2020 - 2024

Five Year Forest Management Schedule



Alaska Division of Forestry Haines State Forest Department of Natural Resources 2020 - 2024

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Table of Abbreviations

FYFMS	Five Year Forest Management Schedule
HSF	Haines State Forest
DOF	Division of Forestry
HSFMP	Haines State Forest Management Plan
CBEP	Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve
FLUP	Forest Land Use Plan
ADFG	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
BIF	Best Interest Finding
FRPA	Forest Resources and Practices Act
AS	Alaska Statute

Purpose

This Five-Year Forest Management Schedule (FYFMS) provides information to State agencies, commercial and non-commercial organizations, as well as the general public concerning planning and use of the forest resources on the Haines State Forest (HSF) for the period January 2020 - December 2024. This FYFMS also meets the Alaska Statute (AS 38.05.113. Five-year sale schedule) requirements for periodic notification of planned activities, including timber sales, on the State Forest.

The FYFMS illustrates planning direction proposed by the Division of Forestry (DOF) in compliance with the Management Guidelines found in the Haines State Forest Management Plan (HSFMP rev. 2002).

This document will outline proposed timber sale activities, silviculture and reforestation activities, anticipated road construction and maintenance needs, and proposed public recreation development on the forest for the next five years. The FYFMS has been prepared to solicit input on forest management activities which may then be addressed in more detail during project design and implementation. The process is designed to provide the public an opportunity to participate in the resource management planning process.

Introduction

The Haines State Forest was established along with the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve (CBEP) in landmark legislation on July 1, 1982. The law's central tenet was to utilize, perpetuate, conserve, and protect both the renewable and nonrenewable resources through multiple-use management on the HSF while conserving and protecting the bald eagle and fisheries habitat within the CBEP. The DOF manages some 260,000 acres of land and waters within the Haines State Forest including portions of the major river watersheds of the Lower Klehini, Chilkat, Chilkoot, and Ferebee Rivers as well as their tributary water systems with approximately 93,500 of those acres covered by forest.

According to the multiple-use management strategy outlined in legislation, the HSFMP defines management intent and guidelines across approximately 42,000 acres of land and water with a primary management goal of Public Recreation, 52,000 acres of land and water managed to protect and enhance Wildlife Habitat (including fish), and 42,000 acres of forested land designated with a primary purpose of timber harvest management.

Commercial Timber Harvest

The process for preparing a timber sale for contracting and harvesting as described in Alaska Statute and Regulation requires the State to issue a finding concluding that the sale is in the State's best interest and prepare a detailed Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP). The FLUP describes the specific harvest location, estimated volume of timber, harvest methods, reforestation plan, access, and multiple use considerations for a sale area. The DOF may make changes to individual sales previously listed in the FYFMS based on fieldwork, agency comments, and public input. Any changes to the description of a timber sale found in this document will be incorporated into the FLUP for that sale.

It is the policy of the DOF to include all sales (except for salvage sales, emergency sales, personal use permits, and negotiated sales less than 500 MBF(thousand board feet) and less than 160 acres) in at least one FYFMS preceding the sale. This policy exceeds the requirements under AS 38.05.113.

If a sale has been through the FYFMS, and has been offered but not sold, it can be re-offered without rescheduling or reconstructing the sale information. That is to say, if a sale was offered but not purchased, or if a sale was purchased but not completely harvested, the remaining timber can be sold without reappearing in a FYFMS or in a new FLUP. If the sale changes significantly in design or condition from the initial offering, a new FLUP may be required prior to re-offering.

Fish Habitat

A special management zone has been established around every anadromous fish stream and lake throughout the forest. These zones extend 300 feet on each side of anadromous streams, and 500 feet around anadromous fish bearing lakes. The HSFMP states that "the primary management objective for a special management zone will be to maintain or enhance anadromous fish habitat. Only activities which are or can be made compatible with this objective will be allowed in these zones." DOF will consult with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), Division of Habitat on the planning, design, and maintenance of resource development projects inside a special management zone.

