

FORESTRY

Goals

Economic Development. A forest products industry that offers jobs and income and provides competitively priced products.

Personal Use. Meet the personal use needs of Alaskans within the productive capability of the land and limitations imposed by other important uses and resources.

Resource Management. Manage forests of the area to ensure long term productivity; continuous availability of forest products at reasonable cost; recognition and maintenance or enhancement of other public resources over the long term; and access for public use and enjoyment.

Protection from Destructive Agents. All forests in the area, private and public, will be protected from destructive agents, such as fire, insects, and disease, based on assessments of values at risk, benefits of fire, and protection costs in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, cooperative agreements, and fire management plans.

Management Guidelines

A. Multiple Use Management. Unless particular forms of natural resource use are specifically prohibited, all lands designated for forest use are intended to be managed for the fullest possible range of beneficial uses. The relative importance of each use will be specified in the management intent statements and controlled by the management guidelines for each management unit.

B. Timber Salvage. Timber with commercial or personal use value should be salvaged from lands that will be cleared for other uses, such as farms and transportation or utility corridors. This will be accomplished by adherence to the following guidelines.

1. The Division of Forestry will review proposals for significant land clearing actions and determine whether the timber is worth salvaging within the time frame of the proposed project and, if so, advise the Director of the Division of Land and Water Management on appropriate salvage methods.
2. Major projects that involve clearing large areas of forested land, such as agricultural projects, will be planned far enough in advance so that schedules can be established to allow a reasonable period of time to arrange for and conduct commercial salvage of the timber. This advance planning will provide sufficient time to conduct the inventories and harvest.
3. If timber is not salvaged before the sale of agricultural rights to farmers, the value of the timber will be included in the evaluation of the land and in the price paid by the farmers, so that the state will be compensated for the loss of this public resource.
4. Where necessary as part of the most appropriate method of timber salvage, future farm home sites, wood lots, wooded wind breaks, and other areas to be left uncleared will be delineated. This may be done whether timber on the project area will be harvested in large blocks before sale of the farms, or whether farms will be sold with the timber and then individual farmers will be responsible for land clearing and possible timber harvest. The Division of Forestry will work

with the Division of Agriculture, Division of Land and Water Management, Department of Fish and Game, and the Soil Conservation Service to identify these areas to be left uncut. Identification will include flagging or otherwise marking in the field so that the timber harvest operator can distinguish between areas to harvest and areas to leave.

5. If the timber is not salvaged before sale of the land, the Division of Forestry will provide technical assistance to farmers in finding and negotiating with a logging contractor, or in conducting the harvest themselves and marketing the timber.

C. Forest Practices Act. Guidelines for forest management in this plan assume compliance with the Forest Resources and Practices Act. That act and implementing regulations will help guide timber harvest and ensure protection of nontimber forest resources. The guidelines in this plan apply to forest management in addition to those given by the Forest Practices regulations.

D. Wood Harvest for Personal Use. An important objective of forest management is to provide opportunities for people to harvest firewood and houselogs from public land for their personal use. Therefore, when forested lands are available near communities and where harvest for personal use is consistent with other purposes for which the land is being managed, some of this land should be managed to help provide wood products for personal use (see p. 2-28).

E. Fire Management. Fire management practices, including prescribed burning, will be designed to reflect and be consistent with the land management policies stated in the area plan. These practices are described in the Copper River Fire Management Plan, which has been developed as part of the planning process for the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Council.

F. Other Guidelines Affecting Forest Management. Several other guidelines may affect forest management. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Materials
- Settlement
- Subsurface resources
- Transportation
- Lakeshore management
- Public access
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Trail management
- Wetlands management

Land Allocation Summary

Most large blocks of forest lands will be retained in state ownership with forestry designated as a primary use. The major use of forest lands in the basin will be for personal use and small sales. Forestry, dispersed recreation, and wildlife habitat are generally compatible uses. Timber harvest activities in the trumpeter swan habitats (west of St. Anne Lake) would be subject to seasonal restrictions. In other areas, forestry uses (including cutting houselogs, firewood, and commercial timber sales) are generally allowed subject to existing regulations and guidelines.