90

The RESOURCES Committee considered:

HB 356

HOUSE BILL NO. 356

[ESTABLISHING THE SUSITNA STATE FOREST]

"An Act establishing the Susitna State Forest."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- [] be replaced with CS HB356 [] the same title
- [] have attached amendment(s) [] a new title
- [] do pass
- [] do not pass
- [] no recommendation
- [] individual recommendations
- [] additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):
(Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Date/Dept)

- [] fiscal impact _____
- [] zero fiscal note _____
- [] zero with analysis _____

- [] fiscal note(s) _____
- [] zero fiscal note(s) _____
- [] zero fn/analysis _____

SIGNING BY PASS:

[Handwritten signatures]

SIGNING:
(Check approp. column)

	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend
<i>[Signature]</i>		X	
<i>[Signature]</i>		X	
<i>[Signature]</i>		X	

[Handwritten Signature]

 Chairman's Signature

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: Establishing the Susitna State Forest
Sponsor: Resources
Requestor: House Resources Committee

Agency Affected: All Agencies
BRU: _____
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CONTRACTUAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
SUPPLIES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
EQUIPMENT	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
LAND & STRUCTURES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
GRANTS, CLAIMS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
MISCELLANEOUS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
OTHER	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TEMPORARY	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: House Resources Committee Phone: 4944
Division: Representative Curt Menard Date: 4/19/90

Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: _____
Agency: _____

Distribution (by preparer):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

Original sponsor(s): Resources Committee

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 356 (Resources)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Susitna State Forest."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 * Section 1. AS 41.17 is amended by adding a new section to read:

9 Sec. 41.17.410. SUSITNA STATE FOREST. (a) Subject to valid
10 existing rights and except for land owned by or transferred to the
11 University of Alaska under a settlement agreement between the state
12 and the university, the state-owned or acquired land and water lying
13 within the parcels described in (d) of this section is designated as
14 the Susitna State Forest.

15 (b) The commissioner shall prepare a management plan for the
16 Susitna State Forest under AS 41.17.230. The management plan for the
17 Susitna State Forest must include the guidelines from the Susitna
18 Regional Forest Plan.

19 (c) The commissioner shall consider and permit the uses de-
20 scribed in AS 41.17.230(e) within the Susitna State Forest subject to
21 findings by the commissioner under AS 41.17.230(f).

22 (d) The Susitna State Forest includes the state-owned or ac-
23 quired land and water lying within the following described parcels:

24 (1) Kusheina Block

25 (A) Township 20 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

26 Sections 3 - 10

27 Sections 15 - 22

28 Section 27: 1/2, 1/2NE1/4

29 Section 23

Section 29: N1/2, E1/2SE1/4

(D) Township 21 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 4 - 9

Section 15: N1/2NW1/2, E1/2NW1/4, N1/2NE1/4

Sections 16 - 21

Section 22: N1/2

Section 27: N1/2

Sections 28 - 33

Section 34: N1/2

(C) Township 21 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian

Section 25: S1/2, SE1/4

Section 36: E1/2, E1/2NW1/2

(2) Petersville Road Block

(A) Township 24 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 3 - 5

Section 6: NE1/4

Section 8: N1/2, N1/2SE1/2, S1/2SE1/4

Sections 9 - 10

Section 13: SW1/4, SW1/4NW1/4, SW1/4SE1/4

Section 19: N1/2, N1/2E1/2, E1/2SE1/4,

SE1/4NE1/4

Section 20: S1/2

Section 23: N1/2

Sections 29 - 31

(B) Township 24 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

Section 1: N1/2

Sections 2 - 5

Sections 6 - 11

Section 12: N1/2, N1/2SE1/4

1 Section 13: W1/2NE1/4, SE1/4NE1/4

2 Section 15

3 Section 16: W1/2

4 Sections 17 - 20

5 Section 22

6 Section 23: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, NE1/4NE1/4

7 Section 28: W1/2

8 Sections 29 - 31

9 (C) Township 25 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

10 Sections 3 - 4

11 Section 6: W1/2, N1/2NE1/4

12 Section 7: W1/2, NW1/4

13 Section 8: E1/2, E1/2SW1/4

14 Sections 9 - 10

15 Sections 15 - 17

16 Sections 20 - 22

17 Section 23: W1/2

18 Section 26: W1/2

19 Sections 27 - 29

20 Sections 32 - 34

21 Section 35: W1/2

22 (D) Township 25 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

23 Section 1: E1/2, SW1/4

24 Section 12

25 Section 13: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, E1/2NE1/4

26 Section 14: E1/2, SW1/4

27 Section 23

28 Section 24: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, E1/2SE1/4

29 Sections 25 - 26

1 Sections 35 - 36

2 (E) Township 26 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

3 Section 20: SE1/4

4 Section 21: S1/2

5 Sections 27 - 28

6 Section 29: NE1/4

7 Section 31: W1/2, SE1/4

8 Section 33

9 (F) Township 26 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

10 Section 24: E1/2E1/2

11 Section 25: E1/2

12 Section 36: E1/2.

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6-0896E
Bradley
2/27/90

Original sponsor(s): Resources Committee

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
 2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 356 (Resources)
 3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
 4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

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 11 University of Alaska under a settlement agreement between the state
 12 and the university, the state-owned or acquired land and water lying
 13 within the parcels described in (d) of this section is designated as
 14 the Susitna State Forest.

15 (b) The commissioner shall prepare a management plan for the
 16 Susitna State Forest under AS 41.17.230. The management plan for the
 17 Susitna State Forest must include the guidelines from the Susitna
 18 Regional Forest Plan.

19 (c) The commissioner shall consider and permit the uses de-
 20 scribed in AS 41.17.230(e) within the Susitna State Forest subject to
 21 findings by the commissioner under AS 41.17.230(f).

22 (d) The Susitna State Forest includes the state-owned or
 23 acquired land and water lying within the following described parcels:

24 (1) Susitna River Block

25 (A) Township 17 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

26 Section 2: NW1/4

27 Section 3: W1/2, NE1/4, N1/2SE1/4

28 Section 4: East of the left bank of the Susitna
29 River

1 Section 7: East of the left bank of the Susitna
2 River

3 Section 8: East of the left bank of the Susitna
4 River

5 Section 9: NW1/4 lying east of the left bank of
6 the Susitna River, N1/2NE1/4

7 Section 17: NW1/4

8 Section 18: N1/2 east of the left bank of the
9 Susitna River, SW1/4, W1/2SE1/4

10 Section 19: NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4, W1/2NE1/4

11 (B) Township 17 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

12 Section 24: N1/2 east of the left bank of the
13 Susitna River, N1/2S1/2

14 (C) Township 18 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

15 Section 1: East of the left bank of the Susitna
16 River

17 Section 2: E1/2E1/2 east of the left bank of
18 the Susitna River

19 Section 11: East of the left bank of the
20 Susitna River

21 Section 12: N1/2, SW1/4

22 Section 13: W1/2, W1/2SE1/4

23 Sections 14 - 15: East of the left bank of the
24 Susitna River

25 Section 22: East of the left bank of the
26 Susitna River

27 Sections 23 - 26

28 Section 27: East of the left bank of the
29 Susitna River

1 Section 33: SE1/4 East of the left bank of
2 the Susitna River

3 Section 34: East of the left bank of the
4 Susitna River

5 Section 35

6 Section 36: NW1/4

7 (D) Township 19 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian

8 Sections 3 - 10

9 Section 15: NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SW1/4,
10 W1/2NE1/4

11 Sections 16 - 21

12 Section 22: W1/2W1/2

13 Section 28: NW1/4

14 Sections 29 - 32

15 (E) Township 19 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

16 Section 1: E1/2

17 Sections 12 - 13

18 Section 24

19 Section 25: East of the left bank of the
20 Susitna River

21 Section 36: East of the left bank of the
22 Susitna River

23 (F) Township 20 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian

24 Sections 1 - 2: West of the left bank of the
25 Susitna River

26 Sections 3 - 4

27 Section 5: E1/2E1/2

28 Section 8: E1/2

29 Sections 9 - 10

1 Section 11: West of the left bank of the
2 Susitna River

3 Section 14: West of the left bank of the
4 Susitna River

5 Sections 15 - 17

6 Section 18: E1/2L1/2

7 Section 19: E1/2

8 Sections 20 - 21

9 Sections 22 - 23: West of the left bank of the
10 Susitna River

11 Section 27: West of the left bank of the
12 Susitna River

13 Sections 28 - 33

14 Section 34: West of the left bank of the
15 Susitna River

16 (G) Township 20 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

17 Section 25: E1/2E1/2

18 Section 36: E1/2

19 (H) Township 21 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian

20 Section 23: S1/2SE1/4

21 Section 24: W1/2SE1/4 west of the left bank of
22 the Susitna River, E1/2SW1/4 west of the left
23 bank of the Susitna River, SW1/4SW1/4

24 Section 25: West of the left bank of the
25 Susitna River

26 Sections 26 - 27

27 Section 28: NE1/4

28 Section 33: SE1/4

29 Sections 34 - 35

1 Section 36: West of the left bank of the
2 Susitna River

3 (2) Kashwitna Block

4 (A) Township 20 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

5 Sections 3 - 10

6 Sections 15 - 22

7 Section 27: W1/2, W1/2NE1/4

8 Section 28

9 Section 29: N1/2, E1/2SE1/4

10 (B) Township 21 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

11 Sections 4 - 9

12 Section 15: W1/2W1/2, E1/2NW1/4, W1/2NE1/4

13 Sections 16 - 21

14 Section 22: W1/2

15 Section 27: W1/2

16 Sections 28 - 33

17 Section 34: N1/2

18 (C) Township 21 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian

19 Section 25: S1/2, SE1/4

20 Section 36: E1/2, E1/2W1/2

21 (D) Township 22 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian

22 Section 7

23 Section 8: W1/2W1/2, E1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SE1/4

24 Section 16: N1/2NW1/4

25 Sections 17 - 18: N1/2N1/2

26 (E) Township 22 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian

27 Sections 3 - 6: S1/2

28 Sections 7 - 12

29 (F) Township 22 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian

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Section 1: S1/2

Sections 2 - 12

Section 18: N1/2, N1/2S1/2

(G) Township 22 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 1 - 3: S1/2

