

## Forestry

The timber resources within the planning area are limited primarily to riverine bottoms and some midslope elevations. Pole timber around the City of Eagle and Eagle Village has been identified for fuelwood cutting areas. Because of the limited timber resources on state land and the lack of inventory, no lands are assigned a Forestry designation. Forest products are available for use from state lands with other designations provided the use is consistent with the management intent of the unit. The vast majority of state land within the planning area is designated General Use, a multiple use designation. Forest management, including timber sales, is considered appropriate in this designation subject to plan management intent and guidelines.

The ecology of the planning area is heavily influenced by the occurrence of fire. Some form of disturbance, natural or man-caused, is necessary to maintain the forest and its biological diversity.

### Goals

**Economic Development.** Provide an adequate supply of timber for a forest products industry that provides jobs to Alaskans.

**Support Recreation and Tourism.** Support tourism and maintain opportunities for diverse recreational activities in a variety of settings.

**Personal Use Timber.** Provide timber to meet the personal needs of Alaskans.

**Timber Salvage.** Where appropriate, salvage trees damaged due to windthrow, insect, or disease conditions.

**Resource Management.** Manage forest resources on a sustained yield basis to maintain continuous productivity, the maintenance or enhancement of other public resources over the long term, protection or enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and maintenance of land and water quality.

### Management Guidelines

A systematic program of scheduled commercial timber sales is not anticipated within the Upper Yukon planning area, although a few sales are possible on an opportunistic basis. Should such sales occur during the planning horizon, they are likely to be small, isolated sales or sales that extend from the Tanana Valley State Forest. The provision of forest products for personal uses or salvaged from disease (or other destructive agents) are likely components of a management program during the planning horizon. Timber management activities are subject to the following management guidelines in addition to the requirements of the state Forest Resources and Practices Act and any Forest Land Use Plan for a specific sale area.

- A. Forest Resources and Practices Act and Regulations.** In addition to the guidelines below, the Forest Resources and Practices Act (AS 41.17) and Regulations (11 AAC 95) provide statewide policy and guidance for managing forestry related activities. Site-specific guidelines for forestry management activities will be addressed through the Forest Land Use Plan prior to any commercial timber sale or harvest (AS 38.05.112). Timber harvest activities must be compatible with the guidelines in this section and with the management intent statements and land-use designations identified for each unit in Chapter 3.
- B. Multiple Use Management.** Unless particular forms of natural resource use are specifically prohibited, timber harvests may occur consistent with the management intent for the unit.
- C. Commercial Timber Sales.** A systematic program of scheduled timber harvests in the planning area is not planned or anticipated. However, there may be instances where an isolated commercial timber sale may occur or where timber sales in the Tanana Valley State Forest include areas of adjacent land within the planning area. These sales shall follow the requirements of this plan and of the Forest Resources and Practices Act. The standards of the Tanana Valley State Forest Plan should apply to those operations that emanate from the State Forest and use general state land in the planning area.
- D. Timber Salvaged from Land Cleared for Non-Forest Use.** Timber with commercial or personal use value should be salvaged from lands that are to be cleared for other uses such as for roads, transmission lines, materials sites, mining, and habitat enhancement projects (AS 41.17.083).
- E. Personal Use Wood Harvest.** 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 personal use harvest is consistent with other purposes for which the land is being managed, consideration should be given by the Department to providing wood products for personal use. Dead and down wood on state land may be gathered for personal use. However, harvesting of dead and down wood or cutting live trees for personal use or for other uses requires a permit.
- F. Transportation and Access for Forestry Management Activities.** The location, design, and development of roads shall consider multiple use values of state lands, and reflect the management intent and primary uses for the affected area. The goal is to optimize long term public use benefits from new access while minimizing adverse effects on existing public uses, including maintaining a range of recreation opportunities and wildlife habitat values. Forest road standards for the Northern Region will be used for constructing roads to commercial timber sources.
- G. Fire Disturbance.** The intent for fire management is to identify areas where wildland fire can be allowed or prescribed fire can be used to reduce costs of fire suppression, reduce risk of damaging fires, and maintain natural diversity and productivity of forest stands. Fire suppression will continue to be a priority near residential areas, infrastructure developments, and other investments. Consistent with AS 41.15.010 and AS 41.15.020, the Division of Forestry will protect forest resources from destructive agents commensurate with the values needing protection. However, where feasible, wildland fires will be allowed to burn and

suppression will be limited in other areas to decrease the long-term risk of damaging fires and to maintain natural diversity of forest stands, stand ages, and habitat types. Where allowing wildland fire is not feasible, timber harvest, prescribed fire, and habitat enhancement techniques will be used to disturb the forest and maintain a natural range of forest types and stand ages. Specific recommendations for changes in fire suppression levels will be developed through the Alaska Interagency Fire Management plan review process. (Also see *Habitat Enhancement* under the section *Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest*.)

**H. Other Guidelines Affecting Forestry.** Other guidelines may affect forestry. Sections in this chapter that should also be referred to include but are not limited to:

- Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest
- Heritage Resources
- Recreation and Tourism
- Settlement
- Stream Corridors, Shorelands and Instream Flow
- Subsurface Resources
- Trails and Public Access
- Transportation
- Trapping Cabins
- Wetlands Management