Wildlife and Recreation

In the HSFMP planning process, area wide land use conflicts between primary resource use in a management unit and wildlife and recreation resources within that unit were identified and addressed. Specific guidelines for resolution to potential conflicts are described on a unit by unit basis in Chapter 3 of the HSFMP. This FYFMS was developed in accordance with the HSFMP and no significant adverse impacts to wildlife or recreational values are anticipated.

Further consideration of Wildlife and Recreation resources in the development of activities contained in this document will occur in the public planning process associated with that development. In the case of timber sale harvest activities, the Best Interest Finding (BIF) and the FLUP will address wildlife and recreation concerns as they relate to developing road building, harvest, and reforestation plans for that sale area through the administrative standards set out in AS 41.17.060. Additionally, the Forest Resources and Practices Act and Regulations contain specific requirements for the protection of these resources during extraction of renewable and non-renewable resources.

Transportation

Transportation goals and management guidelines for road construction on the HSF will follow the DOF Road Standards. These standards define methods and conditions related to road building, clearing, grading, drainage structures, and road location. Other guidelines that pertain to road development on the forest can also be found in the HSFMP. Please refer to that document for details.

All forest road construction activities must comply with the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) and Regulations to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife resources. DOF guidelines and the FRPA requires regular maintenance on haul roads. This maintenance will occur in association with active

timber sales and in the absence of active sales priority will be given to maintenance to maintain water quality and protect fish and wildlife resources.

Other State Agencies have jurisdictional authority specific to elements of transportation development and/or maintenance. They are:

1. The State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) conducts biennial inspections of bridges over twenty feet in length open to public highway vehicles.

2. The ADFG Division of Habitat will be consulted before any activity is proposed in fish bearing waters. Operators must acquire the appropriate permit from the Division of Habitat for any instream work.

These considerations, along with the goals and guidelines from the HSFMP, are reviewed during the timber sale FLUP process to ensure that road development meets the intent of managing the resources of the State Forest for multiple use.

Local Timber Resource Supply and Demand

There are several small mobile dimensional lumber sawmills and at least two commercial log home building companies in the Haines area. These mills produce rough-cut green lumber for local consumption, round log, two and three side log homes for both local use and as an export product, and firewood products for sale throughout the communities of the upper Lynn Canal. In the past two years most of the timber supply for these operators has come from State timber sales.

This document lists available timber resources that could support a diverse markets for possible demand both locally and outside of the area. Planning for possible market demand changes remains conservative and is designed to represent practical limitations of supplying available resources without exceeding sustainable harvest levels set in the HSFMP (Rev. 2002).

Local markets do not have the capacity to utilize the entire annual allowable cut volume. Market conditions in Alaska and on world markets have at times in the past presented interest for round log export of timber from the Haines State Forest. It is the policy of DOF to encourage and support to the extent feasible sustainable local processing of resource materials extracted from the HSF.

HARVEST ACTIVITIES

Sustainable Harvest Calculations

The annual allowable harvest of 5.88 million board feet was computed applying the area control method using the average volume of commercial timber present on an acre of forest land and the land base that is available for timber harvest. These calculations, described in Chapter 2 of the HSFMP, are based on

available land base acreage figures determined using GIS data in 2002. The 1985 State Forest Inventory was used to identify the average volume per acre of commercial timber available on State Forest lands. The fieldwork for a new forest inventory was completed in 2012 and 2018. This field data collected will be used to update the average volume per acre estimate, species composition and distribution estimates, and forest growth estimates. Additional GIS data updates to available timber land in the HSF are also being completed. This combined data will be used to provide updates to the HSF annual allowable harvest of commercial timber on the forest. The pending staff and funding constraints the inventory update is projected to be adopted in 2021.

The Division of Forestry is required to manage its' timber harvest on a sustained yield basis (AS 38.05.065(b) (1)). "Sustained Yield" means the "achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of an annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the State land consistent with multiple use" (AS 38.04.910). The Division's policy is to define "regular periodic output" as output over a ten-year period. Based on proposed sales and 2010-2020 harvest data, sales through 2020 were within the "sustained yield" management objective. When the total annual volumes listed in this FYFMS exceed the allowable cut on a yearly basis; it is done for planning purposes and to allow leeway within the DOF's timber sales program to react to unknown project constraints and market fluctuations. The current sustainable harvest calculation for the HSF identifies 58.8 million board feet of timber available for harvest over a ten-year basis.

