

SWCD Training Program | *January 2011*

# **Module 9:**

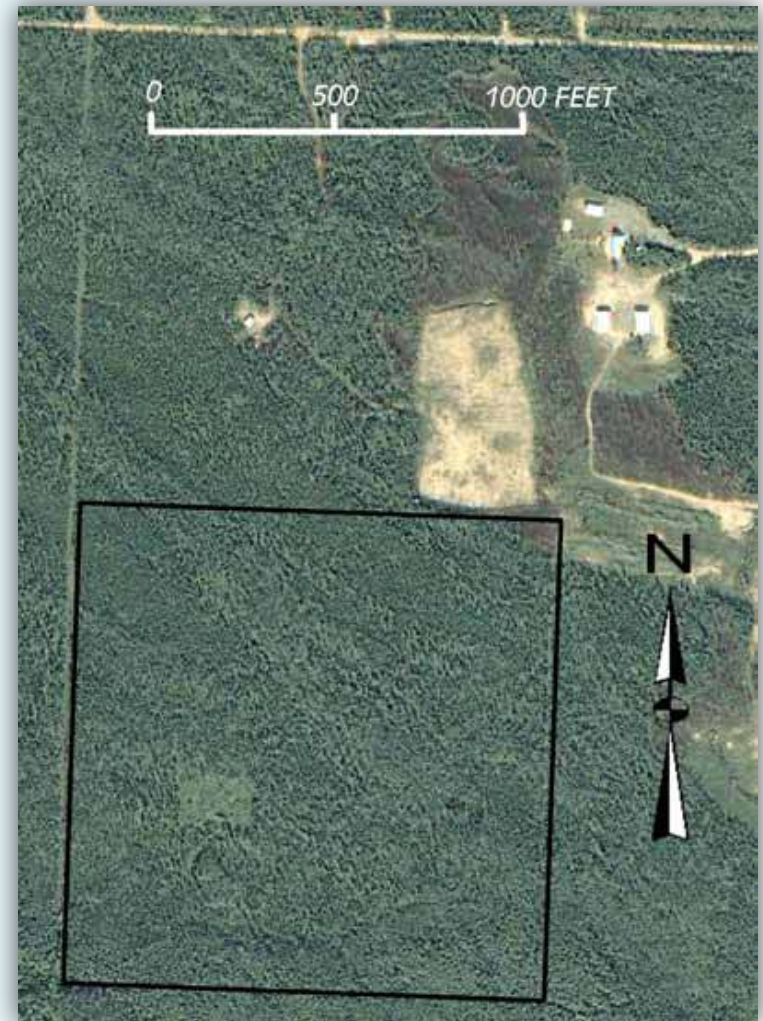
## **Understanding State & National Resolutions Processes**



## **Developing District Policy, Position & Resolutions**

In this hypothetical situation, the State of Alaska is proposing to make available to the public, several hundred acres of agricultural lands, to be divided into five-acre properties and disposed of through appropriate procedures.

The local District, during discussion at a publicly-noticed BOS meeting, discovers that several Cooperators in the area are concerned that this ag parcel sale be implemented in such a way that it is not limited to ONLY fifty-acres, i.e. if a purchaser wants to purchase 100 acres, that it be allowed within the design of this sale.



- **Step One:** Research - gather all applicable background such as maps, applicable Statutes and Regulations, contact other stakeholders in the area to get their viewpoints, talk with the Division of Agriculture representative preparing the sale (likely inviting him/her to participate in the meeting discussed in step two), and any other activities that will add to the District's knowledge before making a decision.
- **Step Two:** The District Manager or person(s) responsible for this issue should be prepared to give the Board copies of all applicable documents and information collected in step one, along with the list of options, prior to the next meeting to allow adequate time to review.
- **Step Three:** The Board should discuss the pros/cons, issues, needs, applicable restrictions, etc., resulting in a motion passing/failing Board vote, to support or not support the position stated in the motion. Should majority board vote be decisive, the Board should draft a Resolution or other documentation of the Board's position.
- **Step Four:** The resulting Resolution or other document should be sent to all officials that have decision-making authority in the situation. The District may also call, email, or otherwise contact individuals directly.

## **Resolution Importance to Region, State or National?**

- If the issue may be of interest to another District, they should be alerted or invited to participate with the original District. If the issue has statewide implications, the District may want to consider taking the issue to the Board of AACD, for taking back to all of the Districts or possibly another Resolution from AACD.
- If the issue has implications that reach beyond the state, the issue can be brought to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) or other entities.
- NACD is a 501(c)4 Corporation, and thus may conduct lobbying to influence legislation and may participate to a limited extent with political campaigns, in contrast to a 501(c)3 Corporation which has limitations on lobbying and absolute prohibition on political campaign interventions.