

**STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION
SOUTHEAST AREA OFFICE**

**PUBLIC REVIEW
FIVE-YEAR SCHEDULE OF TIMBER SALES
STATE FISCAL YEARS 2023-2027**

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Preliminary Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales for the Southern Southeast Area is available for public review. Per AS 38.05.113 this is a scoping document that outlines the proposed timber sale activity to be undertaken on State land over the next five years. The Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales is not a decision document.

The public is invited to comment on any aspect of the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales. Comments should be mailed to the Alaska Division of Forestry and must be received by the close of business at the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection's office no later than **February 28, 2023** to be included as comment to the file in the adopted schedule. This document can be viewed at the Area Office in Ketchikan, the public libraries in Craig, Ketchikan, Petersburg and Wrangell, the State of Alaska's on-line public notice website <http://notice.alaska.gov/209684> as well as the DOF's website <http://forestry.alaska.gov/>.

After public comment has been received and reviewed, the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection may proceed with planning the proposed timber sales and associated developments. When each sale is prepared and ready for review, notice of the proposed decision and the opportunity for public comment will be given for that specific timber sale, as is required under state statutes and regulations.

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The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Complies with Title II of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, or special modifications to participate in this review may contact the number above.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST AREA

**FIVE-YEAR SCHEDULE OF
TIMBER SALES
FISCAL YEARS 2023 THROUGH 2027**

January 2023

Abbreviations

ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ADF&G-DWC	Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation
ADNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
AMHT	Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
BIF	Best Interest Finding
DMLW	Division of Mining, Land and Water
DOF	Division of Forestry and Fire Protection
FLUP	Forest Land Use Plan
FRPA	Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act
FYSTS	Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales
MBF	Thousand board feet
OHA	Office of History and Archeology
POG	Productive old growth
POW	Prince of Wales Island
POWIAP	Prince of Wales Island Area Plan
ROW	Right-of-way
SESF	Southeast State Forest
SESFMP	Southeast State Forest Management Plan
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
TBD	To be determined
UA	University of Alaska
USFS	United States Forest Service

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Purpose of the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales

This Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales (FYSTS) provides information to State Agencies, commercial and noncommercial organizations, as well as the general public concerning planning and uses of forest resources on the Southeast State Forest (SESF) as well as other State lands found within the Southern Southeast Area for the State fiscal years 2023- 2027 (State Fiscal Year is July 1 to June 30). This FYSTS meets the Alaska Statute (AS 38.05.113) requirements for periodic notification of planned activities, including timber sales, on the SESF as well as other State lands found within the Southern Southeast Area. The Southern Southeast Area encompasses lands from Tracy Arm/Frederick Sound south to Dixon Entrance and Portland Canal.

This FYSTS illustrates the general direction of the Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (DOF) with regard to the development of forest resources on the SESF and on other State lands found within the Southern Southeast Area.

This document does not represent harvest activities or harvest levels proposed by the University of Alaska (UA) or the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHT). Their respective land offices manage the UA and AMHT lands.

Salvage sales, emergency sales, sales of 160 acres or less, negotiated sales less than 500 thousand board feet (MBF), and personal use permits are exempt from the FYSTS requirements. All other timber sales must be included in one of the two five-year schedules preceding the sale (AS 38.05.113(b)). To give the public a responsible representation of Department of Natural Resources (DNR) activities, the five-year schedule will also include, whenever practical:

1. All sales less than 160 acres that require a Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP).
2. Salvage sales and areas of contiguous small sale activity on at least one FYSTS preceding the sale unless waiting on the schedule will:
 - a. cause substantial losses of economic value on salvage sales under AS 38.05.117, or,
 - b. for sales less than 160 acres, preclude a local economic enterprise or forest management project that is in the State's best interest.

The Southern Southeast Area Office of the DOF bases the FYSTS on lands that are available for timber harvest within the SESF, and on lands identified in the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan, the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan Amendment and the Central/Southern Southeast Area Plan as being available for timber harvest. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) develops area plans to designate appropriate uses for state land, classifies lands accordingly, and establishes guidelines for their use based on the multiple use principal. These plans determine where timber harvest is an allowed use and what other uses must be considered when designing and implementing timber sales. Subsequent land use decisions must be consistent with the area plans. The Southeast State Forest Plan likewise was developed by the DOF to guide the management of the legislatively designated Southeast State Forest.

The areas targeted for timber harvest and development are quantified in this FYSTS based on aerial

photo and/or satellite image interpretation, and on the basis of forest inventory data and timber stand mapping and classification. This information is augmented by limited ground reconnaissance and historical knowledge accumulated by DOF and other state agency personnel working in the field. To meet the State mandate of sustained yield according to AS 38.04.910, the DOF has taken a conservative approach to developing the Annual Allowable Cut. The DOF manages the Annual Allowable Cut on a decadal basis and will not exceed its allowable annual cut as averaged on a ten-year basis.

All State timber sales must comply with the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and Regulations (FRPA), the Alaska Land Act and Regulations, and must adhere to area wide land management policies for their respective management unit (Chapters 2 & 3) of the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan, the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan Amendment, or the Central/Southern Southeast Area Plan or the Southeast State Forest Management Plan for lands found within the SESF.

All commercial timber sales that exceed 500 MBF will have a Best Interest Finding (BIF). Additionally, a BIF will be completed on any timber sale that is a negotiated under AS 38.05.118 or AS 38.05.123 and is under 500 MBF in size. A BIF is the decision document that:

- Establishes the overall area within which the timber sale may occur,
- Determines the amount of timber that will be offered for sale and the duration of that sale,
- Sets the overall harvest and reforestation strategy for the sale area,
- Determines whether the sale proposal complies with the Constitutional requirement to manage for sustained yield by evaluating the amount of timber in the sale and the annual allowable cut for the affected area,
- Selects the appropriate method of sale (i.e., competitive or negotiated sale), and
- Determines the appraisal method that will be used to determine sale price.

The BIF will go through a preliminary decision process prior to adoption. This preliminary decision process includes opportunities for both public and agency review and comment. Within the process, DOF will review public and agency comments, and make changes, as appropriate, to its preliminary decision prior to final adoption of the BIF. The adopted BIF may be appealed in accordance with 11 AAC 02 by any person affected by the decision, provided that person submitted timely written comment and/or offered public hearing testimony on the preliminary decision.

The DOF may negotiate small timber sales under 500 MBF (AS 38.05.115) without a BIF while complying with regulations for these small sales as established in 11 AAC 71.045. Small mill operators have expressed an interest in such sales because they fit their mill capacity needs and are within their economic capacity to purchase timber. The Southern Southeast Area DOF will prepare small sales as demand, ground conditions, and timber sale economics allow. The DOF will strive to accommodate supply needs for as many operational small mills as possible while staying within its workforce and budget constraints.

Prior to authorizing harvest of timber on any area greater than 10 acres, the DOF must adopt a site-specific Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) for the harvest area. The DOF will prepare FLUPs for

harvest areas within the overall sale area covered by the BIF. FLUPs specify the site, size, timing and harvest methods for harvest unit(s) within each sale area. FLUPs also address site-specific requirements for access road construction and maintenance, reforestation, protection of other resources, and multiple use management. FLUP's will be based on additional fieldwork, agency and community consultation, and site-specific analysis by the DOF, and will be subject to public and agency review and comment.

Following adoption of the BIF and the FLUP, the DOF will offer the timber sale to prospective purchasers by competitive means (AS 38.05.120) or by negotiation (AS 38.05.115, AS. 38.05.118 and AS 38.05.123). Timber sale contracts will include clauses requiring purchaser compliance with the BIF, FLUP, FRPA and other statutory requirements.

Subsequent to contracting these timber sales, the DOF will perform timber sale contract administration activities for each sale, including field inspections to determine the level of purchaser compliance with the BIF, the FLUP, the timber sale contract, and all applicable laws including the FRPA, and when necessary, DOF will take actions designed to bring the purchaser's operations into compliance.

Timber Sale Land Base

The State land base in Southern Southeast Alaska includes the major islands of Mitkof, Kupreanof, Kuiu, Wrangell, Prince of Wales and Revillagigedo, and the surrounding smaller islands south of Fredrick Sound. In addition, the land base includes the mainland from Tracy Arm to Hyder. The DOF operates its timber sale program on two types of land classification in Southern Southeast Alaska; General Use (GU) lands and SESF lands. The General Use lands have been designated in the Areas Plans as being appropriate for timber harvest along with other multiple use activities. GU lands within their respective Area Plans may have harvest restrictions on a site-specific basis. These restrictions can be found within the Area Plans. The Area Plans designate several different uses of land in addition to GU such as Habitat, Settlement, Recreation and Water Resource Lands.

Outside the DOF's timber sale program, the Division manages timber resources on State lands not designated as GU lands or within the SESF. The DOF in these instances is only the timber manager and the land is managed by its respective managing State agency. These lands are not considered a part of the timber sale land base nor is the volume harvested considered or included in the Annual Allowable Cut. Timber harvest on lands designated as Settlement is considered appropriate, "if intended to support the costs or design of subdivision activity." (POWIAP, pg. 2-22) Over the next five-year period, the DOF anticipates working with DMLW staff to facilitate the development of roaded subdivisions in Southern Southeast Alaska.

In 2010 and 2011, the Legislature established the SESF. The State's third and newest Forest includes 48,472 acres of land located in Southern Southeast Alaska that originally was GU designated lands. Many of the Forest's 33 parcels are on Prince of Wales Island. Other parcels are located on Gravina, Heceta, Kosciusko, Revillagigedo, and Tuxekan Islands. The remaining parcels are located on the mainland.

By reserving the land ownership and designating it as State Forest lands, the Legislature defined the management intent of the parcels. While GU classified land allows for timber harvesting and

other forestry activities, the State Forest designation focuses the long-term use of the land to providing timber and other forest resources. The primary purpose of SESF “is timber management that provides for production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources while allowing other beneficial uses of public land and resources.” (AS 41.17.200) The DOF has and will continue to invest in an active manner to achieve long-term management and utilization of these forest resources. Examples of this investment include construction of roads and other infrastructure, and active forest management, such as pre-commercial thinning, to improve tree growth, forest health and wildlife habitat quality.

The dominant public landowner in the region is the United States Forest Service (USFS). Dominant trust entities in the region include the University of Alaska and the Alaska Mental Health Trust. The dominant private landowners in the region are Alaska Native village corporations including Shaan-Seet Corporation, Kootznoowoo Corporation, Klukwan, Klawock-Heenya Corporation, Kavilco, Kake Tribal Corporation, Haida Corporation, Long Island Trust, and Cape Fox Corporation. The regional Alaska Native corporation is Sealaska Corporation.

Management Intent of the DOF Timber Sale Program

The DOF’s management intent for Southern Southeast Area is to provide raw material for the local timber industry while maintaining the sustained yield of renewable resources. The intent of the timber sale program is to help support the wood product businesses in Alaska’s southeastern communities. At the present time, most negotiated State timber sales in Southern Southeast Alaska require primary manufacture in the State, with emphasis on producing value-added and high value-added products. The percentage of required in-state manufacturing varies by timber sale. Resource protection, road construction costs, transportation costs, sale location, sale size, timber species, markets, and the world economy are all influences that affect the ability of a timber sale purchaser to process timber locally. The State will pursue processing as much of the timber locally as possible while maintaining a focus on delivering economically operable timber sales to local manufacturers.

It is the DOF’s intent to offer the annual allowable cut for Southern Southeast on a yearly basis while complying with the FRPA and Regulations; the Alaska Land Act and Regulations, management guidelines from Area Plans, and the SESF Management Plan. State timber sales will be targeted to offer opportunity to as many local processors as possible. The DOF also offers timber for sale by competitive bid under AS 38.05.120 to the highest qualified bidder. Timber volume sold under this authority is available for round log export.

Timber Harvest Methodology

Most of the timber harvest in the Southern Southeast Area will be accomplished by the clear-cut method. In its professional judgment and experience, the Division believes clear cutting is a proven, and effective silvicultural prescription, providing both adequate natural regeneration of harvested areas and an economically practical harvest method well-suited to the tree species, terrain and harvesting systems found in SE Alaska. Where silviculture goals can be achieved and it is economically practical with respect to a perceived need for specific species or type of timber, a selective harvest will be considered and designed.

The DOF 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 sold and harvest data, sales through 2022 were within the “sustained yield” management objective. When the total annual volumes listed in this FYSTS 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 Annual Allowable Cut calculation is determined by using the area regulation method, a method that best utilizes existing forest stand information. The area regulation method involves determining the net-forested acres available for commercial timber harvest and then dividing that number by the rotation period. The rotation period is the time it takes to establish and grow a commercial stand of trees. A 100-year rotation has been the established standard for Southeast Alaska and is currently being used by the DOF. This rotation age could be adjusted in the future as more information on growth patterns of even-aged timber stands become available. Initial studies indicate that the more productive growing sites could be managed on a rotation age as low as 65 to 80 years in Southern Southeast Alaska.

The Area Plans and the SESF Management Plan are the governing sources for determining gross available acreage. The DOF has determined that within the Area Plans there is an estimated 27,200 acres on GU and other classified lands that can be considered for timber harvest. The SESF has an estimated 47,355 acres that can be considered for timber harvest. Together, these figures identify a total of 74,555 gross acres which can be considered for timber harvest. The total gross acreage is further refined through reductions in acreage for such variables as vegetative cover that is incapable of growing commercial timber (timber type mapping and forest inventory data and information), known resident high value and anadromous streams and their corresponding timber retention areas, exclusion zones listed in the Area Plans, coastal buffers, and isolated remote areas with a high percentage of low volume and/or low site quality timber stands. This further refinement of acreage is called the net timber base (NTB). The DOF estimates the NTB to be 33,216 acres. When the total NTB acreage (33,216 acres) is divided by the 100-year rotation period, an annual allowable cut of 332 acres is derived. The Division conducted a field inventory cruise in 2019 and audited the available land base for timber harvest in 2020 to arrive at these figures. Based on the forest stand inventory information, an average volume of 27.5 MBF per acre was applied yielding an allowable cut of 9,147 MBF per year. The Division will periodically adjust and refine the acreage used in annual allowable cut calculation based on continuing fieldwork, which will be dependent upon; future land management actions, staff availability and available travel funds.

