

SB

28

<TARGET><BILL>SB 28</BILL><SUBJECT>SB
28</SUBJECT><COMM>SFIN28</COMM></TARGET>



OVERVIEW. This bill would create a State Forest in the Susitna Valley and expand the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) authority to offer negotiated timber sales statewide.

SUSITNA STATE FOREST

Background: DNR manages 9.5 million acres of state land in the Matanuska and Susitna valleys under the Matanuska-Susitna and Southeast Susitna area plans. This bill would establish the Susitna State Forest from land that the plans classify for forestry and DNR manages for timber harvest and multiple use. Remaining state land in this area is designated for land sales, agriculture, recreation, water resources, and fish and wildlife habitat, including over 3.1 million acres of legislatively designated state parks, refuges, and public use areas. The proposal excludes lands that are priorities for the state's land disposal program. It is consistent with the area plans, and was recommended by the Alaska Timber Jobs Task Force. The proposed State Forest includes approximately 686,800 acres of land in 20 parcels (see chart).

Purpose: Legislatively designating a State Forest would ensure that large tracts of land will remain available for long-term forest management. DNR is committed to long-term management that:

- maximizes the sustainable supply of timber from the state timber base;
- develops access and encourages a broad range of uses on State Forest land, including motorized uses; and
- provides economic and recreational opportunities to the communities, businesses, and residents of the region.

The State Forest would help meet the growing regional demand for state timber sales and personal use firewood harvesting. Local mills depend heavily on state timber for their raw materials. Interest in logs, chips, and wood pellets for commercial, public school, and residential space heating also continues to expand.

Active forest management provides forest stands with a variety of ages to support diverse and healthy wildlife habitat. It also helps reduce wildland fire risk by breaking up large expanses of hazardous fuel types and encouraging regeneration by less-flammable hardwood species.

State Forest Management: The proposed Susitna State Forest would be managed as part of the State Forest System under AS 41.17.200-.230. State Forest land would continue to be open for public use and access, including wildlife habitat management and harvest and recreational activities. The State Forest would be managed consistent with the management intent under the current 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. The Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (AS 41.17.010 - .955.) would apply to management activities on the forest. The Act is designed to protect fish habitat and water quality, and ensure reforestation. A forest inventory was completed in 2010 for approximately 75% of the acreage and work is ongoing to complete the project. An interim forest inventory report and maps are available at <http://forestry.alaska.gov/whatsnew.htm>.

Public Outreach: DNR has conducted extensive outreach on this proposal. In addition to meetings on the area plans, DNR held community meetings in Palmer, Trapper Creek, and Willow; hosted two webinars; and briefed the Mat-Su Borough Assembly, Houston City Council, the Board of Forestry, and the two local Fish and Game Advisory Committees, and made a presentation at a legislative town meeting in Wasilla.

PROPOSED SUSITNA STATE FOREST, AS AMENDED			
Parcel	Acreage	General Location	Block
Susitna-Matanuska Area Plan			
P-13a	18,100	Kroto Creek East	East Petersville
P-13b	49,600	Kroto Creek West	West Petersville
P-13c	3,300	Amber Lake	West Petersville
U-26a	35,400	Yentna River West	Yentna
R-03a	6,500	Nakoshna River	Yentna
R-03b	33,600	Skwentna River North	West Skwentna
U-26b	15,500	Skwentna River North	West Skwentna
R-03c	5,100	Hayes River	West Skwentna
M-07a	24,200	Canyon Creek	South Skwentna
M-07b	187,000	Mount Susitna	Mount Susitna
M-07c	2,500	Theodore River	Mount Susitna
M-07d	5,800	Alexander Creek West	Alexander Creek
U-24a	10,300	Alexander Creek East	Alexander Creek
U-04a	500	Kroto Slough	Susitna
U-04b	155,800	Kahiltna River	Susitna
U-07e	104,100	Skwentna Village	East Skwentna
B-10	15,200	Yenlo Creek	East Skwentna
Southeast Susitna Area Plan			
S-03a	300	Deshka Landing	Red Shirt Lake
S-03b	13,300	Deshka Landing South	Red Shirt Lake
S-03c	700	Susitna Village	Red Shirt Lake
TOTAL	686,800		

NEGOTIATED TIMBER SALES

Background: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may offer timber sales either competitively or through negotiation. However, negotiated sales larger than 500 thousand board feet may only be offered in areas with high unemployment, excess manufacturing capacity, and an underutilized allowable cut of timber. These criteria prohibit larger negotiated timber sales in many areas of the state that are actively managed for forestry, and where there is high demand for wood for timber products and biomass energy. This bill authorizes DNR to offer negotiated timber sales statewide within the limits of the sustained yield supply, and subject to a best interest finding.

Competitive bid timber sales are the preferred sale method under most conditions. However, negotiated sales provide the ability to tailor some sales to the needs of local processors in areas that lack competitive interest, or where there is competition from round log export markets in a region with a constrained timber supply. The latter situation exists in Southern Southeast Alaska where the state is a small landowner compared to the Tongass National Forest and the state's full allowable cut is a critical source of logs for the remaining sawmills. The state has long had a policy of balancing local jobs and manufacturing against the higher monetary returns of export timber sales. Local milling jobs and round log export businesses are both important to the region, but most state timber is currently sold for domestic use. All timber sales, including negotiated sales, must comply with the Constitutional requirement to manage state timber for sustained yield.

Proposed changes to Title 38 timber sale provisions: This bill would

- Clarify that the DNR commissioner may determine which applicable sale method is in the best interest of the state for each timber sale (AS 38.05.110).
- Allow DNR to offer negotiated timber sales for up to 25 years statewide. Currently, they are restricted to areas of high unemployment, excess manufacturing capacity, and excess allowable cut, which limits them to remote areas.
- Specify that negotiated sales must comply with the requirements for Forest Land Use Plans (AS 38.05.112) and Five-year Schedules of Timber Sales (AS 38.05.113). This ensures that large negotiated sales are developed with adequate notice to the industry and general public, and necessary site-specific design.
- Clarify that DNR may negotiate sales to wood fiber users, including biomass energy producers, in addition to wood product manufacturers.

Review to date: The proposed changes implement recommendations from the final report of the Alaska Timber Jobs Task Force. The Board of Forestry unanimously endorsed the Task Force report with the caveat that any changes in forest management must continue to provide adequate protection for fish habitat and water quality, ensure reforestation of harvested land, and fully comply with the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act. The proposed bill complies with the Board's caveat.



Alaska Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

Sectional Analysis
CSSB 28(RES): Susitna State Forest; Sale of Timber
Division of Forestry
March 25, 2014

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

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

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

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

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

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



Alaska Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

Summary of Changes
CSSB28(RES): Susitna State Forest; Sale of Timber
Division of Forestry
March 25, 2014

This is a summary of changes between SB28\A and CS SB28(RES)\28-GS1741\U. References to section and page numbers are to version A. *Italicized and bolded page references refer to CSSB28(RES).*

Changes were made to Section 3, on *page 2, line 11*, where language was added to clarify that the transportation objective for the Susitna State Forest is to provide access for management and multiple use throughout the Susitna State Forest.