Section 4

Section 5: E1/2

Section 8: E1/2

Sections 9 - 12

Section 13: N1/2, N1/2S1/2

Sections 14 - 16

Section 17: E1/2

Section 20: E1/2NE1/4

Section 21

Section 28

Section 33

(H) Township 23 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

Section 2: S1/2, S1/2NE1/4, SE1/4NW1/4

Section 3

Sections 9 - 10

Section 11: N1/2N1/2, S1/2NW1/4, SW1/4NE1/4,

N1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SW1/4

Section 15: N1/2N1/2

Section 16

Section 21

Section 28

Section 33

(I) Township 24 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

Section 4

1 Section 5: E1/2, SW1/4, SE1/4NW1/4

2 Section 8: N1/2

3 Sections 9 - 10

4 Section 15

5 Section 22

6 Section 27

7 Section 34

8 (3) Petersville Road Block

9 (A) Township 24 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

10 Sections 3 - 5

11 Section 6: NE1/4

12 Section 8: N1/2, N1/2S1/2, S1/2SE1/4

13 Sections 9 - 10

14 Section 18: SW1/4, SW1/4NW1/4, SW1/4SE1/4

15 Section 19: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, E1/2SE1/4,

16 SE1/4NE1/4

17 Section 20: S1/2

18 Section 28: W1/2

19 Sections 29 - 31

20 (B) Township 24 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

21 Section 1: W1/2

22 Sections 2 - 5

23 Sections 6 - 11

24 Section 12: W1/2, W1/2SE1/4

25 Section 13: W1/2NE1/4, SE1/4NE1/4

26 Section 15

27 Section 16: W1/2

28 Sections 17 - 20

29 Section 22

- 1 Section 23: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, NE1/4NE1/4
2 Section 28: W1/2
3 Sections 29 - 31
4 (C) Township 24 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian
5 Section 1
6 Sections 2 - 3
7 Section 5: SW1/4
8 Sections 6 - 8
9 Sections 10 - 13
10 Section 14: E1/2, SW1/4
11 Section 15
12 Section 16: W1/2
13 Sections 17 - 20
14 Section 21: E1/2NE1/4
15 Section 22
16 Section 23: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, NE1/4NE1/4
17 Sections 26 - 27: N1/2NE1/4
18 (D) Township 24 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian
19 Section 1
20 Section 2: E1/2
21 Section 10: E1/2
22 Sections 11 - 14
23 Section 15: E1/2E1/2
24 (E) Township 25 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian
25 Sections 3 - 4
26 Section 6: W1/2, N1/2NE1/4
27 Section 7: W1/2, NW1/4
28 Section 8: E1/2, E1/2SW1/4
29 Sections 9 - 10

1 Sections 15 - 17

2 Sections 20 - 22

3 Section 23: W1/2

4 Section 26: W1/2

5 Sections 27 - 29

6 Sections 32 - 34

7 Section 35: W1/2

8 (F) Township 25 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

9 Section 1: E1/2, SW1/4

10 Section 12

11 Section 13: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, E1/2NE1/4

12 Section 14: E1/2, SW1/4

13 Section 23

14 Section 24: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, E1/2SE1/4

15 Sections 25 - 26

16 Sections 35 - 36

17 (G) Township 26 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

18 Section 20: SE1/4

19 Section 21: S1/2

20 Sections 27 - 28

21 Section 29: NE1/4

22 Section 31: W1/2, SE1/4

23 Section 33

24 (H) Township 26 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

25 Section 24: E1/2E1/2

26 Section 25: E1/2

27 Section 36: E1/2

28 (4) Susitna Lowlands Block

29 (A) Township 19 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

1 Sections 4 - 5
2 Section 6: N1/2, N1/2S1/2
3 Section 8: E1/2
4 Section 9
5 Section 15: W1/2, W1/2E1/2
6 Section 16
7 Section 21
8 Section 22: W1/2, W1/2E1/2
9 Section 27: W1/2, W1/2E1/2
10 Section 28
11 Sections 33 - 34

12 (B) Township 18 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian
13 Sections 1 - 2: West of the left channel of the
14 Susitna River
15 Section 3
16 Section 10: N1/2, N1/2S1/2
17 Section 11: N1/2 west of the left channel of
18 the Susitna River, N1/2S1/2 west of the left
19 channel of the Susitna River

20 (C) Township 20 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian
21 Section 5: SW1/4, E1/2NW1/4
22 Section 6
23 Section 8: W1/2, W1/2SE1/4
24 Section 17
25 Section 20: W1/4, W1/2SE1/4
26 Section 28: SW1/4
27 Sections 29 - 32
28 Section 33: W1/2, SE1/4, SW1/4NE1/4

29 (D) Township 20 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

1 Section 1: E1/2

2 Section 18: S1/2

3 Section 19

4 Section 25: E1/2, E1/2W1/2

5 Section 28: SW1/4

6 Sections 29 - 32

7 Section 33: W1/2, NE1/4

8 Section 36: NE1/4

9 (E) Township 20 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

10 Section 1: W1/2

11 Sections 2 - 11

12 Section 12: W1/2, SE1/4

13 Sections 13 - 20

14 Section 21: Northeast of right channel of
15 Yentna River

16 Sections 22 - 26

17 Section 27: E1/2, E1/2W1/2, W1/2NW1/4 east of
18 the right bank of Yentna River, SW1/4SW1/4,
19 E1/2SW1/4 east of right bank of main channel
20 of Yentna River

21 Section 34: N1/2, S1/2 east of right bank of
22 Yentna River

23 Sections 35 - 36

24 (F) Township 20 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian

25 Sections 1 - 2

26 Section 3: E1/2NE1/4

27 Sections 11 - 13

28 Section 14: NE1/4

29 Section 24

1 (G) Township 21 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

2 Section 2: W1/2

3 Section 5: W1/2, N1/2NE1/4

4 Sections 6 - 7

5 Section 8: NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4

6 Section 11: W1/2

7 Section 14: NW1/4

8 Section 15: SE1/4, E1/2NE1/4

9 Sections 18 - 19

10 Section 20: W1/2

11 Section 22: N1/2

12 Section 29: W1/2

13 Section 30

14 Section 31: N1/2, SE1/4

15 Section 32: W1/2SE1/4, SW1/4NE1/4

16 (H) Township 21 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

17 Sections 1 - 14

18 Section 15: N1/2, SE1/4

19 Sections 16 - 21

20 Section 23: NE1/4

21 Sections 24 - 25

22 Section 27: W1/2, W1/2E1/2

23 Section 28: E1/2, E1/2W1/2

24 Section 33: NE1/4

25 Section 34: NW1/4, W1/2NE1/4, SE1/4

26 Section 36: E1/2

27 (I) Township 21 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

28 Section 1

29 Section 2: E1/2E1/2

1 Section 3: W1/2E1/2, E1/2NW1/4

2 Section 11: E1/2, E1/2NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4

3 Sections 12 - 13

4 Section 14: NE1/4, N1/2SE1/4, SE1/4SE1/4

5 Sections 17 - 20

6 Section 21: W1/2, SE1/4

7 Section 23: E1/2E1/2, SW1/4SE1/4

8 Section 24

9 Section 25: W1/2, W1/2E1/2

10 Section 26: S1/2, NW1/4, N1/2NE1/4

11 Section 27: SE1/4, S1/2NE1/4

12 Sections 28 - 35

13 Section 36: W1/2, W1/2E1/2

14 (J) Township 21 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian

15 Section 7: N1/2, N1/2S1/2

16 Section 12: S1/2S1/2

17 Sections 13 - 14

18 Section 17: E1/2, E1/2NW1/4

19 Section 20: NE1/4, NE1/4SE1/4

20 Section 27

21 Section 28: NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4, NE1/4SE1/4

22 Section 34: NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4,

23 NE1/4SE1/4

24 Sections 35 - 36

25 (K) Township 22 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

26 Section 19

27 Section 28: W1/2SW1/4

28 Section 29: W1/2, SE1/4, W1/2NE1/4

29 Sections 30 - 32

- 1 Section 33: N1/2NW1/4
 2 Section 35: W1/2
 3 (L) Township 22 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian
 4 Section 1: SW1/4
 5 Sections 12 - 36
 6 (M) Township 22 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian
 7 Sections 13 - 16: S1/2, S1/2N1/2
 8 Section 17: S1/2 East of Kahiltna River,
 9 S1/2N1/2 East of Kahiltna River
 10 Section 20: Northeast of Kahiltna River
 11 Section 21: E1/2, W1/2 North of Kahiltna River
 12 Sections 22 - 27
 13 Section 28: E1/2
 14 Section 33: NE1/4, N1/2SE1/4, SE1/4SE1/4
 15 Sections 34 - 36
 16 (5) Mt. Susitna Block
 17 (A) Township 14 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian
 18 Section 3
 19 (B) Township 15 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian
 20 Section 3
 21 Section 4: S1/2, S1/2N1/2, N1/2NE1/4,
 22 NE1/4NW1/4
 23 Section 5: S1/2, SE1/4NE1/4
 24 Section 6: S1/2
 25 Sections 7 - 9
 26 Sections 17 - 18
 27 (C) Township 15 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian
 28 Section 9: S1/2S1/2, NE1/4SE1/4
 29 Section 10: W1/2

1 Section 11: S1/2

2 Sections 12 - 16

3 Section 17: E1/2E1/2, SW1/4SE1/4, S1/2SW1/4

4 Section 18: SW1/4, S1/2SE1/4

5 Sections 19 - 22

6 Sections 29 - 31

7 (D) Township 15 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian

8 Sections 3 - 4

9 Section 10

10 Section 11: W1/2, SE1/4

11 Section 12: SW1/4

12 Sections 13 - 15

13 Sections 22 - 27

14 Sections 34 - 36

15 (E) Township 16 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

16 Section 1: S1/2, NW1/4

17 Section 2

18 Section 3: E1/2, E1/2NW1/4

19 Section 10: E1/2E1/2

20 Section 11

21 Section 12: S1/2NW1/4, N1/2NE1/4

22 Section 13: W1/2, NE1/4

23 Section 14

24 Section 15: E1/2E1/2

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Proposed Susitna State Forest - Fact Sheet

In 1983 the Alaska Legislature established a State Forest System. The primary purpose in the establishment of state forests is the perpetuation of personal, commercial, and other beneficial uses of resources through multiple-use management (AS 41.17.200). All potential uses will be permitted under a management plan prepared by the DNR including: commercial timber harvest, harvest of forest products for personal uses, mining, mining claims, mineral lease hold location, mineral leasing, material extraction, recreation, wildlife and fisheries habitat, greenbelts, trapping and sport and subsistence fishing and hunting, grazing, watershed management, research, and other traditional and/or compatible uses. Much of the land in the Susitna Basin is ideal for inclusion in the state forest system and thus long term multiple use management.

