



## GOALS, POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES - FORESTRY

### GOALS

1. Development of forest products industry which contributes to the state and local economy without long term subsidy:
  - a. a continuous flow of commercial quality raw materials
  - b. a stable base of commercially productive forest lands
2. A supply of forest products from public lands for personal use commensurate with:
  - a. the local and Anchorage area demand through at least the year 2000
  - b. the characteristics of public lands
  - c. other sources of supply
3. Multiple use of forest lands.
4. Development of roads, railroads, ports and other transportation facilities to provide access to public forest lands for both commercial and personal use.

### IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES

#### 1. Timber Salvage on Agricultural Lands

All timber having high value for commercial and personal use shall be salvaged on borough and state lands to be cleared for agricultural development.

Management plans which include agricultural development projects should address the following items:

- a. the implementation techniques used to assure salvage;
- b. the time required for the local timber industry to accomplish salvage between the times of access development and clearing completion and;

- c. the effect of the sale on the development of the forest industry.

## 2. Development of the Forest Industry

The scheduling and provisions of timber contracts should be designed to aid the growth of a commercial forest industry in the area.

- a. Timber sales should be scheduled to provide a continuous flow of commercial quality raw materials taking into account: (1) the supply of timber available from public and private lands in other areas of southcentral Alaska, (2) the supply of timber available from timber salvage on agricultural lands, and (3) the ability of the local industry to process the timber.
- b. The schedule for timber sales on public lands should be developed jointly by the borough and the state in order to insure a continuous and predictable supply of wood products.
- c. Timber contracts on state lands should generally be let through commercial bid sales rather than negotiated sales.
- d. Whenever possible, timber contracts should be long term (three to five years) rather than for a single season.

## 3. Personal Use Forestry

Timber stands suitable for commercial sales should be used for that purpose. Personal use harvests should occur on non-commercial stands or as a silvicultural tool. Exceptions to this policy should occur only when the supply of personal use products cannot be met from other accessible forest lands in the sub-basin.

### MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Forestry guidelines listed below address the following issues:

1. Forest Resources and Practices Act
2. Timber Salvage on Agricultural Lands
3. Protection of the Hydrologic System
4. Joint Habitat/Forestry Management Areas
5. Management Plans
6. Timber Harvest in Essential Habitat Areas
7. Timber Harvest near Alpine Tree Line
8. Trail Protection
9. Visual Resource Protection and Enhancement
10. Miscellaneous

1. Forest Resources and Practices Act

Guidelines of this plan should not be construed to replace guidelines in the implementation regulations of the Forest Resources and Practices Act or the field manual for Region II, Interior Spruce/Hardwood Region.

2. Timber Salvage on Agricultural Lands

All timber having high value for commercial and personal use forest products should be salvaged on lands to be cleared for agricultural purposes. The following are examples of implementation techniques:

- a. salvage of forest products is specified at the time of disposal as part of the disposal contract;
- b. the agricultural rights holder is allowed to select specified areas for non-salvage (windbreaks, headquarters site, etc.). The state or borough contracts the remainder and the agricultural rights holder is given the right of first refusal;
- c. economic incentives are created for timber salvage. These incentives should, at a minimum, specify that the value of forest products on each parcel be added to the base land price with that amount not eligible for inclusion in the state loan program;
- d. the useable forest products are sold and removed before sale of the agricultural rights.

Any method which insures product salvage may be implemented in a particular area. The choice would depend on the specific details the sale. However, all of the options assume realistic scheduling of clearing and access development.

3. Protection of the Hydrologic System

- a. Streams: Generally, the Forest Resources and Practices Act and implementing regulations will guide operations along streams. Operations with the potential of affecting anadromous fish streams require on-site review during preliminary sale planning (including and in addition to Title 16 requirements). In addition, forestry operations are subject to Policies and Management Guidelines; River and Stream Corridors, this chapter.
- b. Wetlands: Only selective timber harvest will generally be permitted within 100 feet of class I and II wetlands. This guideline may be changed for specific locations by DNR with the consultation of ADF&G. See Policies and Management Guidelines; Wetlands, this chapter, for the definition of class I and II wetlands.

- c. Lakes: Personal or commercial timber harvests around lakes with significant recreation value shall be designed to protect and enhance the recreational values of the lake and adjacent land. Selective cutting only should be done in areas viewed from the lake, the lakeshore and roads to the lake. Timber harvest plans with the potential of affecting lakes that have significant recreation value should be reviewed by the Division of Parks and ADF&G.

#### 4. Joint Forestry/Habitat Management Areas

For management units with important forestry and wildlife values, forest operations will be geared toward the combined goals of forest management, habitat enhancement and recreational opportunity availability. Harvest operations will follow the following management guidelines in units where both forestry and habitat receive primary use designations in this plan.

- a. Hardwood management should be based on maximizing economic return on wood fiber rather than maximizing wood volume produced. This will result in decreasing the rotation age, with a goal of an average of 40% of the primary hardwood stands within each management unit in the under 25 year old age stands.
- b. In areas of overmature hardwood stands, clearcuts up to 15 acres are encouraged as long as adequate escape cover (vegetation) is available within 300 feet of any point within a clearcut.

#### 5. Management Plans

For the Susitna Corridor, Susitna Floodplain, and Kashwitna Management Units, five-year management plans should be prepared. These plans will address actions under consideration in the next five years by DNR-Division of Land and Water Management, DNR-Division of Parks, DNR-Division of Forestry, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Matanaska-Susitna Borough, or any other agency with likely management interest in the area.

#### 6. Timber Harvests in Essential Habitat Areas

In areas of essential habitat or in any habitat necessary to threatened or endangered species, no harvests are allowed which are likely to have negative impact on the habitat or the species. Determination of essential areas, and design and approval of harvest techniques in these areas shall be conducted jointly by DNR and ADF&G.

#### 7. Timber Harvest Near Alpine Tree Line

No timber cuts may occur within 1/2 mile of alpine tree line except with approval and design consultation of ADF&G.

8. Trail Protection

Trail corridors designated in this plan are available for personal and selective commercial timber harvest only if such harvests protect or enhance the visual, sound, and other characteristics of the trail. Harvest practices, timing and transportation must be coordinated with the Alaska Division of Parks. Unless otherwise noted trail corridors extend 150 feet from trail centerline (300 feet, total width). See Policies and Management Guidelines; Trails, this chapter.

9. Visual Resource Protection and Enhancement

Forest operations should avoid negative impacts on views from the Parks Highway, residential areas, other roads, or areas with substantial human use.

10. Miscellaneous

- a. Two publications are highly recommended to both public and private land developers for practices which protect and enhance wildlife resources.
  - 1) A Synthesis and Evaluation of Fish and Wildlife Resources Information for the Willow and Talkeetna Sub-basins. ADF&G, 1980.
  - 2) Guidelines for Wildlife Design in Residential Developments. ADF&G Habitat Protection Section, 1979.
- b. The location of and development standards for roads on state forest lands will be coordinated with the Division of Parks, ADF&G, and DL&WM.