

HB

162

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

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February 27, 2009

Representative Craig Johnson, Co-Chairman
House Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 126
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: House Bill 162 – Establishing the
Southeast State Forest

Dear Representative Johnson,


Please accept this request for your consideration to schedule HB 162 before the House Resources Committee at your earliest convenience.

This bill would establish a new Southeast State Forest (SESF) in Southeast Alaska. The SESF would be managed as part of the State Forest System under AS 41.17.200-.230. Designated lands include 20 parcels totaling approximately 25,291 acres on Prince of Wales, Tuxekan, Kosciusko, Heceta, Revilla, and Gravina islands, and on the mainland at Crittenden Creek. Lands in the State Forest would continue to be open for multiple uses, including wildlife habitat and harvest and recreational activities. Legislatively designating a State Forest would ensure that some land will remain available for long-term forest management, and enable thinning to increase timber volumes.

The bill is supported by the Alaska State Forest Association, hunting and recreation groups as well as all surrounding land owners. Attached are a Sectional Analysis, DNR's zero fiscal note and background materials and maps.

If you have any questions regarding the bill, feel free to contact Melanie Lesh, Special Assistant, Department of Natural Resources' and Legislative Liaison at 465-4730, or Marty Freeman, the Forest Resources Program Manager at 269-8473.

Sincerely,


for
Thomas E. Irwin
Commissioner

"Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans."

Briefing: HB 162

Southeast State Forest

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Alaska Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

March 2, 2009

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Background. The state Department of Natural Resources manages over 156,000 acres of forest land in Southern Southeast (SSE) Alaska. Of this land, timber management is allowed on approximately 49,000 acres. The state actively manages this timber base to supply wood to local processors. Remaining land is designated primarily for other uses including land sales, recreation, water resources, and fish and wildlife habitat, including over 25,000 acres of legislatively designated state parks, refuges, and public use areas.

In SSE, demand for state timber exceeds supply. The majority of timber in SSE is on federal land, but federal timber sales have declined drastically. Local mills now depend heavily on state timber for survival. The state is committed to finding long-term solutions by:

- maximizing the sustainable supply of timber from the small state timber base.
- working with the US Forest Service to increase economically feasible federal timber sales, and
- accelerating the transition from old-growth harvesting to harvesting second-growth.

There is broad support for shifting timber harvesting in SE Alaska from old growth to second-growth stands. Actively-managed second-growth stands provide more timber volume per acre on shorter rotations, and have less impact on wildlife. Much of the state timber land was inherited from the USFS with young second-growth stands. We can accelerate the shift to second-growth harvesting and increase timber volume on state land by thinning these stands. However, thinning is a long-term investment, and is only justified if the land will continue to be available for forest management. Legislatively designating a State Forest would ensure that some land will remain available for long-term forest management.

Purpose. This bill would establish a new Southeast State Forest from state lands presently used for timber harvest. The Division of Forestry will be able to manage the State Forest for a long-term supply of timber to local processors, and retain the land in state ownership for multiple uses.

Proposed State Forest land. The proposed Southeast State Forest includes 20 parcels totaling approximately 25,291 acres (see chart). Parcels are General Use lands on Prince of Wales, Tuxekan, Kosciusko, Heceta, Revilla, and Gravina islands, and on the mainland at Crittenden Creek. The Division of Forestry worked with the Division of Mining, Land, and Water Management to identify and exclude lands that are priorities for the state land disposal program.

State Forest Management. The Southeast State Forest would be managed as part of the State Forest System under AS 41.17.200-.230. Lands in the State Forest would continue to be open for multiple uses, including wildlife habitat and harvest and recreational activities. State Forest lands would be managed consistent with the management intent under the current Prince of Wales Island and Central Southeast area plans. Changes to management intent would require public and interagency review through adoption of a State Forest Management Plan under AS 41.17.230.

Municipal Entitlements. The City and Borough of Wrangell boundary encompasses three parcels in the proposed state forest (Crittenden Creek and Bradfield Canal East and West). A State Forest designation will not affect the amount or location of land the Wrangell Borough can select. That determination is based on the maximum total acreage of vacant, unappropriated, unreserved land in the borough boundaries within two years after the date of incorporation (AS 29.65.030). However, a borough would not normally be able to select land within a State Forest. To avoid conflicts with the Wrangell entitlement, the Southeast State Forest bill specifies that the Wrangell Borough may select State Forest land within the borough boundary.

If new municipalities are incorporated before June 30, 2019, lands that were vacant, unappropriated, unreserved land before establishment of the State Forest will be included in the calculation of the municipal entitlement acreage, but may not be selected.

PROPOSED SOUTHEAST STATE FOREST

Planning Unit	Acreage	General Location	Island
Prince of Wales Island Area Plan			
4a	1,528.21	El Capitan – North	Prince of Wales
4a	600.44	El Capitan – South	Prince of Wales
6a	1,558.11	Coffman Cove – West	Prince of Wales
6a	320	Coffman Cove – East	Prince of Wales
7b	200	Tuxekan – East	Tuxekan
7c	436.89	Naukati – North	Prince of Wales
7c	640	Naukati – South	Prince of Wales
8b	480	Kosciusko/Edna Bay – North	Kosciusko
8b	2,199.84	Kosciusko/Edna Bay – South	Kosciusko
10a	1,257.92	Heceta Island – West	Heceta
10a	752.8	Heceta Island – East	Heceta
11a	744.32	Control Lake	Prince of Wales
11c	2,040	Thorne Bay – North	Prince of Wales
11c	840	Thorne Bay – South	Prince of Wales
Central Southeast Area Plan			
K-04	324.20	Traitors Cove	Revillagigedo
K-33	901.03	Gravina/Vallenar	Gravina
K-41	4,977.38	Gravina/Bostwick	Gravina
W-01	3,087.72	Crittenden Creek	Mainland
W-19	624.15	Bradfield Canal – West	Mainland
W-20	1,778.56	Bradfield Canal – East	Mainland
TOTAL	25,291.14	20 parcels	

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If new municipalities are incorporated before June 30, 2019, lands that were vacant, unappropriated, unreserved land before establishment of the State Forest will be included in the calculation of the municipal entitlement acreage, but may not be selected.

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March 2, 2009

Sectional Analysis

HB 162

Establishing the Southeast State Forest and relating to the Southeast State Forest; and providing for an effective date

This bill would establish a new Southeast State Forest (SESF). The SESF would be managed as part of the State Forest System under AS 41.17.200-.230. Lands in the State Forest would continue to be open for multiple uses, including wildlife habitat and harvest and recreational activities. The State Forest designation would not affect the Wrangell Borough municipal entitlement, nor would it affect calculation of entitlement acreage for future municipalities in southeast Alaska.

Section 1 - Southeast State Forest.

Legal descriptions. Section 1, subsections (a) and (d) provide legal descriptions for the lands to be designated as the Southeast State Forest (SESF). Designated lands include 20 parcels totaling approximately 25,291 acres (see chart) on Prince of Wales, Tuxekan, Kosciusko, Heceta, Revilla, and Gravina islands, and on the mainland at Crittenden Creek. These parcels are an important part of the state timber base, but are classified as General Use land, which may be sold in the future. Legislatively designating a State Forest would ensure that some land will remain available for long-term forest management, and enable thinning to increase timber volumes. Designated lands exclude areas identified as important sites for future state land disposals.

Management plan and transportation corridor. Subsection (b) directs DNR to prepare a management plan for the Southeast State Forest. Under AS 41.17.230 a management plan is required within three years after a State Forest is established. State Forest management plans must consider and permit multiple uses, include recreation and tourism, mining, use of fish and wildlife, and other traditional uses, unless the Commissioner issues a site-specific written finding that a use is incompatible with one or more other uses. Public, interagency, and Board of Forestry review is required prior to adoption of a State Forest management plan. As in other state forests, Subsection (c) states that the DNR Commissioner may also establish transportation corridors within the State Forest.

Municipal entitlements. Subsection (e) clarifies the relationship of the Southeast State Forest to current and potential municipal entitlements. State Forests can affect the amount of land a municipality is entitled to select, and the land

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available for selection. The amount of land a municipality may select is based on the maximum total acreage of vacant, unappropriated, unreserved (VUU) land in the borough boundaries within two years after the date of incorporation (AS 29.65.030). Municipal selections are limited to VUU land. Land classified as General Use land is VUU land, but State Forests are not.

The SESF is designed to have no impact on Wrangell Borough land selections. The amount of land that Wrangell Borough may select is already fixed by its date of incorporation, and this bill specifies that the Wrangell Borough may select State Forest land within the borough boundary. Three parcels in the SESF are within the Wrangell Borough boundary.

If new municipalities are incorporated before June 30, 2019, the SESF will not affect the amount of land that they can select. The bill specifies that State Forest lands that were VUU land before establishment of the State Forest will be included in the calculation of the entitlement acreage. However, parcels in the SESF may not be selected. If municipalities form after 2019, the amount and location of their entitlement would be based on the VUU land at that time.

Section 2. Regulations. This section authorizes DNR to immediately adopt regulations to implement the bill.

Section 3. Effective date for regulations. Under Section 3 the authority to adopt regulations (Section 2) takes effect immediately.