Proposed Five-year Harvest Activities

The dates listed in this five-year Forest Management Schedule refer to calendar years.

Large Sale Program:

<u>2020</u>

<u>Baby Brown</u> - This sale consists of thirteen units between Porcupine and Jarvis Creeks south of the Klehini River approximately 38 miles North of Haines. The sale will harvest approximately 20 million board feet from 1000 acres.

<u>2021</u>

210 Top Shelf – This sale area is located above the 210 Road off the Kelsall Road system and totals approximately 150 acres and 2.5 million board feet of timber.

<u>Nataga Stretch</u> – Off the end of the Kelsall 200 Road this sale will harvest approximately 800 thousand board of timber from 40 - 60 acres of forest.

2022

<u>Single Fifteen</u> – This sale consists of a 90-acre unit, located on the west side of the Kelsall River. The harvest will combine high-lead cable and ground yarding and the construction of approximately one mile of new road.

<u>Canyon Creek</u> – This sale area is located along the Kelsall 100 Road approximately 8.5 miles from the Mosquito Lake junction. Designed for cable logging systems this harvest area is estimated to be 175 acres in size and approximately 1.6 million board feet of timber.

<u>2023</u>

<u>Chilkat Lake 1</u> – Approximately 10 million board feet of timber will be harvested with the installation of a bridge across the Tsirku River and 4.5 miles of new road construction east of Chilkat Lake.

<u>Turn Around</u> – This sale is located at the end Kelsall road system off the 300 Road. It will consist of approximately 4.0 million board feet of timber.

<u>2024</u>

<u>Chilkat Lake 2</u> – 8 million board feet of timber will be offered with 3 miles of new forest road constructed to the east of Chilkat Lake.

 $\underline{K100CW}$ – Along the west side of the Kelsall 100 Road this sale will harvest approximately 1.5 million board feet of cottonwood timber.

Small Sale Program:

The DOF Haines Office typically sells between ten and twenty small sales a year ranging from several trees per sale to 20 acres. These small sales are focused on site specific management objectives in a given area of the forest as well as the needs of the purchasers. The following named sales are the more discrete and larger of the small sales that are being planned by year. The Haines area typically sells 1.2 million board feet per year in this market class.

<u>2020</u>

<u>Ski Hill Opener</u> - This sale consists of two to four harvest areas no larger than 20 acres each in size located off the end of River Road along the northern portion of Ski Hill Ridge. This sale is intended to provide initial access to the ridge from the existing forest road system on River View Road.

<u>West Herman V</u> - This sale will be last of the West Herman sale area and is 20 acres in size located between the Porcupine Road and the Sunshine Mountain Road. This harvest unit is designed for ground skidding systems.

<u>2021</u>

Walker 1 - This sale may consist of one to three units of approximately 20 acres in size and is located one-mile northwest of Walker Lake and is designed for ground and cable yarding systems.

<u>2022</u>

<u>Ski Hill Ridge</u> – Approximately 500 thousand board feet of timber will be harvest in this sale following the initial access timber sale in 2020. Harvest will occur in two to four areas no larger than 30 acres.

<u>Kelsall Spurs</u> – This sale consists of 52 acres within a 60ft ROW along several miles of old harvest spur roads adjacent to the Kelsall 100 road between Bear Flats and Nataga Creek. This timber will be harvested primarily to support a projected demand for local commercial wood fuel.

<u>2023</u>

<u>Kelsall Pocket</u> – This sale is located east and west of the Kelsall 100 road and will consist of three to five selective harvest areas providing a commercial thinning treatment to the regenerating forest. An estimated 500 thousand board feet of timber may be sold in these sales.

