

State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry & Fire Protection



Coastal Region-Southeast Area Office

**Final Best Interest Finding
and
Forest Land Use Plan**

**Heceta Timber Sale
SSE-1357-K**

September 2026

Abbreviations

ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ADNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
BIF	Best interest finding
DMLW	Division of Mining, Land and Water
DFFP	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
POG	Productive old growth
POW	Prince of Wales
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
UA	University of Alaska
USFS	United States Forest Service

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I. PROPOSED ACTION

The Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (DFFP) is proposing to offer for sale approximately 183 acres of mature and young growth timber composed of western hemlock, Sitka spruce, and western red cedar from State Forest and state lands on Heceta Island approximately 12 miles southwest of the community of Naukati on Prince of Wales Island (see Appendix A, Timber Sale Area Map). The volume to be offered totals approximately 7,440 thousand board feet (MBF). DFFP proposes to sell the timber competitively in one sale under provisions of AS 38.05.120. The proposed sale decision has been noticed as required by AS 38.05.945. The competitive timber sale will also be publicly notified under AS 38.05.945.

Selling the timber competitively using the AS 38.05.120 authority in Southeast Alaska will likely generate a stumpage revenue to the State. Purchasers of competitive sales typically use the round log export market and obtain higher returns on their investment. The majority of this sale is a mixed age stand with some distinct pockets of young growth timber where previous timber harvest occurred in the early part of the last century.

The management objectives for the proposed timber sale area are:

1. To follow the Alaska Department of Natural Resources' (ADNR) constitutional mandate to encourage the development of the State's renewable resources (Article 8.1), making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest;
2. To help the State's economy by providing royalties to the State in the form of stumpage receipts, an infusion to the State's economy through wages, purchases, jobs, and business.
3. To help the local economy of the communities within southern Southeast Alaska by creating additional jobs in Southeast Alaska due to the combination of road building, logging, trucking and potentially milling.

II. STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The Division is taking this action under the authority of

- AS 38.05.035(e) Best Interest Finding;
- AS 38.05.110-120 and 11 AAC 71, Timber Sale Statutes and Regulations; and
- AS 41.17.010-950 and 11 AAC 95, Forest Resources and Practices Statutes and Regulations.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The Division will maintain an administrative record regarding the decision of whether or not to proceed with the action as proposed. This record will be maintained at the DFFP's Southeast Area Office filed as SSE-1357-K.

IV. SCOPE OF DECISION

This final best interest finding (BIF) is part three and four of a six-part process to design, sell, and administer timber sales. This BIF covers the sale of approximately 183 acres of a mix of mature old growth forest and young growth composed of western hemlock, Sitka spruce and western red cedar on State land within the perimeter of the 3,065-acre State ownership and project area (see Appendix A, Timber Sale Area Map). The following list summarizes the overall process:

Part 1: Regional Planning. The Department of Natural Resources develops area plans and state forest management plans to designate appropriate uses for state land, classify the land accordingly, and establish management guidelines for multiple use. These plans determine where timber sales are an allowed use, and what other uses must be considered when designing and implementing timber sales. Subsequent land use decisions must be consistent with provisions contained within the applicable area and/or forest plans. The area in this BIF is covered by the Subunit 10a- Heceta Island in the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan (POWIAP) and the Heceta Unit of the Southeast State Forest Management Plan (SESFMP).

Part 2: Five-year Schedule of Timber Sales (AS 38.05.113). The Southern Southeast Area Office prepares a Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales (FYSTS) every other year. The Schedule identifies proposed sales, including their location, volume, and main access routes. The FYSTS is a scoping document that provides an opportunity for public, agency, and industry to identify potential issues and areas of interest for further consideration in the BIF. Under AS 38.05.113, proposed timber sales within the area covered by this BIF must appear in at least one of the two FYSTSs preceding the sale. This timber sale area has been identified in the FYSTS 2026-2030.

Part 3: Best Interest Finding (AS 38.05.035(e)). DFFP must adopt a BIF before selling timber. A best interest finding is the decision document that:

- Ensures that the best interest of the State will be served by this proposed action.
- 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 the 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 the sale price.