Section 4. Effective date for State Forest. Section 4 provides for an effective date of July 1, 2008.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: HB 162
(H) Publish Date: 3/2/09

Identifier (file name): 0012-DNR-FOR-02-09-09 Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
Title Southeast State Forest RDU Resource Development
Component Forest Management & Development
Sponsor Rules Committee
Requester Governor Component Number 435

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Interagency Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Part-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Temporary	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

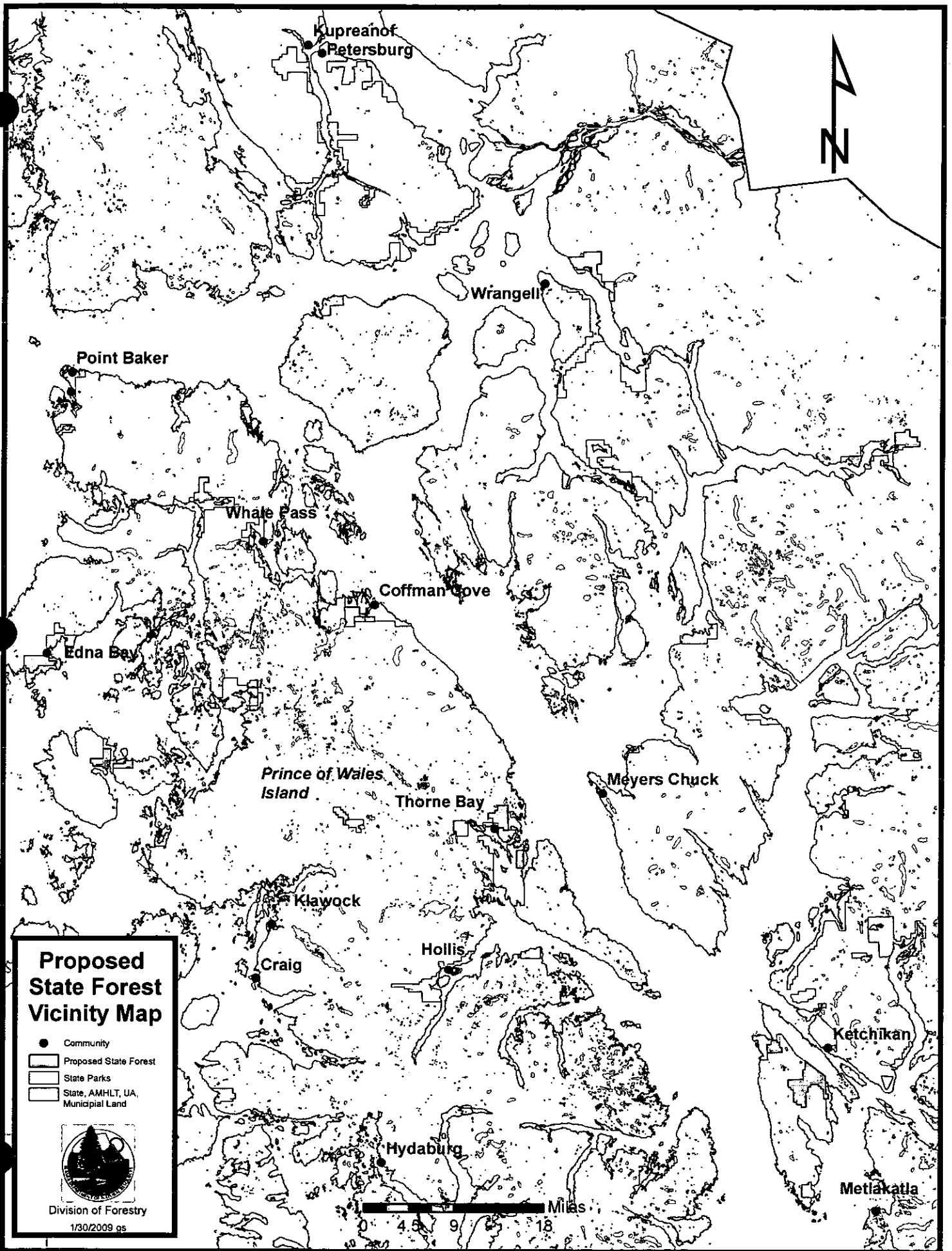
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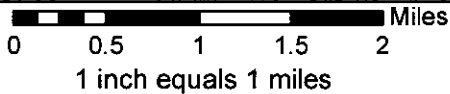
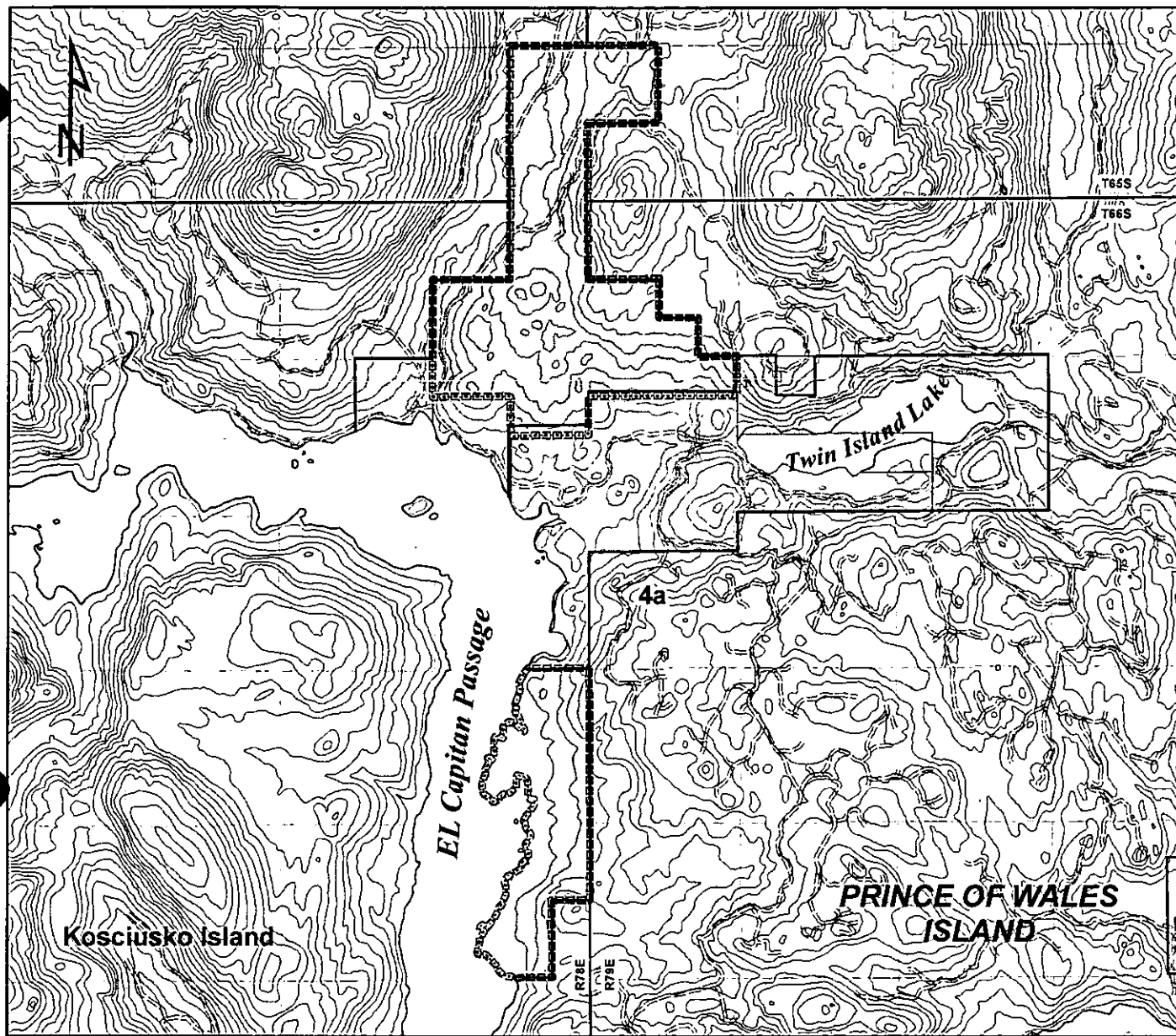
This bill establishes a 25,291-acre State Forest in Southern Southeast Alaska by redesignating certain state-owned parcels. A timber management plan would be developed to actively manage the parcels for higher timber volumes per acre, shorter rotations and less impact on wildlife. This would involve thinning young second-growth stands; a long-term investment not justified for undesignated lands.

Implementation of this bill will not require new positions or funding. The bill will have no short-term impact to the revenue stream, but will provide for long-term increases in forest productivity and subsequent increased timber revenues.

Prepared by: Chris Maisch, Director
Division Division of Forestry
Approved by: Tom Irwin, Commissioner
Natural Resources