<u>2024</u>

<u>Ski Hill Knob</u> – This sale continues to harvest in the area of the north end of ski hill ridge opening old harvest access roads and removing and estimated 500 thousand board feet of residual hemlock and spruce in several small units.

Haines Stat			Harvest Activities Sch	
	orest Managen		Submitted by: Greg Pa	lmieri
Calander Ye	ears 2020 - 2024			
Large Sale I	Program			
Year	Map locator	Timber Sale Name	Volume (MBF)	Total (MBF)
2020	1	Baby Brown	20,000	20,000
2021	1	210 Top Shelf	2,500	
	2	Nataga Stretch	800	3,300
2022	1	Single 15	2,000	
	2	Canyon Creek	1,600	3,600
2023	1	Chilkat Lke 1	10,000	
	2	Turn Around	2,000	12,000
2024 1 2	1	Chilkat Lake 2	8,000	
	2	K100CW	1,500	9,500
Total Sale V	/olume			48,400
Small Sale F	Program			
Year	Map locator	Timber Sale Name	Volume (MBF)	Total (MBF)
2020	1	Ski Hill Opener	500	
	2	West Herman V	400	
		Miscellaneous -10 acres or less	500	1,400
2021	1	Walker 1	400	
		Miscellaneous -10 acres or less	500	900
2022	1	Ski Hill Ridge	500	
	2	Kelsall Spurs	130	
		Miscellaneous -10 acres or less	500	1,130
2023	1	Kelsall Pocket	500	
		Miscellaneous -10 acres or less	500	1,000
2024	1	Ski Hill Knob	500	
		Miscellaneous -10 acres or less	500	1,000
Total Sale V	Zolume			5,430

TRANSPORTATION

State Forest Roads

Forest Roads on the Haines State Forest were developed primarily to provide for timber harvest operation and were predominately built prior to the state forest establishment. There are two main forest road systems that access resources in the Klehini, Little Salmon, Kelsall, and Chilkat River drainages. Forest roads are constructed by overlaying rock on top of the existing organic mat that has been modified by excavation to support the overlay. Construction specifications are defined in the DOF "Road Standards" and at a minimum will adhere to this policy document.

The DOF standards for design and construction use practical road location techniques such as the utilization of existing benches to avoid unstable areas and use full bench construction as required on sloped areas. Water quality and soil integrity are managed with frequent cross drains, periodic ditch and culvert maintenance. The use of grass seeding on exposed soil banks will be used to minimize sediment movement through the road development and maintenance periods. Close adherence to the Forest Resources and Practices Regulations on all road construction design and implementation will be utilized to provide avoidance and protection measures for wildlife and fisheries resources.

Timber harvest roads may be used by the public with varied interest such as miners, hunters, anglers, woodcutters, berry pickers, photographers, hikers, etc. During the winter, skiers, snowmobile riders, trappers, and dog mushers may use State Forest roads for access and recreation. Also, importantly, these roads provide access for wildland fire protection during months of forest fire danger to protect the many resources of the State Forest.

Maintenance

State timber sale contract stipulations require safe driving and log hauling conditions while an operator is working under contract to the State. Regular maintenance requirements for forest road use under a large timber sale contract typically provides for these needs. This regular maintenance when a large timber sale contract is in place includes grading, ditching, culvert maintenance, surface repairs, and roadside brushing. Road use and maintenance agreements between operators using the same road may be required. However, once these timber sale contracts have expired, the contractor has no further legal obligation to provide road maintenance. The state is then responsible for maintaining the roads which are kept open for continued resource access. Regular maintenance may also be appropriate and required for other commercial users, not related to timber use, commensurate with the level of use and impact.

Maintenance activities on forest roads within the HSF outside of large timber sale contracts is prioritized based on public use and road condition. Over the last two years DOF has completed deferred brushing, grading, and resurfacing projects on the "8-mile" Sunshine Mountain Road and eight miles of the Kelsall 100 road. Approximately one- and one-half miles of the Kelsall 200 Road was also brushed to improve driver safety and reestablish access.