Existing Market Influences

The timber market in Southeast Alaska is influenced in large part by its location on the Pacific Rim. Due to the limited local market demand, products are marketed in lumber and the round log form to the North American continental market and to foreign markets abroad. Western red cedar for the past decade or more has been a strong contributor to timber revenue in the Southern Alaska Panhandle, either processed domestically or shipped in the round. Timber sales without a red cedar component or larger high-quality Sitka spruce component typically have had low net value returned for stumpage to the landowner. During this period, China has assumed the major role in consuming the lower-quality old growth spruce and hemlock as well as the young growth timber that is now achieving commercial size in an increasing number of merchantable timber stands which have resulted from historic harvests. Legacy markets in Japan and Korea have generally waned. The Pacific Rim market was significantly disrupted in 2018 and 2019 by the trade war and tariff actions between the US and China. By early 2020, a collapse of the China hemlock and spruce export market was evident and was closely followed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Recovery from this market low was followed by constrained shipping in the later period of the pandemic. At the time of this FYSTS, export markets into China and Japan are functioning and domestic demand is present; high shipping costs in 2022, poor availability of many critical items, and inflation all impacted purchaser resilience and tempered market demand. Markets generally have been anxious due to these abnormal risk factors.

Changing management perspective by the USFS has terminated significant old growth harvest on federal land in SE Alaska. Efforts to substitute old growth harvest with significant young growth harvest on the Tongass National Forest have been slow to be realized. In the spring of 2021, the regional Native corporation Sealaska changed corporate priorities and concluded their timber harvest operations altogether. These collective changes have shifted focus for the regional timber supply to State sources such as DOF managed State lands and the newly acquired federal exchange parcels managed by the Alaska Mental Health Trust. The University of Alaska is scheduled to be granted an additional 360,000 acres of land, some of which may be located in SE Alaska, but at present, it is unknown if it will choose to contribute commercial timber volume to the region from these lands.

Narrative Summary of Five-Year Schedule Activities

This schedule includes timber sale area maps for all potential sales over 10 acres in size for FY 2023- FY 2027 proposed at this time. At present, and due to a variety of reasons, including budget constraints, lack of personnel, sale program direction and market uncertainties, most of the sales in the last three years of this schedule are conceptual in nature unless otherwise noted. Conceptual timber harvests planned through aerial photo/satellite image interpretation will be refined based on field reconnaissance. Field work to refine and develop the proposed timber sales will commence as staffing levels, other workload responsibilities, and budgets allow. Right-of-way sales, blowdown sales and sales less than ten acres in size are not generally depicted on the maps included with this FYSTS.

Total annual timber harvest volumes for this FYSTS are collectively higher than the Annual Allowable Cut. Timber volume estimates are necessarily coarse in nature for most of the sales listed but were developed using the best available sources of information and will be refined through future field reconnaissance and sale layout activities. **Under no condition will the annual allowable cut be exceeded as averaged over a ten-year period.**

Small/ Medium Sized Sales

Small sales will be located and developed throughout Southern Southeast Alaska so long as there is demand. The DOF has historically sold several small sales each year totaling less than 500 MBF per year. The demand for this size of State timber sale has varied over the past several decades due to the volumes of timber made available by the USFS. Small scale operators often experience financing and logistical issues when road construction is required for access to a small timber sale; this is a fundamental barrier to implementation of small-scale timber operations. Another hurdle common to all sale sizes can be the species configuration and quality of the timber, but smaller operators especially tend to have fewer market options. To the extent feasible, the Division will continue to work towards meeting demand for this level of timber sale as access, markets and Division staffing allow.

Existing infrastructure and mill location favor this size class of sales on Prince of Wales Island. The following sale series have potential to be configured and offered in units that could potentially fit the observed business profiles of smaller mills.

North Thorne Bay

Backside Sales

OLD GROWTH ACRES: 82

ROAD MILES: 1.14

Two proposed timber harvest units are shown on the North Thorne Bay map and are located near the City of Thorne Bay on POW. Both units are bounded by young growth stands in the northern part of the tract. Based on the results of a timber cruise completed in 2022, both units together contain an estimated 1,800 MBF of merchantable timber volume. The southern unit, referred to as Backside #1 Timber Sale, is accessed from the Water Lake access road (3000140); it is not located within the watershed of the City of Thorne Bay. The Backside #1 Timber Sale is projected to require 0.5 miles of access spur (new road construction) and reconditioning of 0.22 miles of the existing 3000142 Spur. The northern unit, referred to as Backside #2 Timber Sale, would require approximately 0.92 miles of access spur (new road construction) from the 3000150 Road. Both units contain a mixed red cedar-hemlock forest type with minor components of Sitka spruce and Alaska yellow cedar.

In 2022 the DOF field located and flagged proposed harvest unit boundaries, stream related timber retention areas, necessary drainage structure locations, and proposed road routes for both Backside Sales. As a result of field work, no significant cultural resources, wildlife denning sites, or major karst geology were identified within either of the sale areas.

Overlook Sale

OLD GROWTH ACRES: 25

ROAD MILES: 0.4

This proposed timber sale includes one harvest unit located on Settlement classified land near the City of Thorne Bay on POW. Timber harvest would establish initial road access for possible future subdivision actions by the State. The DMLW and the DOF have requested access to the area from the USFS managed 3018050 Road. Further timber sale planning is pending access authorization from the USFS.

Stairway Sales

OLD GROWTH ACRES: 324

ROAD MILES: TBD

This area is located on Settlement classified land in the South Thorne Bay area, near the City of Thorne Bay on POW. The potential harvest units identified along the ridge are isolated patches of timber remaining following previous harvest entries, and each unit would require the construction of new access spurs. The sale area will likely not be utilized for Settlement purposes due its isolated location and topography. Timber harvest appears feasible if access is granted through USFS and MHLT managed lands to the west and south. The configuration and location of proposed harvest units are proximate to the Goose Creek area sawmills. The geology will be confirmed, via field reconnaissance, as stable relative to other important resources/infrastructure in the area, including the Thorne Bay/ Kasaan Road, prior to beginning the BIF and FLUP planning processes. A small unit containing old growth timber with a red cedar component has also been identified in the northwest corner of Section 33; access to this timber could involve extending an existing subdivision road. Placement of the spur would be coordinated with the DNR-Land Development Section to support a long-term goal of providing an alternate access route for the existing subdivision and other lands in the area.

Naukati Area

OLD GROWTH ACRES: TBD

ROAD MILES: TBD

Located on Prince of Wales Island near the community of Naukati, this area consists of several proposed harvest units which are anticipated to be sold as several separate timber sales. Each harvest unit will require the construction of a new spur road. A variety of land classifications are present. The DMLW is considering several subdivisions within the vicinity of Kaikli Cove and Little Naukati Bay, and harvest activities, including construction of new access roads are being considered in advance of that development. Harvest within the Settlement lands will only occur in coordination with the DMLW and if the requirements of Chapter 2 of the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan can be met. The extent of anadromous fish habitat will be determined in coordination with ADF&G during field reconnaissance and sale preparation and will be represented in the associated BIF and FLUP planning documents.

In 2022 the DOF designed a timber sale within the footprint of the proposed State Kaikli Cove subdivision; the proposed sale is estimated to contain 49 acres of a primarily red cedar-hemlock forest type with a minor component of Sitka spruce. This sale would require the construction of 0.66 miles of new access spur extending from the 2060000 Road. In 2022 the DOF field located and flagged the proposed harvest boundary, stream related timber retention areas, necessary drainage structure locations, and a proposed road route. No significant cultural resources, wildlife denning sites, or major karst geology were identified within the sale area as a result of fieldwork.

Control Lake Area

OLD GROWTH ACRES: 170

ROAD MILES: 1.4

Located on Prince of Wales Island near Control Lake and the junction of Highways 925 and 929, this sale area consists of eight proposed harvest areas. Proposed harvest units total approximately 170 acres containing an estimated 3,400 MBF of timber. Approximately half of the harvest area is

located within the SESF, the other half of the acreage is located on lands designated as General Use. Preliminary field reconnaissance of the units has identified significant timber defect and access constraints that may make much of the area unfeasible for harvesting.

Larger Sales by Target Fiscal Year

2023 Fiscal Year

Whale Pass Area

OLD GROWTH ACRES: 292

ROAD MILES: 3.7

This harvest area is located within the boundaries of the second-class City of Whale Pass on Prince of Wales Island and is configured in four identified blocks of timber; harvest units are located on the north and northeast sides of the community. In 2021 and 2022 the DOF field located and flagged proposed harvest unit boundaries, stream related timber retention areas, necessary drainage structure locations, and proposed road routes. Additionally, a wildlife timber retention area designed to provide habitat continuity and facilitate travel of deer and other animals through the sale area was field located and flagged. A timber cruise completed in 2022, estimated the harvest units contain approximately 4.7 MMBF of merchantable timber volume. The sale area is predominantly a hemlock- red cedar forest type with minor components of Sitka spruce and Alaska yellow cedar. The sale area will include a combination of shovel and cable yarding settings. The sale area will require 3.7 miles of new road construction to access the timber. This proposed sale is located mainly on the SESF; the small northern unit is located on GU classified land. OHA and ADFG staff conducted field reviews of the area as part of the State's timber sale planning process. The DOF has described the proposed sale in the SSE-1378K Wale Pass (May 2022) Best Interest Decision.

El Capitan Passage Area

OLD GROWTH ACRES: 340

ROAD MILES: 4.5

The El Capitan area is located on the north end of Prince of Wales Island. Proposed harvest units are located on SESF and Settlement/ Recreation classified lands. The DOF and contract foresters conducted a reconnaissance of the commercial timber in 2018; that fieldwork identified commercial old growth timber judged potentially feasible to operate using a combination of ground-based, and cable logging systems. In 2022, the DOF field located and flagged proposed harvest unit boundaries, stream related timber retention areas, necessary drainage structure locations, and proposed road routes. Harvest units included in the sale were cruised in 2002 and are estimated to contain approximately 9.7 MMBF of merchantable timber volume. Proposed harvest units contain a mix of hemlock, red cedar, Sitka spruce and Alaska yellow cedar. The sale area includes a combination of shovel and cable yarding settings. Approximately 4.5 miles of new road construction will be necessary to access the timber. ADFG staff performed field review of the streams on State land in 2019 and commented on DOF stream class observations related to GIS layers in 2022. OHA staff conducted a field review of the area in October of 2019. The DOF has described the proposed sale in the El Capitan (August 2022) Preliminary Best Interest Decision.

Several units on the SESF are depicted on the FYSTS map in Sections 24 and 25 that contain merchantable timber south of the above referenced August 2022 preliminary BIF units. Topography, distance to existing road infrastructure, and land ownership appear to isolate these stands. The DOF has represented them in this document as having future potential.

2024 Fiscal Year

Gravina Island

OLD GROWTH ACRES: TBD

ROAD MILES: TBD

The entire timber sale area is located on Gravina Island, and within the SESF. The area is located west of the Ketchikan International Airport in two distinct areas, the west side of Vallenar Point and the Bostwick drainage accessed by the existing Bostwick Road. Harvest units are estimated to contain approximately 6,000 MBF of merchantable timber volume. Part of this area consists of the reoffer of 38 acres of the Bostwick #1 timber sale which was not completed under a prior timber sale contract in 2007. Access to a portion of the Bostwick area may require construction of a new access spur and a new bridge crossing on the east fork of Bostwick Creek. The DOF will work with the ADF&G, Habitat Division for bridge placement across Bostwick Creek. The DOF is considering the use of both conventional and helicopter harvest methods due to the timber location, terrain and the land ownership configuration. Consequently, utilization standards for the timber harvest are predicted to influence the feasibility of the sale. The proposed harvest prescription is projected to include combination of small clear cut and partial cut openings where terrain and timber types allow. Feasibility of this type of operation is dependent on market conditions, new road access, and the availability of a logging helicopter.

Edna Bay Parlay #2

OLD GROWTH ACRES: 0

YOUNG GROWTH ACRES 616

ROAD MILES: 2.3

Uncertain market conditions tributary to the China tariffs, the pandemic, and a change in Sealaska land management priorities contributed to an operational slow down and an eventual pause in young growth harvest activity on Kosciusko Island on both federal and Native land between 2019 and 2021. In 2019, these factors prompted DOF to postpone sale development on its young growth timber located in the area. In the fall of 2022, the Good Neighbor Authority timber sale located on federal land, but administered by DOF, resumed operations based on improved market conditions. Subsequently, the DOF resumed collecting necessary field information to develop a Forest Land Use Plan to guide the harvest of young growth timber located from state owned land on Kosciusko Island.

The State made the BIF (Edna Bay Parlay) decision in 2017 to offer a mix of old and young growth timber for harvest on Kosciusko Island. The 168-acre old growth portion of this area (Edna Parlay One, SSE 1342-K) adjacent to the LTF was sold in 2021; harvest operations on the sale concluded during late 2022. Additional field reconnaissance of the area during late fall 2022, identified an estimated 616 acres of potentially operable young growth stands. Significant timber variability, particularly in respect to merchantable size trees, was observed throughout the young growth stands, and will influence the final acres configured for a timber sale. All the proposed harvest units are located within the SESF and will require ground-based logging systems.

2025 Fiscal Year

Heceta Area

OLD GROWTH ACRES: 145 YOUNG GROWTH ACRES: 80 ROAD MILES: 2.5

Based on prior field layout, an estimated 5,000 MBF of merchantable timber is potentially available on Heceta Island in two units: Heceta East and Heceta West. Heceta East is located within the SESF, and Heceta West is located on General Use classified land. The proposed harvest units contain a mix of young growth and residual old growth timber. The OHA has visited the area and their recommendations have been incorporated into the sale design. The ADF&G has conducted stream inspections several times to verify extent of anadromous habitat. Coordination with the DMLW will take place during the BIF and FLUP planning process to ensure that requirements of Chapter 3, Subunit 10a of the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan are met. Access is proposed from the USFS managed land and road system. The routes across USFS are the shortest routes for both units and would reduce cumulative impacts in the area by avoiding known resources of concern (cultural/ historic sites, karst, and anadromous waters). The application for use of the preferred access routes is pending USFS review.