There are more than two million acres of commercial forest land in the Susitna Basin area. These lands are capable of producing nearly 30 million board feet (MMbf) of softwood and 130,000 cords of fuelwood annually which could supply much, if not most, of the wood products used by Anchorage and Mat/Su residents on an annual basis (54 MMbf of lumber and 40,000 cords of fuelwood). The State of Alaska manages over 1.3 million acres or nearly 70 percent of the CFL in the Susitna area. At present most of the wood harvested from these lands is used as fuelwood. Some of the annual harvest is manufactured by the 30 or so small sawmills into rough green lumber, about 3 MMbf. A smaller amount is manufactured into cabinets, siding, etc. The changing and uncertain land status in Alaska has discouraged development of a wood products industry by keeping the source of raw material uncertain. Most of this land is needed for multiple use management with wood production as a primary use.

Legislatively designating much of the State's commercial forest land as State Forest and thus long term public retention for multiple use will enable financial investment in industrial development based on a secure supply of wood. The opportunity exists for having 200 direct jobs with an annual payroll of \$7 million based on an annual harvest of 20 MMbf of softwood sawtimber just in the Mat/Su area. Indirect employment would add another 250 jobs. Revenue to the state would likely be in excess of \$800,000 annually. Such industrial development would free the state from relying solely on import sources which could prove unreliable in the decades to come when wood will be in greater worldwide demand. State Forests facilitate such industrial development by insuring a long term timber supply and enabling coordinated and economical management and planning over large tracts of land. At the same time State Forests guarantee recreational use and development, mineral development, wildlife habitat, hunting and fishing, tourism, wilderness, and other uses for generations to come. Committing lands to long term forest management in the Railbelt is critical if Alaska is to achieve any level of self sufficiency with respect to fuelwood, lumber, and other forest products.

Much of the state owned lands in the Susitna Basin are well suited for State Forest designation as they have high value for timber, recreation, tourism, hunting, and fishing. The existing state forest legislation insures that these lands, so designated, will be managed for multiple use for the greatest benefit to Alaska.



Alaska State Legislature

HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

P.O. Box V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-3715

MEMORANDUM

TO: HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM: RESOURCES COMMITTEE STAFF

DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 1990

RE: CS H.B. 356, SUSITNA STATE FOREST

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

CS H.B. 356 expands the boundaries of the proposed Susitna State Forest to include most areas recommended for legislative designation in the Susitna Area Plan and two specific areas in the Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan which designate forestry and fish and wildlife management as primary uses.

The Susitna State Forest as outlined in the CS encompasses approximately 325,000 acres (an increase of approx. 164,000 acres) which would be managed for multiple-use management by the Department of Natural Resources in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game.

The purpose of the Susitna State Forest is to create a designated land base which will be managed for resource management. The State Forest would permanently reserve the land in public ownership and require that it be managed according to principles of multiple use and sustained yield.

The following multiple uses would be allowed within the state forest:

- 1.) Commercial timber harvesting
- 2.) Harvest of forest products for personal use
- 3.) Mining, mining claim, and mineral leasehold location
- 4.) Material extraction
- 5.) Recreation
- 6.) Wildlife and fisheries habitat management including critical habitat management
- 7.) Greenbelt/Buffer management
- 8.) Trapping
- 9.) Sport and subsistence hunting and fishing
- 10.) Grazing
- 11.) Watershed management
- 12.) Research
- 13.) Other traditional compatible uses
- 14.) Uses consistent with the policies of AS 38.04.015

Susitna Forest Memo
Page 2

The area encompassed within the Susitna Forest does not include:

- 1.) High value agricultural land from the SAP and the Willow Sub-basin Plan
- 2.) Land disposal areas (homesteads, remote parcels etc.)
- 3.) Mat-Su Borough land holdings
- 4.) Previously designated lands

Specific management guidelines for particular areas within the Susitna State Forest will be developed through a management plan involving state agencies and the public. The management plan will include the regional and site-specific guidelines which are being developed in the Susitna Regional Forest Plan. (Copy of the draft regional guidelines attached).

The area included in the proposed Susitna State Forest equals approximately 10% of all lands in the Susitna Valley.

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Chapter 5

REGIONWIDE FOREST MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Forest Management Program

TIMBER SALE PROGRAM

General intent. The goal of the timber sale program is to maintain existing timber harvesting and processing businesses and to expand harvesting and processing to provide additional jobs and income. DNR will develop 5-year timber sale schedules under the Forest Practices Act guidelines for a regular, predictable series of sale offerings. Timber sales should be offered in a range of volumes and duration to accommodate different sectors of the industry and the public. Sale offerings will be subject to budget constraints, access, markets, and the limits of the annual allowable cut.

Coordination with other landowners. DNR will coordinate its timber sale offerings with timber sale offerings of other landowners when it will increase the viability of the offerings or provide other public benefits. Opportunities for coordinating timber sales will be identified, in part, through public and agency review of the 5-year timber sale schedule.

Annual allowable cut. The annual allowable cut will be reviewed and, if appropriate, revised at least every five years. Revisions may occur more often if warranted by new information on growth rates, regeneration, or other factors that affect harvestable volume. The annual allowable cut will apply to commercial and personal use harvesting.

PERSONAL USE WOOD

General intent. Continuing to provide wood products for personal use is one of the goals for forest lands in the SRFPP area. DNR will continue to make wood available for personal use within the constraints of budget, access, and the annual allowable cut. Sources of wood for personal use include individual permits in remote areas, established personal use harvesting areas in accessible regions, designated community woodlots, negotiated personal use sales, use of wood residues in commercial harvesting areas, and harvest of dead and down wood. No permit is needed to harvest wood that is both dead and down in the planning area.

Regulations on personal use. Wood obtained for personal use may not be sold, bartered or used for commercial purposes. Negotiated personal use sales are subject to the regulations in 11 AAC 71.050. Permits for personal use wood are issued for up to 3200 lf of houselogs, 10 Mbf of sawlogs, or 10 cords of fuelwood. For each established personal use harvesting area, the Division of Forestry sets the number of cords allowed per permit.

Coordination with commercial sales. This plan identifies areas where demand for personal use wood is likely to exceed the supply available within disposal boundaries or private parcels outside disposal areas. These areas will be identified when the planning team reviews individual management units. The SRFPP will require individual timber sale proposals must address the issue of personal use wood in these areas. The FMR must either explain how personal use wood will be provided or the reasons for not providing wood.

Forest Management Reports for commercial sales will describe any provisions for supplying wood for personal use from the sale area. Areas where a high demand for personal use wood is likely will be identified in the SRFPP.

Personal use subunits. The Susitna Area Plan identifies subunits where timber harvesting is limited to personal use only. In these subunits, an annual allowable cut will be established. Permits for personal use harvesting will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS AND EXPERIMENTAL FORESTS

Research natural areas. No significant human intervention or manipulation will be allowed in research natural areas except where required to maintain features for which the area was set aside.

Research natural areas (RNAs) may be established in the Susitna Regional Forest Plan. Proposals for research natural areas identified after the plan is adopted will be recommended to the director of the DNR Division of Land and Water Management. The director will review the proposal and make a determination on the site. The director will make his determination in consultation with the DNR Division of Forestry and the Department of Fish and Game.

Objectives for research natural areas are to establish sites that:

- preserve undisturbed examples of vegetation types or communities, unique ecological sites, or geologic features for comparison with those influenced by humans,
- provide educational and research areas for ecological and environmental studies,
- preserve gene pools for typical and rare and endangered plants and animals.

Research natural areas in the Susitna Regional Forest Plan should represent features that are not protected on other public lands designated for that purpose.

RNAs should be of the minimum size necessary to protect the features of interest.

Experimental forests. The objectives for experimental forests are:

- To provide research areas for forest management studies, including manipulative research on vegetation and habitat.
- To protect existing gene pools and to provide managed areas for gene pool improvement.
- To provide educational areas for resource management and environmental studies.

Management plan. A management plan should be prepared for each research natural area and experimental forest. The plan should emphasize the process for approving and monitoring research and other activities in these areas, not on identifying specific research projects. Until a plan is adopted, DNR will manage these areas to protect the features for which they were established. Activities will not be allowed that will adversely impact those features.

Willow Experimental Forest. The Willow Experimental Forest northwest of Wasilla (T18N R2W sect. 25 E1/2) will be included in the Susitna Regional Forest Plan.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fire suppression intensities are determined by the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan for the Matanuska/Susitna area. Fire management practices, including suppression and prescribed burning, are designed to implement the land management policies laid out in the land use plans for this area.

Timber Sale Design and Management

PUBLIC USE

Timber harvest areas will be available for public use except when special restrictions are necessary to protect public safety, prevent damage to natural resources including regrowth, or protect the safety of the operator and security of the operator's equipment or materials.

See also: "Road management - Public Use"

TIMBER SALE DESIGN

Overall intent. Forest management in the Susitna Regional Forest Plan area is intended to create and maintain a mosaic of age classes that will provide for a mixture of cut and uncut areas to meet the needs of fish and wildlife habitat, timber production, and recreation. To meet this intent, DOF should use the practices described in this when designing timber sales. These general guidelines may be varied on a site-by-site basis by DOF in consultation with DFG.

Multiple use. Forested lands open to timber harvesting should be managed to maximize production of wood fiber in a manner consistent with the maintenance of the site-specific conditions necessary for multiple use and with the management intent for the subunit.

Cut and leave areas. To ensure that adequate year-round cover is available to meet wildlife species needs, harvests will be designed to leave approximately 40-60% of the cover habitat in each subunit in cover at all times. Leave areas can be cut after the original harvests regenerate enough to function as cover habitat. All buffers set aside from harvesting are included in the cover area calculations.

The DNR Division of Forestry, after consultation with DFG, will determine the rotation age, reentry timing, and species composition for each stand based on sound silvicultural practices. These decisions will consider site characteristics, markets, habitat conditions, and objectives for wildlife management, recreation, and visual quality within the stand and in adjacent stands or vegetation types.

Focal species. DOF will work with DFG to determine the main fish and wildlife species managed in each timber sale area. This information will be included in the 5-year timber sale schedule and Forest Management Reports (FMRs) for individual sales. The public will be able to comment on the strategy for habitat management through comments on the schedule and FMRs.

Cutting unit size and shape. The total area of cutting units within a harvest unit should be 5-50 acres to optimize benefits for wildlife habitat. Total cutting unit area may be increased on a site-by-site basis by DOF in consultation with DFG where a cutting area is designed to accommodate habitat needs. (See cutting unit examples in diagram on last page.)

Timber stands should be designed for shape and edge contrast to provide for wildlife needs. In general, cuts should be designed with irregular borders to increase the amount of forage-producing edge.

In areas of heavy snow accumulation where drifting may bury browse, clearcuts should be oriented downwind. Clearcuts should also be oriented to avoid blowdown and loss of moose habitat. In other areas, a variety of clearcut orientations should be included in timber harvest plans to cover the range of conditions that may be important to moose.

Clearcuts generally should be no wider than 660 feet to allow access to cover for bears and moose and to encourage full utilization of browse. In area where DFG identifies important marten populations, clearcuts should be no wider than 330 feet to avoid creating open areas that are barriers to marten travel.

