FORESTRY

Goals

Economic Opportunities. Provide for economic opportunities and stability in the forest products industry by allowing the use of state tide and submerged lands for log storage and transfer sites, A-frame logging, and log salvage.

Maximum Use of Log Transfer Sites (LTSs). Promote maximum use of LTSs over their usable life. Encourage joint use of sites and promote harvest scheduling that will minimize the overall number of sites needed.

Coordination Between Upland Owners and Tideland Managers. Coordinate with upland managers and tideland regulatory agencies to provide for the economically efficient and environmentally sound transfer of logs.

Use of Beachlogs. Allow removal of beachlogs from state tidelands to provide economic opportunities while eliminating logs as navigational hazards and transportation barriers.

Access for Timber Harvest. Provide for harvest of timber resources, including beach logs, by allowing access to public and private lands.

Definitions

The definitions listed below are useful for the guidelines of this section. Other definitions for commonly used terms are contained in the glossary, Appendix A.

Log transfer Facility (LTF): Any facility or mechanism necessary to transfer timber from uplands to marine waters.

Log transfer Site (LTS): A site for all facilities necessary for transferring timber from uplands to marine waters, including associated components such as log rafting and sorting areas, floating camps, access ramps, etc. A single log transfer site may contain more than one log transfer facility.

Resource Transfer Facility (RTF): Any facility or mechanism necessary to transfer timber, mineral or other resources from uplands to marine waters, including all necessary components such as log rafting and sorting areas, floating camps, etc.

Resource Transfer Site (RTS): A site for all facilities necessary for transferring timber, mineral, or other resources from uplands to marine waters, including all necessary components such as log rafting and sorting areas, floating camps, etc. A single resource transfer site may contain more than one resource transfer facility.

Management Guidelines

A. Siting Log Transfer and Storage Sites (LTSs) in Protected Waters. LTSs and log raft storage facilities should be sited in water that is protected from the weather and has a bottom suitable for anchoring. Where in-water storage and booming is anticipated, the site should have at least 20 acres for temporary log storage and log booming.

B. Siting LTSs Adjacent to Flat Uplands. LTSs should be sited near at least five acres of relatively flat uplands suitable for safe and efficient log handling, storage, sorting, and transfer. There should also be a body of water sufficient to provide a minimum facility face of 60 lineal feet.

C. Siting Resource Transfer Facilities (RTFs) to Allow Safe Access from the Uplands. To provide safe access to the log

transfer facility and adjoining log sort yard, the facility should be sited where access roads to the site can maintain a grade of 10 percent or less for trucks and 4 percent for specialized equipment.

D. Siting Log transfer Facilities (LTFs) Near a Clean Rock Source. To minimize erosion and associated sedimentation of adjacent waters, construction of LTFs should use clean rock materials for roads, pads, and yards.

E. Siting Resource Transfer Sites (RTSs) to Minimize or Avoid Conflicts with Other Important Uses. RTSs should be sited to minimize or avoid interference with important established personal, commercial or recreational uses.

F. Siting LTFs and RTFs in Anchorages. RTFs and LTFs should be sited to minimize diminishing the capacity or usefulness of anchorages.

G. Joint Use and Consolidation of RTSs. Joint use and consolidation of sites should occur where it is feasible and prudent.

H. Siting RTSs to Accommodate Future Use. Resource transfer sites should be sited and designed to accommodate future development and avoid unnecessary relocation of sites. The feasibility of using or modifying available existing sites in an area should be evaluated before a new site is authorized.

I. Siting LTFs in Areas with Currents Adequate to Disperse Debris. LTFs should be sited along or adjacent to straits and channels or deep bays where currents may be strong enough to disperse sunken or floating wood debris. Siting LTFs in embayments with sills or other natural restrictions to tidal exchange should be avoided.

J. Siting Resource Transfer Facilities (RTFs) and Log Storage Areas to Avoid productive or Sensitive Habitats. RTFs and log raft storage areas should not be sited on or immediately adjacent to extensive tideflats; salt marshes; kelp or eelgrass beds; or mapped crucial habitat areas.

K. Siting Log Storage Areas in Deep Water. See guideline S, *Grounding of Floating Facilities,* page 2-9 In addition, a minimum depth of 40 feet at mean lower low water for log raft storage is preferred.

L. Log transfer Facilities Design. Log transfer facility design should be the most economically practical and the least environmentally damaging alternative. Factors to be considered in selection of design alternatives include: 1) economic practicality of alternatives, 2) design requirements, 3) physical site constraints, 4) timber volumes to be transferred, 5) potential total effects on biota and water quality, 6) biological productivity and sensitivity and, 7) other potential uses of the site and facility.

M. Bark Accumulation Management. The siting, design, and operation of the LTF and contiguous collateral upland facilities shall utilize best practicable procedures and methodologies to control intertidal and submarine accumulations of bark.