Kosciusko Island East

OLD GROWTH ACRES: 345 YOUNG GROWTH ACRES: TBD ROAD 3.3 miles

This sale is located on the peninsula on the east side of Edna Bay on Kosciusko Island. The timber is located on SESF land with a potential small portion located on Settlement classified land; the timber is predominately old growth with minor inclusions of marketable young growth. The registered USF&W eagle trees were field located, and the road feasibility confirmed by the DOF in 2013. The potential of the area for cultural resources was also field reviewed by OHA in 2013. Removal of the timber will require use of roads managed by the City of Edna Bay and the USFS; a maintenance agreement is projected to be required with both managers. The log transfer facility to be used and the haul route have not yet been determined.

2026 Fiscal Year

Earl West Cove Area

OLD GROWTH ACRES: 160 YOUNG GROWTH ACRES: 0 ROAD: 1.0 miles

Earl West Cove is located on the east shore of Wrangell Island. An estimated total volume of 3,000 MBF has been proposed for harvest on approximately 160 acres of SESF land. The operability of the area is considered marginal because the stand is predominately a hemlock dominant forest type, and due to mobilization costs. Approximately 1.0 mile of new road construction has been identified along with 0.5 miles of light road reconstruction. Access to the area will use the existing USFS road system. The ADF&G has conducted field inspections to verify the extent of anadromous fish habitat.

Suemez Island

Old Growth Acres: 120 Young Growth Acres: 0 Road: 2.2 miles

This area is within the SESF and was examined in detail in 2019 by the DOF. That work developed an operational level estimate of the merchantable timber (3,100 MBF) available by conventional methods (shovel and cable). Access to the units is predicated on the use of the existing USFS road system and USFS permission to construct approximately 0.2 miles of new road across federal land. The ADF&G has conducted inspections to verify the extent of anadromous fish habitat. OHA has previously indicated a desire to conduct a field survey of the area if development is proposed proximate to tidewater. The economic operability of the area appears to be constrained by timber type, including stand species composition, the amount of required road construction and mobilization costs to access the area.

2027 Fiscal Year

George Inlet Area

OLD GROWTH ACRES: 310 YOUNG GROWTH ACRES: 0 Road: TBD miles

George Inlet is located on Revillagigedo Island. Approximately 103 acres of this proposed sale area is located on SESF, and 213 acres are located on land classified as General Use. The DMLW is also considering a subdivision near Leask Cove and harvest activities may occur in support of it. Development of this timber sale is dependent on the completion of the road between the Leask Lake area and the Shelter Cove area that is being managed through a joint effort by ADOT, MHLT and Alcan Timber Inc. Office review of inventory data and aerial/satellite imagery has identified likely merchantable timber, but the operable timber volume estimates (6,300 MBF) have not been field verified. The construction of at least 1.8 miles of new spur road is projected to be required to access these timber stands. The extent of anadromous fish habitat will be defined by ADF&G during the development of the BIF and FLUP. The OHA has previously requested to survey the timber sale area as part of the timber sale planning process.

Woodpecker Cove Area

OLD GROWTH ACRES: 369 YOUNG GROWTH ACRES: 0 Road: TBD miles

Woodpecker Cove is located on Mitkof Island. The entire proposed timber sale is located on SESF land. Office review of inventory data and aerial/satellite imagery indicates merchantable timber is likely present within the sale area, but the operability has not been field verified. Approximately 0.9 miles of new road has so far been identified as necessary for access to the sale area.

Table 1. Timber Sales by Year

Southern Southeast Alaska
Five-Year Schedule of Timber Harvests
Fiscal Years 2023-2027

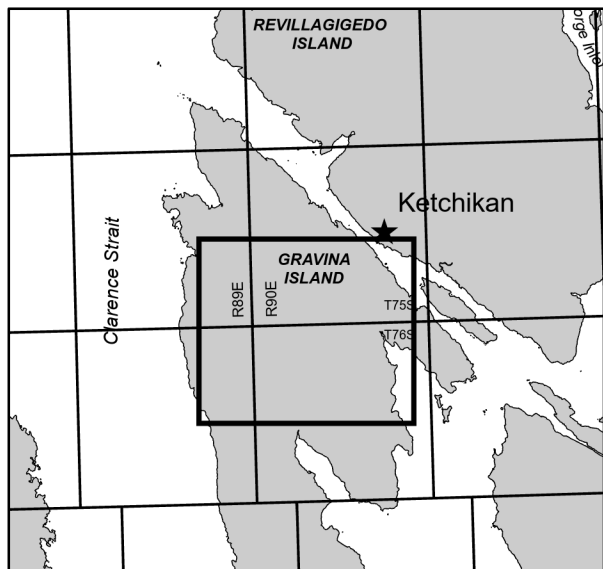
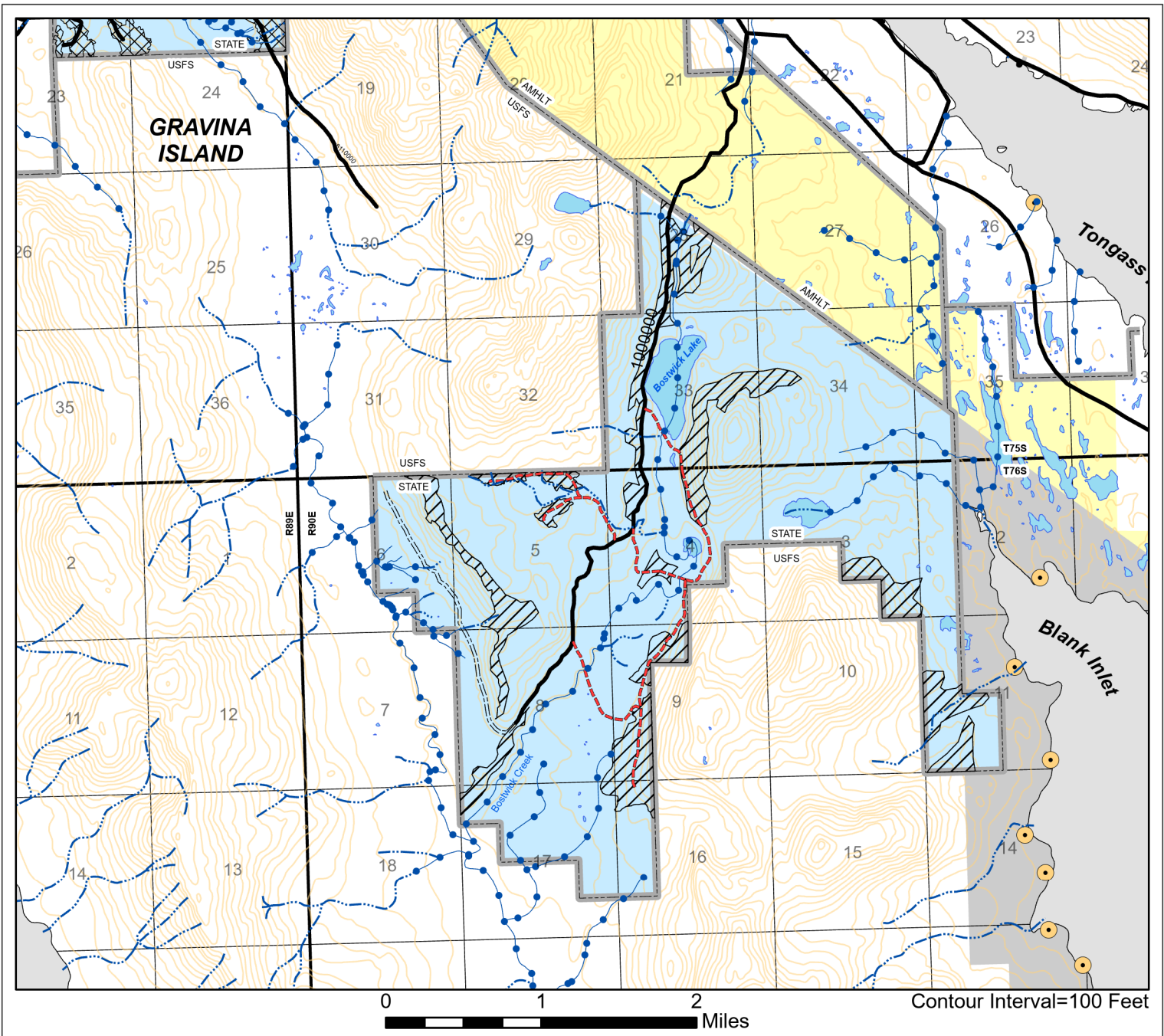
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Timber Sale Name</u>	<u>Estimated Volume (MBF)</u>	Type
2023	El Capitan*	9,700	OG
2023	Whale Pass*	4,700	OG
2023	Small Sales	<u>2,000</u>	OG
2023	Subtotal	16,400	
2024	Gravina Island	6,000	OG
2024	Edna Parlay #2	10,000	YG
2024	Small Sales	<u>500</u>	TBD
2024	Subtotal	16,500	
2025	Heceta Island*	5,000	Mix
2025	Kosciusko Island East*	5,000	Mix
2025	Small Sales	<u>500</u>	TBD
2025	Subtotal	10,500	
2026	Earl West Area	3,000	OG
2026	Suemez*	3,100	OG
2026	Small Sales	<u>500</u>	TBD
2026	Subtotal	6,600	
2027	George Inlet Area*	6,300	OG
2027	Woodpecker Cove	5,000	OG
2027	Small Sales	<u>500</u>	TBD
2027	Subtotal	11,800	
Total for Period Identified		61,800	

Note: State Fiscal Year is July 1 to June 30.
 *= Mixture of GU, SESF and Settlement Classified lands.
 TBD = To be determined.

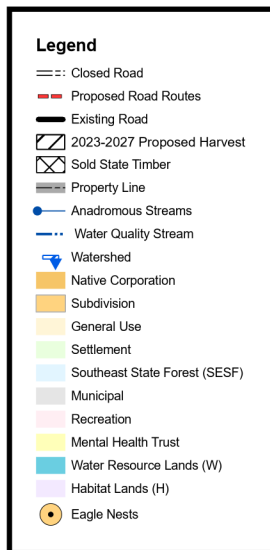
Table 2: Maps

Southern Southeast Alaska
Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales
List of Supporting Maps

Bostwick Area
Control Lake Area
Earl West Area
El Capitan Passage North
El Capitan Passage South
George Inlet Area
Heceta Island Area
Kosciusko Island Area
Naukati Area
North Thorne Bay Area
South Thorne Bay Area
Suemez Island
Vallenar Bay Area
Whale Pass Area
Woodpecker Cove



1:7 Miles Vicinity Map CRM



BOSTWICK AREA

FIVE YEAR SCHEDULE

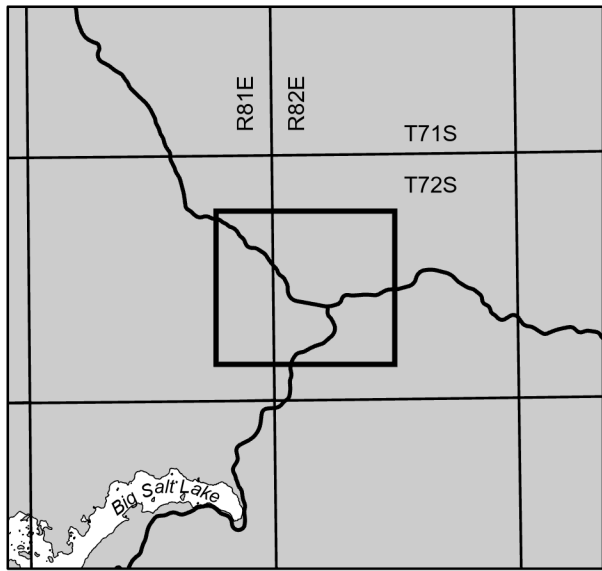
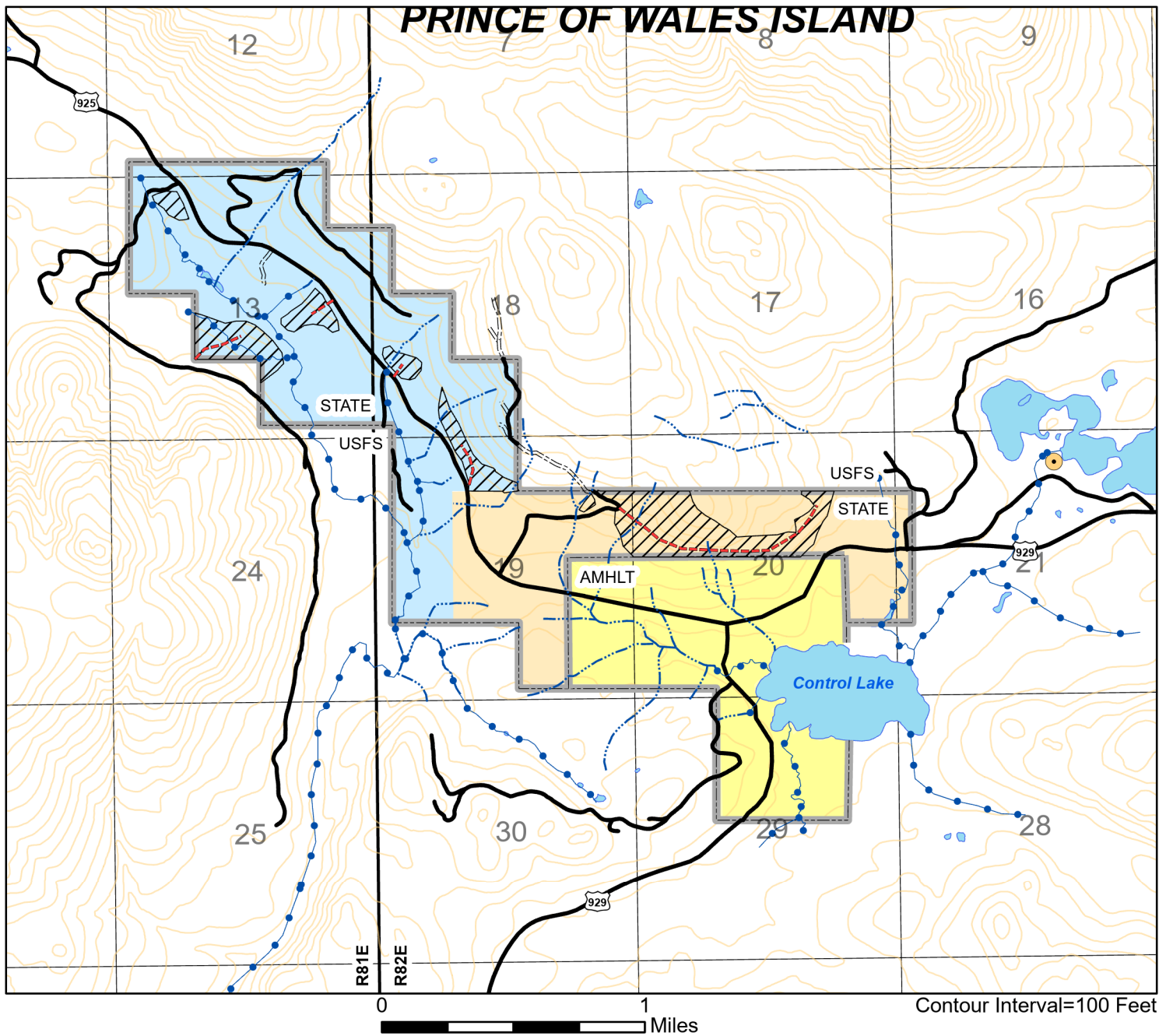
OF