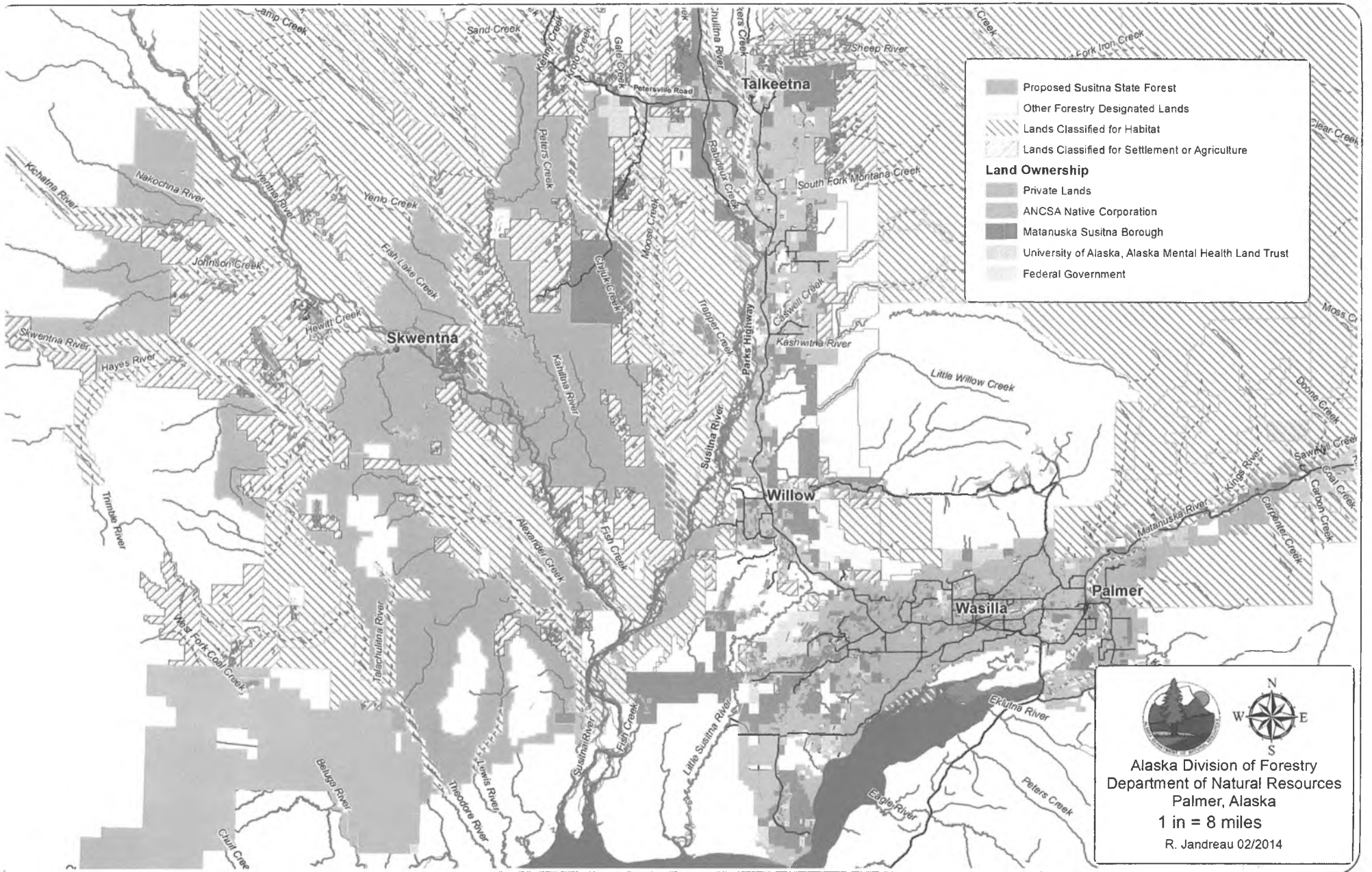
On *page 2, line 14*, a new subsection (d) was created to clarify the wildlife management objective for the Susitna State Forest. The following subsection containing the legal descriptions of the parcels included in the forest was relettered.

After public outreach in the surrounding areas, the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, decided to remove certain parcels from the Susitna State Forest. Concern was expressed that designating those parcels as state forest could preclude future community expansion opportunities. A total of 76,200 acres were removed.

The following parcels were removed:

- Talkeetna Block
 - o Township 23 North, Range 3 West (Page 24, Lines 24 to 27 inclusive)
 - o Township 24 North, Range 3 West (Page 27, Lines 11 to 22 inclusive)
- Kashwitna Block
 - o Township 22 North, Range 3 West (Page 21, Lines 3 to 9 inclusive)
 - o Township 23 North, Range 3 West (Page 24, Lines 22 to 23, 28 to 31 inclusive and Page 25, Lines 1 to 7 inclusive)
- Willer-Kash Block
 - o Township 20 North, Range 3 West (Page 14, Lines 14 to 19 inclusive)
 - o Township 21 North, Range 3 West (Page 17, Lines 11 to 27 inclusive)
 - o Township 22 North, Range 3 West (Page 21, Lines 10 to 19 inclusive)
- Houston Block
 - o Township 18 North, Range 2 West (Page 7, Lines 14 to 21 inclusive)
 - o Township 18 North, Range 3 West (Page 7, Lines 22 to 31 inclusive, and Page 8, Lines 1 and 2)
 - o Township 19 North, Range 3 West (Page 11, Lines 12 to 21 inclusive)
 - o Township 19 North, Range 4 West (Page 11, Lines 22 to 23 inclusive)

On *page 29, line 6*, the effective date is changed to July 1, 2014 from July 1, 2013.



Sponsored by: Mayor DeVilbiss and Assembly member Arvin
Amended: 03/18/14
Adopted: 03/18/14

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 14-030**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 79 AND SENATE BILL 28, ESTABLISHING THE SUSITNA STATE FOREST.

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Department of Natural Resources manages over 9.5 million acres of State land in the Borough, and timber harvesting is allowed on 2.1 million acres of this land; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 79 and Senate Bill 28 would establish a new Susitna State Forest from State lands presently classified in the Susitna-Matanuska and Southeast Susitna Area Plans for forest management; and

WHEREAS, demand for State timber sales is growing and personal use sales for fuelwood have increased in this region; and

WHEREAS, local mills depend heavily on State timber for their raw material and there is a growing interest in roundwood, wood chips or pellets for both commercial and residential heating; and

Whereas, other regions of the State with state forests have experienced both a diversification and increased economic activity that supports local communities; and

WHEREAS, the Susitna State Forest would include 20 parcels totaling approximately 686,800 acres; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Division of Forestry worked with the Division Mining, Land and Water Management to identify and exclude

lands that are priorities of the State land disposal program for both residential and agricultural purposes; and

WHEREAS, since 2009 the Division of Mining, Land and Water and Division of Forestry have held numerous public meetings in communities in the region, conducted webinars and given presentations to local governments and various organizations to discuss this proposal; and

WHEREAS, legislatively designating a State Forest would ensure that productive forest land will remain available for long-term forest management that will follow multiple use principles, and residents of the region will continue to have access to the range of uses and benefits they currently enjoy; and