Phone 451-2660
Date/Time February 9, 2009
Date February 9, 2009





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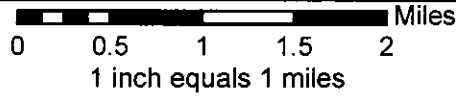
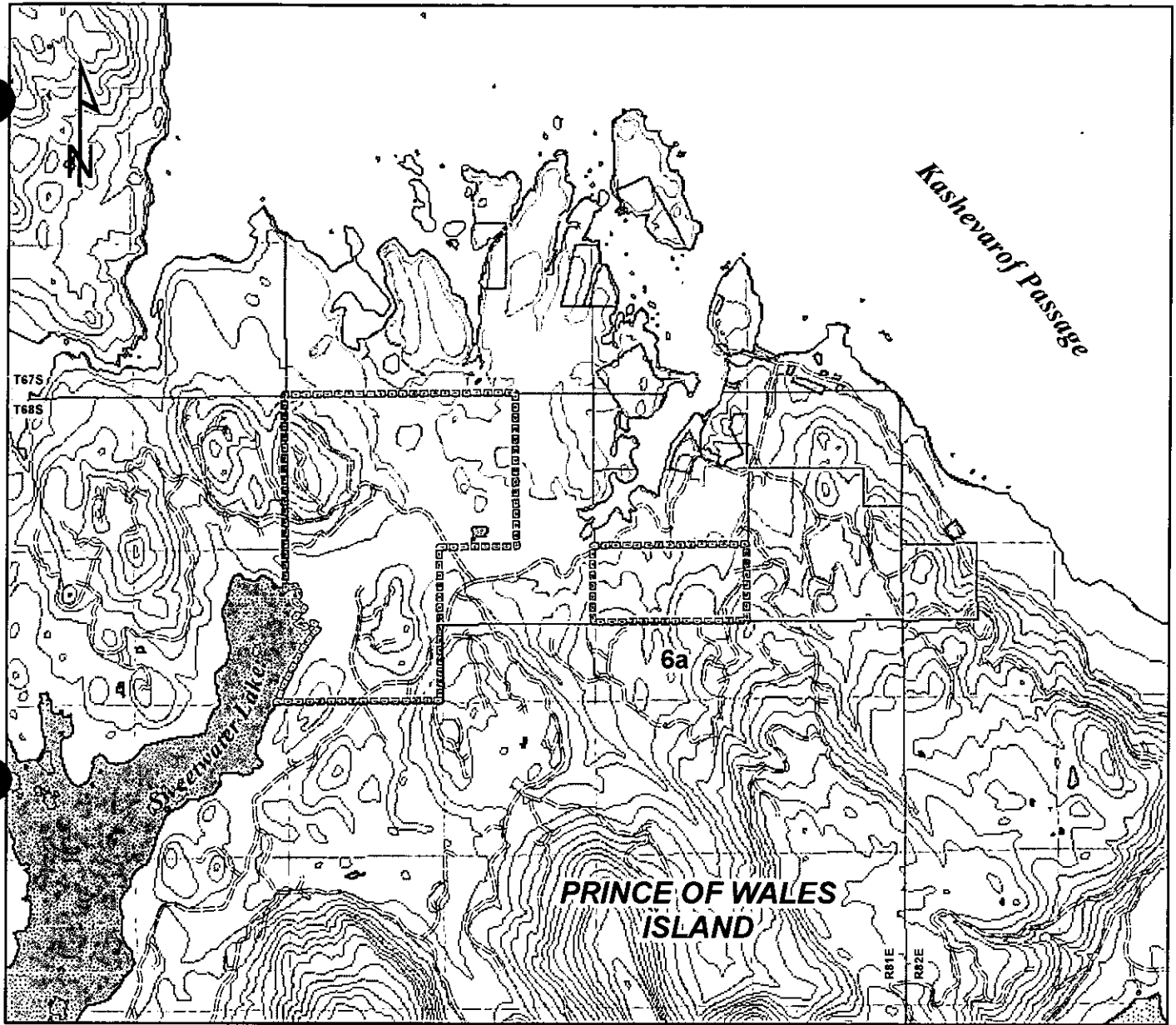
- Property Line
- ▤ Proposed State Forest
- GU
- Disposable
- Recreation
- Habitat
- ==== Roads

**Proposed
Southeast Alaska
State Forest
El Capitan**









DIVISION OF FORESTRY

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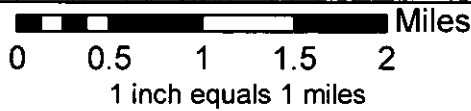
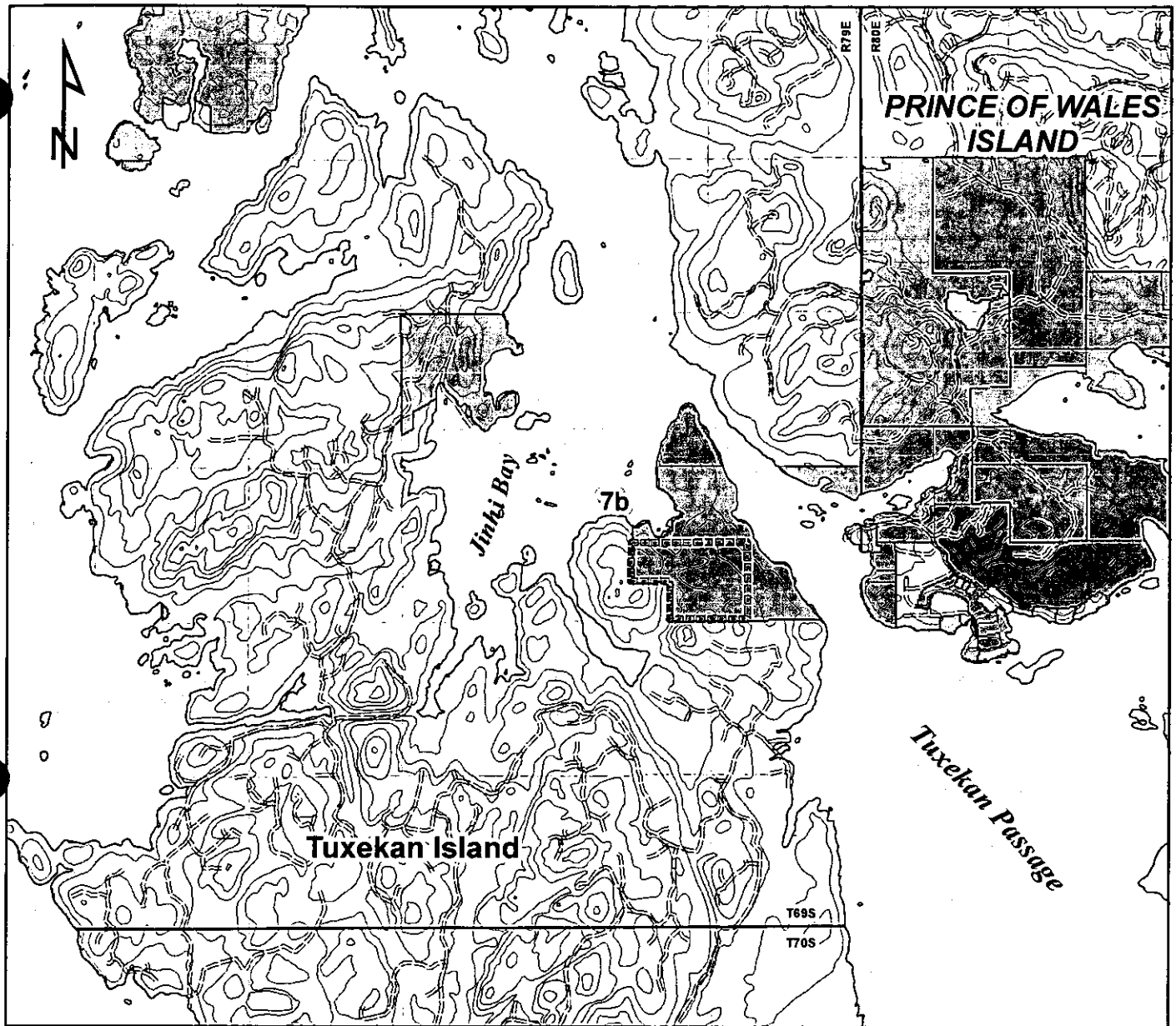
-  Proposed State Forest
-  GU
-  Disposable
-  Recreation
-  Habitat
-  Roads

**Proposed
Southeast Alaska
State Forest
Coffman Cove**









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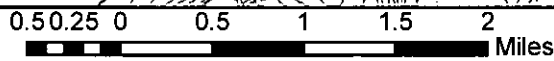
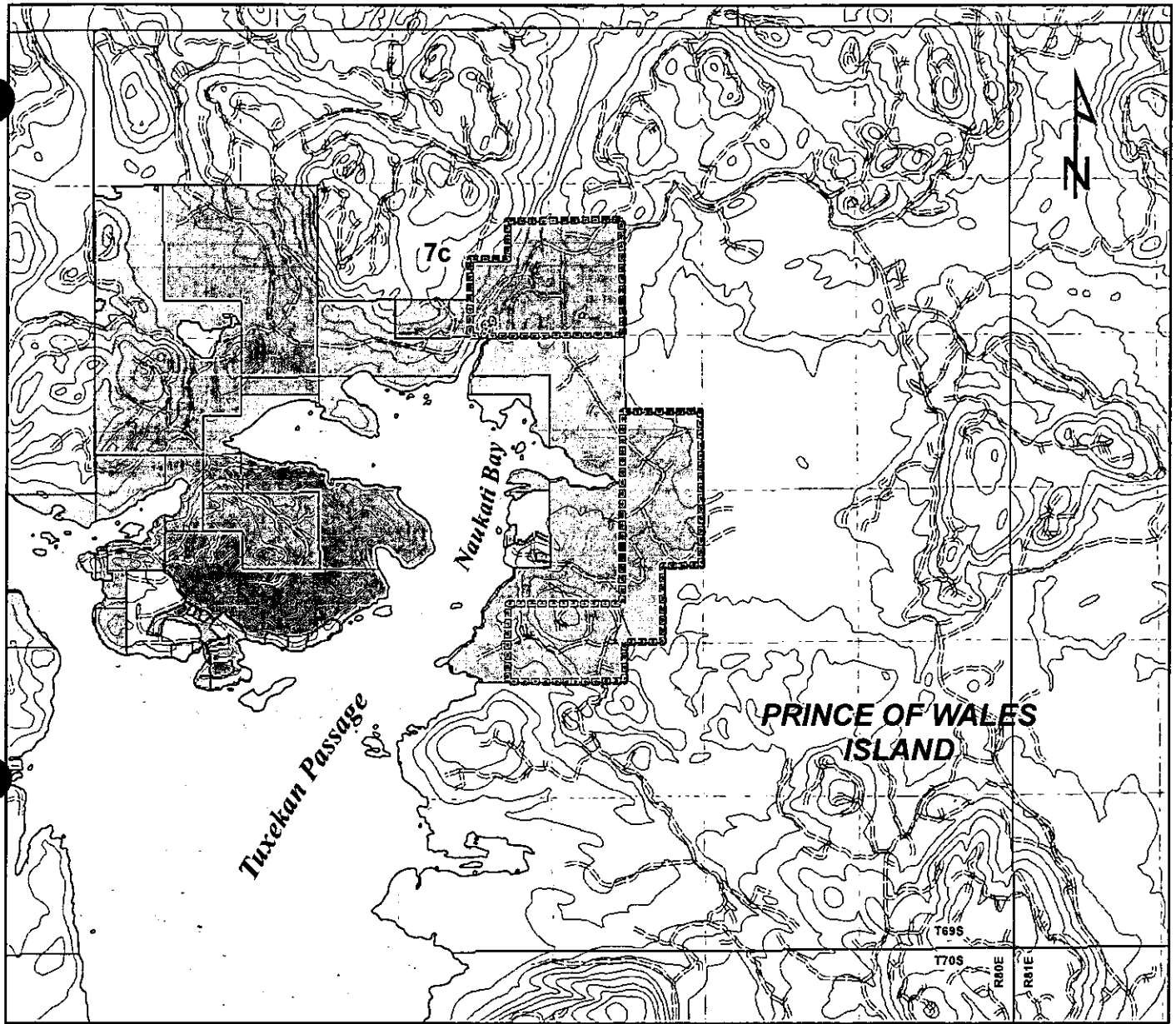
-  Proposed State Forest
-  GU
-  Disposable
-  Recreation
-  Habitat
-  Roads