TIMBER SALES

FISCAL YEARS 2023-2027

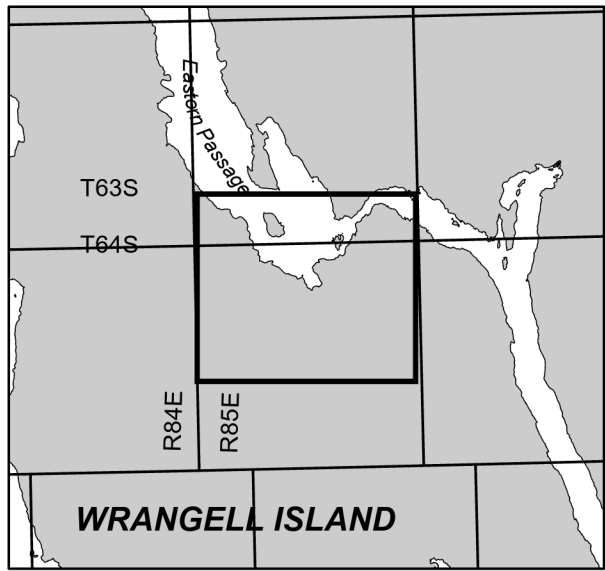
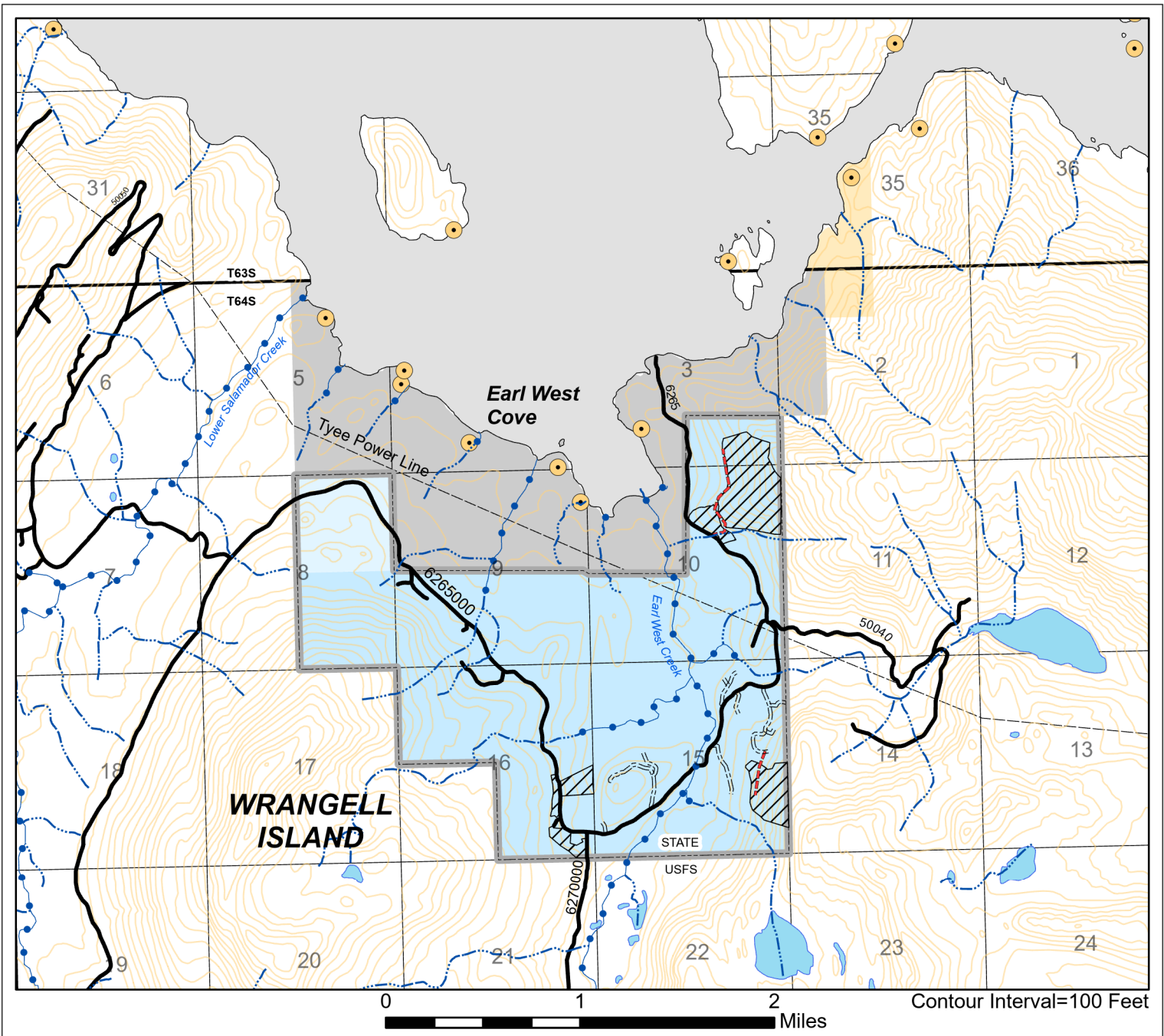


PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND



CONTROL LAKE AREA FIVE YEAR SCHEDULE OF TIMBER SALES FISCAL YEARS 2023-2027





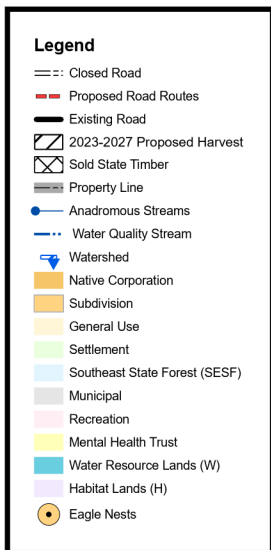
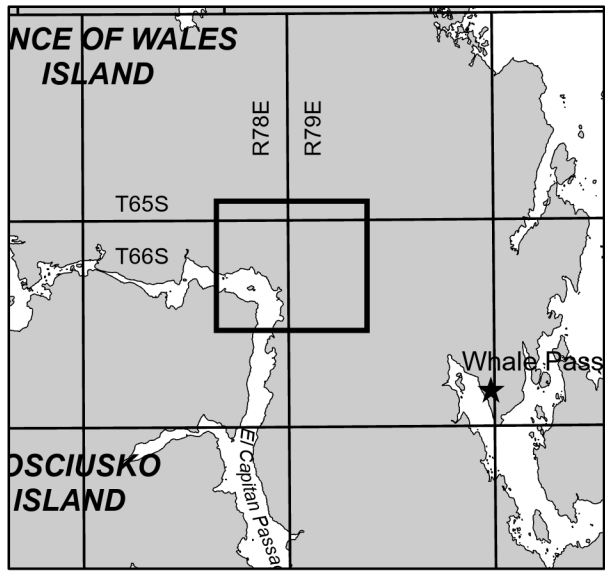
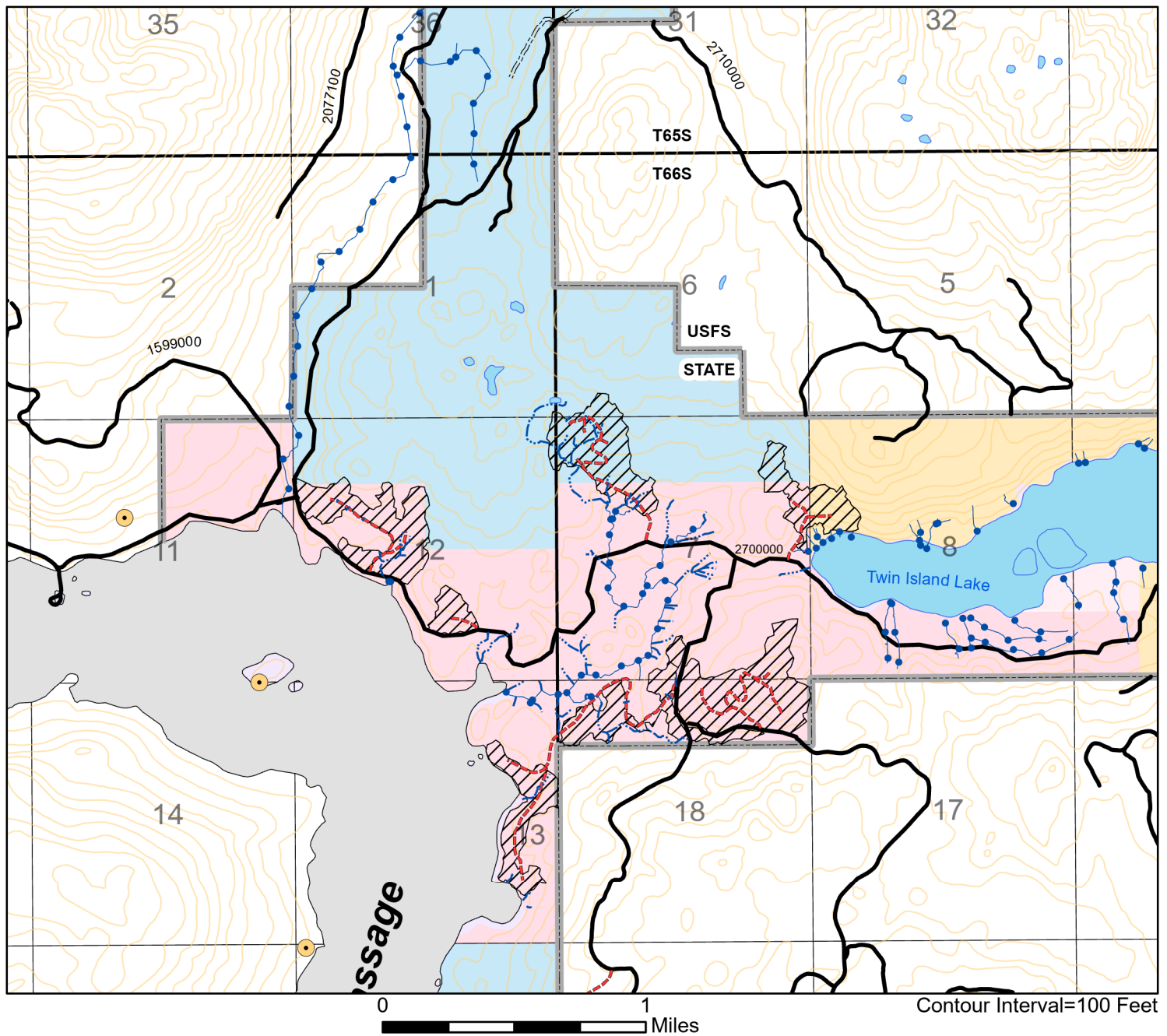
1:5 Miles Vicinity Map CRM

Legend

- Closed Road
- - - Proposed Road Routes
- Existing Road
- ▨ 2023-2027 Proposed Harvest
- ▩ Sold State Timber
- Property Line
- Anadromous Streams
- Water Quality Stream
- Watershed
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- Water Resource Lands (W)
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- Eagle Nests