WHEREAS, management of the forest will follow the regulations and best management practices required by the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) that is designed to protect water quality and fish habitat; and

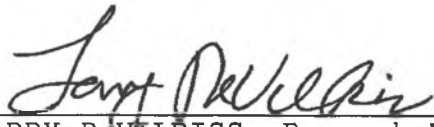
WHEREAS, the Assembly requests the Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Susitna State Forest, which will replace the Susitna Forestry Guidelines, follow the format and management intent of the Forest Management Plan for the Tanana Valley State Forest; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Forestry has recently completed a forest mapping and inventory for the forest classified lands in the region, and this information will be used to determine allowable sustained yield harvests and inform the development of the Forest Management Plan; and

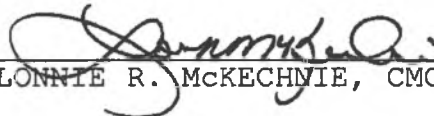
WHEREAS, the Susitna State Forest will encourage a mix of all season and winter only access development to the entire forest, and has recently begun work on the Little Susitna River ice bridge and winter road project that will access timber sales on state land, and facilitate development on Borough lands in the Fish Creek Block.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly supports the adoption of House Bill 79 and Senate Bill 28 establishing the Susitna State Forest.

Adopted by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 18 day of March, 2014.


LARRY DeWILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk
(SEAL)

YES: Sykes, Beck, Arvin, Colligan, Colver, and Halter

NO: Salmon



ALASKA CHAMBER

March 19, 2014

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
Resource Committee Chairman
Alaska State Senate
Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Senate Bill 28 – Susitna State Forest

Dear Senator Giessel,

The mission of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce (Alaska Chamber) is to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. The Alaska Chamber represents hundreds of businesses, manufacturers and local chambers from across Alaska. Our members support legislation that updates and clarifies laws, provides regulatory certainty, and that generally improves Alaska's business climate. The Alaska Chamber supports Senate Bill 28 (HB 28).

The Alaska Chamber supports increasing responsible natural resources development and production. Creation of a fourth State forest, as proposed in SB 28, is an excellent way for the State to provide economic development and job growth opportunities in the region. Additionally water, fish and wildlife in the forest ensuring will be actively managed maintaining and even enhancing those resources. Finally, creation of the Susitna forest will provide increased access for recreation, fire protection and other resource development projects.

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources currently manages 9.5 million acres of forest land in the Matanuska and Susitna Valleys. Of this land, timber management is allowed on approximately 2.1 million acres. Remaining land is designated for other uses, including land sales, recreation, water resources, and fish and wildlife habitat. Over 3.1 million acres is protected in legislatively-designated state parks, refuges, and public use areas.

The establishment of the Susitna State Forest would ensure that some land would remain available for long-term forest management. The Division of Forestry would manage the state forest for a long-term supply of timber to local processors and retain land in state ownership for other multiple uses. An enhanced long-term timber supply would help support the forest products industry, provide fuel for sustainable biomass energy projects, and create new jobs.

The Susitna State Forest would be managed consistent with the management intent under the Susitna Matanuska and the Southeast Susitna Area Plans. The Alaska Forest Resources Practices Act would apply to management activities on the forest and is designed to protect both fish habitat and water quality.



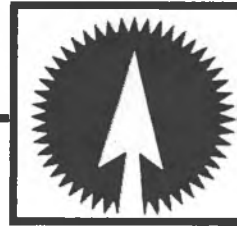
ALASKA CHAMBER

The Alaska Chamber supports SB 28 because it will benefit the economy by allowing responsible resource development, increasing access for recreational, fire protection, and other economic development purposes all while maintaining and potentially improving the forest's water, fish, and wildlife resources.

Sincerely,

Rachael Petro
President/CEO

Alaska Forest Association



111 Stedman Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Phone: 907-225-6114
Fax: 907-225-5920

February 21, 2014

Dear Governor Parnell,

The Alaska Forest Association (AFA) has been the primary timber industry association in Alaska since 1957. Our Association mission is to help restore and sustain a viable timber industry in Alaska and to insure our industry members operate their businesses in a responsible manner. AFA maintains a Health Insurance program, a Pension plan, a Scholarship program and AFA sponsors the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program in Alaska

The Alaska Forest Association supports HB 79 – SB 28, which establishes a 763,200 acre Susitna State Forest. Enactment of this State Forest will foster the creation of additional jobs in this region, as explained in the 2012 Jobs and Timber Task Force report.

A stable supply of timber is a necessity for a successful wood manufacturing facility not just to enable financing, but also to attract and maintain a solid customer base. Different sizes, species and quality of trees are suitable for different wood products and a more substantial timber sale program would sustain the existing sawmills and could support more diverse wood products manufacturing facilities as well. Establishment of the Susitna State Forest will enable the State Division of Forestry to manage a larger, more reliable timber sale program that can increase the amount of timber manufacturing and related jobs in this region.

Over the last twenty years the Forest Service has downsized the federal timber sale program in Southeast Alaska by about 90%. Although the State currently manages only about 1% of the timberland in the region, the State timber sale program is very well managed and the State timber sales have allowed at least a few small, and one mid-size sawmill to survive. We are supporting efforts to significantly increase the size of the State Forests in Southeast Alaska because we have confidence in the States forestry program. We are similarly confident that the State will effectively manage the Susitna State Forest lands.

We also believe that the management requirements of the Alaska Forest Practices Act will insure that the water, fish and wildlife in the Susitna State Forest will be maintained and even enhanced, just as they have been in the State Forests in Southeast Alaska. Further, the access that will be provided by the timber sale program will provide additional opportunities for recreation, fire protection and other resource development projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Owen Graham
Executive Director
Alaska Forest Association
111 Stedman Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901



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Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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March 19, 2014

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair, Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Senate Bill 28, Susitna State Forest

Dear Senator Giessel:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is writing to support SB 28, which would create the Susitna State Forest on 763,200 acres of state land west of the Parks Highway.

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 Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) currently manages 9.5 million acres of state land in the Matanuska and Susitna Valleys. The bill would establish the Susitna State Forest from land classified for forestry – lands managed by DNR for timber harvest and other multiple uses. Remaining land is designated for other uses, including land sales, recreation, water resources, agriculture, and fish and wildlife habitat. Over 3.1 million acres is protected in legislatively-designated state parks, refuges, and public use areas.

The establishment of the Susitna State Forest would ensure that large tracts of land would remain available for long-term forest management that maximizes the sustainable supply of timber from the state timber base; develops access and encourages a broad range of uses on state forest land, including motorized uses; and provides economic and recreational opportunities to communities, businesses, and residents.

It would allow the Division of Forestry to more actively manage lands and vegetation to promote a variety of forest ages, which in turn would maximize the sustainable supply of timber from the state timber base and provide for more diverse and healthy habitats for wildlife. In addition, active management would also help reduce wildfire risk.