N. Bark Accumulation. The regulatory agency(ies) will impose an interim threshold level of bark accumulation in intertidal and submarine areas. When accumulations exceed the threshold level, cleanup will occur at the discretion of the permitting agency(ies). The interim threshold bark accumulation level is 100 percent coverage exceeding both 1 acre in size and a thickness greater than 10 cm (3.9 inches) at any point.

O. Bundle Speed. The speed of log bundles entering receiving waters should be the slowest practicable speed achievable. Decisions on the allowable transfer system

that can be used will occur on a site-specific basis during the permitting process.

P. Timing of Inwater Construction. Inwater construction, blasting, and filling associated with LTF sites should be timed to limit adverse impacts to marine and estuarine fishery resources and avoid conflicts with other user groups.

Q. Operating RTFs to Minimize or Avoid Impacts to Other Important Uses. The operation of RTFs should minimize or avoid interference with important established personal, commercial, or recreational uses.

R. Inwater Log Storage at LTFs. Logs placed in the water at LTFs for purposes of storage and loading must be bundled and secured within appropriately anchored boomsticks. Inwater log storage pens or rafts will be sized and operated for the short term, during the harvest/shipping season of the year, and not for long term, multiyear storage.

S. Equipment on Tidelands. Equipment crossing of tidelands requiring a permit will occur only at locations authorized by appropriate regulatory agencies and may be subject to timing restrictions to minimize or avoid impacts to habitat.

T. Beach Log Salvage. Beach log salvage will be administered under the provisions of the ACMP consistency review procedures. The existing general concurrence determination for beach log salvage is contained in Appendix C. If, in the future, beach log salvage is no longer covered under the provisions of an ACMP general concurrence determination, this plan will be amended to include guidelines for the management of beach log salvage.

U. Felling Trees Onto Vegetated Tideflats. Trees to be felled adjacent to the tidelands should be directionally felled away from vegetated tideflats. Deposition of logging debris should be avoided in these areas.

V. Personal-Use Wood Harvest. When there are state uplands or tidelands near communities and where personal-use harvest is consistent with other purposes for which the land is being managed, some land should be managed to help provide personal-use-wood products. (For guidelines on providing personal-use harvest areas near land disposal projects, see Settlement guidelines, this chapter and individual management units in Chapter 3.)

W. Other Guidelines that Affect Forestry. Other guidelines will affect management practices for timber development support facilities. For details of these guidelines, see the following sections of this chapter:

Coordination and public notice
Fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas
Public access
Recreation, tourism, cultural, and scenic resources
Transportation and utilities

The Forest Resources and Practices Regulations (11 AAC 95) also provide guidance for managing forest related activities. These regulations are contained in Appendix C.

Summary of Policies

Forestry on State Uplands. Almost all the high value forest resources in Prince William Sound are located on private land or land managed by the U.S. Forest Service. One large, high-value forest area exists in state ownership within the Prince William Sound planning area. It is located in subunits 21N and 21O of the Valdez management unit (Lowe River Bench and Brown's Creek). This area, about 7,700 acres, will be a long-term source of timber resources for the commercial forest industry near Valdez. Forestry is also a primary use in Day Harbor, subunit 15B.

Small commercial and personal-use timber sales are allowed on state lands near communities and within land disposal areas to

supply local needs for firewood, houselogs, and other products.

Log Transfer Sites. Harvests on US Forest Service and private lands require state tidelands for log transfer sites. Opportunities to site future log transfer sites on state tidelands are protected at the locations listed below:

- Eastern Drier Bay, Marsha Bay, and Lower Herring Bay (subunits 16D, E, Knight Island)
- Two Moon Bay and Snug Harbor (subunit 23D, Fidalgo)
- St. Matthews and Olsen Bays (subunit 23E, Fidalgo)
- Landlocked Bay (subunit 23J, Fidalgo)
- MacLeod Harbor and Box Point (subunits 24D & E, Montague Island)
- Okalee Spit (subunit 29B, Katalla)
- Katalla (subunit 29D, Katalla)

Additional sites will be required adjacent to private land between Tatitlek and Cordova, along the northern shore of Hawkins Island, and adjacent to federal land on north Montague Island (most likely in Rocky or Zaikof bays). These and other log transfer facilities are allowed where they meet the management intent and guidelines of the plan.

Forestry Guidelines. The plan contains a variety of guidelines concerning forestry. Most are in the forestry section of this chapter and are designed to mitigate the impacts of log transfer sites on adjacent fish and wildlife habitat, and to protect continued commercial fishing harvest. Subjects addressed by the guidelines include joint use and consolidation of resource transfer sites, inwater log storage at log transfer sites, maintaining the use of anchorages, and bark accumulation.