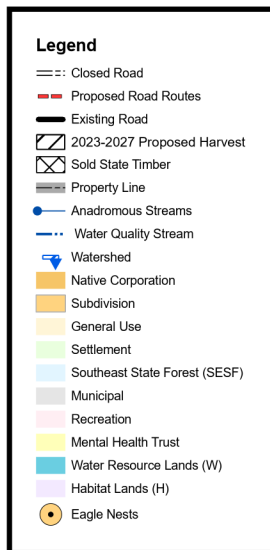
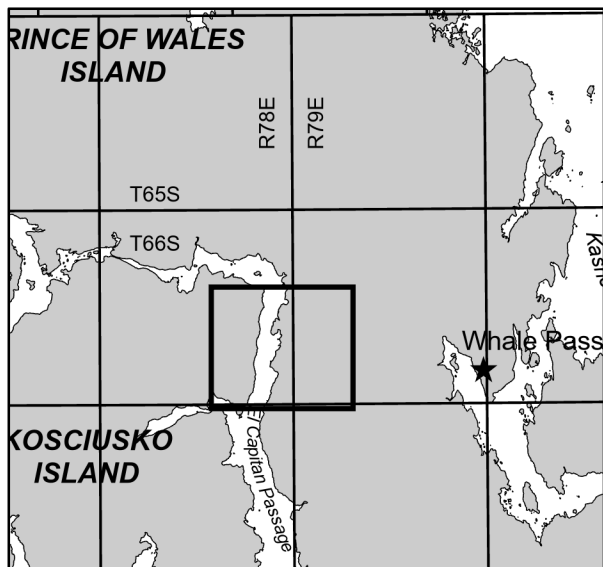
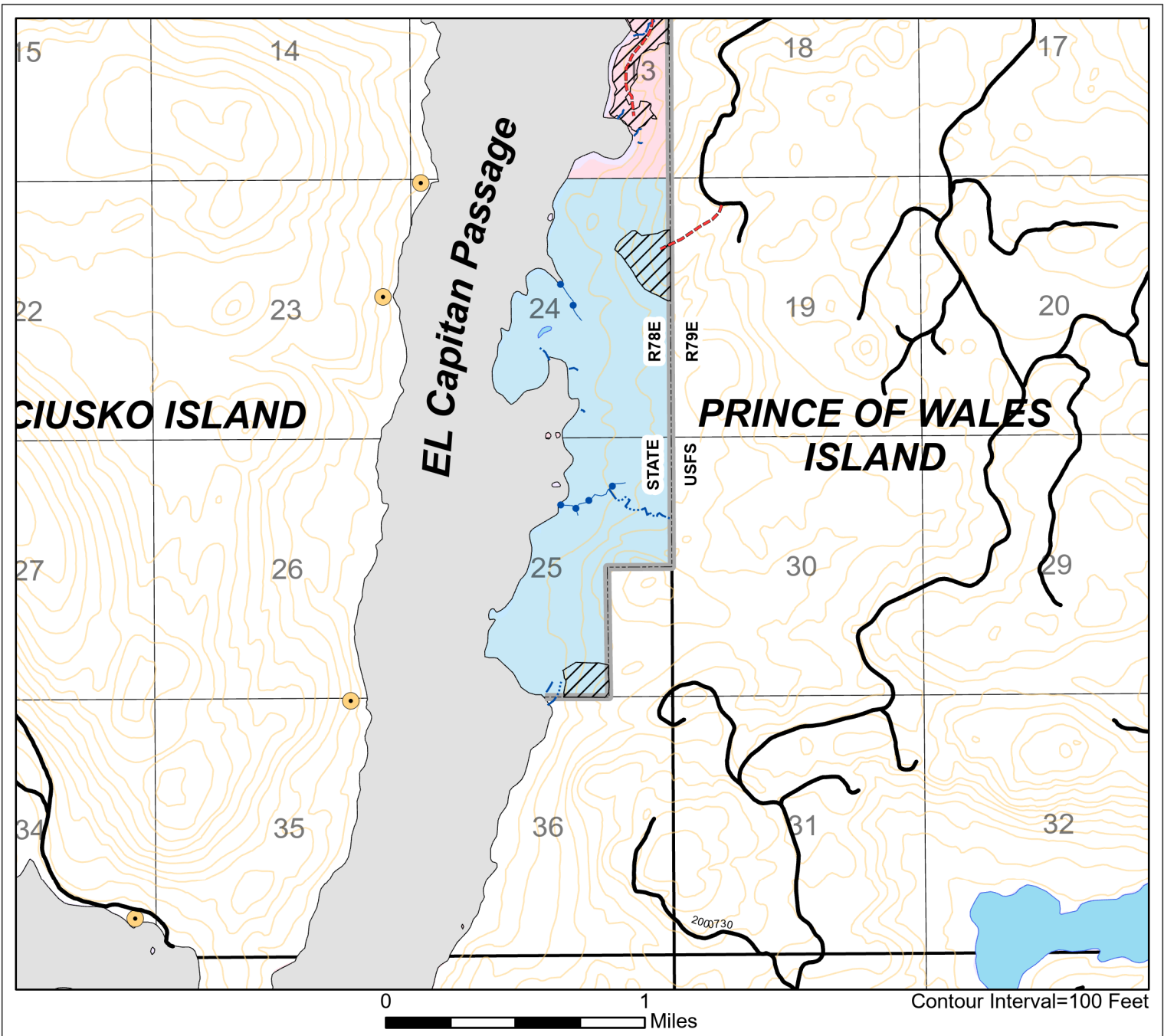
EARL WEST AREA FIVE YEAR SCHEDULE OF TIMBER SALES FISCAL YEARS 2023-2027





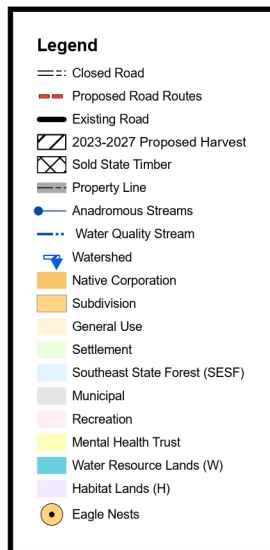
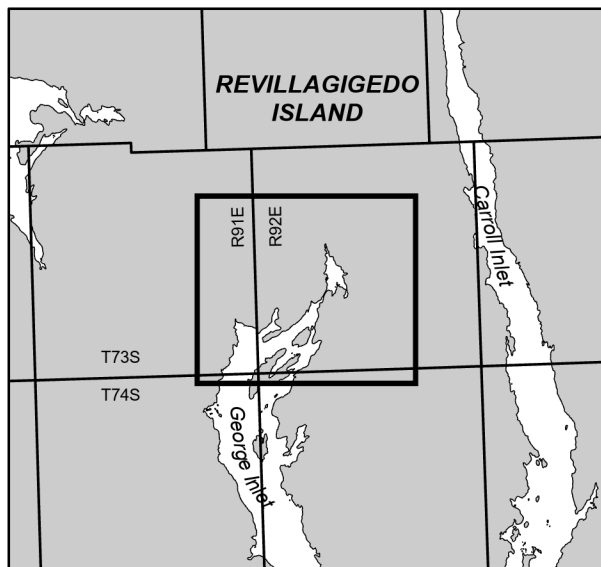
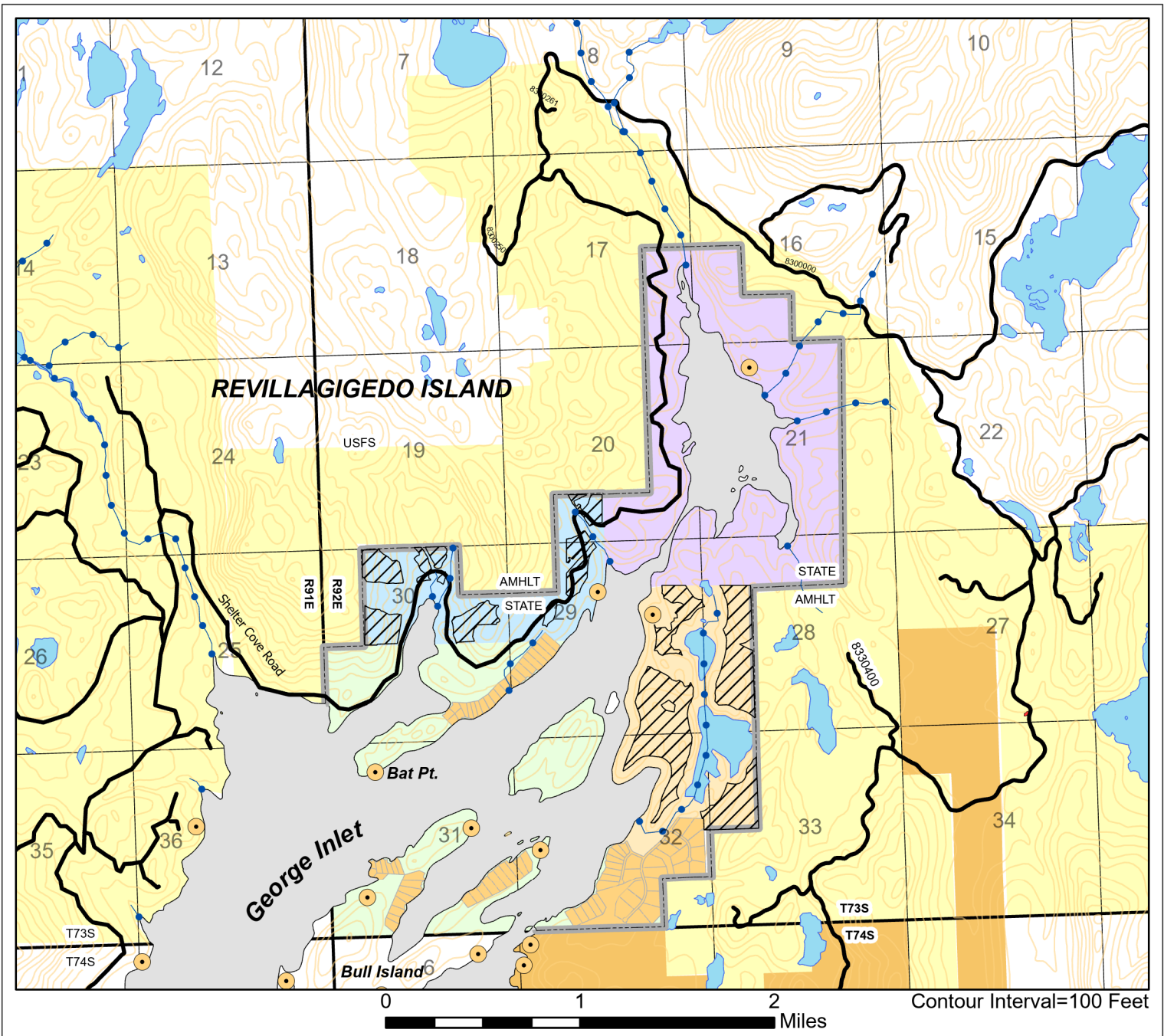
**EL CAPITAN PASSAGE NORTH
FIVE YEAR SCHEDULE
OF
TIMBER SALES
FISCAL YEARS 2023-2027**





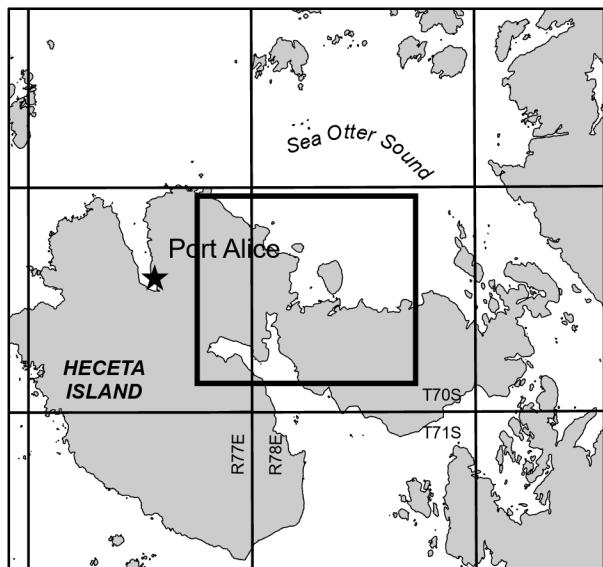
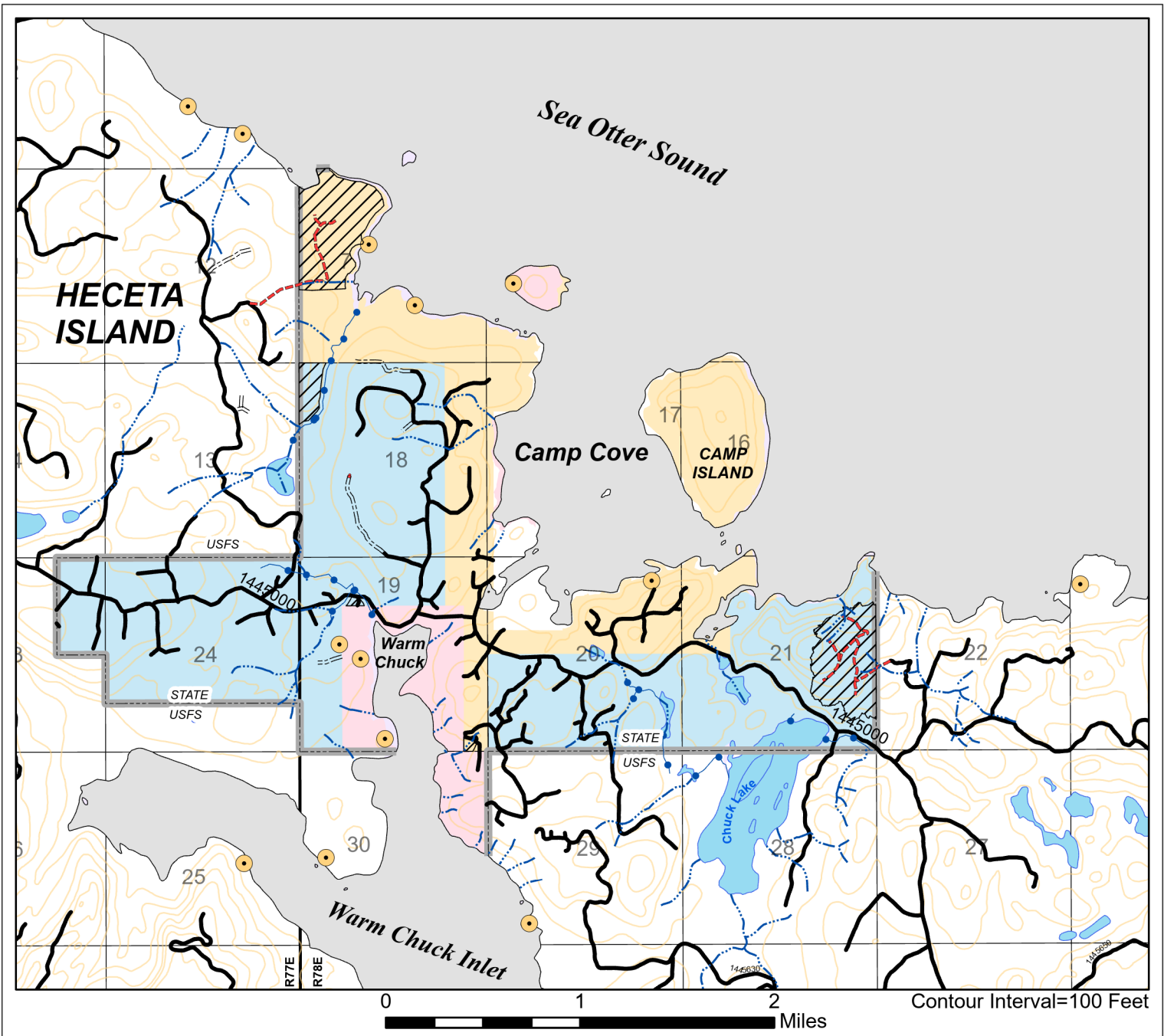
EL CAPITAN PASSAGE SOUTH FIVE YEAR SCHEDULE OF TIMBER SALES FISCAL YEARS 2023-2027