**Proposed
Southeast Alaska
State Forest
Tuxekan**



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
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1 inch equals 1 miles

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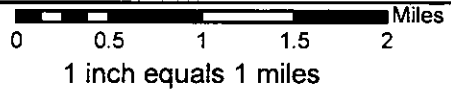
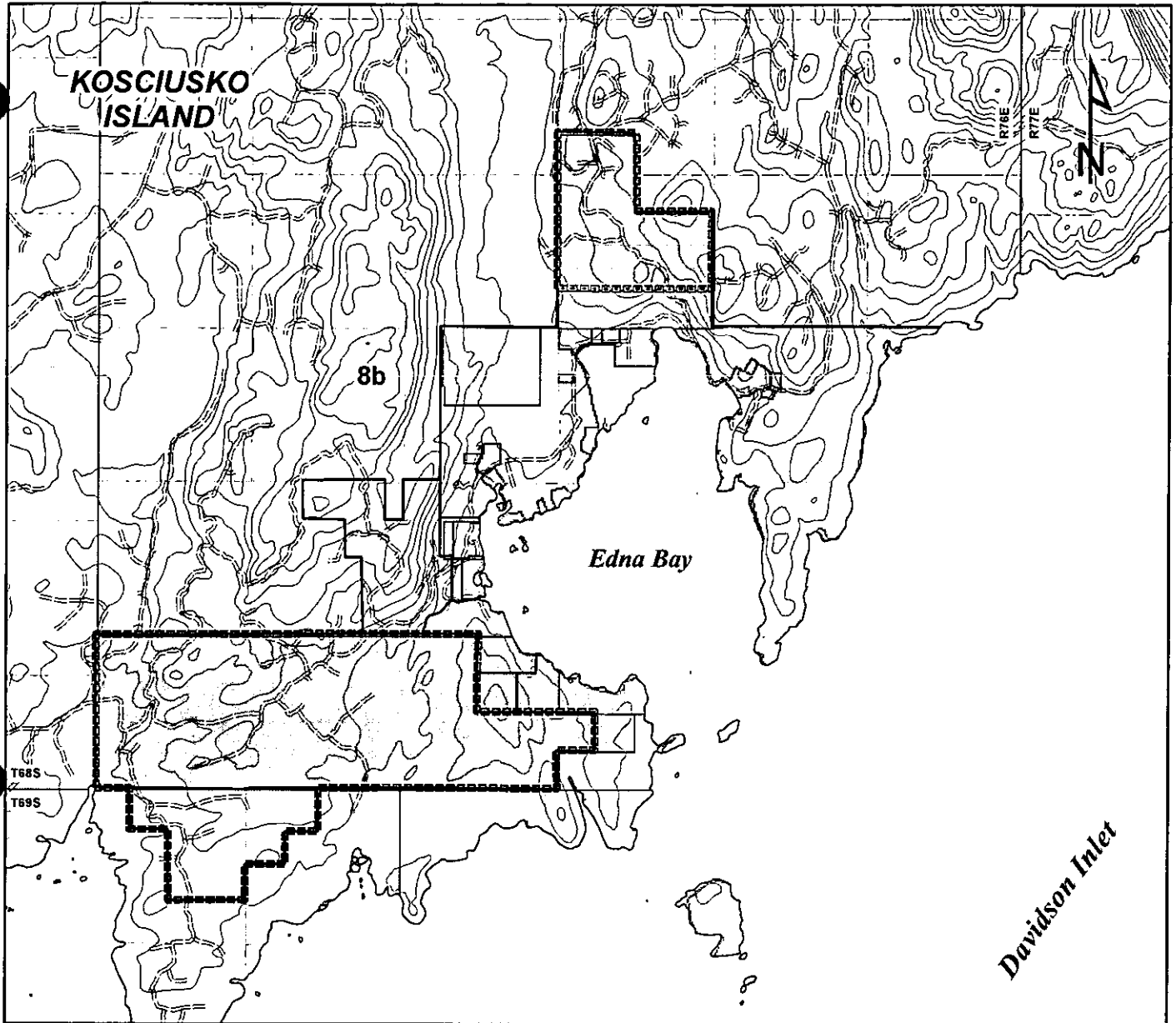
-  Proposed State Forest
-  GU
-  Disposable
-  Recreation
-  Habitat

**Proposed
Southeast Alaska
State Forest
Naukati**



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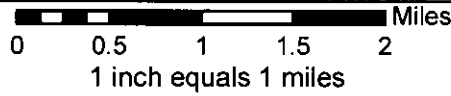
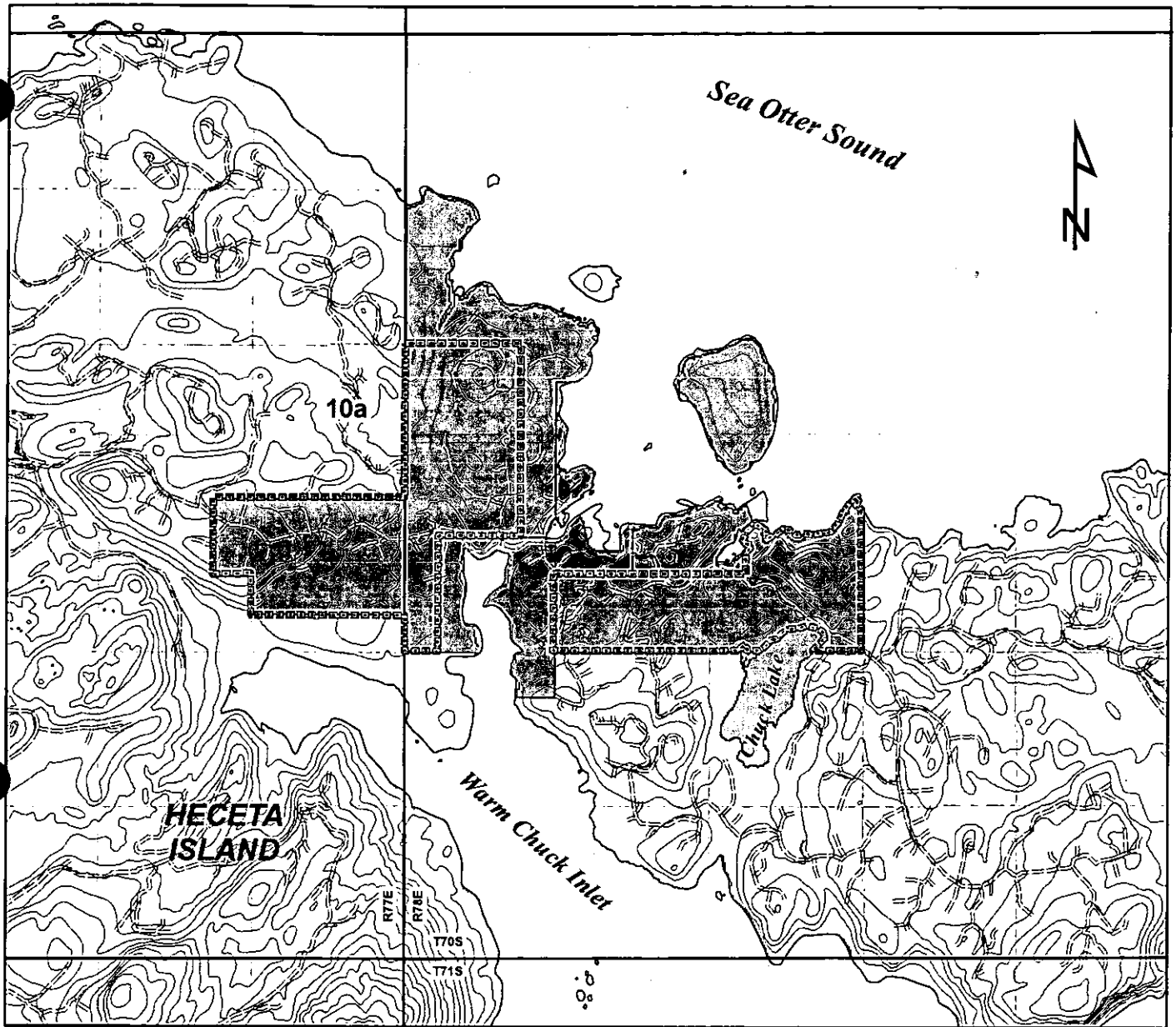
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- Property Line
- Proposed State Forest
- Roads
- GU
- Disposable
- Recreation
- Habitat