Part 4: Forest Land Use Plans (AS 38.05.112). Prior to authorizing harvest of timber on any area greater than 10 acres, the DFFP must adopt a site-specific Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) for the harvest area. DFFP prepared a FLUP for the harvest area within the overall sale area covered by this best interest finding. The FLUP specifies the site, size, timing, and harvest methods for harvest units within the sale area. The FLUP also addresses site-specific requirements for access construction and maintenance, reforestation, and multiple use management. The FLUP is based on field work and site-specific analyses by the DFFP. Appropriate regulatory agencies have been consulted, and the plan is subject to public review. The DFFP since 2015 has generally separated the BIF and FLUP in order to manage the field work load. In this particular case the information for the draft FLUP has been accumulated over several years of activity in the area and is presented simultaneously with the BIF.

Part 5: Timber Sales and Contracts. Following adoption of the BIF, the DFFP may offer the timber for sale using the identified authority. The Division will sign a contract with the purchaser for each sale. The contract will include stipulations to ensure compliance with the BIF, FLUP, and statutory requirements.

Part 6: Sale Administration. DFFP will administer the timber sale and conduct field inspections to ensure compliance with the BIF, FLUP, timber sale contract, and applicable laws, including the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) and regulations (AS 41.17 and 11 AAC 95), and forest management statutes and regulations in AS 38.05 and 11 AAC 71.

V. PROJECT LOCATION, LAND STATUS, AND DESCRIPTION

A. Location

The timber sale area is centered on the Camp Cove area of Heceta Island. The timber sale area is found within Sections 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 27 of Township (T) 70S South(S), Range (R) 78 East (E), and Sections 12, 13, 23 and 24 of T70S, R77E all referenced to the Copper River Meridian (CRM). The sale area is found within the Craig C-5 USGS quadrangle. General access to the sale area is by the USFS 1445 Road which is connected to the log transfer facility at Port Alice and the Camp Cove public dock, both of which are owned and maintained by the United States Forest Service (USFS). See attached map titled: Appendix A1, SSE-1357-K Heceta Timber Sale Harvest Area Map.

B. Title status

The sale area land was granted to the State through National Forest Community Grant 350. Most of the area was designated State Forest in 2010 and 2011 by the State legislature.

C. Land use planning, classification, and management intent

The harvest area is within the geographic region covered by the POWIAP with the majority of the area also covered by the SESFMP. The proposed western harvest area, 83 acres, is on land classified as General Use and is within the geographic region covered by the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan (POWIAP). Specifically, the harvest area is within subunit 10a and the management intent and guidelines for this area can be found beginning on page 148 of the area plan. The general and specific management intent for the General Use land of this area is excerpted as follows:

MANAGEMENT INTENT AND GUIDELINES

State lands in this subunit will be managed for multiple use. State tidelands and submerged lands at Port Alice will continue to be managed for upland timber harvest support facilities. Timber harvest support activities will not be allowed in the area near Camp Island. Continued use of Camp Island for access from the water to the island's road system will be allowed. Uplands in this subunit will be managed for general use, including timber harvest, habitat and wildlife conservation, and eventual community development. No residential land disposals are planned during the life of this plan. If disposals occur in the future, residential development should avoid damage to cultural resource sites and wildlife habitats. State lands will also be managed to protect the most important recreation and fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas. All state lands are open to mineral entry.

FORESTRY

Resource Information:

Heceta Island has had extensive timber harvest. Other forestry activities have occurred near Camp Island. The log transfer facility at Port Alice (Site 10.01 LT) is authorized until 2008 for continued timber harvest activities. Commercial forest resources occur at various sites throughout the subunit.

Management Intent:

Heceta Island's developed road system enables log transfer activities to be concentrated at Port Alice. Management intent on Heceta Island is to concentrate log transfer facilities at Port Alice because of conflicts with community development at Camp Island and to consolidate facilities. Development of additional log transfer facilities in Port Alice may be necessary to meet this management intent.

A log transfer site previously used on Heceta Island near Camp Island will not be reactivated.

However, the U.S. Forest Service will retain an access float adjacent to the state selection. State tidelands and submerged lands designated “F” (Forestry) will be managed to support timber harvest activities consistent with other co-primary designations. Timber harvest is an appropriate use in areas designated “Gu” (General Use), subject to the stipulations of this plan and any imposed as a result of the Forest Land Use Plan planning process. Harvest cut units should be sited at least 100 feet from areas designated “S” (Settlement) or “P” (Public). Timber harvest may only occur within upland areas designated “Rd” (Public Recreation - Developed) adjacent to Warm Chuck Inlet if it can be demonstrated that such harvest activity can be made compatible with the identified recreation, wildlife, and fish resources.

The eastern proposed harvest area, 102 acres, is within the legislatively designated Southeast State Forest (SESF). The primary purpose for the legislatively designated Southeast State Forest is timber management (AS 41.17.200); provisions of area plans do not apply within legislatively designated areas such as state forests. The SESFMP was adopted on February 29, 2016.