GEORGE INLET AREA FIVE YEAR SCHEDULE OF TIMBER SALES FISCAL YEARS 2023-2027





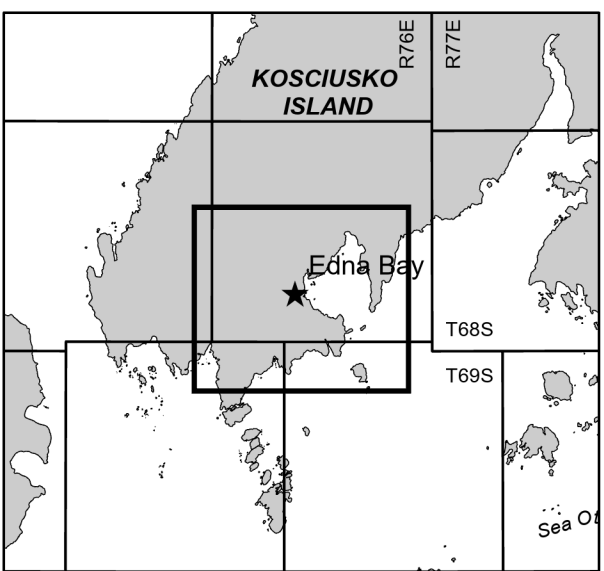
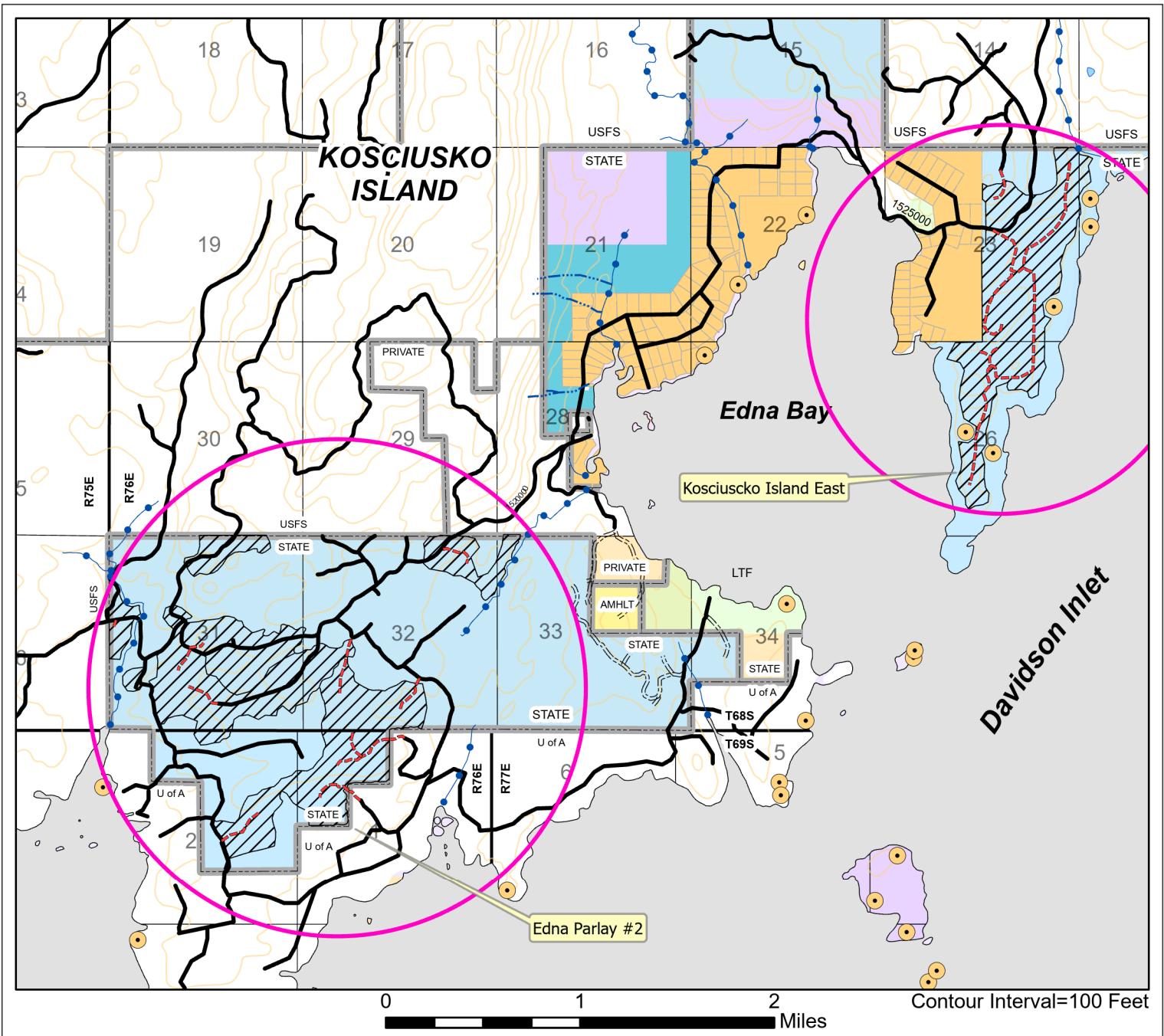
1:5 Miles Vicinity Map CRM

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- Water Resource Lands (W)
- Habitat Lands (H)
- Eagle Nests

HECETA ISLAND AREA FIVE YEAR SCHEDULE OF TIMBER SALES FISCAL YEARS 2023-2027



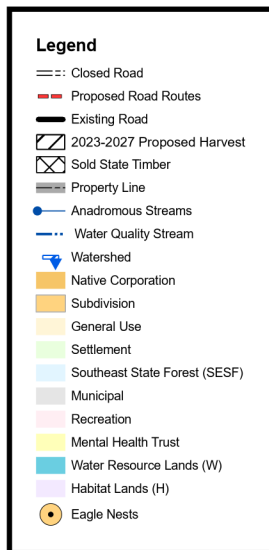
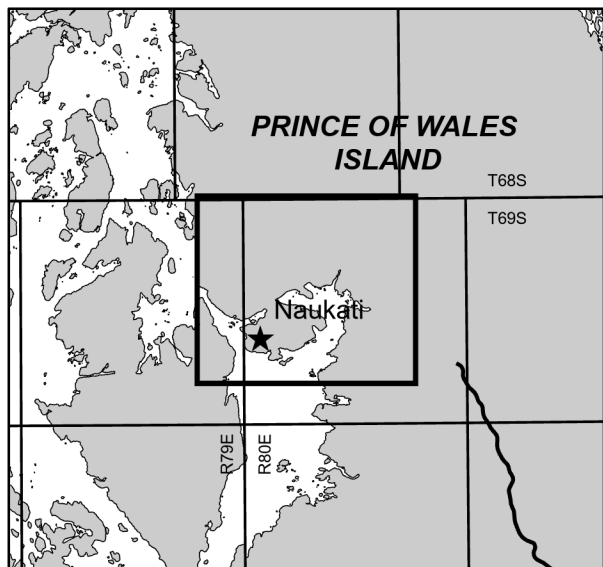
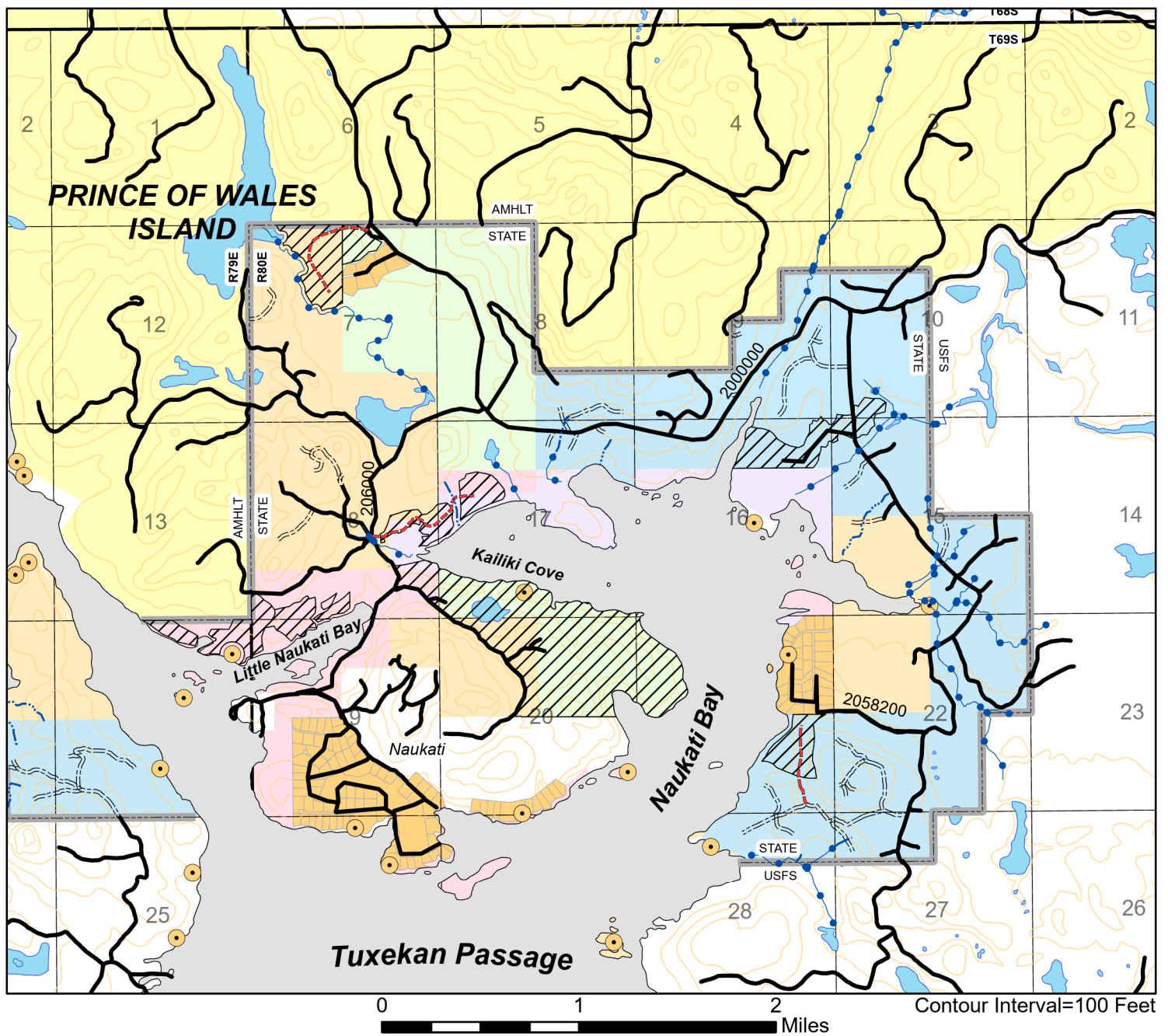


Legend

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- Eagle Nests

KOSCIUSKO ISLAND AREA FIVE YEAR SCHEDULE OF TIMBER SALES FISCAL YEARS 2023-2027





NAUKATI AREA

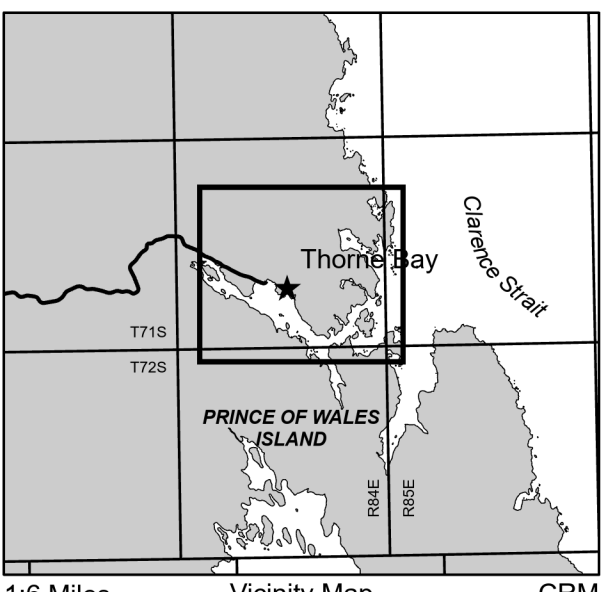
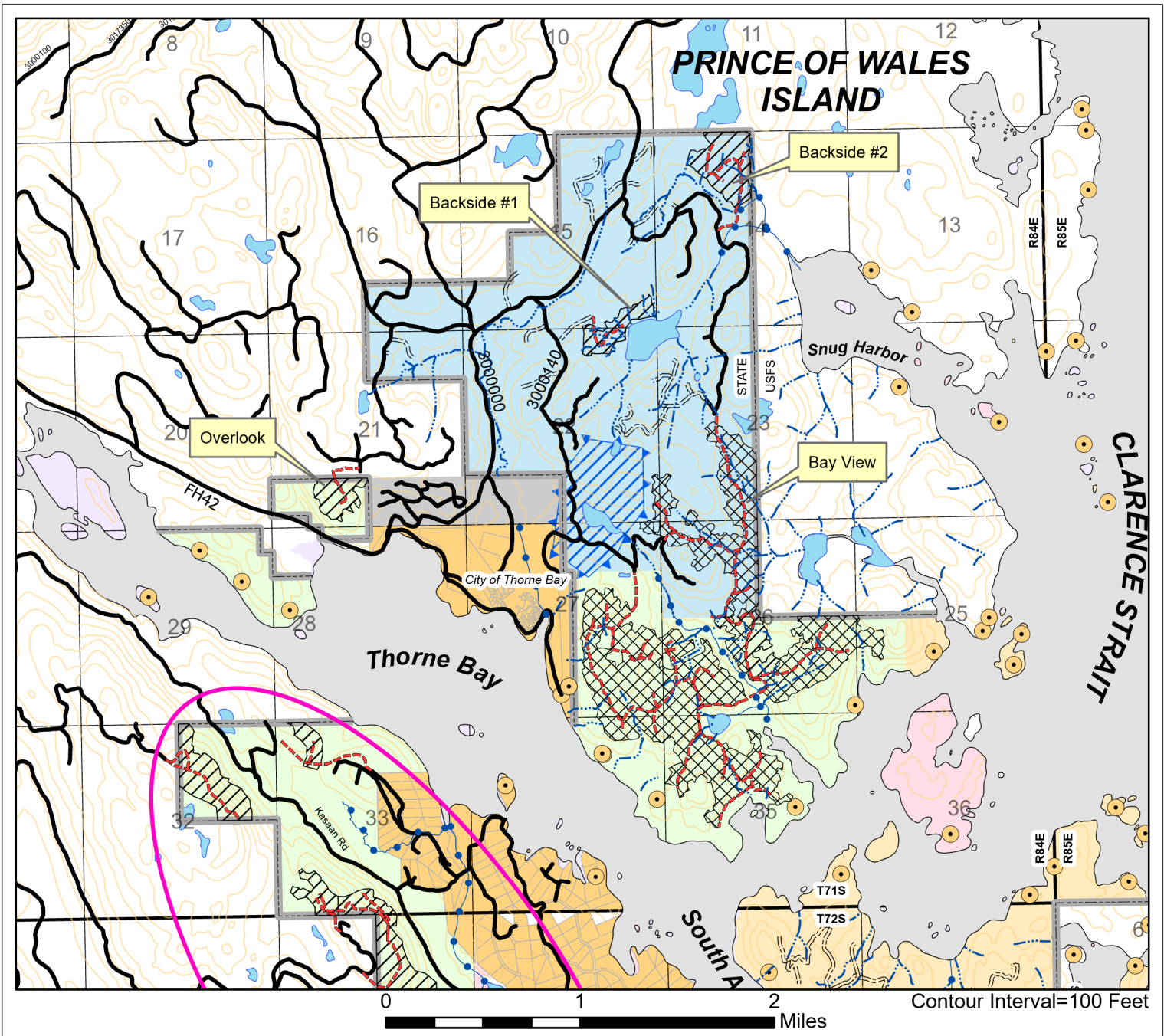
FIVE YEAR SCHEDULE