**Proposed
Southeast Alaska
State Forest
Kosciusko (Edna Bay)**









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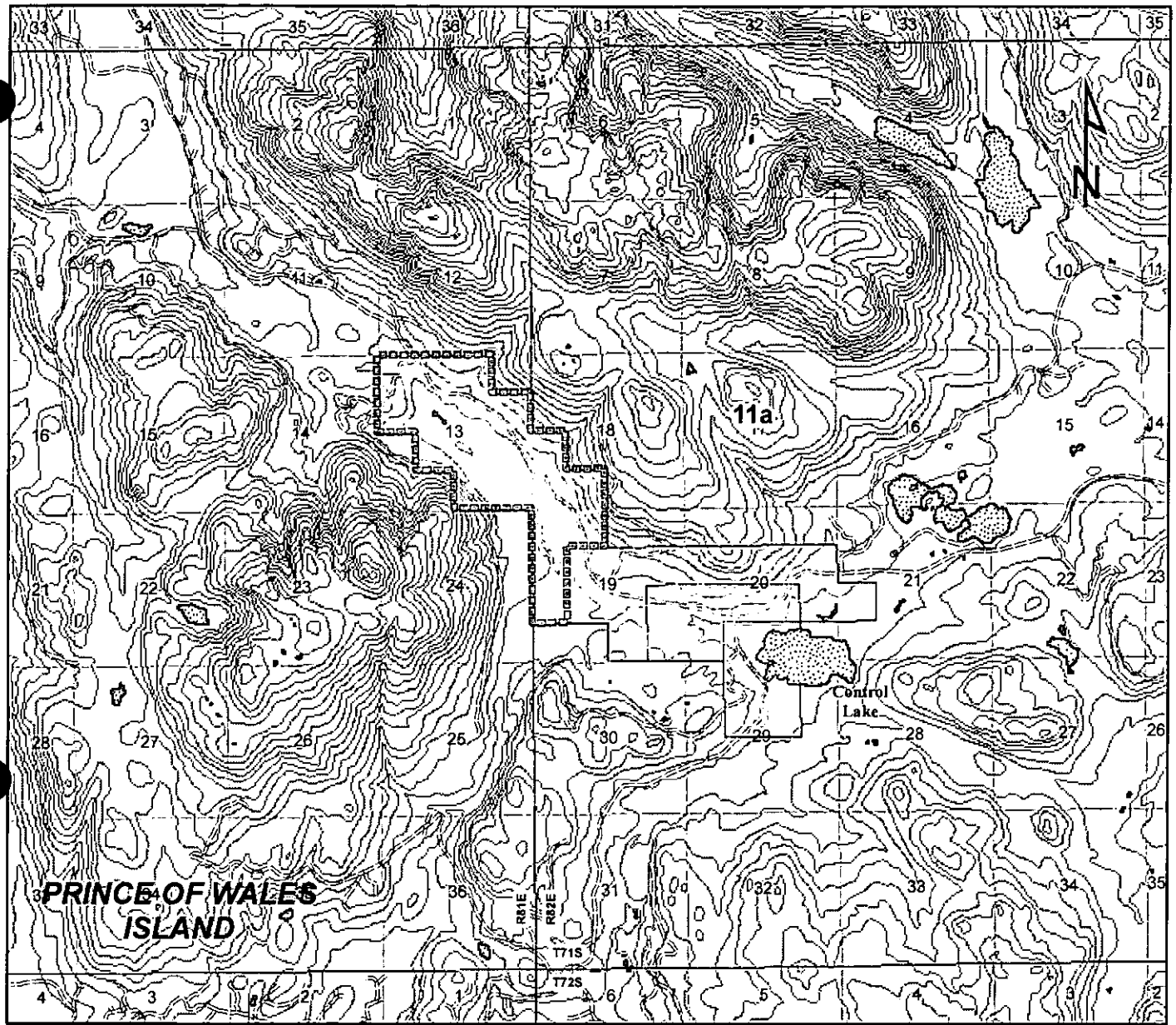
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-  GU
-  Disposable
-  Recreation
-  Habitat

**Proposed
Southeast Alaska
State Forest
Heceta Island**



DIVISION OF FORESTRY







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1 inch equals 1 miles

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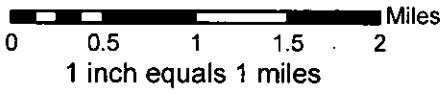
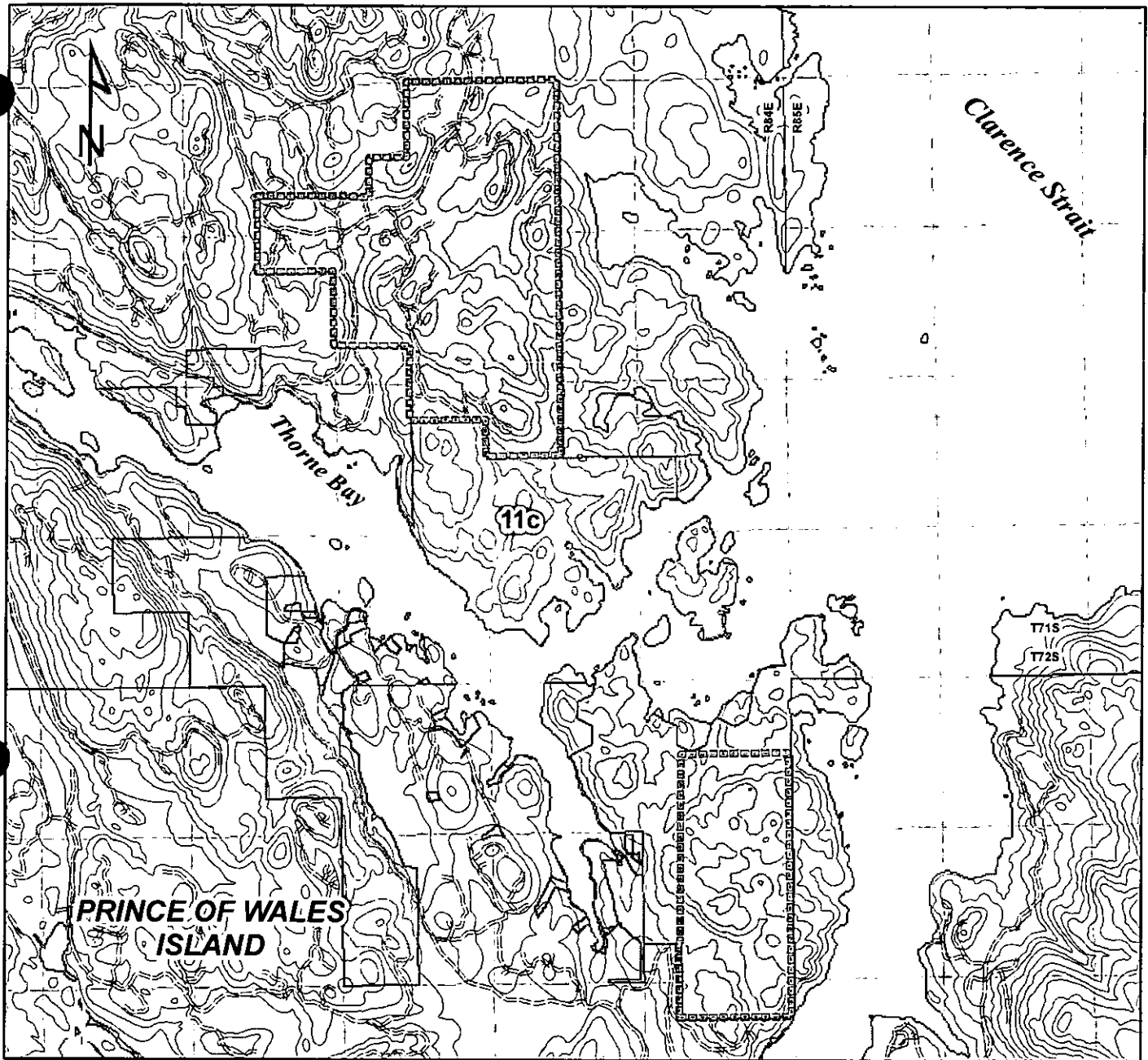
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**Proposed
Southeast Alaska
State Forest
Control Lake**









DIVISION OF FORESTRY

1/30/2009 gs



Contour Interval 100'

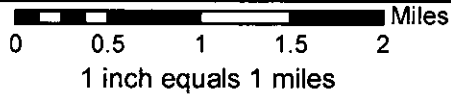
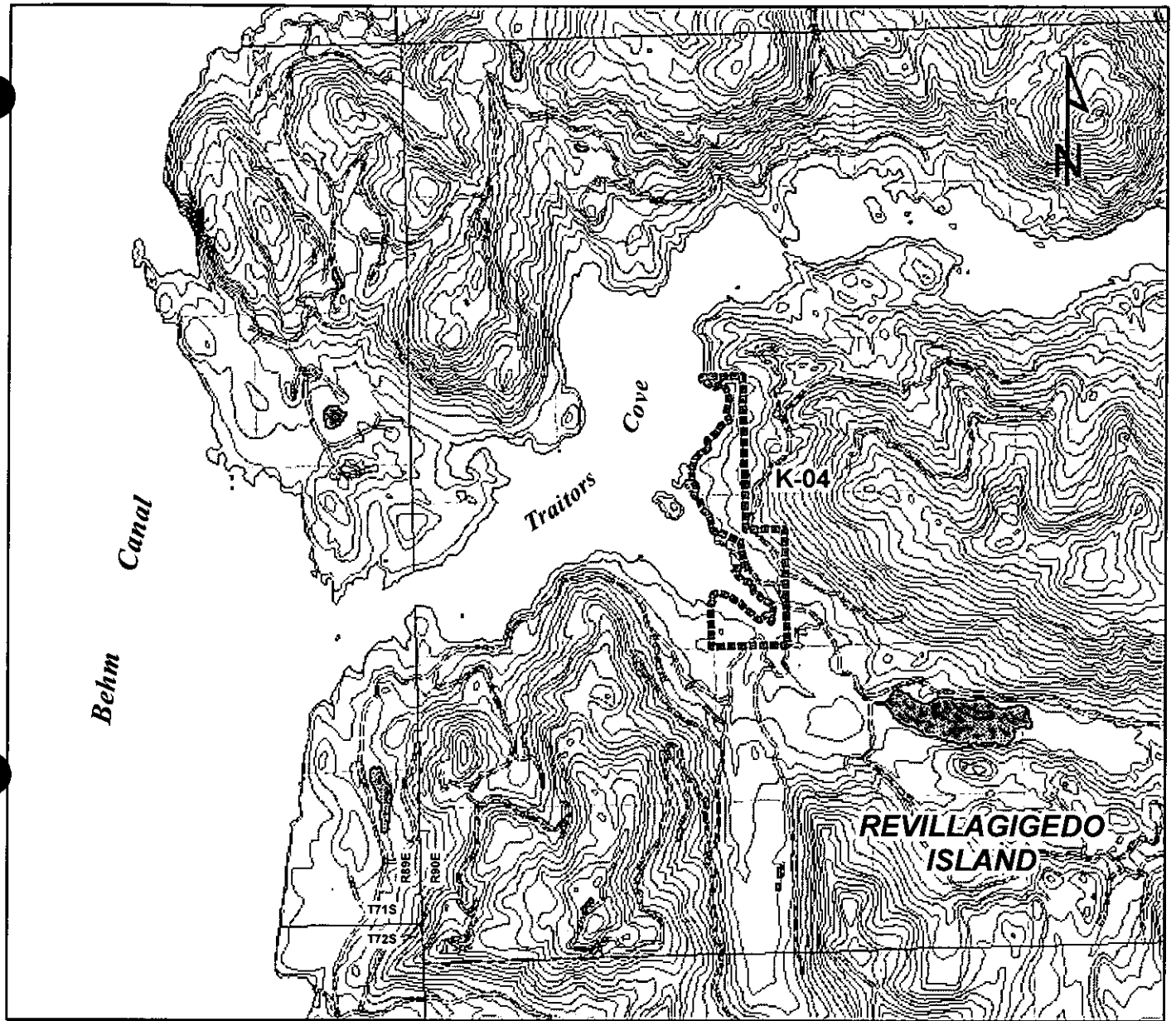
Legend