“AS 41.17.200. State forest purposes and management. (a) The purpose of AS 41.17.200 - 41.17.230 is to permit the establishment of designated state-owned or acquired land and water areas as state forests. The primary purpose in the establishment of state forests is timber management that provides for the production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources while allowing other beneficial uses of public land and resources.

(b) In managing a state forest, the commissioner shall, consistent with the primary purpose of a state forest under (a) of this section, restrict the public use of the land and its resources, including timber, fish and wildlife, and minerals, only when necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.”

D. Current access and land use

Most public upland access to the island occurs through either the USFS Port Alice log transfer site or the USFS Camp Cove public dock. No permanent communities or settlements are located on Heceta Island.

A seasonally operated floating fishing lodge has operated for several decades in a small bight on State tidelands in the NW ¼ of Section 20.

The public uses of the uplands are associated with semi-remote recreation such as but not limited to berry picking, trapping and hunting.

The only adjacent landowner is the USFS which manages 85% of the island. The USFS has conducted timber harvest operations at various times on federal lands since the mid-1940s. The latest harvest occurred as a partial harvest of young growth to the west of the Warm Chuck in 2015 and 2016.

The State created the Southeast State Forest in 2010 and 2011 from lands previously classified General Use; one of these areas is located on Heceta Island and a portion of the proposed sale is in the SESF. The DFFP conducted a young growth timber sale in 2015 on approximately 139 acres in Sections 19, 20 and 30 to coincide with other USFS sale activity on the island and market availability.

E. Background and description of proposal

1. Background:

The demand for State timber is currently unprecedented due to the decrease and uncertainty of the federal timber supply. A diversified economy with a timber industry component has traditionally been important to southeast Alaska due to the extensive forests, its isolation and numerous economic benefits. By direction from the Governor and Legislature, the Division of Forestry and Fire Protection manages a timber sale program that makes timber volume on State land available to help sustain the region's timber industry and economy.

The Heceta unit is adjacent to recent operations at Kosciusko Island on USFS and State land. It is also proximate to current activity on Tuxekan Island and can be supported by the infrastructure of Prince of Wales Island. Economies of scale and proximity to community infrastructure support generally provide a stronger business model than independent operations removed from infrastructure.

DNR has recognized the potential of the area and planning for a timber sale since the land was patented to the state. Efforts have been shelved several times due to factors associated with staff availability, resource knowledge, access authorization, and market conditions. The DFFP has illustrated different access and unit sizes in its FYSTS for over a decade. Throughout this time there has been increasing State interest in accessing the units from federal land because of the topography and site-specific resources on state land that precluded activity associated with timber operations. It is the current assessment that access from federal land would be cost effective and have less overall impact on non-timber resources in the area. Previous federal administrations did not provide the administrative flexibility to evaluate an access request. In 2025, the USFS revisited the DFFP request for access via the construction of short spurs from existing federal roads. The USFS Thorne Bay Ranger District completed NEPA for the Heceta Island East unit and West unit access spurs on March 3, 2026, with two categorical exclusions (CE): Heceta Island West State Access Project and Heceta Island East State Access Project. The Forest Service has drafted special use permits to authorize the use and construction of the roads included within these two CEs. The proposed State timber sale described in this document is based on the intended federal access authorization that would be issued in the form of a permit to the potential timber purchaser.

2. Timber Volume and Sustained Yield:

The total estimated sawlog volume identified in the sale area is 7,440 MBF using the Atterbury Cruise System.

The Division of Forestry and Fire Protection is required to manage its timber harvest on State Forest and General Use classified land on a sustained yield basis. "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 to allow for market fluctuations and operational restrictions. Based on the DFFP inventory of the land and the timber base, it uses an annual allowable cut of 9,100 MBF per year for the Southern Southeast Area. Timber sales that are sold in the Southeast Area will remain within the constraints of the allowable cut and will comply with sustained yield requirements at the time they are sold. The duration of the timber sale contract(s) will be governed by the economic conditions at the time of the sale. This timber sale is within the annual allowable cut for forest managed state land.

3. Harvest Unit Design:

All harvest sale area units are designed for clear-cut harvest. Reconnaissance by the DFFP indicates that the sale units are harvestable using ground-based (shovel) logging techniques. This logging system will

need to take advantage of directional timber falling techniques and utilize benches on uneven terrain to access all timber included. Areas of wet and saturated soil will require adequate puncheon in skid trails to minimize impacts to the soil and water quality. Where skid trails are established, soil integrity and soil compaction will be monitored to maintain existing site capacity or improve existing conditions for tree growth. Adjacent residual tree conditions will likewise be maintained with the intent to not significantly diminish young growth stands currently regenerating.

