

**ADMINISTRATIVE FINDING OF THE COMMISSIONER
MINERAL LEASEHOLD LOCATION ORDER NO. 40**

Southeast State Forest

The Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources proposes to restrict new mineral entry to lands within the Southeast State Forest to provisions of the leasehold location system of AS 38.05.205. This action is necessary in order to protect intensive forest management and timber production activities within the Southeast State Forest, which are the primary purposes for this legislatively designated area.

The integrity of this relatively small yet important “working forest” requires any mining activity be closely coordinated with timber management and production that are the primary purposes for the Southeast State Forest. Mining activities that do not adversely affect existing timber production plans may take place with an approved plan of operations.

In accordance with AS 38.05.205, I find the best interests of the State of Alaska and its residents are served by adopting this Leasehold Location Order. The amount of land affected by this order is approximately 46,592 acres located in the 32 management units of the Southeast State Forest.

Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources

Date