Where maximum clearcut widths are greater than 660 feet, or in cuts larger than 40 acres, residual islands of dense cover should be left within the clearcut to provide cover, bedding, and shelter for moose. Islands should be 0.5 - 5 acres spaced 660-990 feet apart, stocked by at least 1/3 conifers to provide relief in deep snow, and with tree cover at least 13-20 feet high for hiding cover.

Unharvested strips at least 330 feet wide should be left between harvest units. Leave strips are intended to provide escape cover, thermal cover, resting cover, visual screens in hunting areas, and travel corridors for marten, moose, bear, and other wildlife.

Arrangement of cutting units. Wildlife habitat, including escape and thermal cover, refuges from deep snow, and alternate food sources, should be considered when designing the arrangement of cutting units and leave areas. The location of mature conifer stands near early winter moose concentration areas will benefit moose. The location of clearcuts near black bear food sources should be planned to minimize increases in hunting vulnerability.

Well-drained upland sites that produce abundant browse are preferred sites for clearing; poorly-drained upland sites that produce less browse are better suited for maintenance as wildlife cover in moose winter range.

Recreation and visual quality. Timber sales and timber access will be designed with consideration of recreation values and scenic quality. Sales will be designed by DOF in consultation with DPOR.

See also: "Flightseeing routes - Timber sale design"

HARVESTING SYSTEMS

Preferred systems. In most of the planning area, clearcutting and seed tree harvesting are the preferred harvesting systems for wildlife habitat and timber production. Single-tree selection, group selection, shelterwood cutting, or other harvesting systems may be prescribed on certain sites where beneficial for wildlife, timber management, recreation, visual quality or other considerations.

Full-tree logging. Full-tree logging is encouraged in most areas to provide disturbance of the organic soil for site preparation and to achieve maximum wood utilization from harvested areas. Other logging systems may be used where appropriate because of topography, economic factors, or management of other resources.

Felling and limbing. In known moose forage areas, limbs from felled logs should be removed to minimize damage to residual moose browse during skidding. Where possible, trees should be felled away from moose foraging areas.

HARVESTING SCHEDULES

Concentrate harvesting. Logging activities should be concentrated into the shortest possible time for each unit. Where timber sales are planned to progress through a series of adjacent units, harvest activity should be completed in each unit before starting in the next. Intensive harvest activity in a single season causes less disturbance to wildlife than low level activity over several seasons. [Note: "unit" will be defined after the working group reviews management unit boundaries. "Units" are likely to be either subunits or management units identified in Willow and Susitna area plans.]

Moose concentration areas. Where possible, logging activity in areas where moose concentrate on winter range should be scheduled during periods of the year when moose concentrations are not present. Winter moose concentration areas will be identified in individual management units before the timber sale is offered.

Coordination with other activities. Where possible, timber harvest schedules should be coordinated with other activities to reduce overall impacts.

Seasonal scheduling. Most current timber harvesting is done in winter when access is easier and disturbance to aquatic habitats, wetlands, bear activity areas is lowest. Winter logging also benefits suckering in aspen and quick regrowth of birch and cottonwood. Future harvesting will also be concentrated in the winter. Schedules for harvesting may be specified in individual sales based on considerations of access, site preparation, and forest regeneration. Summer harvesting will be directed to well-drained sites where summer harvests can aid site preparation.

Data collection. Where practical, DFG should complete site-specific habitat evaluations of units scheduled for timber harvest before harvesting occurs. In particular, DFG should evaluate moose browse quantity, quality, and utilization. These data can be used to better define moose range distribution and quality.

SLASH DISPOSAL

General. Slash disposal benefits reforestation, helps avoid insect and disease outbreaks, reduces the amount of fuel available for wildfires, improves habitat and visual quality, and aids recreational use of cutover areas. Logging and road construction slash should be disposed to avoid hindering wildlife from using cutover areas. Disposal can be accomplished either mechanically, or by burning, or by a combination of both methods. Slash that falls on uncut lands adjacent to harvest areas should be cleaned up or removed to facilitate moose use of cover and feeding areas.

Controlled burning. Controlled burning is recommended when climate, soil, and fuel load conditions are conducive to safely removing slash, maintaining forest openings, and improving the quality and quantity of moose forage.

DEC permits are required for burning on forestry projects greater than or equal to 40 acres. DOF burning permits are required on all projects, regardless of size, from May 1 through September 30. Burn barrels, or warming, cooking, or signal fires are exempted from DOF permit requirements.

If burning is proposed for slash disposal, the fire prescription will be included in the Forest Management Report for the timber sale.

Broadcast burning is preferable to piling and burning because it encourages growth of fruiting shrubs used for forage.

When burning is used for slash disposal, burns should be conducted while the ground is damp to protect the root systems of forage plants.

Windrows. Where extensive windrows are built, openings should be cut through the windrows to allow moose passage, especially on moose trails.

Marten habitat. In areas where DFG have identified important marten populations, slash piles and other logging debris that will protrude through the snow should be retained to provide marten access to prey beneath the snow and to improved denning and cover habitat.

Rights-of-way. Dispose of right-of-way slash so as not to inhibit moose movement.

SITE PREPARATION

General. Site preparation ensures prompt reforestation and benefits habitat and visual quality. Where natural regeneration, artificial seeding, or planting will be used for reforestation, a bed adequate for regeneration will be required after timber harvest. The site preparation method used will depend on site characteristics and vegetation desired for reforestation and habitat. Recommended site preparation methods will be included in the Forest Management Report for individual sales.

Choice of techniques. DOF should use the following practices when determining site preparation strategies for timber sales. These general guidelines may be varied on a site-by-site basis by DOF in consultation with DFG.

Recommendations for site preparation timing and techniques should be included in the Forest Management Reports for individual sales.

Disking, scalping, or other mechanical disturbance should be considered to break up soils compacted during harvesting. Compaction may reduce seedling growth or cause mortality.

On aspen sites, cleared areas should be heavily scarified or lightly burned to produce maximum sucker response.

On paper birch sites, scarification should remove the organic layer and expose only the upper mineral soil layer (A horizon).

Timing. Areas should be scarified just prior to peak annual seedfall or artificial seeding to ensure optimum seedbed receptivity.

Soil exposure. Mineral soil should be exposed uniformly over the harvested area to encourage uniform distribution of trees. Mineral soil must be exposed on at least 50% of the harvested area. Mineral soil patches should be as large as feasible.

REFORESTATION

FPA requirements. The Forest Practices Act requires regeneration of forest stands that are not intended for conversion to other uses within 7 years in Region IIb and within 5 years in Region I. Most of the planning area is in region IIb. Parts of the Beluga, Mt. Susitna, and Susitna Lowlands subregions are in Region I. Where specific regeneration goals are known (e.g., manage for cottonwood, convert to white spruce, etc.), they will be specified in individual management units.

Regeneration plan. Forest management reports for timber sales should include a regeneration plan that specifies target species and stocking levels, site preparation requirements, and regeneration methods.

Regeneration methods. Natural regeneration is the main regeneration method used in the planning area at present. Natural regeneration will continue to be used on most sites in the planning area, but seeding or planting may be required for specific timber sales.

USE OF CHEMICALS

Prevention of pest outbreaks. Forest pest management will emphasize prevention of pest outbreaks. An annual insect and disease detection survey will be conducted by the DNR Division of Forestry in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service. DNR will emphasize silvicultural practices that enhance natural mortality of pests and improve tree vigor to reduce the risk of outbreaks. Examples include harvesting mature trees of susceptible species, using group selection cuts, suppressing intermediate host species, using lethal trap trees around harvest areas, disposing of slash, and establishing utilization standards that minimize slash.

DEC authority. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and US Environmental Protection Agency have the primary authority for regulating pesticide use. DEC regulations cover pesticide use and disposal. DEC regulations require applicants for pesticide permits to give public notice of the proposed action. If a local government or 50 residents so request, a public hearing will be held to review the proposed action.

DOF has not used pesticides at an operational scale in the planning area in the past. In the future, pesticides may be used as a forest management tool to control vegetative competition, assist in establishing regeneration, or control forest damage from insects and diseases. If chemical use is proposed for a specific timber sale, public notice for the sale should include a description of the proposed action and its likely effects on forest growth and the environment.

Herbicides. Herbicide application can help ensure regeneration of desired forest species, especially conifers. However, herbicides have not been widely used for forest management in the planning area. A study of herbicide effects on fish and wildlife habitat should be conducted prior to operational herbicide use in this area. Recommendations for this study will be included in the implementation section of the plan. (DFG recommendations are included in attached memo.)

Aerial application. If pesticides are applied aerially, a minimum buffer strip of 250 feet will be maintained in the vicinity of aquatic areas to protect fish and wildlife habitat and human uses from significant direct toxicological effects. A wider buffer strip may be used at specific sites to ensure an acceptable degree of protection. A buffer strip of at least 250' will be left around private lands to prevent adverse impacts on private property.

Fertilization. Fertilization can improve the nutritional status of nutrient-poor soils and make sites more hospitable to seedlings. Nitrogen fertilization of mineral soils should be considered early in the post-logging period to improve the seedbed.

Management of Special Areas

BALD EAGLE HABITAT

FPA requirements. Under the Forest Practices Act, harvesting is prohibited within 330 feet of eagle nesting trees.

Seasonal restrictions. In the Susitna Regional Forest planning area, forestry activities will be prohibited from March 15 through August 31 within 660 feet of known eagle nesting trees. If a nesting tree is not occupied by June 15, operations can occur between June 15 and August 31 between 330 feet and 660 feet from the nest tree. This guideline is specific to the SRFP. It reflects both concerns for the Susitna eagle populations and existing constraints on summer harvesting along the major rivers where nesting occurs. These constraints include lack of summer access across the river and poorly-drained soils.

Nesting and perching habitat. The state will provide and maintain nesting and perching habitat approximately every 2 miles along major rivers with cottonwood stands. Sites managed for this purpose would be approximately 40 acres each and would include cottonwood or white spruce trees of various sizes. A portion of the cottonwood trees should be suitable for eagle nesting. Harvesting can take place within these sites as long as the remaining stand meets these conditions. If harvesting does not leave sufficient cottonwoods to meet these requirements, another site will be identified to replace it.

USFWS authority. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has authority for managing bald eagle populations. To protect bald eagle populations in the planning area, USFWS will be notified of all planned sales. Notification will occur through interagency notification of the 5-year timber sale schedule and Forest Management Reports for individual sales. Where timber sales contain eagle nesting trees, DOF will design the sale in consultation with DFG and USFWS.