The Division of Forestry would manage the state forest for a long-term supply of timber to help meet growing regional demand for state timber sales and personal use firewood harvesting. The state forest would also help meet increasing demand for logs, chips, and biomass feedstock for commercial, public school, residential space heating, and wood pellet manufacturing. Local processors depend on a stable long-term supply of state timber for their raw materials. In fact, a dependable long-term supply is required to justify major private investment in processing and manufacturing facilities or expansion of such facilities.

An enhanced long-term timber supply would not only help support the forest products industry, it would create new jobs, and provide important economic opportunities to local communities, businesses, and residents.

There has been some concern expressed by local residents and user groups that the proposed forest may block public access and traditional uses. RDC would not be supporting this bill if that were indeed the case. RDC has a long history of fighting for and preserving access to both federal and state land for the responsible development of natural resources, economic development, job creation, recreation, and traditional uses, including motorized uses. We would be writing in opposition to the bill if it were yet another impediment to access.

DNR is serious about developing access to a newly-designated state forest in the region, including an all-season road to the Little-Su, as well as a permanent bridge crossing. Clearly, the forest would be open for public use and enhance access, wildlife habitat management and harvest, and recreational activities.

Public access on state forests is typically greater than on other state land because active timber management requires expansion of the road system. Access is a major focus of the state forest planning process as plans provide detailed guidance on road design, construction, and maintenance. In fact, DNR has a demonstrated track record of providing access in state forests, with design and management tailored to the resource management needs of each forest.

It is important to keep in mind that SB 28 would establish a new state forest from state lands presently designated for forest management. The Susitna State Forest would be managed consistent with the management intent under the current Susitna Matanuska and the Southeast Susitna Area Plans. Alaska's Forest Resources Practices Act would apply to management activities on the forest and is designed to protect both fish habitat and water quality.

If established, Susitna would be the fourth state forest in Alaska after the Haines, Tanana, and Southeast State forests. These land units have demonstrated that legislatively-designated forests are a desirable means of ensuring timberlands are available for management while allowing access for other uses.

RDC supports SB 28 and believes the proposed state forest will be of much benefit to the local economy – creating and sustaining much needed jobs in the forest products industry while providing many other opportunities, including public access that doesn't exist today for other multiple uses. We urge the committee to pass SB 28.

Sincerely,



Carl Portman
Deputy Director

cc: Chris Maisch, State Forester
Sen. Mike Dunleavy
Sen. Charlie Huggins



Society of American Foresters

Learning better all the time

February 22, 2013

Resolution:

The Yukon River Chapter of the Alaska Society of American Foresters supports the establishment of a Susitna Valley State Forest through HB79 and SB 28.

The Yukon River Chapter of the Alaska Society of American Foresters is confident that the establishment of the Susitna Valley State Forest will convey many benefits for generations to come. In Interior Alaska, the Tanana Valley State Forest offers watershed protection, numerous recreational opportunities, a source for local firewood and timber, and other benefits. By designating this land as a State Forest, these benefits will be protected in the future. With continued development in south-central Alaska, it is important to protect large tracts of forested land for responsible management and public use.

Jessica Guritz

Chair, Yukon River Chapter SAF

Good afternoon, my name is Nick Steen. I represent the Ruffed Grouse Society and myself. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 28.

The president of the South Central Alaska Chapter of The Ruffed Grouse Society, Dr. Michael Fuller, recently contacted several members of the legislature expressing opposition to SB 28 as written. We enthusiastically support the concept of a Susitna Forest. The accelerated development in the Anchorage Bowl and the Matanuska/Susitna Valleys is transforming the character of our back yard into an urban sprawl. A forest would preserve public land and resources for effective forest management that promotes economic use of our forest resources, enhances wildlife habitat close to our major population areas and maintains a large block of land for public recreation. Our concern is the fractured nature of the boundaries as proposed. After reconsideration, Dr. Fuller has requested that I express his and the Chapters conditional support for SB 28.

Our Chapter has been working, during the development of the Susitna-Matanuska Area Plan (SMAP), to establish a State Forest on all unencumbered state land west of the Susitna River, between the Beluga River and the south boundary of the Denali State and National Park draining into the Susitna River. We opposed the SMAP plan as developed, since it designated a series of non-contiguous land parcels for forestry management interspersed with land designated as mining or for disposal as recreation and agriculture. That hampers effective forest management and restricts multiple use and public access. SB 28 perpetuates this approach by identifying only the land designated for forest management by the SMAP plan as the Susitna Forest. SB 28 does not address the issues of access for effective forest management, uniform regulations for total area management, boundary identification for recreational use, and loss of public access for recreational purposes by transferring land to private ownership. However, there is insufficient time in this legislative session to make the major changes needed to fix all these issues. Therefore, since we feel getting the Forest established is critical, we would like to support the current bill, but ask your help making it more effective by considering modifications to the boundaries in future legislation.

We would also like to request that the legislature direct the Department of Natural Resources to suspend implementation of any land disposal programs in the SMAP west of the Susitna River until our concerns are addressed.

SB 28
TESTAMONY IN SUPPORT OF ~~HB 29~~

On behalf of the members of South Central Alaska Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society and myself, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address this committee. We would like to express our conditional support for ~~HB 29~~^{SB 28}. As currently written, the bill is comprised of fourteen noncontiguous parcels of land. We urge you to expand the boundaries to include all unencumbered State land, draining into Cook Inlet, between Beluga Lake and the Southern boundaries of Denali National and State Parks.

We support a forest designation for this area because we feel it is important to keep this land in public ownership for the recreational use of our ever expanding population centers of South Central, to guarantee continued space for wildlife and to retain the character of the land most of us came to Alaska to experience. In our opinion a state forest is the least restrictive land designation that can be managed for everyone's benefit with the exception of those wishing to see land transferred to private ownership. As the population in South Central increases, the recreational demand can no longer be met by transfer of land to private ownership.

Historically, there have been numerous land disposal programs throughout the area under consideration. If you review a land ownership map of the area, you will see much of the waterfront land, lakes and rivers (the easy access points), has already been ceded to private ownership. These private inholdings will make access for timber extraction extremely difficult. Interspersing additional transfers of land to private ownership within the land designated for forest management makes no sense at all. Under the recently enacted "Susitna-Matanuska Area Plan" (SMAP), some of the areas we request be designated as state forest are slated for land disposal for cabin sites or agriculture. Transfer of land into private ownership as envisioned by the drafter's of our state constitution is laudable; however, as stated by the late Governor Hammond, it is the "ultimate lockup". Private ownership denies public use of that specific parcel, frequently controls access to adjacent public lands and with the NIMBY attitude, influences management of public lands within view of that land. This NIMBY attitude impacts the State's ability to manage timber resources,

wildlife resources and mining activities. We don't believe those who drafted our constitution envisioned the growth we've experienced.

A forest designation for this entire area, even though we recognize it is not all productive timber land, will provide uniform management guidelines throughout the area. Multiple land designations lead to conflicting use regulations. This causes confusion on the part of the users, unintentional violation of regulations or outright contempt and disregard for those regulations. A forestry designation is, in our opinion, the least controlling land use pattern possible and will afford future generations the greatest opportunity to "experience" Alaska as those of us who have been here a day or two have.