Additional road maintenance projects funded by DOF this year include the bridge running surface replacement on the Clear Creek bridge on the South Klehini Road system, a creek near Devils' Elbow on the Tsirku River.

Road maintenance on the Little Salmon River Road is prioritized pending available funding. Funding for the proposed work on the Little Salmon Road, brushing and grading and resurfacing, has not been identified at this time but DOF intends to seek grant funds available through the Division of Parks and Recreation (DPOR) from the Federal Highway Administration as they will ultimately benefit recreation users on both the Haines State Forest and the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve.

The forest road passing through the Old Porcupine townsite to Glacier Creek received some grading work last year through the cooperative resource agreement with Constantine Metals. This work provided benefits to commercial timber sale contractors, commercial tour operators, the public, as well as Constantine Metals as they continue to explore mineral deposits in the area of Glacier Creek. These cooperative efforts are important contributions to the long-term maintenance of access on the State Forest road system.

To continue providing access to the State Forest for all users the following roads are projected to need maintenance over the next two to five years:

- Grading of 7.5 Miles of the Kelsall 100 Road.
- Grading of the Sunshine Mountain Road.
- Grading and brushing the Little Salmon River Road.
- Resurfacing of portions of the Sunshine Mountain Road and the Little Salmon River Road.

Forest Resource Access

Resources that may benefit from forest road development or be impacted by road development proposed in a timber harvest plan are considered and described in a FLUP associated with that activity. Additional access to State Forest land may include the development and maintenance of trails independent of road development associated with timber harvest; see the Recreation section of this document for proposed trail access projects. Alternatives to road construction such as the use of helicopters and winter road harvest methods during resource extraction will be considered during individual project development.

Haines State Forest Five Year Forest Management Schedule January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2024

Transportation Schedule Submitted by: Greg Palmieri

Project ID	Year Sale Access	Туре	New Activity	Maint. Unit Miles of Road
¥	2020	**	·	
Baby Brown	Porcupine/Glacier/Jarvis Creek Rds	Mainline Road	10.2	23.0
West Herman V	Porcupine or Sunshine Mtn. Roads	Mainline Road	0.3	6.0
Ski Hill Opener	River View Road spur extension	Mainline Road	1.0	1.5
	<u>2021</u>			
210 Top Shelf	Kelsall 210 Road	Secondary Road	1.5	9.5
Nataga Stretch	Kelsall 100/200 Roads	Secondary Road	0.7	9.5
Walker 1	Sunshine Mtn. Road	Mainline Road	0.9	6.0
	2022			
Single 15	Kelsall 100/300 Roads	Mainline Road	1.0	14.0
Canyon Creek	Kelsall 100 Road	Spur Road	0.5	9.0
Kelsall Spurs	Kelsall 100 Road	Spur Road	0.0	16.0
Ski Hill Ridge	Ski Hill Road	Mainline Road	0.0	1.0
	<u>2023</u>			
Chilkat Lake 1	Chilkat Lake Road	Mainline Road	8.5	4.5
Turn Around	Kelsall 100/300 Roads	Mainline Road	2.0	15.0
Kelsall Pocket	Kelsall 100 Road	Mainline Road	0.0	8.0
	2024			
Chilkat Lake 2	Chilkat Lake Road	Mainline Road	3.0	7.5
K100CW	Kelsall 100 Road	Mainline Road	0.0	7.5
Ski Hill Knob	Ski Hill Road	Mainline Road	0.0	1.0
Total Access Imp	rovements		29.6	130.5

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SILVICULTURE ACTIVITIES

Objective

A primary objective and policy of State Forest Management is to provide for the regeneration of all timber harvest lands within the Haines State Forest to maintain the sustainable extraction of timber resources for generations to follow. Second rotation stand management practices such as tree planting, thinning, and pruning will be implemented to provide for the improvement of forest health and diversity contributing to the changing dynamic of forest growth while enhancing forest product characteristics.

Policies and Practices

Site preparation for some silviculture activities like tree planting is best accomplished either during or immediately following harvest and will be completed for all units in this plan. Site preparation includes burning, and/or mechanical scarification. Mechanical scarification might be as simple as requiring specific ground yarding methods where log skidding will develop the required soil disturbance. Burning within the first three years following harvest has been successful on the Haines State Forest and may be the preferred method in some circumstances.