BEAR HABITAT

Brown bear habitat. Timber sales should be designed to avoid negative impacts on areas identified by DFG as important brown bear habitat. Important brown bear habitat includes activity centers, travel corridors, feeding sites, denning areas, mesic habitat types where soil disturbance is high, and slopes greater than 35% within brown bear ranges.

See also: "Access location and design - Bear habitat"

FLIGHTSEEING ROUTES

Timber sale design. Harvest areas along major flightseeing routes will be designed to reduce visual impacts of harvesting. Cutting units should be designed to reflect natural vegetation patterns, natural openings in the forest cover, and topography.

HERITAGE SITES

Known heritage sites. Known sites are identified in subunits in Chapter 4 of this plan. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) will review proposals for timber management activities through the interagency review processes for the 5-year timber sale schedule and Forest Management Reports for individual sales. If a known heritage site is in a proposed timber sale area, OHA will recommend guidelines for timber management activities to avoid adverse impacts to the site.

The Alaska Historic Preservation Act (AS 41.35) governs state management of heritage resources. This Act states that, "If [DNR] determines that historic, prehistoric, or archaeological sites, locations or remains will be adversely affected by the public construction or improvement, the proposed public construction or improvement may not be commenced until the department has performed the necessary investigation, recording and

salvage of the site, location or remains. All investigation, recording and salvage work shall be performed as expeditiously as possible so that no state construction project will be unduly impaired, impeded, or delayed."

Guidelines for protection of known heritage sites will vary. On prehistoric sites where all evidence of prehistoric activity is below ground, guidelines frequently require that timber management activities be conducted in the winter and with no ground disturbance. On historic sites with above-ground evidence of historic use, OHA generally will recommend a setback from the site.

MARTEN HABITAT

See also: "Timber sale design - Size and shape of cutting units"
"Slash disposal - Marten habitat"

MOOSE HABITAT

Moose winter range. In winter moose range areas identified by DFG where slopes are steep and cause extensive shade, timber harvest on south-facing slopes is preferred over harvest on north-facing slopes. North-facing slopes accumulate more snow and hold it longer. Moose save energy by feeding on south-facing slopes with more winter sunlight. Areas where this guideline should be applied will be identified in individual management units.

See also: "Harvesting systems - Felling and limbing"
"Harvesting schedules - Moose concentration areas"
"Harvesting schedules - Data collection"
"Slash disposal - rights-of-way"
"Access location and design - Moose forage areas"
"Access location and design - Straight stretches"
"Access location and design - Cuts and fills"
"Access management - Restrictions in sensitive moose areas"

PRIVATE LANDS

Liability. To prevent damage to private lands from trespass, blowdown, or other hazards created by timber harvest on state lands adjacent to private lands, DOF will use the following guidelines when designing timber sales.

1. Timber management activities near private land will be designed to avoid conflicts with adjacent landowners to the extent feasible and prudent.
2. Within 200' of private land, only single-tree selection harvesting is permitted unless:
 - a. other harvesting techniques such as clearcutting or seed tree harvesting are necessary to prevent or control outbreaks of insects, disease, wildfire, or hazards to public safety, or
 - b. the adjacent landowner requests use of other harvesting techniques adjacent to his or her property and DNR determines that alternative harvesting techniques are in the best interests of the state.

For any proposed cutting techniques other than single-tree selection, the Forest Management Report will describe the proposed action and the reasons for the proposal. DOF will design

any harvests within 200' of private land that do not meet the conditions in 2.a. or 2.b. above to leave windfirm buffers.

Timber sale plans in the five-year sale schedule or a Forest Management Report may include recommendations from DOF for harvesting techniques other than selective cutting within the 200-foot zone. However, to avoid liability problems, these techniques will not be used except when requested by the landowner and determined to be in the best interests of the state.

RIPARIAN AREAS

Fish habitat objectives. Under the Forest Practices Act, the DNR commissioner shall protect riparian areas from the significant adverse effects of timber harvest activities on fish habitat and water quality. The management intent for riparian areas is the adequate preservation of fish habitat by maintaining a short-and long-term source of large woody debris; stream bank stability; channel morphology; water temperatures; stream flows; water quality; adequate nutrient cycling; food sources; clean spawning gravels; and sunlight.

Wildlife habitat objectives. The management intent for wildlife habitat is to maintain or enhance existing riparian habitat by protecting and maintaining the following wildlife habitat components:

- a diverse mosaic of early through late successional vegetataion communities,
- sufficient structural diversity among the various overstory and understory layers to meet the habitat needs of terrestrial and avian wildlife species,
- adequate availability of cover habitat including security or hiding cover, thermal cover, and snow interception cover,
- sufficient forage biamass production for wildlife species dependent on browse,
- sufficient cover for daily movements and seasonal migrations,
- adequate water quality, streambank stability, and regular stream flow rates for aquatic furbearers, and
- access to mineral licks.

0-30 m zone. Harvests of timber may not be undertaken within 30 meters (100 feet) immediately adjacent to an anadromous or high value resident fish waterbody, and between 30 and 90 meters (100 and 300 feet) from the waterbody any timber harvest authorized by the commissioner of DNR in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game will be consistent with the maintenance of important fish and wildlife habitat.

30-90 m zone. Between 30 m and 90 m of streams with anadromous or high value resident fish, the following guidelines apply.

Road crossings. To minimize adverse impacts to the environment and risks of degradation to fish and wildlife habitat and water quality, timber access roads will not be located within the 30-90 m area except where access needs require that a road cross a stream and there exists no feasible alternative. Road construction will occur only where it can be demonstrated that road design, construction, use, and maintenance will maintain important fish and wildlife habitat.

Windfirmness risk. Timber harvest design within the 30-90 m zone will consider the risk of blowdown in residual stands. Risk of blowdown will be evaluated on a site-specific basis. Minimum buffer widths will not be reduced because of a risk of blowdown.

Fish habitat. Site-specific stream conditions including stream flow rate, dissolved nutrient levels, large woody debris sources, water temperatures, probability of surface erosion, stream gradient, water quality, stream type (glacial vs. clearwater types), soil type, steepness of adjoining slopes, adjoining timber stand type and condition, and other local physical characteristics will be considered before any timber harvesting could occur. DFG will provide recommendations to DOF on the design of timber sales and road access based on these considerations during interagency review of the 5-year timber sale schedule and Forest Management Reports.

Unstable stream channels. If there is evidence or a high likelihood that a stream could change course and move into the existing 30 m no-harvest zone within 15 years after a proposed timber harvest, then harvesting in the area 30-90 m beyond the waterbody will not occur.

Wildlife habitat. Wildlife concentration areas, particularly for moose, bears, and furbearers, will preclude any logging activity in the area 30-90 m beyond the waterbody unless it can be demonstrated that the proposed harvesting will maintain or enhance important wildlife habitat. DFG will identify wildlife concentration areas during interagency review of the 5-year timber sale schedule and Forest Management Reports.

Public use. Timber harvest design within the 30-90 m zone will consider existing public use of stream corridors. Timber harvesting may occur in this zone if it can be demonstrated that opportunities for existing public uses including but not limited to sport fishing and hunting, trapping, fish and wildlife viewing, and camping will be maintained or enhanced.

Review of uncatalogued streams. DOF should identify streams for which field review is needed by year 2 of the 5-year sale schedule in order to allow enough time to plan field review during the seasons when salmon are likely to be present.

If timber sales are offered with less than two years notice (e.g., negotiated sales or sales of less than 160 acres), DNR will try to limit the number of stream reviews needed by locating sales in areas previously reviewed through the 5-year sale schedule or a Forest Management Report, in areas already field-checked for anadromous streams, or in areas without streams. If these sales include streams whose status is uncertain, DOF and DFG will review existing information to determine the likelihood that streams are anadromous. Sources of information should include 1:63,360 or larger scale topographic maps, the catalog of anadromous waters, air photos, and discussion with field staff. If DOF and DFG determine a stream is likely to be anadromous, the Forest Practices Act zones will apply. If the stream is not likely to be anadromous, the zones will not apply.

See also: "Access location and design - Stream buffers"

TRAIL CORRIDORS

General. This plan will cite existing trail corridor standards from the area and management plans. Each mapped trail in the SRF area will be placed in the appropriate category (i.e., local, regional, or statewide trail) and will be subject to the management guidelines for that category.

Identification of new trails. Additional trails may be identified during review of the 5-year timber sale schedule and Forest Management Reports. Steps for identifying additional

trails follow. These steps should be completed before the final FMR is published to allow for public review.

1. Identify actively used trails within proposed harvesting units or timber access corridors.
2. In consultation with DFG, DPOR, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Director of DOF will decide what trails qualify under the standards in the area and management plans.
3. Assign the trail to the appropriate category and apply the area and management plan guidelines for that category.

Iditarod Trail. The Susitna, Willow, and Fish Creek plans establish the guidelines for determining the width of the Iditarod Trail corridor. Within the SRF, the corridor width will be determined in accordance with these guidelines. If changes in these guidelines are proposed, they will be considered during the update of the Susitna and Willow plans, not in the SRF.

Selective commercial timber harvesting will be permitted in the trail corridor only if such harvests protect or enhance the visual, sound, and other characteristics of the trail. Other harvesting techniques such as clearcutting or seed tree harvesting may be permitted subject to consultation with DPOR where necessary to prevent or control outbreaks of insects, disease, wildfire, or hazards to public safety.

Timber harvesting for personal use is prohibited within 200' of the centerline of the Iditarod Trail except for incidental recreational use (e.g., camping along the trail) of up to one cord/year. Personal use harvesting will be permitted in the rest of the corridor only if such harvests protect or enhance the visual, sound, and other characteristics of the trail.

Timber cutting for incidental recreation use should use dead and down timber whenever possible.

All timber harvests within the Iditarod Trail corridor will be designed in consultation with the DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

TRUMPETER SWAN NESTING AREAS

Seasonal restrictions. Forestry activities that may damage trumpeter swan nesting habitat or cause visual or noise disturbance should be prohibited from April 1 through August 31 within at least 1/4-mile of waterbodies that have identified trumpeter swan nesting sites or staging areas. The area to which seasonal restrictions apply may be increased or decreased if the potential level of damage or disturbance warrants change as determined by the Division of Forestry in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. If a waterbody that has been used for nesting is not occupied by June 15, forestry activities may be allowed between June 15 and August 31 within the 1/4-mile zone.

Site-specific buffers. Site-specific buffers to minimize visual disturbance to identified trumpeter swan nesting sites will be established by the Division of Forestry in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game and the US Fish and Wildlife Service at the time individual sales are designed.

See also: "Access location and design - Trumpeter swan nesting areas"

WILDLIFE HABITAT -- GENERAL

See also: "Access location and design - Road standards"
"Access location and design - Avoid interconnections"

Access Design and Management

ACCESS LOCATION AND DESIGN

Access plan. Prior to timber harvesting, a preliminary plan for access to the timber sale should be developed. Proposed access to timber sales will be included in years 3, 4, and 5 of the 5-year timber sale schedule and in the Forest Management Report for each sale.