OF

TIMBER SALES

FISCAL YEARS 2023-2027



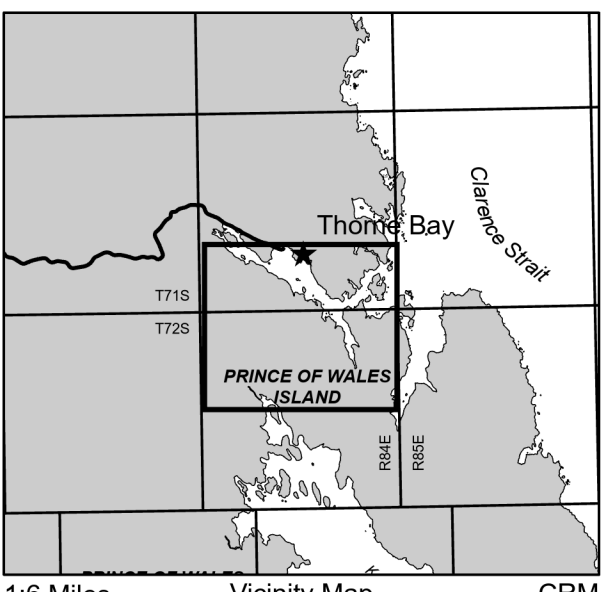
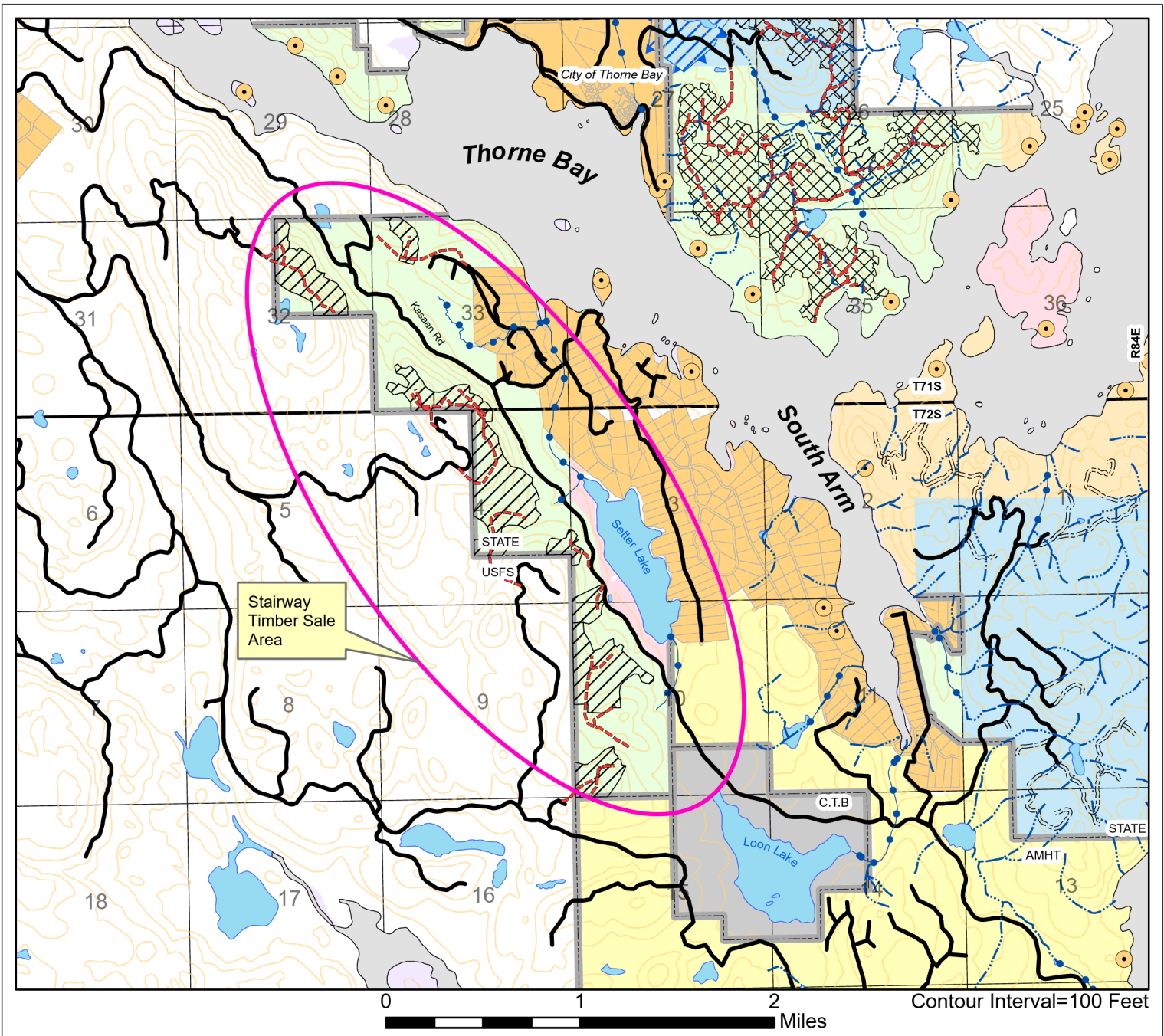


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**NORTH THORNE BAY AREA
FIVE YEAR SCHEDULE
OF
TIMBER SALES
FISCAL YEARS 2023-2027**



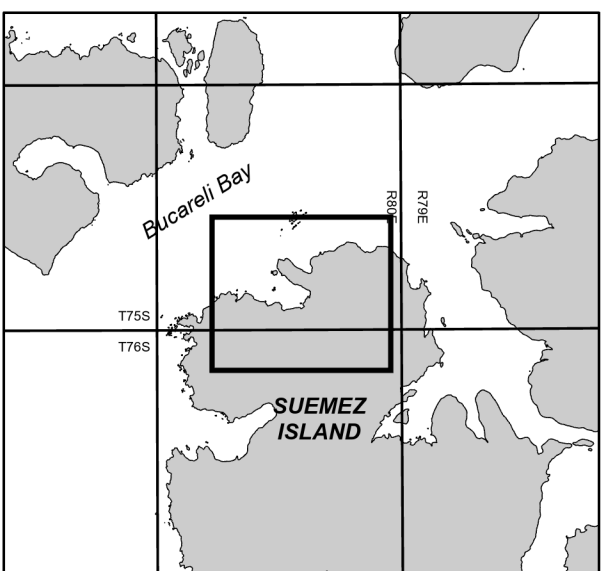
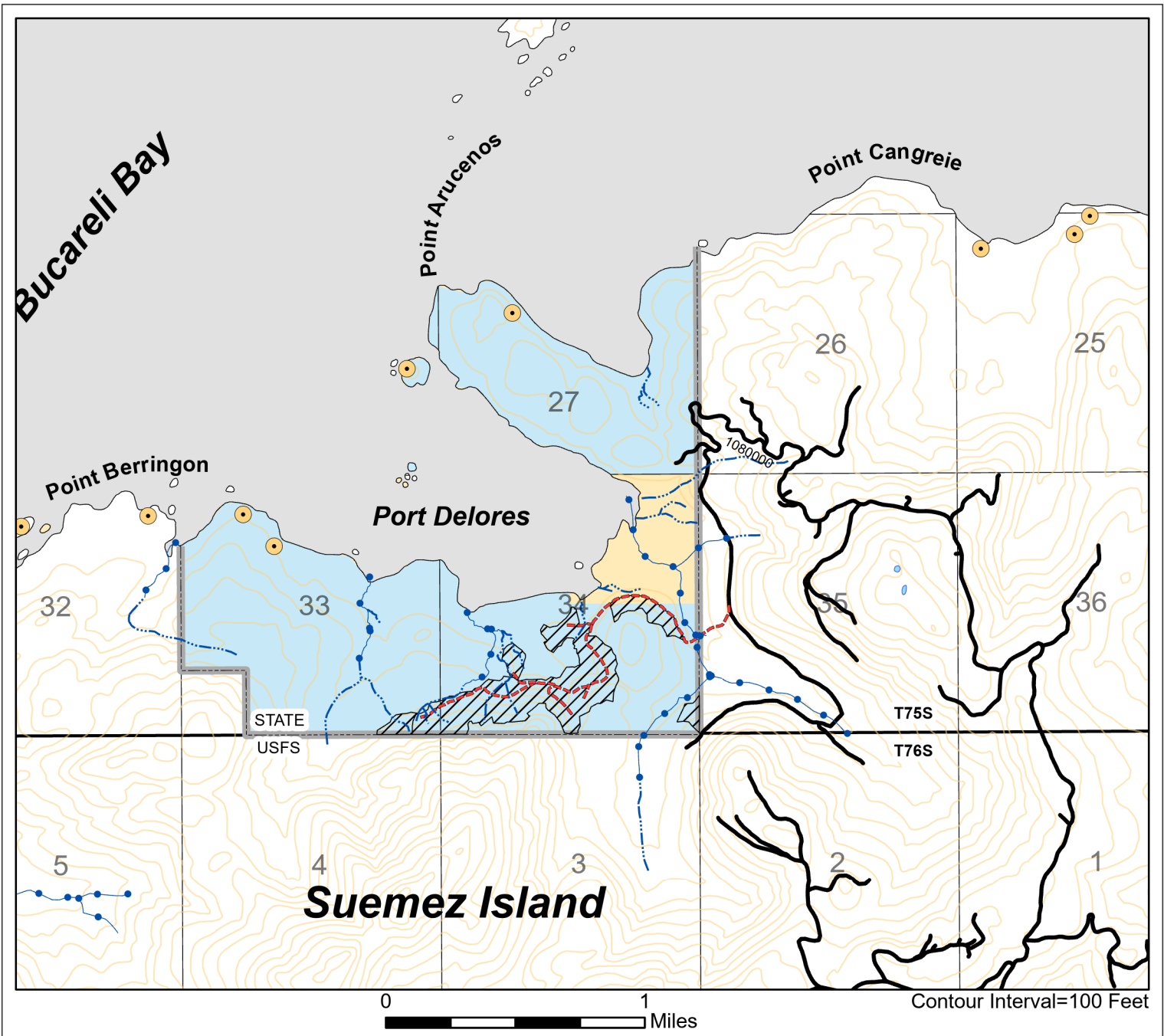


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**SOUTH THORNE BAY AREA
FIVE YEAR SCHEDULE
OF
TIMBER SALES
FISCAL YEARS 2023-2027**