-  Proposed State Forest
-  GU
-  Disposable
-  Recreation
-  Habitat
-  Roads

**Proposed
Southeast Alaska
State Forest
Thorne Bay**










DIVISION OF FORESTRY
1/19/2009



Contour Interval 100'

Legend

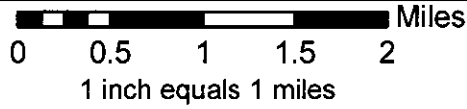
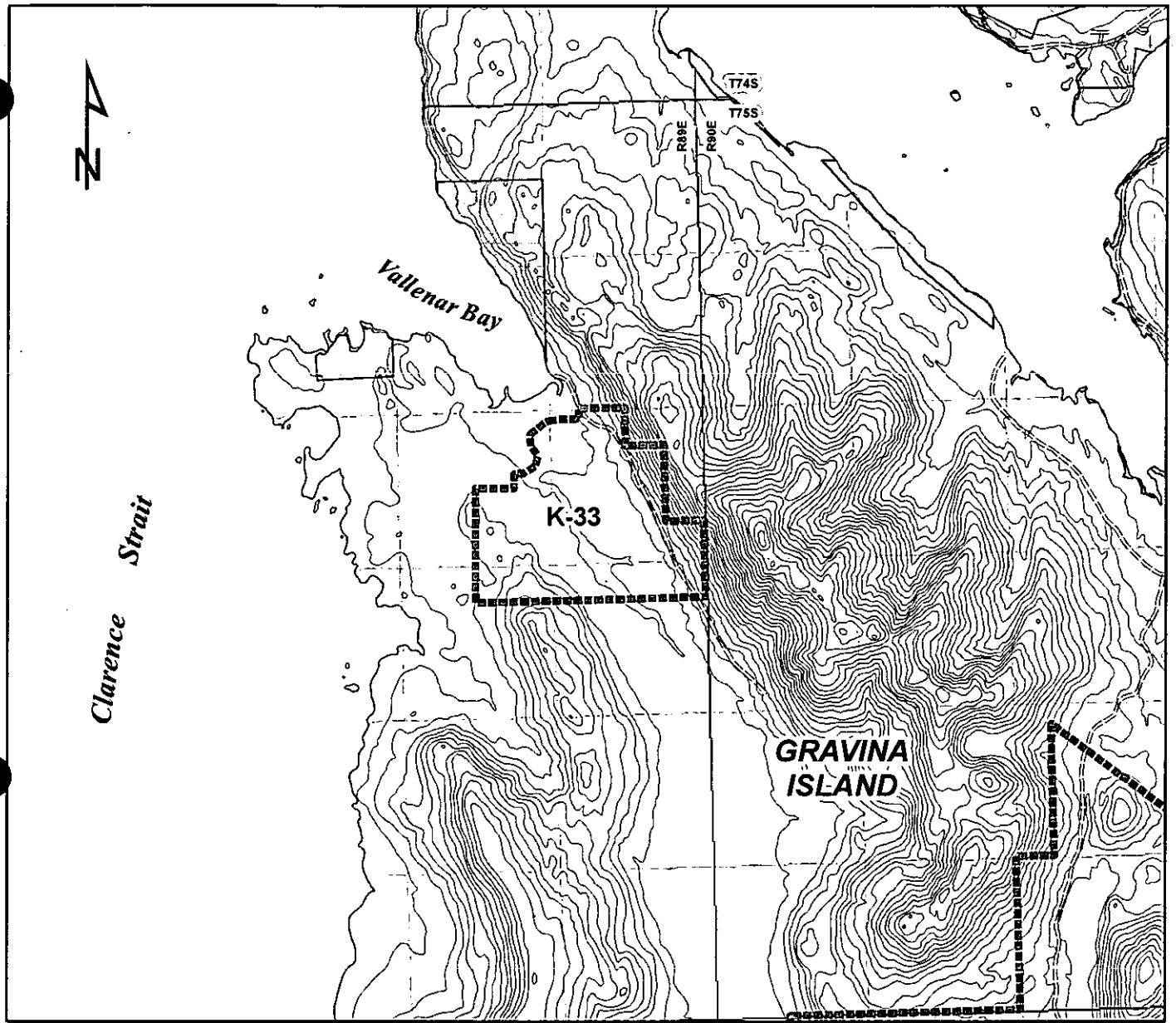
-  Proposed State Forest
-  Roads
-  GU
-  Disposable
-  Recreation
-  Habitat
-  Lakes

**Proposed
Southeast Alaska
State Forest
Traitors Cove**



DIVISION OF FORESTRY

2/09/2009 gs



Contour Interval 100'

Legend

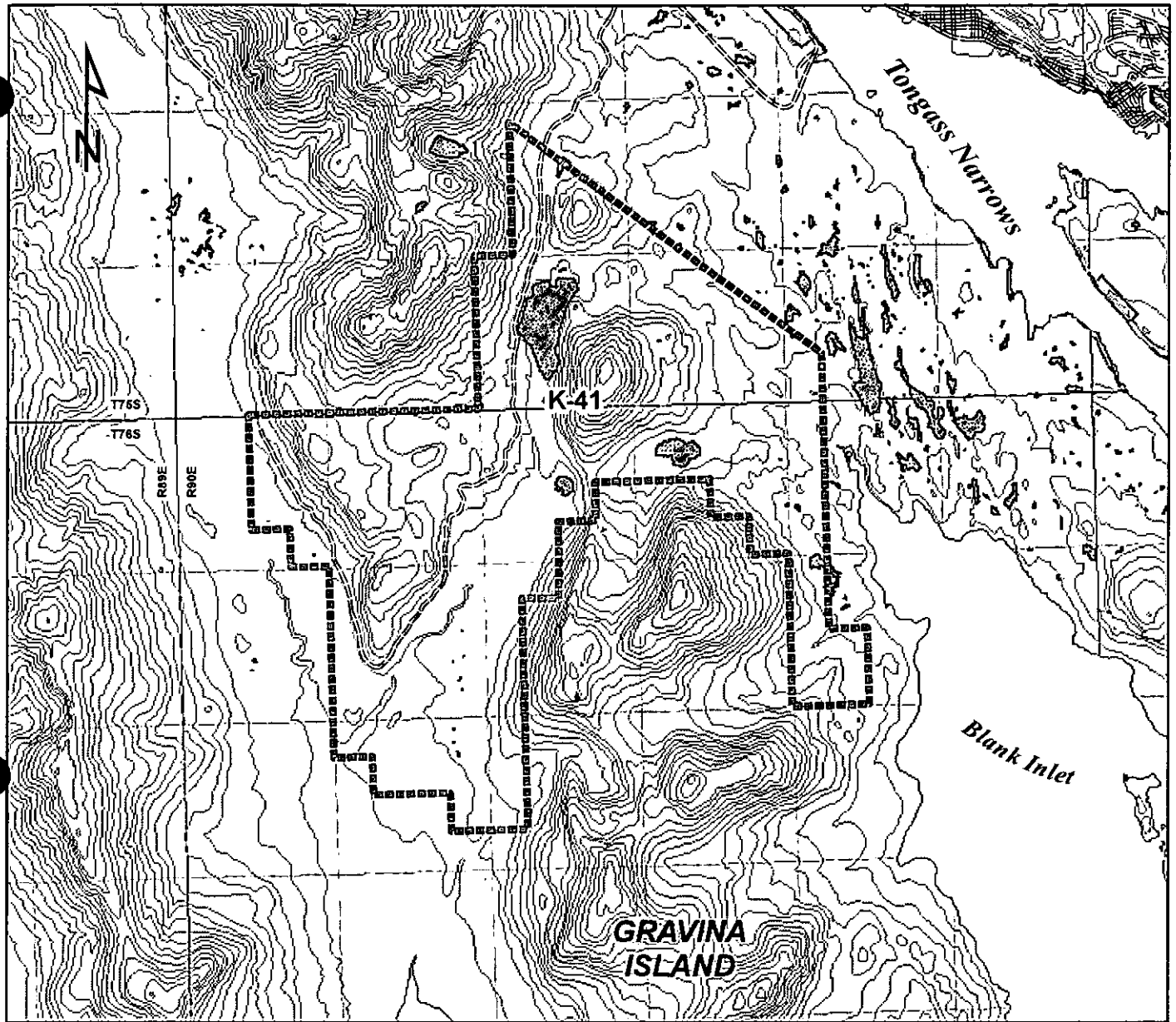
- Proposed State Forest
- GU
- Disposable
- Recreation
- Habitat
- Roads