Sensitive vegetative cover. Permanent logging roads should be aligned to avoid sensitive vegetative cover types such as riparian zones, wetlands, aquatic feeding sites (i.e., ponds), and naturally occurring forest openings. Roads in these cover types will be designed in concurrence with DFG.

Bear habitat. The arrangement of roads relative to black and brown bear food sources should be planned to minimize potential increases in hunting vulnerability.

Moose forage areas. Natural terrain features should be used to ensure the usability of moose forage areas, as well as other important seasonal use areas, by shielding these forage areas from road traffic. Permanent logging roads should be located in dense timber away from forest openings.

Stream buffers. Road crossings within stream buffers may be allowed when such roads are a better alternative for protecting water quality or when they are the only feasible access to timber. Feasible access is not necessarily the least costly (see "feasible" definition in glossary). Rights-of-way for stream crossing must be minimized.

Straight stretches. Minimize straight stretches of road of more than 1/4-mile in forested areas to increase the cover value for moose and minimize the effects of hunting from roads on local moose numbers.

Clearing. Minimize the width of the clearing along roads.

Road standards. In important fish and wildlife habitat areas, roads should be constructed to minimum standards to discourage high volume vehicle use but maintain safety and environmental conditions and meet management objectives. These will generally be slow speed, single track roads without large cuts and fills. DFG will identify important habitat areas as part of the interagency review of the 5-year sale schedule and Forest Management Reports.

Cuts and fills. Steep cuts and fills should be avoided so as not to block moose travel routes.

Landing areas. Locate log landing areas to minimize the amount of road and skid trail construction.

Avoid interconnections. To reduce impacts from road hunting and allow greater control of access in local areas, secondary logging road systems should not be designed to interconnect.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Wildlife concentration areas. Road construction times and locations should be scheduled to avoid displacing wildlife from seasonal concentration areas.

Topsoil. Where feasible, topsoil from road construction should be stored for later use in restoration.

See also: "Slash disposal - rights-of-way"

ROAD MANAGEMENT

Public use. Timber access roads will be open to public use except during spring break-up or other conditions when the roadbed would be damaged by vehicle traffic or when necessary to protect sensitive wildlife populations or other public resources along the road. Road closures will be done subject to the regulations in 11 AAC _____. [Note: Regulations for road closure are currently being developed by DNR. When adopted, they will guide road closure decisions statewide. Public notice is required prior to adoption of the regulations.]

Restrictions in sensitive moose areas. Restrict public access in sensitive moose areas by closing spur roads during critical seasonal periods. DFG will identify sensitive moose areas when they review the 5-year sale schedule and Forest Management Report.

Putting-to-bed. Non-permanent roads and skid trails should be put to bed (see glossary for definition of put to bed). Unless otherwise specified in this plan or in a Forest Management Report, this will include secondary roads and spur roads.

Roads put to bed should be scarified to encourage the establishment of moose browse immediately after timber removal has been completed. In southcentral Alaska, browse plants include most willow species, birch, aspen, cottonwood, high-bush cranberry, labrador tea, and other woody shrubs and forbs.

Trumpeter swan nesting areas. Specific guidelines for development and management of access within one mile of waterbodies with identified trumpeter swan nesting sites will be developed by the Division of Forestry in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game and the US Fish and Wildlife Service at the time access is designed. Facilities and permanent roads for timber management should be at least one mile from waterbodies used for trumpeter swan nesting. The distances between facilities and mainline roads and these waterbodies may be increased or decreased based on site-specific environmental and economic factors by the Division of Forestry in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Public Notice and Interagency Coordination

NOTICE FOR 5-YEAR TIMBER SALE SCHEDULE

Interagency notice. Interagency notice should be given prior to public notice to allow for resolution of interagency disagreements before the public comment period.

Public notice. Annual public notice should be provided for the 5-year sale schedule. This notice should include display advertisements that appear at least twice in Anchorage and Mat-Su Valley newspapers. The Division of Forestry should also maintain a mailing list of local governments, post offices, community councils, and interest groups that may be

affected by timber management activities in the Susitna Regional Forest Plan (SRFP) area. Annual notice of the 5-year sale schedule should be sent to all parties on the mailing list. Notices may be brief, but should include a map sufficient to let the recipients know whether or not sales are proposed in their areas of interest and directions for obtaining more detailed information on the sale schedule. Additional methods of notifying the public of the sale schedule may be used as appropriate.

DNR will notify landowners or lessees of state lands near proposed sales on year 4 of the sale schedule. Year 4 is the design phase; sales in year 4 are proposed for sale the year following the notice. Notification will be sent to landowners and lessees within 1/4-mile of a proposed sale boundary. Notice should include a location map and directions for obtaining more detailed information. The borough tax records will be used as the source for identifying landowners; information on lessees can be obtained from the DNR Division of Land and Water Management.

If annual operating plans propose changes that significantly deviate from the FMR, DOF should notify the same landowners notified of the sale through the FMR or 5-year schedule. Significant deviations include such actions as changes in the sale boundary, changes in the location of cutting units, changes in the harvesting system, or changes in access routes.

NOTICE FOR TIMBER SALES NOT ON THE 5-YEAR SCHEDULE

FPA requirements. Under proposed Forest Practices Act revisions, competitive timber sales with less than 160 acres of cutting units need not appear on the timber sale schedule. The state intends to include most small sales in the schedule, but some may not be included. Existing law (AS 38.05.118) also allows negotiated sales where there is high unemployment and available timber

A Forest Management Report (FMR) and public notice is required for all sales. Existing law (AS 38.05.945) requires public notice at least 30 days prior to the proposed sale. Notice must include newspaper ads; notice to municipalities, Native corporations, and local postmasters; and at least one other method of public notice.

Landowner + lessee notice.

Within the SRFP area, DNR will notify landowners and lessees of state lands near proposed timber sales. DNR will notify landowners within 1/4-mile of a proposed sale boundary. The larger notification area is to ensure notice of affected owners in areas where there is no town government, and where access limits communication between residents and participation in organizations. Notice should be sent when the draft Forest Management Report is developed. The notice will include a location map and directions for getting more detailed information.

NOTICE FOR PERSONAL USE AREAS

Permits and sales. Individual permits for personal use wood harvesting are exempt from the notice requirements for commercial timber sales. Designated personal use harvesting areas that will be open for multiple personal use permits should be included on the five-year sale schedule. These designated personal use areas will be subject to the notice requirements in for commercial sales.

NOTICE FOR NEGOTIATED SALES UNDER AS 38.05.110

Small negotiated sales. Small negotiated sales under section .110 do not require additional public notice if:

1. the sale was previously listed on a 5-year sale schedule that received public and agency review, or
2. there are no private lands within 1/4-mile of the sale.

If the proposed sale does not qualify under 1 or 2, a 30-day notice should be sent to affected landowners. These include landowners and lessees of state land within 1/4-mile of the sale.

See also: "Trail corridors - Iditarod Trail"

2nd draft: 1/15/90

Appendix A

GLOSSARY

AAC. Alaska Administrative Code.

All-season road. A road constructed and intended to be used in all seasons of the year.

Anadromous fish stream. Streams identified by DFG in the Catalog of Anadromous Waters are anadromous streams. In lieu of site-specific determinations that a stream does or does not contain anadromous fish, it should, for planning purposes, be presumed that a stream is anadromous if it is connected to anadromous waters without DFG-documented physical blockage and has a stream gradient of 8% or less. Where a previous site visit has not been made, DFG will, at the operator's request, conduct a field review to document the presence of anadromous fish. The field review will be scheduled when anadromous fish are likely to be present and the site is accessible.

Annual allowable cut. The maximum quantity of wood that can be sold and harvested on a sustained yield basis.

AS. Alaska Statutes.

Broadcast burning. The management technique of burning slash or other vegetation within an area for the purpose of enhancement of forest regeneration, fire hazard reduction, or habitat improvement.

Clearcuts. Cuts where all trees are harvested within a cutting unit, and where the cutting unit is five acres or greater in size. (See diagram on last page.)

Cutting unit: The area from which trees are actually removed. (See diagram on last page.)

Consultation. Processes followed by the Department of Natural Resources under existing statutes, regulations and procedures to inform other groups of the intention to take some action, and seek their advice or assistance in deciding what to do. Consultation is not intended to be binding on a decision. It is a means of informing affected organizations and individuals about forthcoming decisions and getting the benefit of their expertise. DNR replies to parties offering advice or assistance by sending them the decision and the reasons for which the decision was made, or by notifying them that the decision and findings are available for review.

Cover habitat. Cover habitat includes hiding cover, snow interception cover, and thermal cover. See the individual definitions of these terms.

Cutting unit. The area from which trees are actually removed. (See diagram on last page.)

DEC. Department of Environmental Conservation.

Decking. The piling of logs.

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DFG. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

DNR. Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

DOF. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry.

DPOR. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

DOT/PF. Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

Eagle nesting sites. Nesting sites mapped by USFWS from their bald eagle surveys and shown on the map "Bald Eagle Nesting Sites" accompanying this plan. Sites can be added to or deleted from the map based on new information from USFWS eagle surveys or inspection of specific sites. Additions or deletions will be made by DNR in concurrence with DFG and USFWS. Changes to the map will be based on physical characteristics for nesting and evidence of use.

Experimental Forest. Forest land retained for forest research that involves site manipulation or long-term observation (e.g., timber management research, habitat enhancement research).

Feasible. Capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, technical, and safety factors.(11 AAC 95.900)

Feasible and Prudent. Consistent with sound engineering practice and not causing environmental, social or economic problems that outweigh the public benefit to be derived from compliance with the guideline.(6 AAC 80.900)

Goal. A statement of basic intent or of a general condition desired in the long term. Goals usually are not quantifiable nor do they have specified dates for achievement.

Group selection cuts. Cuts where all trees are harvested within a cutting unit, and where the cutting unit is less than five acres in size. (See diagram on last page.)

Guideline. A specific course of action that must be followed when a resource manager permits, leases or otherwise authorizes use of state lands. Some guidelines state the intent that must be followed and allow flexibility in achieving it. Guidelines range from giving general guidance for decision-making or identifying factors to consider, to setting detailed standards for on-the-ground decisions.

Harvest unit. One or more cutting units plus the uncut areas between them. The total area of cutting units within a harvest unit is generally 5-50 acres. Unless otherwise specified for a particular sale, harvest units will be separated by a buffer of at least 330 feet. (See diagram on last page.)

