

# FORESTRY

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## Goals

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**Economic Development.** A forest products industry that offers jobs and income and provides competitively priced products to meet local and regional demand.

**Personal Use.** Meet the personal use needs of people in the region 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 and this area plan.

## Management Guidelines

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**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 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.

**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 regeneration and ensure its protection of non-timber 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 Settlement guideline D-4, page 2-37).

**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 Alaska Fire Management Plans, which have

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

## **Land Allocation Summary**

**Background.** There are approximately 570,000 acres of state-owned land with high or moderate potential for timber harvest in the planning area. An additional 104,000 acres of state selections also have high to moderate timber potential. The highest value timber lands are located along the major rivers where permafrost is absent and wood can be easily transported by barge.

The plan designates forestry as one of the primary use on approximately 1.5 million acres of state land in the Aniak, Holitna, Stony, North Fork, East Fork, Big River, South Fork, Nixon Fork, Innoko, Takotna,

Dishna, and Iditarod drainages and along the main stream of the Kuskokwim River between McGrath and Stony River (Table 2.2). Approximately 58,000 acres of land proposed for state selection also have moderate to high timber values; forestry will be primary use of these areas if they are conveyed to state ownership. These areas encompasses the state lands along the Kuskokwim and Holitna rivers with the highest potential for commercial use, and lands along smaller rivers and near communities and disposal areas where there is a demand for wood for personal use. Forestry is also designated a secondary use on other forested lands, including settlement areas where timber harvesting for firewood and houselogs will be an important use of public lands within the disposal boundaries, and remote forested lands where little harvesting is likely. Approximately 76,000 acres of land in the Candle Hills, Nunsatuk, Iditarod, and Dishna areas that are designated for resource management also have moderate to high timber potential. These lands will be retained in public ownership in the near term and managed for multiple use, including forestry. When the plan is reviewed in five years, these areas will be reevaluated to determine whether they should be kept in public ownership for long-term multiple use or offered for private ownership. Because productive forests in the Kuskokwim are in narrow bands along the rivers whereas the boundaries of the primary use designations are based on aliquot parts, large portions of the designated lands have low timber values.

**Table 2.2 Forestry Designations****Lands Where Forestry is Designated a Primary Use.**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Subunit</u>	<u>Approximate Area</u>	
		<u>State Owned or Selected Land</u>	<u>Proposed State Selections</u>
North Fork	1d	144,000 acres	---
East Fork	2a	103,000 acres	---
Big River-South Fork	4c	102,000 acres	44,000 acres
Kuskokwim River	5a	105,000 acres	8,000 acres
Nixon Fork	6a	83,000 acres	---
Innoko River	7b	132,000 acres	---
Dishna-Iditarod	8d	37,000 acres	---
Takotna River	9d	48,000 acres	---
Stony River	14a	29,000 acres	6,000 acres
Holitna River	15a	675,000 acres	---
Aniak River	<u>17a</u>	<u>84,000 acres</u>	<u>---</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,542,000 acres</b>	<b>58,000 acres</b>

**Lands With Forestry Values Designated for General Use**

Kuskokwim River subunits 5d & 5h	31,000 acres
Dishna - Iditarod subunits 8a & 8b	<u>45,000 acres</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76,000 acres</b>