If in the future, it is determined additional Wal Mart parking lots or McDonald's golden arches are a higher priority, the forest designation can be modified to accommodate the change. Whereas, returning private land to public ownership is difficult, time consuming and cost prohibitive.

In summation, to our knowledge, this is the last remaining large parcel of state land in South Central that can be set aside for public use and enjoyment. Effective management of timber resources enhances wildlife populations, such as moose, ruffed grouse and a wide variety of song birds, creates an industry utilizing a renewable resource, that improves the economic basis of our community while supporting the demand for recreation areas to hunt, fish, trap, snow machine, hike, and otherwise enjoy the out of doors. We recommend this bill be passed, but expanded as outlined.

South Central Alaska Chapter, The Ruffed Grouse Society

Presented by Nick Steen



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Rules
Committee name

Committee on Senate Bill 28 dated 3-21-14
Bill/Subject

The State can't do what it should now, why add more land to an already overburdened Forestry Service?!

The Susitna State Forest would preclude private business from extracting the natural Resources from the proposed area, and would also preclude any expansion for homes and recreational cabins that would be purchased and built by the citizens of the state for private recreational and business desires.

The State now has more than it can handle, leave this area for future private development, and concentrate on taking care of, properly, all of its already designated forest land.

Signed: Barbara J. Miller
Testifier

self
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 870151 Wasilla, AK 99687
Address

907-376-5636
Phone number



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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March 28, 2014

Senator Kelly and Meyer, co-chairs
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: CSSB 28, Susitna State Forest

Dear Senators Kelly and Meyer:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is writing to support CSSB 28, which would create the Susitna State Forest on 686,800 acres of state land west of the Parks Highway.

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 Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) currently manages 9.5 million acres of state land in the Matanuska and Susitna Valleys. The bill would establish the Susitna State Forest from land classified for forestry – lands managed by DNR for timber harvest and other multiple uses. Remaining land is designated for other uses, including land sales, recreation, water resources, agriculture, and fish and wildlife habitat. Over 3.1 million acres is protected in legislatively-designated state parks, refuges, and public use areas.

The establishment of the Susitna State Forest would ensure that large tracts of land would remain available for long-term forest management that maximizes the sustainable supply of timber from the state timber base; develops access and encourages a broad range of uses on state forest land, including motorized uses; and provides economic and recreational opportunities to communities, businesses, and residents.

It would allow the Division of Forestry to more actively manage lands and vegetation to promote a variety of forest ages, which in turn would maximize the sustainable supply of timber from the state timber base and provide for more diverse and healthy habitats for wildlife. In addition, active management would also help reduce wildfire risk.

The Division of Forestry would manage the state forest for a long-term supply of timber to help meet growing regional demand for state timber sales and personal use firewood harvesting. The state forest would also help meet increasing demand for logs, chips, and biomass feedstock for commercial, public school, residential space heating, and wood pellet manufacturing. Local processors depend on a stable long-term supply of state timber for their raw materials. In fact, a dependable long-term supply is required to justify major private investment in processing and manufacturing facilities or expansion of such facilities.

An enhanced long-term timber supply would not only help support the forest products industry, it would create new jobs, and provide important economic opportunities to local communities, businesses, and residents.

There has been some concern expressed by local residents and user groups that the proposed forest may block public access and traditional uses. RDC would not be supporting this bill if that were indeed the case. RDC has a long history of fighting for and preserving access to both federal and state land for the responsible development of natural resources, economic development, job creation, recreation, and traditional uses, including motorized uses. We would be writing in opposition to the bill if it were yet another impediment to access.

DNR is serious about developing access to a newly-designated state forest in the region, including an all-season road to the Little-Su, as well as a permanent bridge crossing. Clearly, the forest would be open for public use and enhance access, wildlife habitat management and harvest, and recreational activities.

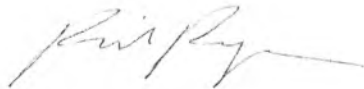
Public access on state forests is typically greater than on other state land because active timber management requires expansion of the road system. Access is a major focus of the state forest planning process as plans provide detailed guidance on road design, construction, and maintenance. In fact, DNR has a demonstrated track record of providing access in state forests, with design and management tailored to the resource management needs of each forest.

It is important to keep in mind that CSSB 28 would establish a new state forest from state lands presently designated for forest management. The Susitna State Forest would be managed consistent with the management intent under the current Susitna Matanuska and the Southeast Susitna Area Plans. Alaska's Forest Resources Practices Act would apply to management activities on the forest and is designed to protect both fish habitat and water quality.

If established, Susitna would be the fourth state forest in Alaska after the Haines, Tanana, and Southeast State forests. These land units have demonstrated that legislatively-designated forests are a desirable means of ensuring timberlands are available for management while allowing access for other uses.

RDC supports CSSB 28 and believes the proposed state forest will be of much benefit to the local economy – creating and sustaining much needed jobs in the forest products industry while providing many other opportunities, including public access that doesn't exist today for other multiple uses. We urge the committee to pass CSSB 28.

Sincerely,



Rick Rogers
Executive Director

cc: Chris Maisch, State Forester
Sen. Mike Dunleavy
Sen. Charlie Huggins

Proposed Susitna State Forest Management Plan Framework

Executive Summary

March 20, 2014

State of Alaska

Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry



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Chapter 1 Introduction

Purpose of the Susitna State Forest

The 687,000 acre Susitna State Forest will be managed as part of the State Forest System under AS 41.17.200-.230. While the primary purpose for the Susitna State Forest is timber production, these state lands will continue to be open for public use and access, including wildlife habitat management and harvest and other recreational activities. These uses are protected for the long-term, as these state lands will be retained in state ownership. The state forest boundaries were designed to encompass forested lands with the potential for commercial value. Public access to state forest lands will increase over time as new forest roads are constructed.

AS 41.17.200-.400 provides additional direction on the management of the state forest. The law directs the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to prepare a management plan for the state forest that "must consider and permit the uses described in AS 38.05.112(c)." These uses include:

- "commercial timber harvesting, including related activities;"
- "harvesting of forest products for personal use;"
- "fish and wildlife habitat, including"
 - "identification and protection of important wildlife habitat;"
 - "retention of riparian, wetland, and ocean-shoreline vegetation critical for fish and wildlife habitat;"
 - "the use of silvicultural practices, commercial timber harvest, and related activities to maintain and enhance the quality of fish and game habitat;"
- "uses of forest land for non-timber purposes, including"
 - "recreation, tourism, and related activities;"
 - "mining, mining claims, mineral leaseholds, and material extraction;"
 - "uses of fish and wildlife;"
 - "other resources and uses appropriate to the area, including compatible traditional uses;"
- "water quality," and "watershed management."

Management Overview

Initially, the Susitna State Forest will be managed consistent with the management intent found within the current Matanuska Susitna and Southeast Susitna area plans. Changes to management intent require public and interagency review through adoption of a State Forest Management Plan under AS 41.17.230. The Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (AS 41.17.010 - .955.) applies to timber management activities on the forest. The Act is designed to protect fish habitat and water quality, and ensure reforestation occurs after a timber harvest.