**Proposed
Southeast Alaska
State Forest
Gravina (Vallenar)**



DIVISION OF FORESTRY







2/05/2008 gs



0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles
1 inch equals 1 miles

Contour Interval 100'

Legend

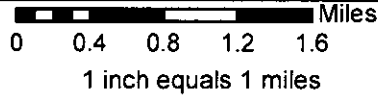
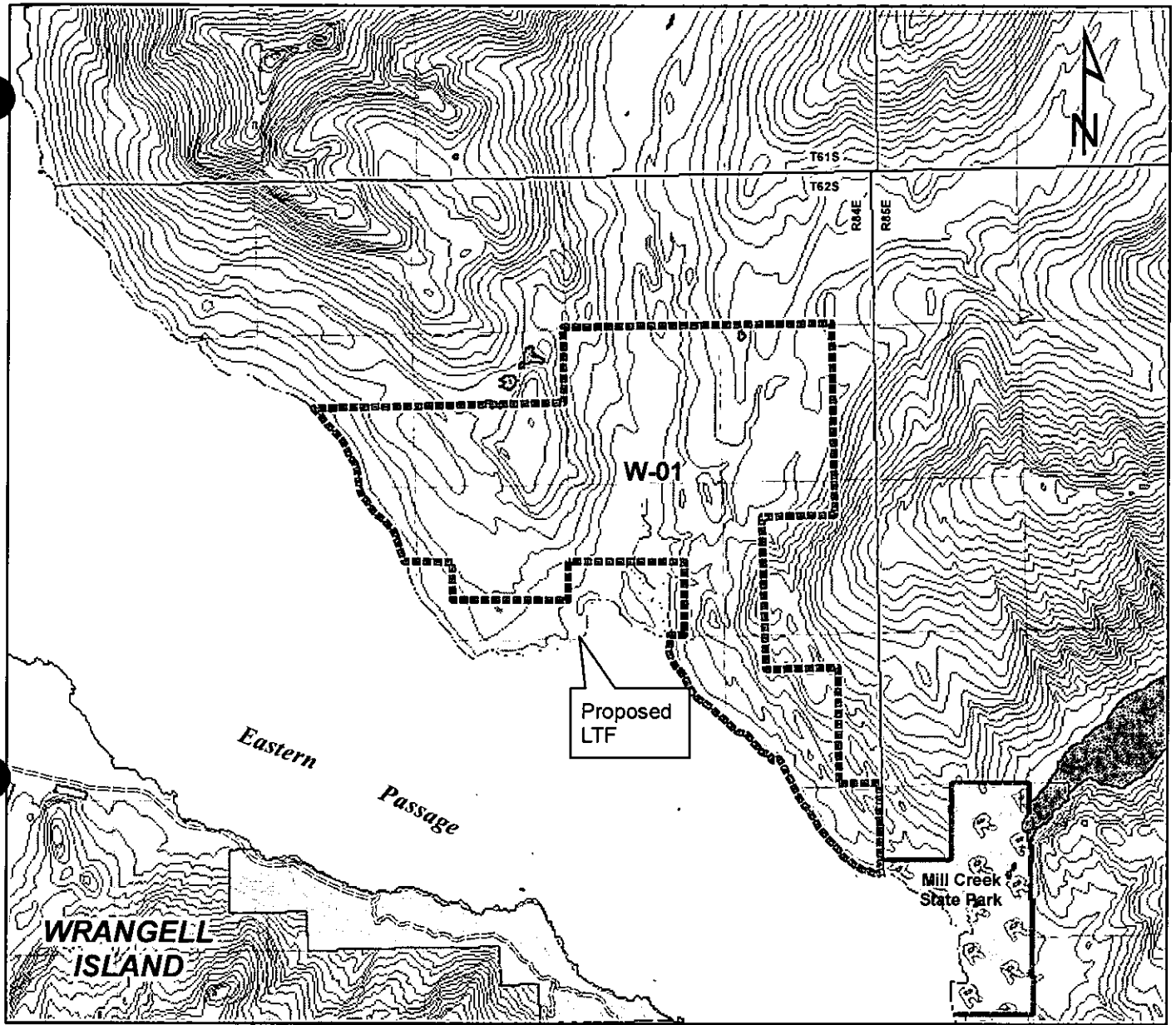
-  Proposed State Forest
-  GU
-  Disposable
-  Recreation
-  Habitat
-  Roads

**Proposed
Southeast Alaska
State Forest
Gravina (Bostwick)**



DIVISION OF FORESTRY

12/03/2008 gs



Contour Interval 100'

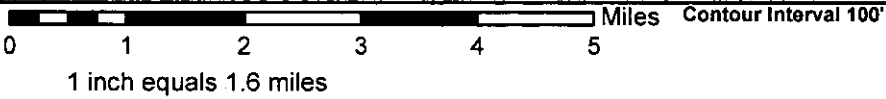
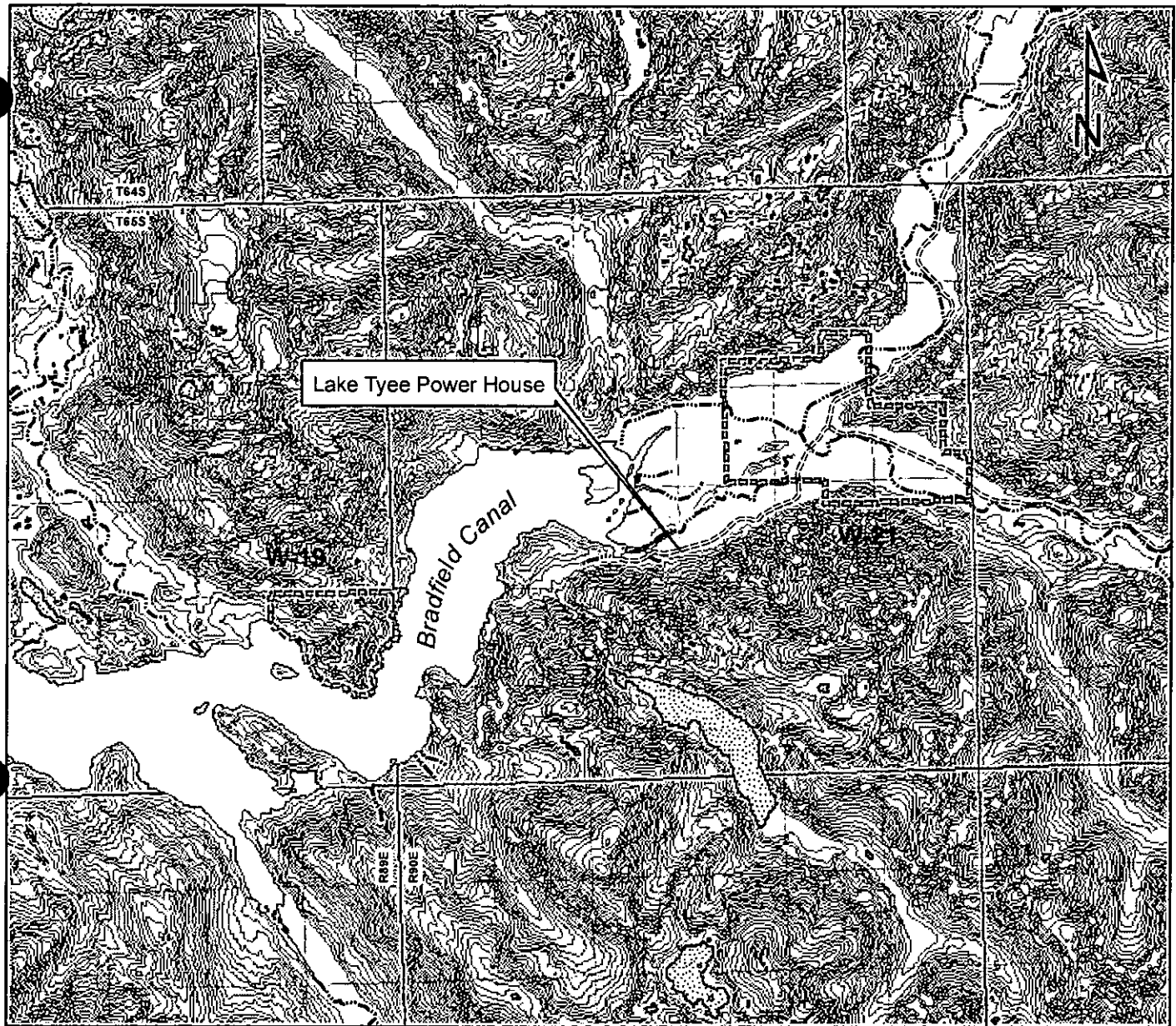
Legend

- Proposed State Forest
- State Park
- GU
- Disposable
- Recreation
- Habitat
- lakes
- Roads









**Proposed
Southeast Alaska
State Forest
Crittenden Creek**



DIVISION OF FORESTRY
1/19/09 gs



Legend

-  Proposed State Forest
-  GU
-  Disposable
-  Recreation
-  Habitat
-  Lakes
-  Cataloged Streams
-  Roads

**Proposed
Southeast Alaska
State Forest
Bradfield Area**



DIVISION OF FORESTRY
1/21/09 gs

Deb/re:
HB 162

Southeast Conference

P.O. Box 21989
612 W. Willoughby Avenue, Suite A
Juneau, AK 99802
(907) 523-2310
(907) 463-5670 fax
www.seconference.org

February 16, 2009

The Honorable Governor Sarah Palin
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Governor Palin;

The Southeast Conference (SEC) is a broad based association of communities in Southeast Alaska with a mission of undertaking and supporting activities that promote strong economies, healthy communities and a quality environment throughout the region. In furthering that mission, SEC would like to lend its support for the concept of creating a new State Forest in southern southeast.