Hiding cover. Hiding cover is vegetation capable of hiding 90% of a standing adult moose from the view of a human at a distance of 200 feet. Generally, hiding cover is provided by vegetation that...[to be completed by DFG and DOF]

Ice bridge. A bridge of ice across a lake, river, or stream, either natural or constructed to a specified thickness to safely accommodate specified vehicle loads.

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Identified trumpeter swan nesting sites. Nesting sites mapped by USFWS in their 1875, 1980, and 1985 swan surveys and shown on the map "Trumpeter Swan Nesting Sites" accompanying this plan. Sites can be added to or deleted from the map based on new information from USFWS swan surveys or inspection of specific sites. Additions or deletions will be made by DNR in concurrence with DFG and USFWS. Changes to the map will be based on physical characteristics for nesting, evidence of use for nesting within the prior 20 years, and presence or absence of human disturbance.

Landing. A cleared area in the woods to which logs are yarded for loading onto trucks for shipment to a processing plant.

Land use designations. Allocations that set out primary and secondary land uses.

Large woody debris. Any large piece of relatively stable woody material having a least diameter of greater than 10 cm (4") and a length greater than 1m (3.3ft) that intrudes into the stream channel.

Mainline road. A permanent, year-round road built to provide access to continuing harvest operations and identified by DOF as a mainline road at the time the road is designed.

Management Intent Statement. The statements that define the department's near- and long-term management objectives and the methods to achieve those objectives.

Multiple use. The term "multiple use" as defined in the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (A.S. 41.17.950) means:

1. The management of all the various resources of forest land so that they are used in the combination that will best meet the needs of the citizens of Alaska, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related values, benefits, and services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustment in use to conform to changing needs and conditions;
2. That some land will be used for less than all of the resources; and
3. Harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without significant impairment of the productivity of the land and water, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output.

Multiple use road. A road constructed and intended to be used for more than one use such as timber harvest, recreation, hunting access, and mining.

Off-highway vehicle. A vehicle designed or adapted for cross-country operation over unimproved terrain, ice, or snow, and which has been determined by the Department of Transportation to be unsuitable for general highway use. (13 AAC 40.010)

Off-road vehicle. Same as off-highway vehicle.

Pesticide. Pesticide includes any chemical or biological agent intended for use as an insecticide, herbicide, rodenticide, fungicide, or other biocide. (18 AAC 90.600)

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Policy. An intended course of action or a principle for guiding actions. DNR policies for land and resource management given in this plan include goals, management intent statements, management guidelines, and use designations, implementation plans and procedures and the various other statements of the DNR's intentions.

Primary road. A permanent road which provides access to within at least 5 miles of the management site. It is built to accommodate two way traffic at moderate speeds (Road Standards p.2-32).

Primary Use. A designated, allowed use of major importance in a particular management unit. Resources in the unit will be managed to encourage, develop or protect this use. Where a management unit has two or more designated primary uses, the management intent statement and guidelines for the unit - together with existing regulations and procedures - will direct how resources are managed to avoid or minimize conflict between these primary uses.

Prohibited Use. A use not allowed in a management unit because of conflicts with management intent, designated primary or secondary uses, or management guidelines. Uses not specifically prohibited nor designated as primary or secondary uses in a management unit are allowed if compatible with primary and secondary uses, the management intent statements for the unit and the plan's guidelines.

Put-to-bed. A process to stabilize and terminate the use of a logging road, trail, or other means of access. Roadbeds may be scarified to encourage revegetation; culverts, bridges, etc., may be removed; scarification is done; final grading is done to prevent erosion; water bars may be constructed, barricades may be erected, and in some cases the surface is seeded to reduce erosion.

Remote Cabin. Cabin constructed under a permit issued through the Remote Cabin Permit program authorized in AS 38.05.079 and further described in 11 AAC 67.700-.790.

Research natural area. Ecologically representative or unique sites maintained in a natural state for education, long-term observation research, and environmental monitoring.

Rotation. The period of years required to establish and grow timber a specified condition of maturity. (Soc. of Am. For.)

Salvage cutting. A harvest of trees killed or injured to recover as much useable wood as possible prior to deterioration and decomposition.

Scarification. Mechanical process of exposing mineral soil on the forest floor in order to enhance the establishment and development of a new forest crop.

Seasonal wildlife concentration area. Area in which the density of animals of a given species exceeds the density of that species in the surrounding area and is necessary to the perpetuation of the population.

Secondary road. A road constructed and maintained to standards sufficient for timber transportation that provides access to harvest areas. Secondary roads connect spur roads to primary roads.

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Secondary Use. A designated, allowed use considered important but intended to receive less emphasis than a primary use because it: (a) has less potential than a primary use or contributes less to achieving the management intent of the unit than a primary use; or, (b) occurs only on limited sites. In those very site-specific situations where a secondary use has higher value than a primary use, the secondary use may take precedence over the primary use. Management for a secondary use will recognize and protect primary uses through application of guidelines, regulations and procedures. However, if a secondary use can not take place without detrimentally affecting a primary use in the management unit as a whole, the secondary use will not be allowed.

Selective harvesting. Removal of mature timber, usually the oldest or largest trees, either as single scattered trees or in small groups at relatively short intervals, commonly 5 to 20 years, repeated indefinitely, by means of which the continuous establishment of natural reproduction is encouraged and an uneven-aged stand is maintained. Selective harvesting includes both single-tree selection and group selection (q.v.) harvesting.

Shall. Requiring a course of action or a set of conditions to be achieved. A guideline modified by the word "shall" is required to be followed by resource managers or users. If a guideline constrained by the term "shall" is not complied with, a written decision justifying the variation is required (see Plan Modification - Chapter 4).

Should. Stating intent for a course of action or a set of conditions to be achieved. A guideline modified by the word "should" states the intent of the plan and allows a resource manager to use judgment and discretion in deciding either: (a) the specific means for best achieving the intent; or, (b) whether particular circumstances justify deviation from the intended action or set of conditions. A guideline may include criteria for deciding whether such a deviation is justified.

Silviculture. The theory and practice of controlling forest establishment, composition, and growth.

Skid. To pull logs from the stump to the skidroad and landing.

Slash. Debris left after logging; also, large accumulations of debris after wind or fire. It includes logs, chunks, bark, branches, stumps, and broken understory or brush.

Snags. Dead standing trees or portions thereof.

Snow interception cover. Snow interception cover is vegetation that reduces snow depths on the ground. Shallower snow reduces the energy needed for wildlife movement. In southcentral Alaska, stands with $\geq 70\%$ coniferous trees with a mean height of ≥ 35 feet provide optimal snow interception cover. Forest stands with lower proportions of coniferous trees offer proportionally less snow interception cover."

Spur road. A road constructed for access within a timber sale. These roads are generally temporary roads less than one mile in length. Spur roads connect the cutting units to secondary (or occasionally primary) roads.

State lands. All lands, including uplands, tide and submerged lands, or resources belonging to or acquired by the State. State patented, tentatively approved, and state selected lands are included in this definition.

2nd draft: 1/15/90

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

Thermal cover. Thermal cover is vegetation that moderates adverse climatic conditions by providing summer shade and trapping radiant energy in the winter. In southcentral Alaska, stands with $\geq 70\%$ coniferous trees with a mean height of ≥ 35 feet provide optimal thermal cover. Forest stands with lower proportions of coniferous trees offer proportionally less thermal cover.

Timber sale. One or more harvest units offered for sale under a single contract and described in a Forest Management Report.

Trumpeter swan staging areas. Areas traditionally used by flocks of trumpeter swans, usually estuaries and tide flats, for feeding and resting during fall or spring migration.

USDA. United States Department of Agriculture.

Will. Used interchangeably with and meaning the same as "shall" (see above).

Wetlands. Wetlands includes both freshwater and saltwater wetlands. Freshwater wetlands means those environments characterized by rooted vegetation which is partially submerged either continuously or periodically by surface freshwater with less than .5 parts per thousand salt content and not exceeding three meters in depth; saltwater wetlands means those coastal areas along sheltered shorelines characterized by halophilic hydrophytes and macro-algae extending from extreme low tide to an area above extreme high tide which is influenced by sea spray or tidally-included water table changes. (6 AAC 80.900)

Winter road. A road constructed and intended for winter use only when the ground is frozen and snow depths greater than a specified minimum.

Yarding. The process of pulling or skidding logs to a centralized point or landing where they are piled prior to loading or hauling away.

Years 1 - 5. In the 5-year timber sale schedule, year 5 is the current year, the year sales are offered for purchase. Year 1 is the first year proposed sales can be on the schedule, it is four years prior to the proposed sale date.

(b) All orders issued under AS 41.17.131 — 41.17.141 are enforceable by injunction, attachment, garnishment, or other appropriate remedy. (§ 1 ch 108 SLA 1978)

Revisor's notes. — Formerly AS 41.17.130(f) and (g). Renumbered in 1983.

Sec. 41.17.143. Appeals and judicial review. (a) An administrative action of the department under this chapter, except actions under AS 41.17.131 — 41.17.141 and except for adoption of regulations, may be appealed to the commissioner within 30 days after it is taken. The commissioner shall hold a hearing, at which all substantial issues shall be considered, within 15 days after an appeal is filed. The respondent shall be granted 10-day extensions up to a total of 60 days upon request. Within 10 days after conclusion of the hearing, the commissioner shall issue a written decision based upon the evidence, which shall be provided to the appellant. The commissioner may delegate duties, in whole or in part, under this subsection to a hearing officer appointed by the attorney general from among members of the Alaska Bar Association who have been nominated by the Board of Forestry and who are knowledgeable and experienced in the subject matter.

(b) A final decision under (a) of this section or a final order under AS 41.17.133 may be appealed to the superior court within 30 days after it is issued. Judicial review shall be as provided in AS 44.62.560 and 44.62.570.

(c) A temporary order issued under AS 41.17.137 may be immediately appealed to the superior court as to its propriety. § 1 ch 108 SLA 1978)

Revisor's notes. — Formerly AS 41.17.140. Renumbered in 1983.

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Quoted in Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Inc. v. State, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 2662 (File No. 5855), 665 P.2d 544 (1983).

Article 3. State Forest System.

Section
200. State forest purposes
210. State forests

Section
220. Management of state forests
230. Management plans

Sec. 41.17.200. State forest purposes. The purpose of AS 41.17.200 — 41.17.230 is to permit the establishment of designated state-owned or acquired land and water areas as state forests. The primary purpose in the establishment of state forests is the perpetuation of personal, commercial, and other beneficial uses of resources through multiple-use management. (§ 1 ch 91 SLA 1983)

Sec. 41.17.210. State forests. (a) The governor may propose to the legislature the establishment of state forests consisting primarily of commercially valuable forest land determined by the governor to be necessary for retention in state ownership for management under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield and consistent with AS 38.04.005. The proposal of the governor shall include a report and recommendations of the commissioner including

- (1) a preliminary forest inventory;
- (2) a summary of the testimony offered at public hearings held on the management of the proposed state forest in communities proximately located to a proposed state forest;
- (3) the findings of the commissioner on anticipated incompatibilities of uses described in AS 41.17.230(e) under AS 41.17.230(f);
- (4) written comments from appropriate state agencies on the compatibility of the uses described in AS 41.17.230(e) within the proposed state forest;
- (5) an estimate of the cost of a full implementation of an operational level forest inventory and the management plan.