Long-term, the forest will be managed for multiple uses and the sustained yield of renewable resources. DNR will manage the State Forest to maintain the range of forest types and stand ages characteristic of the forest in South Central Alaska to

- sustain the full range of resources and uses of the forest,
- ensure a high level of productivity of renewable resources,
- contribute to the regional economy and employment, and
- perpetuate biological diversity.

Decisions on managing the State Forest will be made in accordance with applicable statutes and regulations, and in consideration of biological, economic, and social conditions. The public will be involved in these decisions through planning processes and public review of the Division of Forestry's Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans prior to conducting timber sales. See also the "Citizens' Advisory Committee" described in Chapter 4.

Relationship of this Plan to Other DNR Plans

Until the Department of Natural Resources' Commissioner formally adopts the new Susitna State Forest Management Plan, the 1991 Susitna Forestry Guidelines, along with the Matanuska Susitna and Southeast Susitna area plans, will guide forest management on these state lands. Upon adoption, this forest management plan will replace the Susitna Forestry Guidelines and the two area plans' management intent for these legislatively designated areas. The Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan will guide the level of fire suppression activities taking place within the state forest.

Planning Process

The Susitna State Forest Management Plan is the product of extensive outreach to the public and various levels of government agencies. The planning process is outlined below:

1. Public and agencies identified issues (scoping).
2. Public-agency working groups developed recommendations to resolve the issues.
3. Interagency planning team prepared a draft plan
4. Draft plan was reviewed by the public; community meetings held
5. Final plan was prepared.
6. Commissioner adopts Management Plan; Division of Forestry implements plan

To assist with plan implementation, and future plan revisions, this new management plan establishes a "Citizens' Advisory Committee" modeled after the twelve member committee created for the Tanana Valley State Forest. Details are located in Chapter 4.

Chapter 2 Forest-wide Management Policies

Introduction

This chapter contains management policies for major resource or land use categories affected by the plan: timber management and protection, fish and wildlife habitat, public access and recreation, subsurface materials, private lands and transportation.

Timber Management and Forest Protection

- Actively manage the State Forest to provide for production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources through silvicultural practices. Ensure a high level of sustained productivity of timber by maintaining a mosaic of forest types and stand ages. This strategy will also sustain other renewable resources that depend on forest vegetation.
- A forest inventory was completed in 2010 for approximately 75% of the acreage and work is ongoing to complete the project.
- Consistent with AS 41.15.010 and AS 41.15.020, forest resources in the forest will be protected from destructive agents commensurate with the values needing protection.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

- The wildlife management objective of the Susitna State Forest is the production of wildlife for a high level of sustained yield for human use through habitat improvement techniques to the extent consistent with the primary purpose of this state forest.
- Ensure access to public lands and waters to promote or enhance responsible public use and enjoyment of fish and wildlife resources. Access improvements should be designed to match the public use objectives for the area under consideration.
- Enhance the value of habitat to fish and wildlife species through vegetation manipulation, including burning, crushing, timber harvest, and other management practices.

Transportation System and Trails

- Ensure continued opportunities for public use of important recreation, public access, and historic trails of regional and statewide significance.
- Assist in establishing local trail systems that provide access to community recreation areas; protect or establish trail corridors to meet projected future use requirements and protect current use.
- As all areas of the forest are brought into active management the transportation system will

be expanded by using a variety of road systems. At some point in the future, all areas will have access via an all season or winter road system.

- Develop a transportation system that has the lowest possible long-range cost, including construction, operations, and maintenance. Avoid unnecessary duplication of transportation facilities; consider West Susitna Surface Access Reconnaissance Study.
- Develop a transportation system with minimal adverse impact on the environment, aesthetic and cultural features, and other users. See Conceptual Transportation Plan map at end.

Public Access and Recreation

- The plan's goal is to maintain, enhance, or provide adequate access to publicly-owned land and resources within the state forest.
- When an access route is constructed for resource development, existing public access will not be displaced or rendered unusable by new construction. Various uses of resource development roads shall not restrict the purpose for which the roads were constructed.
- Where feasible and within the limits of available funding, full public rights of access should be provided when roads are constructed by state or local governments for purposes other than forest operations. Perpetual exclusive easements should be acquired and recorded when the state acquires access rights across property in other ownerships adjacent to the State Forest.
- Recreational use of the State Forest is recognized and protected in the State Forest enabling legislation, AS 41.17.230(a), consistent with the purpose of the establishment of the State Forest (AS 41.17.200).

Subsurface Materials

- Make metallic and nonmetallic minerals, coal, oil and gas, materials, and geothermal resources available to contribute to the energy and mineral supplies and independence of the United States and Alaska. All lands that are open to mineral entry are multiple use areas where mineral development will be accommodated and encouraged. There are no proposed mineral closures within the forest.

Private Land

- The management goal is to minimize negative impacts of State Forest activities on adjacent private land.
- During the public review process for the proposed activity, DNR will attempt to contact all private landowners whose land adjoins a proposed timber sale area, road, or other state-initiated development project.

Chapter 3 Management Policies for Each Block and Parcel

Introduction

The primary purpose for the Susitna State Forest is timber production, and this primary purpose extends to each of the management units. Unique characteristics and other special concerns for each of the forest's twenty units will be discussed within the management policies for the unit. In addition, each unit's existing resources and uses will be listed and described, when present, e.g., cultural resources; fish and wildlife habitat; private or leased lands; scientific resources; subsurface resources; timber; and transportation and access. Management guidelines for each unit will address: minerals; recreational facilities; streamside management; timber sales; trails and transportation.

In general, forest units closest to existing surface transportation will be developed first for timber production that serves the area's timber operators and for meeting local demand for firewood. Timber will generally be accessed by winter roads and ice bridges. Public access may be enhanced seasonally with winter timber roads, and year-round when all-season mainline timber roads are constructed.

See the Proposed Susitna State Forest Map at end of plan for locations of the following forest blocks. The table below lists the name of each forest block, its size in acres, and its timber inventory expressed as volume in cubic feet.

Forest Block	Size in Acres	Timber Volume (cubic feet)
East Petersville	18,100	22,061,683
West Petersville	52,900	47,653,894
Yentna	41,900	34,959,849
West Skwentna	54,200	40,802,010
South Skwentna	24,200	6,988,020
East Skwentna	119,300	100,022,217
Mount Susitna	189,500	171,371,881
Alexander Creek	16,100	18,230,484
Susitna	156,300	161,152,244
Red Shirt Lake	14,300	16,380,251
Totals	686,800 acres	619,622,534 cubic feet

Chapter 4 Implementation

Agency Land Management Responsibilities

Agency responsibilities for land management within the Susitna State Forest remain largely the same as those for other State lands. The chief exception is that the Division of Forestry has overall land management authority within state forests. The Division of Forestry will coordinate multiple use planning in the State Forest and is responsible for timber management. The DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water will continue to be responsible for adjudicating land and water use applications and mineral permitting within the state forest.