Retention buffers are planned around the coastal beach area to support wildlife management objectives and avoid documented cultural resources. Two bald eagle nest trees were identified using the federal database and are in this shoreside retention area.

DFFP foresters performed field reconnaissance and layout activities for the proposed timber sale in 2004, 2016 and again during the Spring of 2026. The work confirmed and examined timber types, potential road access, geology, soils, hydrology, cultural resource potential, and fish and wildlife use within the proposed sale area.

4. Unit Access:

Road access design, construction, and maintenance will comply with the Forest Resources and Practices regulations (11 AAC 95.285-.355).

Unit 2:

The DFFP examined five different access routes into Unit 2 of which three required authorizations from the USFS. The final route chosen contains the least amount of road length and uses the existing 1445310 road and an existing temporary road from which a new spur road access is proposed to be constructed across a 40-year-old clearcut on federal land. The alternate routes were investigated based on consideration of a range of resource factors by state and federal agencies. Based on the multi-agency scoping, the resulting Unit 2 constraints are to:

- avoided cataloged stream 103-90-10470 riparian habitat,
- avoid known and likely cultural resource areas,
- avoid important karst features on federal land, and
- avoid site-specific wildlife habitat identified on federal and state land.

Unit 1:

The DFFP examined two alternatives for access into Unit 1. The first route considered was entirely on State land and proposed a series of switchbacks to climb from the 1445000 road to the south side of the unit. This route is approximately 1,000 feet longer than the preferred route on USFS land and crosses a relatively wet forested area. The preferred route requires only 500 feet of new construction on USFS land to access the state property line and the unit. The preferred access route entails the use of an existing temporary spur road tributary to the existing 1445500 road and would cross the western lobe of the Crooked Hook Unit #1 of the Heceta Commercial Thinning Project harvested in 2016. The route chosen avoids the USFS mapped karst features and generally follows an existing skid trail used in the 2016 harvest.

To maintain water quality during road construction, the Division of Forestry and Fire Protection will implement FRPA's Best Management Practices (BMP); specific BMPs that need to be emphasized for site specific issues. The size and location of the drainage structures are specified in the FLUP.

The units in general had very little surface water. The underlying bedrock composed primarily of limestone shows in overturned tree stumps and is well fractured, facilitating good subsurface drainage. Unit 1 notably had very little surface water evident. Relief culverts and ditches have been budgeted and are required to manage existing and developed surface flow that reaches the road prism. The forest road will likely alter some drainage patterns. Properly constructed forest roads typically pass most water under them and do not significantly alter drainage patterns. Forest roads generally minimize ground disturbance through location and the use of slash and debris to “float” the rock surface on top of the mineral soil. Obvious subsurface conveyances (karst) encountered during construction will be stabilized to minimize and mitigate sediment and debris movement.

To keep the potential for soil erosion to a minimum, the amount of road construction has been minimized on steep slopes that require more rock and earthwork. The roads have been designed to follow the natural contours and benches as much as practical and are generally located on the more moderate slopes. Shovel logging landings are typically distributed along the roads. Where topography funnels activity, best management practices will be implemented to minimize soil compaction or disturbance, the concentration of water, and potential movement of soil. To minimize the potential for erosion, FRPA road construction, maintenance, and slope stability standards are included in the timber sale contract. The DFFP timber sale administrator will ensure, with field inspections, compliance with the timber sale contract.

There is no anticipated public use of the road for firewood gathering because there are no communities on the island. Upon completion of the harvest activity the road will be conditioned for long term stability. Spur roads constructed in this sale will be closed to highway vehicles after harvest of timber to meet FRPA requirements and minimize unauthorized activities.

5. Appraisal Method: The DFFP will appraise the timber value in compliance with 11 AAC 71.092. The sale area will be appraised by using a residual value appraisal method. Selling values and extraction cost numbers are obtained from industry sources, the United States Forest Service, and previous operations.