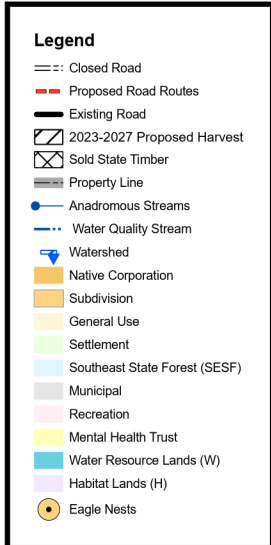
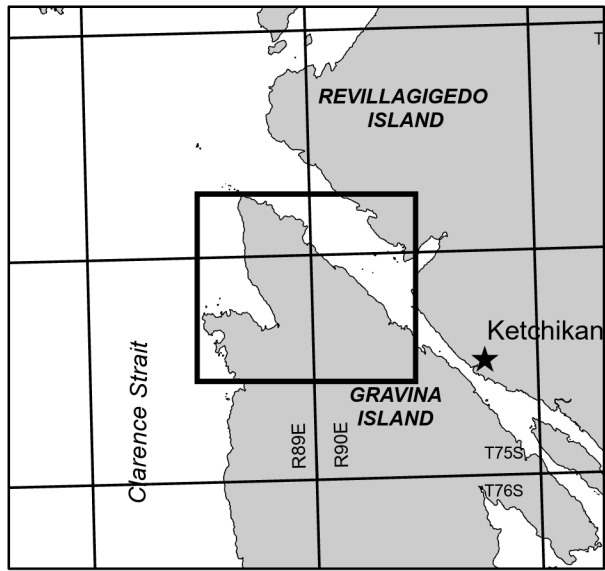
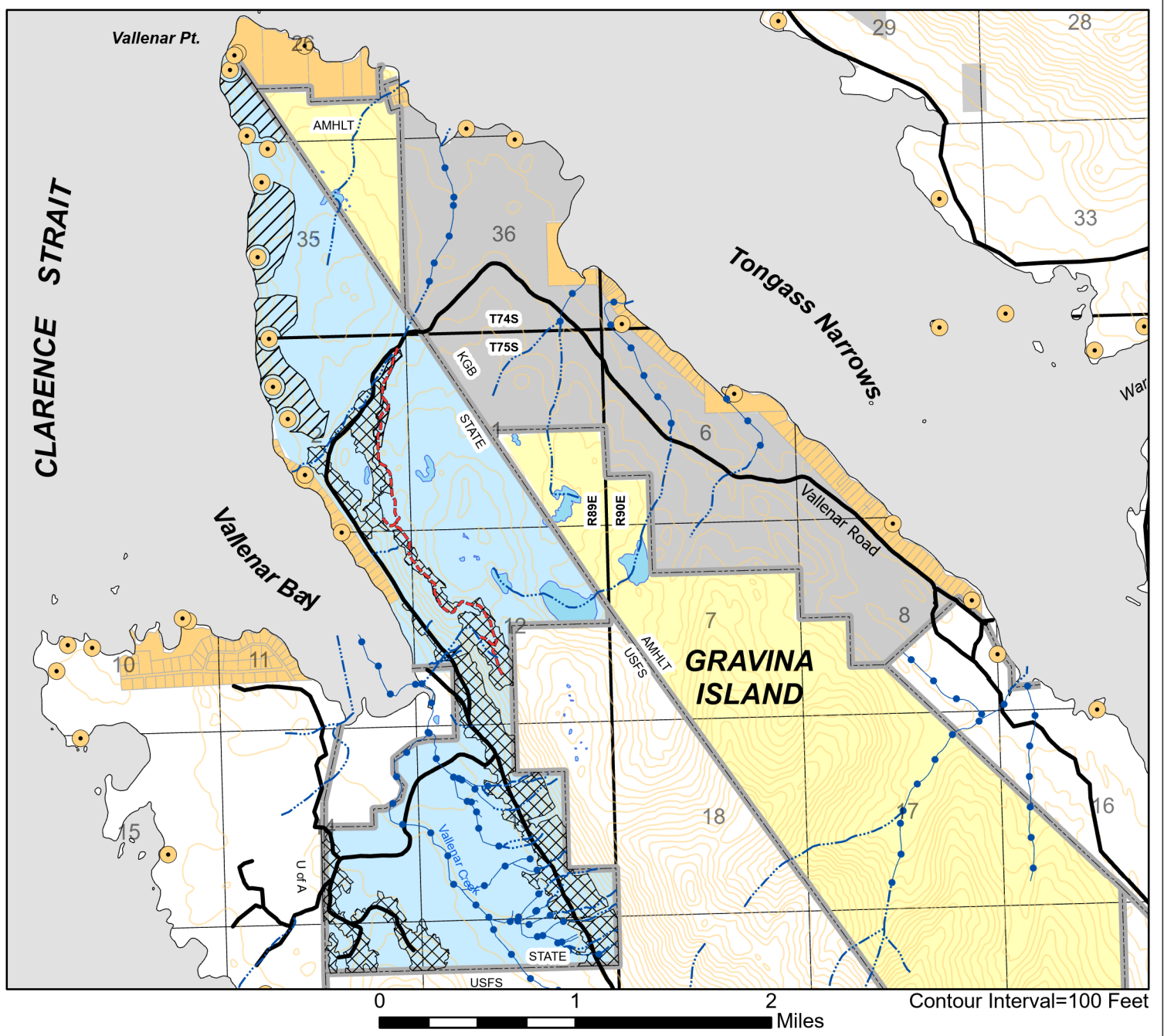


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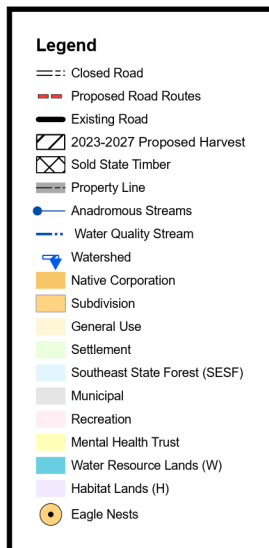
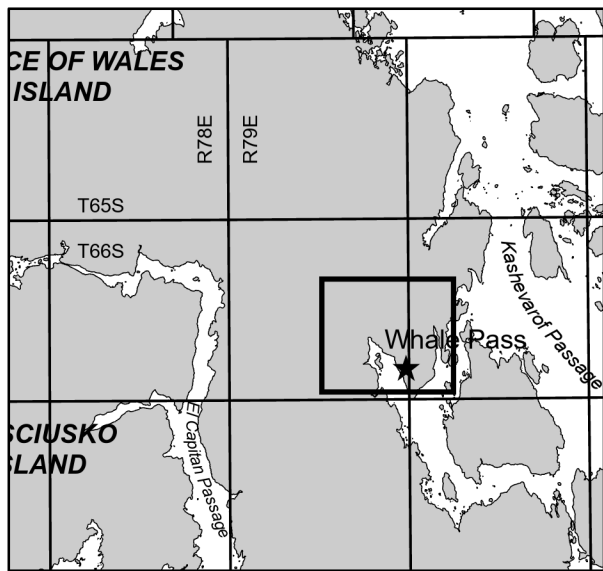
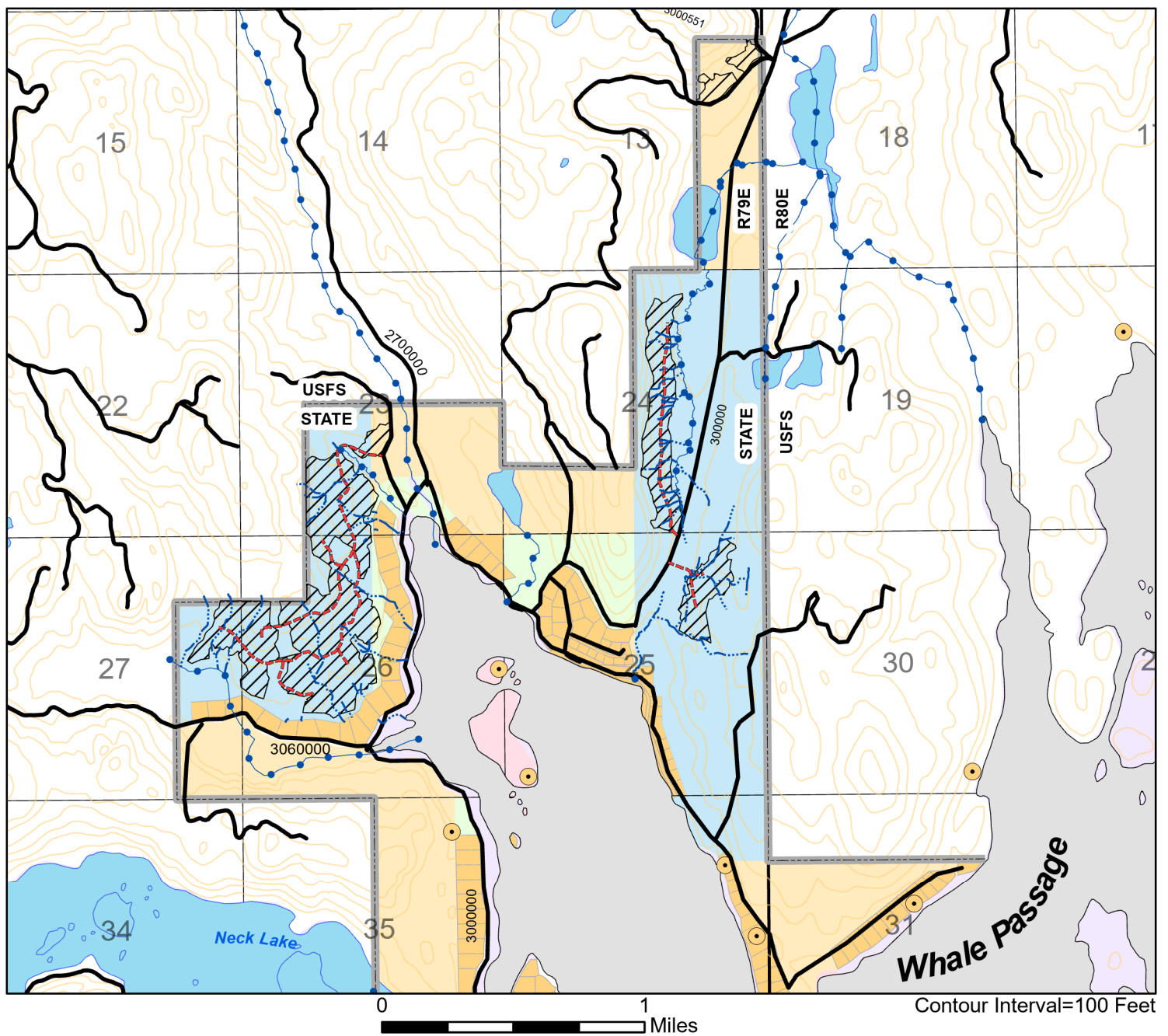
**SUEMEZ ISLAND AREA
 FIVE YEAR SCHEDULE
 OF
 TIMBER SALES
 FISCAL YEARS 2023-2027**





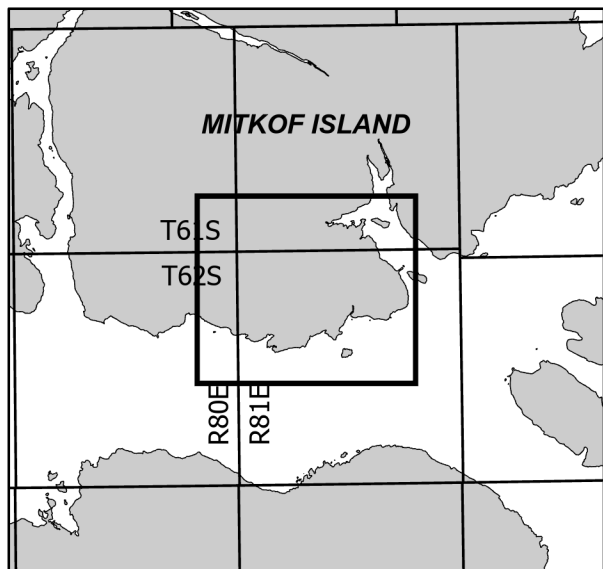
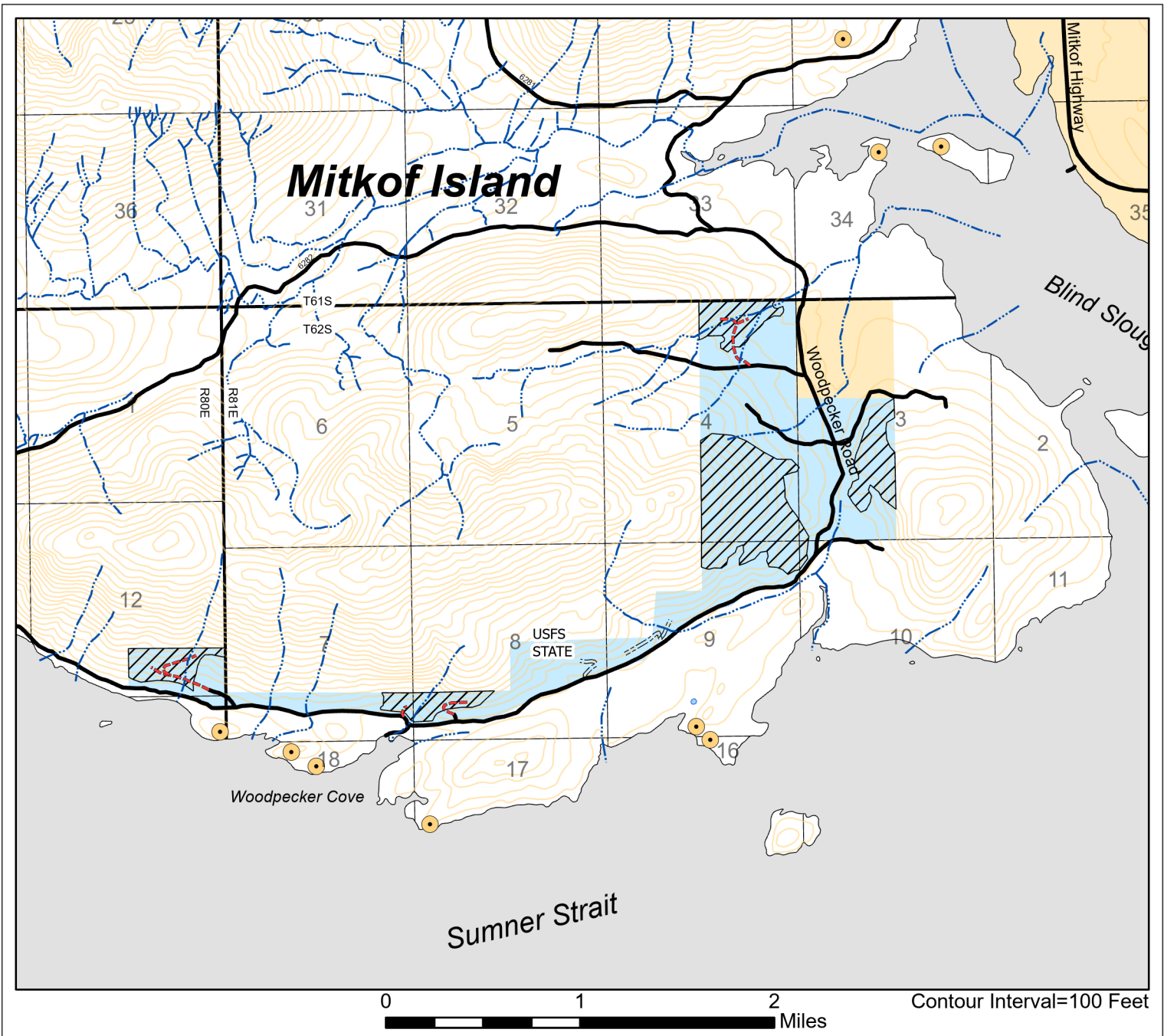
VALLENAR BAY AREA FIVE YEAR SCHEDULE OF TIMBER SALES FISCAL YEARS 2023-2027



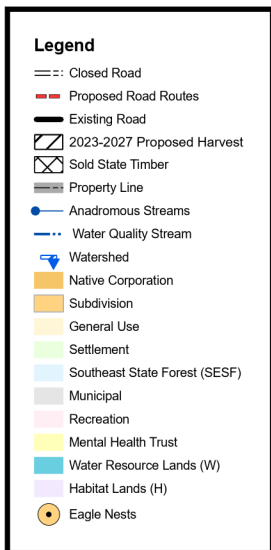


WHALE PASS AREA FIVE YEAR SCHEDULE OF TIMBER SALES FISCAL YEARS 2023-2027





1:5 Miles Vicinity Map CRM



WOODPECKER COVE AREA

FIVE YEAR SCHEDULE

OF

TIMBER SALES

FISCAL YEARS 2023-2027