Citizens Advisory Committee for Susitna State Forest

A Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) for the Susitna State Forest (SuSF) is established by this plan. The Committee, in an advisory capacity, will provide recommendations to the Division of Forestry on forest management issues on state forest lands. The Committee does not conflict with the Board of Forestry established by Alaska Statute 41.17.041. The Committee's purpose is to:

- Review and provide Committee recommendations to the Division of Forestry on updates and amendments to the SuSF Management Plan and Five-Year Schedules of Timber Sales (including reforestation and transportation schedules). Site specific Forest Land Use Plans (FLUPs) will be made available to each member for review, during the established review period, however, the Committee is not required to make recommendations on these documents.
- Provide a forum for gathering public opinion on management of state forested land, help to develop a regional consensus on forest management, and provide management recommendations to the Director, Division of Forestry. When consensus cannot be reached on a Committee recommendation, the Committee should forward the majority's recommendation and any different views not represented by the majority's recommendation to the Division.
- Review issues and activities on DNR-managed forested land and recommend management policies to the Director, Division of Forestry.
- Help disseminate information about the SuSF to the public.

Each member should represent the full range of interests within his or her constituency. All CAC members should work to establish two-way communications with other groups and individuals within the interest they represent. Members are expected to bring their constituencies' interests and concerns to the CAC. However, when the Committee makes recommendations, all members should act in consideration of the whole community and the statewide public interest, not just the interest of their immediate constituency.

The CAC consists of the following twelve members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Director, Division of Forestry. The term of office is three years. The Director, Division of Forestry will make committee appointments so that four expire each year on a revolving basis. The Director, Division of Forestry will review all applications received from individuals seeking appointment to the CAC without requiring recommendations from the current committee.

SuSF Citizens' Advisory Committee constituencies.

Seat	Constituency
Forest Industry	Represents businesses involved in harvesting and/or processing timber resources.
Value-Added Processing	Represents businesses involved in the manufacture of finished wood products and minor forest products.
Environmental Interests	Represents environmental organizations and individuals with environmental interests.
Private Forest User	Represents the incidental forest user for consumptive and non-consumptive activities including subsistence and personal use.
Forest Science	Represents the forest science community. Background should include training, experience and a current knowledge of multiple forestry specialties related to forest ecosystem management to insure adequate representation of the forest science community. Representative should be a forest scientist not currently employed by a state agency other than the University.
Native Community	Represents both individual Alaska Natives and Native organizations in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough area who use the forest or will be directly impacted by forest management actions.
Recreation	Represents the non-commercial users who visit the forest and take advantage of both consumptive and non-consumptive benefits for pleasure and enrichment of life.
Tourism Industry	Represents the commercial operators who directly use forest lands as well as those whose customers are incidentally exposed.
Fish and Wildlife Interests	Represents the full range of interests in fish and wildlife, including sport, and commercial users.
Mining Industry	Represents organizations and individuals involved in the mineral exploration, extraction, and processing industries.
Mat-Su Borough Government	Represents the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's interests.
Other Local Government	Represents, on a rotating basis, one of the local governments or community councils located within or adjoining the State Forest.

When appointing CAC members, the Director, Division of Forestry will seek region-wide geographic representation. The CAC will elect its own presiding officer. The CAC will adopt its own by-laws subject to approval by the Director, Division of Forestry.

Process for Reviewing Applications for Permits, Leases, Rights-of Way

For timber sales, the Forest Land Use Plans will identify proposed access routes and materials sites both within and outside the Susitna State Forest. Temporary routes will be authorized by the Division of Forestry through the FLUP process. Long-term routes will be authorized through a right-of-way (ROW). The Division of Forestry will identify the proposed ROW in the FLUP. Following FLUP review, DOF will submit the ROW application to the Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) to authorize and record the route on the status plats.

Other land management proposals may be initiated by other agencies or private individuals and may include requests for rights-of-way, commercial leases, timber or material sales, or permits for mineral activity, trapping cabins, or grazing. The following process will be used to review these permit or conveyance requests. All applications for use of State Forest land, including mining or prospecting, will be forwarded to the South-central Regional Office of the Division of Mining, Land and Water. The Division of Mining, Land and Water will distribute applications for review by agencies, including the Coastal Regional Office of the Division of Forestry. The Division of Forestry will review applications for consistency with this plan and other existing laws and policies. The Division of Forestry will then return applications to the Division of Mining, Land and Water with stipulations for processing. The Division of Forestry may also require additional review of applications after interagency or public comment. Although preliminary decisions or final findings will continue to be made by the Division of Mining, Land and Water, applications must be consistent with the stipulations given by the Division of Forestry. No permits, leases, disposals, or rights-of-way will be authorized for use of State Forest land that are not consistent with stipulations from the Division of Forestry.

For mining operations, temporary routes will be authorized by the DMLW through its Miscellaneous Land Use Permit (MLUP). For long-term routes, DMLW will issue a ROW.

Plan Modification

The land use designations, policies, implementation actions, and management guidelines of this plan may be changed periodically as new data and new technologies become available and as changing economic, social, and environmental conditions place different demands on public lands.

A. Review

The plan will be reviewed when significant new issues suggest revisions are necessary. An interagency planning team chaired by the Division of Forestry will coordinate this review at the request of the Department of Natural Resources Commissioner. The plan review will include meetings with interested groups and the general public.

B. Procedures for Plan Changes

Three kinds of changes are allowed by regulations in 11 AAC 55.030. "A revision to a land use plan is subject to the planning process requirements of AS 38.04.065. For the purposes of this section and AS 38.04.065, a 'revision' is an amendment or special exception to a land use plan as follows:"

1. "An 'amendment' permanently changes the land use plan by adding to or modifying the basic management intent for one or more of the plan's subunits or by changing its allowed or prohibited uses, policies, or guidelines."

A proposal to remove an area from the commercial timber base, to harvest the timber from an area where it is prohibited, or to close an area not identified in this plan to mineral entry are examples of changes requiring amendment. However, amending the Forest Practices Regulations, for example, and inserting those changes in this plan do not require an amendment of the plan. Amendments require public notice, public hearings, and approval by the Commissioner. Amendments may be proposed by agencies, municipalities, or members of the public. Requests for amendments are submitted to the Coastal Regional Office of the Division of Forestry. The Director of the Division of Forestry determines what constitutes an amendment or just a minor change.

2. "A 'special exception' does not permanently change the provisions of a land use plan and cannot be used as the basis for a reclassification of the subunit. Instead, it allows a one-time, limited-purpose variance of the plan's provisions, without changing the plan's general management intent or guidelines. For example, a special exception might be used to grant an eligible applicant a preference right under AS 38.05.035 to purchase land in a subunit designated for retention in public ownership. A special exception might be made if complying with the plan would be excessively burdensome or impractical or if compliance would be inequitable to a third party, and if the purposes and spirit of the plan can be achieved despite the exception."

3. "A minor change to a land use plan is not considered a revision under AS 38.04.065. A 'minor change' is a change that does not modify or add to the plan's basic intent, and that serves only to clarify the plan, make it consistent, facilitate its implementation, or make technical corrections. Authority: AS 38.04.065, AS 38.04.900, AS 38.05.020, AS 38.05.300."

Appendices

Glossary

Allowable cut: The volume of timber that may be cut from a forest under optimum sustained- yield management (Stoddard and Stoddard, 1987).