(b) A state forest established by the legislature shall be retained in state ownership. (§ 1 ch 91 SLA 1983)

Sec. 41.17.220. Management of state forests. Land within a state forest or within a unit of a state forest shall be managed under

- (1) the principles of multiple-use and sustained yield;
- (2) this chapter; and
- (3) a management plan prepared by the department. (§ 1 ch 91 SLA 1983)

Sec. 41.17.230. Management plans. (a) The commissioner shall prepare a management plan consistent with AS 38.04.005 and this chapter for each state forest and for each unit of a state forest to assist in meeting the requirements of this chapter. An operational level forest inventory shall be completed before a management plan for the state forest or the unit of a state forest is adopted. The management plan shall be adopted, implemented and maintained within three years of the establishment of a state forest by the legislature.

(b) The commissioner shall review a management plan at least once every five years and may revise the plan when necessary.

(c) A management plan may not be adopted or revised after the establishment of the state forest without prior review by the Board of Forestry and by other appropriate state agencies or without prior public hearings held in a community proximately located to the state forest or to a unit of a state forest.

(d) A copy of a management plan or a revision to a management plan adopted or prepared by the commissioner shall be provided to the legislature within 30 days of its adoption or revision or within the first 15 days of the first regular session of the legislature to convene after its adoption or revision.

(e) The commissioner shall consider and permit the following uses under a management plan prepared under (a) or (b) of this section subject to a determination under (f) of this section:

- (1) commercial timber harvest and related activities;
- (2) harvest of forest products for personal use;
- (3) mining, mining claim, and mineral leasehold location;
- (4) mineral leasing;
- (5) material extraction;
- (6) recreation;
- (7) wildlife and fisheries habitat management including critical habitat management;
- (8) greenbelts;
- (9) trapping and sport and subsistence fishing and hunting;
- (10) grazing;
- (11) watershed management;
- (12) research;
- (13) uses consistent with the policies of AS 38.04.015; and
- (14) other traditional, compatible uses.

(f) A management plan prepared by the commissioner shall consider and permit the uses described in (e) of this section. If the commissioner finds that a permitted use is incompatible with one or more other uses in a portion of a state forest, the commissioner shall affirmatively state in the management plan that finding of incompatibility for the specific area where the incompatibility is anticipated to exist and the time period when the incompatibility is anticipated to exist together with the reasons for each finding. (§ 1 ch 91 SLA 1983)

Article 4. State Land Reforestation.

Section

300. State land reforestation fund

310. Appropriations to state land reforestation fund

Section

320. Report to the legislature

Sec. 41.17.300. State land reforestation fund. A state land reforestation fund is established in the department. The money in the state land reforestation fund may be used only for the reforestation of state land, including site preparation, seed and seedling acquisition and cultivation, planting, and other reforestation measures, timber stand improvement, and the development of materials and techniques for the reforestation of state land. (§ 2 ch 91 SLA 1983)

Sec. 41.17.310. Appropriations to state land reforestation fund. (a) The state land reforestation fund consists of money appropriated by the legislature and contributions from private donors. It is the intent of the legislature that the appropriations made to the fund equal no less than 25 percent of the revenues from the sale of timber and other forest products from state land as well as the total revenues from

- (1) compensation for loss or damage to land within a state forest; and
- (2) the federal government and other governmental units for reforestation.

(b) Money appropriated to or paid into the state land reforestation fund does not lapse. (§ 2 ch 91 SLA 1983)

Sec. 41.17.320. Report to the legislature. The commissioner shall make an annual report to the legislature within the first 10 days of each session of the legislature on the uses of the money in the state land reforestation fund, the proposed uses of the fund in the following fiscal year, and the balance in the fund. (§ 2 ch 91 SLA 1983)

Article 5. Tanana Valley State Forest.

Section

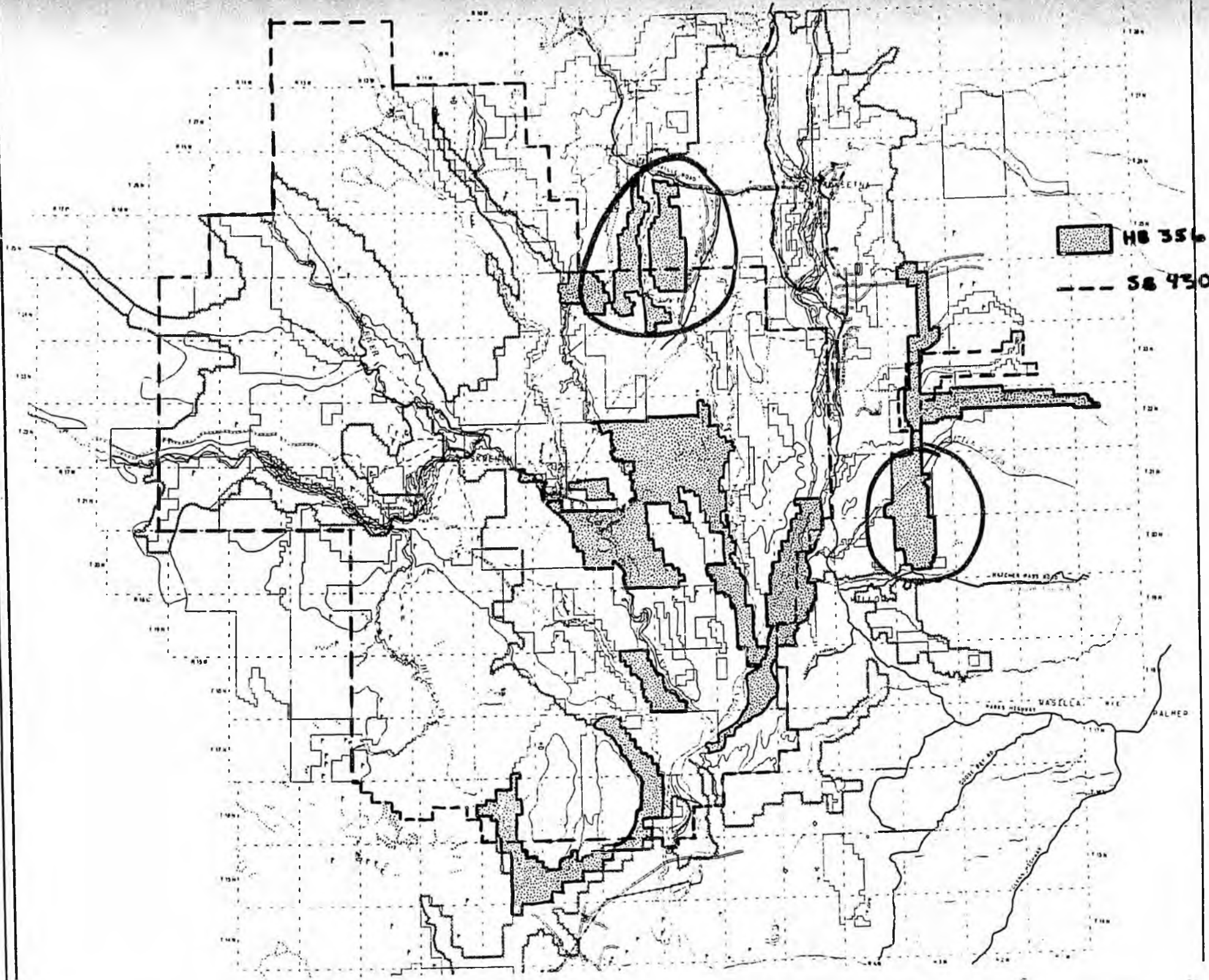
400. Tanana Valley State Forest

Sec. 41.17.400. Tanana Valley State Forest. (a) Subject to valid existing rights and except for land owned by or transferred to the University of Alaska under a settlement agreement between the state and the university, the state-owned or acquired land and water lying within the parcels described in (d) of this section is designated as the Tanana Valley State Forest.

(b) The commissioner shall prepare a management plan for the Tanana Valley State Forest under AS 41.17.230.

(c) In addition to the uses described in AS 41.17.230(e), the commissioner may establish transportation corridors within the Tanana Valley State Forest.

(d) The Tanana Valley State Forest includes the state-owned or acquired land and water lying within the following described parcels:



HB 356
SB 430

S

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON FISH AND WILDLIFE VALUES
SUSITNA VALLEY

The Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area encompasses the majority of the West Susitna River Valley drainages. These areas are exceptionally important to fish and wildlife and public recreation and include the Talachulitna, Deshka, Yentna, Skwentna, Kichatna, Kahiltna and portions of the Susitna River and Alexander, Lake, Moose and Kroto Creeks. The North Fork Kashwitna River, located on the east side of the Susitna River Valley is also included within the proposed recreation area.

Fishery resources produce in these drainages contribute to the sport, commercial, subsistence fisheries in Cook Inlet, and support highly valuable recreational fisheries. Fish produced in streams of the recreational area include chinook, coho, sockeye, chum and pink salmon, Dolly Varden, rainbow trout and Arctic grayling. During the 10 year period 1979 through 1988, the ex-vessel value of Susitna River drainage bound salmon to the commercial fishery averaged \$9,045,800.

The value of the recreational fishery of drainages within the proposed remote recreational area was estimated in 1986 to be approximately \$6,500,000. This information was developed through the Southcentral Alaska Sport Fishing Economic Study prepared by Jones and Stokes and Associated, Inc., 1978. Based on the Alaska Statewide Sport Fisheries Harvest Report developed by the ADF&G, approximately 32,920 anglers spent 95,339 days recreationally fishing streams within the remote recreation area. Additional recreational value of the area is the value to the commercial recreation business. Based on information developed for the Susitna Regional Forest Plan, approximately 52 commercial lodges operate in the area. According to information collected by the Susitna Valley Association, the value of commercial recreation to air charter services in combined businesses was \$11,400,000. The combined gross income in 1987 of remote lodges in the valley was \$3,340,000.

This area provides important habitat for wildlife, notably moose, black and brown bear, furbearers, waterfowl and bald eagles. The river drainages are particularly important to moose as winter habitat. Department staff estimated the value of moose hunting in the lower Susitna River valley for 1988. The reported moose harvest data for 1988 indicate that 3,949 hunters hunted 22,159 days. Based on an economic analysis, the total value of moose hunting in the valley was \$11.57 million.