In southern southeast the demand for state supplied timber far exceeds the supply. The majority of the timber in the area is on federal land; however federal timber sales have declined dramatically. For their survival, the few remaining, local mills now depend heavily on state supplied timber from the 49,000 state acres where timber management is allowed.

Many of the states' managed acres support either second-growth stands on lands previously harvested by the U.S. Forest Service prior to state selection or new-growth on lands that have recently been harvested through state sales. Thus, for a future timber supply from state lands in southeast, the emphasis must be on active management of second-growth stands with higher volumes per acre, less impact on wildlife, and shorter harvest rotations.

In order for the state to expend funds to enter into intensive second-growth management on its timber lands, there must be assurance that the acres will be managed for timber over the long term. That assurance can best come through the designation of the lands as a State Forest with a management plan calling for extended, intensive timber management. With that designation, the Division of Forestry would be able to manage the lands for a reliable, long-term supply of timber to local processors and retain the land in state ownership for multiple uses.

Approximately 3,800 acres of state lands potentially included in a new State Forest are within the new Wrangell Borough. SEC understands that the establishment of State Forest lands within the new borough would not adversely affect the amount of land Wrangell may select. AS 29.65.030 states that borough selections are based on the maximum total acres



ARDOR

Alaska Resource Development Organization

Partners in Commerce, Industry and Developing Alaska's Economy

of vacant, un-appropriated, unreserved land within the borough boundaries within two years following the date of incorporation. SEC would hope that any legislation designating a new Southern Southeast State Forest would provide for this situation.

In conclusion, SEC would like to lend its support for the establishment of a Southern Southeast State Forest and would like to encourage your administration to advocate its establishment. Further, in order to increase the supply of timber available to the dependent industry in the region, we urge you to take advantage of any opportunities to increase the acreage of timberland managed by the Division of Forestry.

Sincerely,



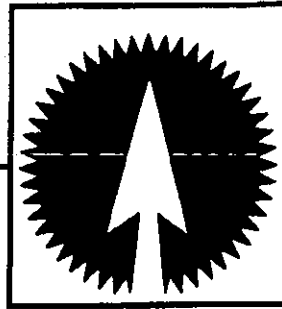
Shelly Wright
Executive Director

cc Chris Maisch



ARDOR

Arkansas Rural Development Operators
Arkansas Rural Development Operators



9674
JB

111 STEDMAN STREET, SUITE 200
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901
Phone: 907-225-6114
Fax: 907-225-5920
E-mail: afa@akforest.org

March 10, 2009

Honorable Sarah Palin
State of Alaska Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Palin,

Only about 12% of the commercial timberlands in Southeast Alaska are comprised of young-growth timber. Most of these stands are less than 50-years old and will not be mature for another 30 to 50-years. Therefore, for the next few decades, our industry will have to continue harvesting old-growth timber. However, well managed stands of young-growth timber can produce faster growing, high quality timber on fewer acres than unmanaged stands. *Consequently, we applaud your legislative proposal to add some State General Use lands to the State Forest in Southeast Alaska so that the Division of Forestry can more intensively manage those lands.*

The Division of Forestry has done an excellent job of preparing timber sales to keep a small portion of our industry alive in recent years, but they cannot increase their timber sales level without acquiring more timberlands or by departing from their long-term sustained yield requirement. There is opportunity however for increased timber sales from the Mental Health Trust and the University of Alaska timberlands. *We ask that you encourage both of these land managers to increase their timber sales program.* This would provide additional timber to our industry, would lessen the amount of State funding needed to sustain these two entities and create real, private sector jobs in Alaska.

Lastly, we want to thank you for making State personnel available to assist in the restoration of a viable federal timber sale program. That effort is already producing good results and provides our beleaguered industry some hope for our future.

Sincerely,

Brian Brown
President
Alaska Forest Association

SERVING ALASKA'S FOREST INDUSTRY

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
MARCH 13 2009

**City of Coffman Cove
Resolution 09-18**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A STATE FOREST IN
SOUTHEAST ALASKA**

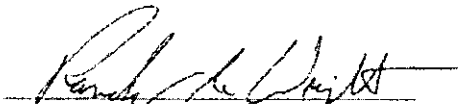
WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has Timber harvest plan regulated by the State Forestry Guidelines, and

WHEREAS, the economy of Southeast Alaska has suffered with the decline in the logging industry, and

WHEREAS, a stable timber supply with good management practices benefits all Alaskans, and

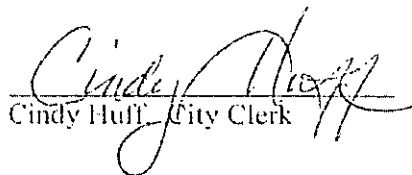
WHEREAS, THE CONCEPT OF THE State Forest provides stability, jobs and resource management,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Coffman Cove City Council supports the Alaska Department of Natural Resources State Forest proposal as presented.



Mayor/Vice Mayor

ATTEST:



Cindy Huff, City Clerk

City of Coffman Cove
PO Box 18135
102 Denali
Coffman Cove, AK 99918



2009

AK, Department of Natural Resources
Clarence Clark / Forestry
Sea Swell Drive
Ketchikan, AK. 99901

RECEIVED
2009



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

March 12, 2009

Senator Olson, Chair
Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB127-An Act to Establish the Southeast Alaska State Forest

Dear Senator Olson:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is writing to support SB 127, the establishment of the Southeast Alaska State Forest.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization founded in 1975. The RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

The bill would establish a new state forest in Southeast Alaska from state lands presently used for timber harvest. The Division of Forestry would be able to manage the state forest for a long-term supply of timber to local processors, and retain the land in state ownership for multiple use. The forest would be managed as part of the State Forest System and under the current Prince of Wales Island and Central Southeast area plans.

In Southeast Alaska, demand for state timber exceeds supply and local mills are dependent on a consistent supply to stay in business. The majority of the timber in Southeast Alaska is on federal land, but federal timber sales have declined sharply, oftentimes due to incessant litigation from anti-logging groups as well as the federal government consistently putting forward uneconomic timber sales. Subsequently, the demand for state timber has increased significantly.

Much of the proposed forest was inherited from the U.S. Forest Service with young second-growth stands. Establishment of the Southeast Alaska State Forest will help provide a sustainable timber supply to local mills and accelerate the harvest of second-growth timber. Actively managed second-growth stands will provide more timber volume per acre on shorter rotations, and have less impact on wildlife. The shift to second-growth harvesting can be accelerated and timber volume increased on state land by thinning these stands. However, thinning is a long-term investment and is only justified if the land will continue to be available for forest management. A legislatively designated State Forest would ensure that land would remain available for long-term forest management. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on SB 127.

Sincerely,

Carl Portman, Deputy Director

- Founded 1975
- Executive Director
Jason W. Brune
- 2008-2009 Executive Committee
- Rick Rogers, President
- Wendy Lindskoog, Sr. Vice President
- Phil Cochrane, Vice President
- Stephanie Madsen, Secretary
- Tom Maloney, Treasurer
- John T. Shively, Past President
- Patty Bielawski
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- Elizabeth Rensch
- Ralph Samuels
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- Lorna Shaw
- Kenneth Sheffield
- Keith N. Silver
- Tiel Smith
- Robert Stiles
- Jeanine St. John
- John L. Sturgeon
- Jim Taro
- John Williams
- John Zager

- Ex-Officio Members
- Senator Mark Begich
- Senator Lisa Murkowski
- Congressman Don Young
- Governor Sarah Palin

121 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 250, Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2035
Phone: 907/276-0700 Fax: 907/276-3887 Email: Resources@akrdc.org Website: www.akrdc.org

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BOARD OF FORESTRY

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1450
Anchorage, AK 99501

March 20, 2009
Senator Lesil McGuire, Co-chair
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
120 4th Street, State Capitol, Room 3
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

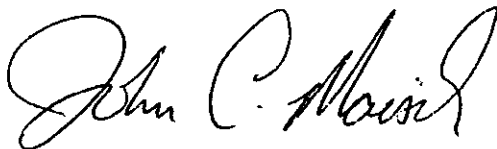
Dear Senator McGuire,

The Alaska Board of Forestry is pleased to convey its support for Senate Bill 127 to establish a Southeast State Forest. The Board of Forestry provides a forum to discuss and resolve issues on forest practices and management of forests on state land (AS 41.17.947(b)). Board members represent diverse constituencies – the timber, fishing, and mining industries, Native Corporations, professional foresters and fish and wildlife biologists, and environmental and recreational organizations.

The Board of Forestry was briefed on the concept of a Southeast State Forest at the November 12, 2008 Board meeting, and on the specifics of Senate Bill 127 at the March 18-19, 2009 Board meeting. SB127 would establish a 25,291-acre state forest consisting of 20 parcels in southeast Alaska. This land is currently part of the state timber base, but susceptible to future changes in land use designations. Dedication to long-term management helps provide for long-term forest management to support the southeast timber industry and ensure continued multiple use. It also secures a land base suitable for thinning to increase the volume of second-growth timber and reduce impacts on wildlife habitat.

I am pleased to report that on March 18, 2009 the Board unanimously voted to support passage of Senate Bill 127.

Sincerely,



Chris Maisch, State Forester
Chair, Alaska Board of Forestry

Cc: Senator Bill Wielechowski, Co-chair
Senator Charlie Huggins, Vice-chair
Melanie Lesh, DNR

"Develop, Conserve and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans"

Alaska Board of Forestry

- ◆ Ron Wolfe, Alaska Native Corporations
- ◆ Rick Rogers, Forest Industry Trade Association
- ◆ Wayne Nicolls, Non-governmental Professional Foresters
- ◆ Rob Bosworth, Environmental Organization
- ◆ Erin McLarnon, Recreation Organization
- ◆ Mark Vinsel, Commercial Fisherman's Organization
- ◆ Jeff Foley, Mining Organization
- ◆ Matt Cronin, Non-governmental Professional Fish/Wildlife Biologist