Diameter at breast height (DBH): The diameter of the stem of a tree measured at breast height (4.5 feet) from the ground. On sloping ground, the measurement is taken from the uphill side (Society of American Foresters, 1998).

Forest land: Land stocked or having been stocked with forest trees of any size and not currently developed for nonforest use, regardless of whether presently available or accessible for commercial purposes (AS 41.17.950 (5)). Regarding land classification, land classified "forest land" is land that is or has been forested and is suited for forest management because of its physical, climatic, and vegetative conditions (11 AAC 55.070).

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.

Multiple use: The term "multiple use" as defined in the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act 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 the state, 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 (AS 41.17.950 (8)).

Primary all-season road: Regarding timber access, an all-season road which generally provides access to within five miles of timber resources. Built to a higher standard than secondary all-season roads

Primary winter road: Regarding timber access, a road built and used during the winter. Built to a higher standard than secondary winter roads. See also 'winter road'.

Sawtimber: Trees that will yield logs suitable in size and quality for the production of lumber. Spruce must be at least 9 inches and hardwoods 11 inches diameter at breast height.

Scarification: 1. Mechanical removal of competing vegetation or interfering debris, or disturbance of the soil surface, to enhance reforestation. 2. Chemical, mechanical, heat, or moisture treatment of seeds to make the seed coat permeable and improve germination (Society of American Foresters, 1998).

Secondary all-season road: Regarding timber access, an all-season road which generally provides access to within ¼ mile of timber resources. Built to a lesser standard than primary all-season roads, but to a higher standard than spur roads.

Secondary winter road: Regarding timber access, a road built and used during the winter. Built to a lesser standard than primary winter roads. See also 'winter road'.

Spur road: A short, low-standard road that supports a low level of traffic such as serving one or two landings (Society of American Foresters, 1998). Spur roads are generally built within harvest units.

Stand: A contiguous group of trees sufficiently uniform in age-class distribution, composition, and structure, and growing on a site of sufficiently uniform quality, to be a distinguishable unit (Society of American Foresters, 1998).

State forest: An area designated by the legislature and retained in state ownership in order to a) provide a base for sustained yield management of renewable resources; and b) permit a variety of beneficial uses (AS 41.17.950 (16)).

State lands: All lands, including shore, tide and submerged lands, or resources belonging to or acquired by the state (AS 38.05.965 (20)).

Sustained yield: The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of forest land and water without significant impairment of the productivity of the land and water, but does not require that timber be harvested in a non-declining yield basis over a rotation period (AS 41.17.950 (17)). Another definition of sustained yield is in AS 38.04.910 (12) and should be applied in the context of AS 38.04 authorities and requirements.

Water bar: A shallow channel or raised barrier of soil or other material laid diagonally across the surface of a road or skid trail to lead water off the road and prevent soil erosion (Society of American Foresters, 1998). Often used to put a road to bed.

Winter road: A road that can normally support regular logging vehicle traffic only during winter months that has a load-bearing capacity derived from a combination of frost, snow, or ice (11 AAC 95.900(90)).

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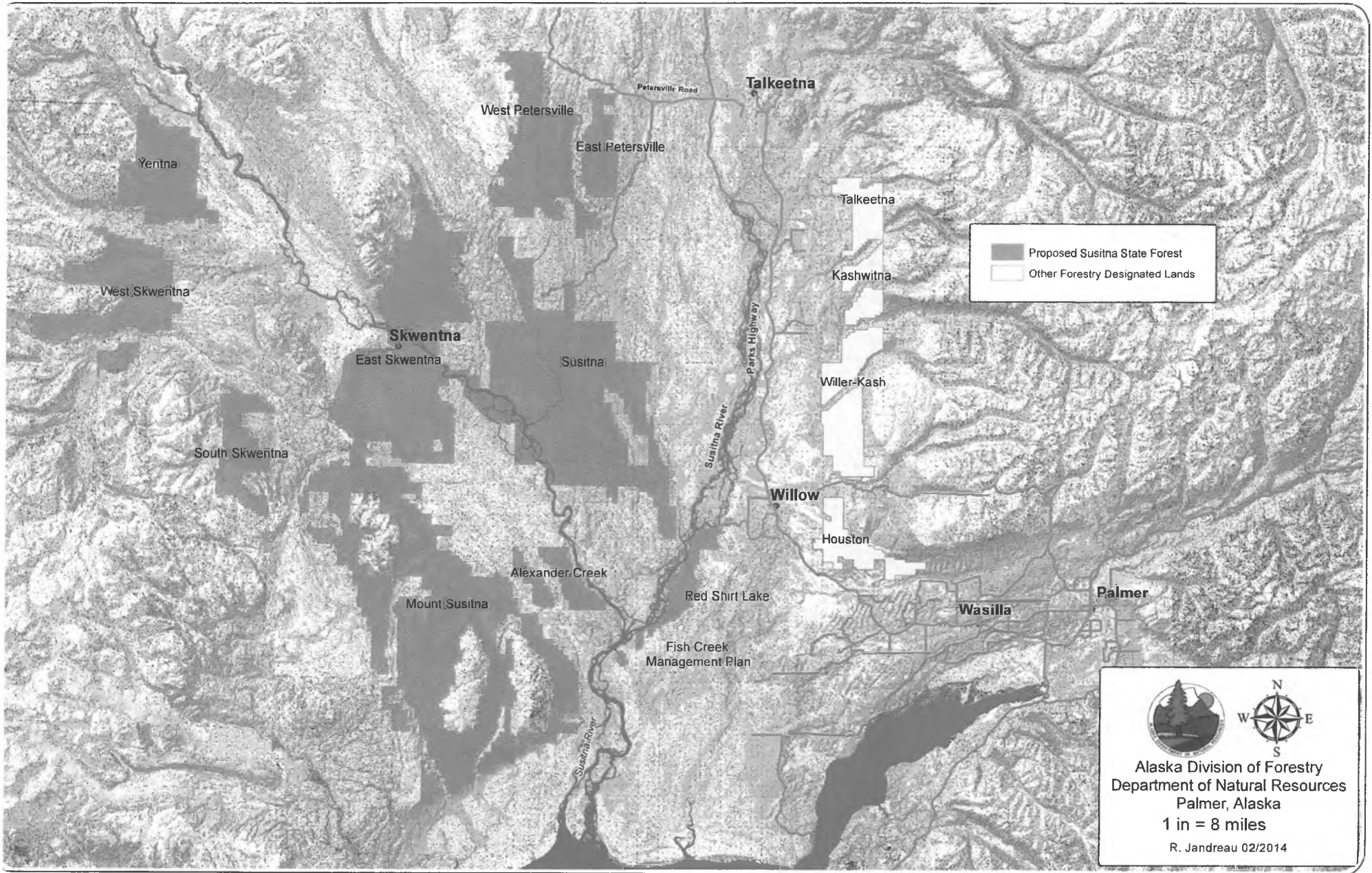
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Map of Proposed Susitna State Forest Blocks and Units

Map of Conceptual Transportation Plan for the Proposed Susitna State Forest



Map of Conceptual Transportation Plan for the Proposed Susitna State Forest