Sitka spruce and western hemlock are the two abundant commercial species within the Haines State Forest. Replanting of Sitka spruce trees has occurred on the forest since the late 1970's. The DOF may replant harvest areas as part of a harvest contract or contract to replant independently of the harvest. If planting is required, Sitka spruce will be the species selected for planting on harvest areas in order to meet regeneration goals in the Alaska Forest Practices Act for this region. Sitka spruce, in contrast to the relatively shade tolerant western hemlock, struggles to regenerate under cover of other vegetation and on heavily populated western hemlock sites. The DOF developed method for planting on the HSF has demonstrated that harvested areas planted with plug-1 Sitka spruce seedlings provide a diverse stand structure balancing the presence of species throughout the harvest area.

Sitka spruce and western hemlock are good seed producers typically having some seed production each year and a good crop every five to seven years. In the HSF, DOF has collected 135 bushels of Sitka spruce cones since 1996. Additional seed should be collected regularly from sites of high productivity that contain trees that exhibit good form, size, and resistance to disease and defects. Identifying the location of these sites will be an ongoing activity of the Division of Forestry, as will cone collections during good cone crop years.

Natural reforestation depends on the preparation of a good seedbed, adequate moisture, and lack of competition from brush species. Cable yarded units on hillsides naturally reseed well and these units may also be planted at intervals from 10 to 16 feet to ensure regional Forest Practice Regulation goals are met. A more intense planting effort will be concentrated on the flat sites logged in the winter, and on dry hillsides. In general, seedlings will be planted at a rate of approximately 400 trees per acre or at 10-foot spacing.

Prescribed burning may be used on selected sites to remove higher than normal amounts of slash, to remove or reduce a brush component and/or to reduce the potential spread of insects or diseases

that may limit the normal growth of forest stands. If the planting harvest areas is required in a FLUP, reforestation will be accomplished the year immediately following harvest or burning. Planting will be conducted primarily in the spring due to better survival rates. Reforestation surveys will be conducted in the fourth year after completion of logging in each unit scheduled for natural regeneration or be conducted in the fourth year following harvest unit planting.

The DOF periodically monitors regenerating harvest areas to identify and incorporate procedures to improve or repeat successful forest growth activities across harvest areas.

Thinning Activities

The DOF applies pre-commercial thinning strategies to young regenerating stands on some of the more productive sites improving stand health and improving the value of timber at rotation age as well as encourage stand diversity during forest development. A total of 1,995 acres have been thinned since 1993 when the program was first initiated on the Haines State Forest. These overstocked units benefit greatly from thinning. Tree spacing following thinning treatment has ranged from 12' X 12' to 20' X 20'. According to measured results found by periodic sampling of permanent research areas within the forest, these areas receiving treatment have shown an increase in average volume per tree and vigorous growth and diversity in stand structure.

In the past two years DOF has identified areas of regenerating forest that are available for commercial thinning treatment. These areas were not thinned previously but would benefit during remaining stand development from treatment at this stage, while providing additional forest management opportunities and generating revenue for the community and the State.

Pruning Activities

Stand improvement can be derived from the practice of pruning designated trees which will promote the production of clear grain and denser wood volume in the bole of a tree receiving treatment. This practice has given indications that it provides protection from insect and disease impacts addressing forest health as an important management goal for this program. Permanent study plots have been established to measure the results of implementing this program with two measurements occurring to date. Results of the study illustrate successful pruning practices and healthy growth in the treated stands. A total of 470 acres have been pruned since 2000 when the pruning program was first initiated on the Haines State Forest.

Summary of Five-Year Schedule Activities

<u>2020-2024</u>

Continue silviculture program activities on projects identified on regenerating stands as funding is identified for those projects. Those projects include planting, pruning, and thinning.

In 2022 collect cones for seed storage to support future planting operations.

RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

Forest Recreation

Public Recreation activities across the Haines State Forest can be categorized simply as commercial and non-commercial (or private). These groups take advantage of both the developed access routes, including roads and trails, as well as the remote undeveloped areas of the forest throughout the year.

Some commercial activities currently occurring within the HSF are lake/river boat tours, a variety of guided hunting, hiking, wildlife and viewing tours, helicopter-skiing, ATV site-seeing tours, film/photography/television, and guided backcountry excursion trips. Private recreation activities are similar including many subsistence related uses such as hunting, fishing, berry/mushroom/herb picking, but also include boating, wildlife viewing, hiking, snow shoe/skiing, camping, mountain climbing, ice climbing, ATV riding, photography/filming, and prospecting/gold panning.

Most of the area within the HSF is designated for a dispersed recreation experience with the intention to contain minimal specific recreation development while allowing for as broad a range of uses as possible. Five subunits within the HSF are classified for Public Recreation as the primary use; Mosquito Lake, Davidson Lake, Chilkoot Lake, Walker and Herman Lakes, and Chilkat Lake. In these designated subunits DOF will consider plans for developed recreation that is open to all user groups to meet the intent of the management guidelines for the subunit.

Chilkoot and Mosquito Lakes contain recreation area development that is cooperatively managed by the Division of Parks and Recreation (DPOR) and the DOF. Davidson Lake has trail access development from salt water to the NW shore near the glacier out fall and a proposed shelter development in previous FYFMS. Chilkat Lake has a historic cabin location that has been proposed for reconstruction. Walker and Herman Lakes have existing trail development with a new trail and proposed cabin development on Walker Lake that may be completed with support from DPOR and managed in cooperation with DOF.

A commercial non-profit local Alpine advocacy group has been awarded a preliminary development permit for a proposed cabin located on south facing slope of Tukgahgo Mountain at approximately 4,000 feet elevation in the HSF. The group is currently raising funds to begin the construction of the cabin. The cabin will be open for public use through the group which will manage and maintain the structure located according to permit stipulations.

Most of the recreation use on the State Forest begins with access to the forest across the existing forest road system managed by DOF. Over the last two years maintenance of approximately 21 miles of that system has facilitated those activities to continue for all users. An additional 20 plus miles of forest road including the Little Salmon River Road and the Kelsall road system beyond Nataga Creek are considered important to forest recreation activities. Improvements to some of those roads are planned for in the next two years.

Proposed Developments

The DOF looks for opportunities to enhance or develop recreation access during all project work planning on the HSF to meet the multiple use goals as efficiently as possible. DOF has identified potential cabin sites on the HSF in previous HSFMP's in response to local requests for recreation shelter development which included Chilkat Lake, Davidson Lake, Walker Lake, and the Chilkat Valley.

DOF is actively pursuing funding for the development for a new access trail into Walker Lake. The proposed route will head south from the Sunshine Mountain Road approximately 1.3 miles to point on the western shore of the Lake above its main inlet stream. At this point the trail will terminate at the proposed cabin location. Additional public interest included reestablishing portions of Dalton's Trail although no plans exist for this route development at this time.

Summary of Five-Year Schedule Activities

This summary is intended to identify possible and proposed actions relating to recreation development during this schedule period. Some of these actions are progressive over the entire period and some may be accomplished in one season. This information does not depict deadlines for accomplishment of any task but is intended to be used to provide for discussion with interested individuals or groups. The projects are listed by suggested priority under each category.

2020-2024

Roads/Trails

- Brush/grade/resurface the Little Salmon River Road.
- Install new road and trail signage at key forest road intersections including maps depicting the road system.
- Construct a new access route into Walker Lake to potentially add boat access to the lake and a possible public use site.
- Support local groups pursuing access easements for the Ripinsky Trail System.
- Support DPOR access improvements along the Chilkoot River Corridor.

Cabins

- Work in cooperation with DPOR to construct a public use cabin at the proposed Walker Lake site.
- Work in cooperation with DPOR and local advocacy groups to identify and prioritize potential public cabin development sites on State Lands in the area.