F. Resources and management

1. Timber

a. Timber Stand Composition and Structure:

Timber types are mixed age stands of western hemlock and Sitka spruce and with a minor component of western red cedar. These stands have a mix of timber ages that are a product of selective harvests and clearcuts done in the 1940's. The young growth is vigorous and approximately 70 years old except in pockets of Unit 1 where it has stagnated at the pole and chip and saw log size. Stem sizes in these stands overall are quite variable. The settings and yarding corridors were logged into saltwater using high lead methods to A-frames on the shore. This initial harvest was then followed by wind disturbances of residual stems and the edges likely altered from these initial stand openings. Even age stands of Sitka spruce are evident on the more productive sites harvested by clearcut. Where terrain and wood quality likely produced a selective harvest, wind disturbance generally has factored into the regeneration with the ages exhibiting more variability. Regardless, the units have evidence of wind disturbance throughout due to shallow soil. Redcedar was generally avoided in the previous harvest and is dominant on the wetter sites on the south side of Unit 1 where it is of average quality. Some mortality is present in the western hemlock on the northeast facing aspects on each unit from past hemlock sawfly outbreaks.

b. Stand Silvics:

The adjacent timber stands are even-aged young growth timber, last harvested in the 1980s by the USFS prior to transfer of title to the State. These stands are on high site classes with similar site conditions, are growing vigorously and are in various degrees of the stem exclusion phase. The dominate stems emerging are pole class in size. Most of these stands on State land are beyond the typical size for cost effective precommercial thinning.

Stand improvement treatments such as pre-commercially thinning overly dense even age stands have historically occurred in the area by the USFS. The benefits of thinning are an overall decrease in tree density with an increase in tree growth rate and vigor for the residual stems. Secondary benefits to wildlife habitat opportunity can also be realized through thinning by decreasing the time the stand is in this dense stand structure that typically limits light into the understory. Precommercial thinning of the SESF area logged in 2015 is planned to occur approximately in 2040.

c. Reforestation and Site Preparation:

Natural regeneration is the preferred regeneration method for this sale, and it is anticipated that adequate stocking levels will be achieved within five years after harvest based on observations in the previous clearcuts. Experience with this regeneration method on POW has shown that well-stocked stands are readily established after utilizing the clearcut harvest method. Reforestation will be verified to be in compliance with the Forest Resources and Practices regulations (11 AAC 95.375-.390). The DFFP will conduct post-harvest reforestation inspections of all areas of commercial timber harvest to ensure that the stocking of natural regeneration meets or exceeds FRPA reforestation requirements.

Logging will generally break down the slash piece size and residuals to the ground level, accelerating decomposition and opening more growing space. Disturbance associated with logging will also increase seed bed opportunity and survival by creating mineral soil access and micro relief. Shovel logging stands of similar age on Kosciusko and Tuxekan utilized whole tree yarding of the young growth and smaller old growth. Where this occurs in younger stands it tends to concentrate larger amounts of residual slash and pulp logs near roads. These concentrations appear to have the capability to inhibit stable regeneration that exceeds the FRPA minimums and overall create openings until the slash fully breaks down. Initial observations indicate this feature might better serve the State if it was managed for forest regeneration. Overall, the gaps caused by the slash and utility decks have not proven to be statistically significant. This harvest-imposed site variability may benefit wildlife preferring forest edge disturbance.

Sitka spruce and western redcedar are the preferred species for reforestation. Spruce and redcedar will likely be the favored and dominant species due to anticipated increase in available light, nutrients and scarification in the units during harvesting operations. Scarification disturbs the vegetative mat to expose mineral soil which in turn provides a more receptive seed bed. Western hemlock will be a major component of the regenerated stand as well since it currently occupies the site, is an aggressive shade tolerant pioneer species, and is providing a dominate seed source.

d. Topography and Soils:

The proposed sale will be designed and managed to prevent significant impairment of the land and water with respect to renewable resources (AS 41.17.060(c)(5)).

The timber sale occupies an area with varied topography ranging from moderate slopes to areas of steep, broken, fissured, exposed limestone bluffs; no defined aspect predominates. Elevation ranges from 100 to 300 feet within the sale area. Most of the sale area has average slopes of less than 50 percent. Soil characteristics are generally described as a thin well-drained organic layer on fractured Heceta limestone base with occasionally deeper soil associated with postglacial deposits.

2. Wildlife habitat and harvest

As required by AS 41.17.098, DFFP provides due deference to ADF&G to ensure all wildlife habitat issues are addressed by the proposed timber sale design. AS 38.04.910(5)(A) implies that multiple use management means the “use of some land for less than all of the resources.” Section 41.17.060(c)(7) of the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (AS 41.17) states that “allowance shall be made for important fish and wildlife habitat.”

The portion of the sale on General Use classified land has been designed using guidelines and management intent from the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan (POWIAP) and the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and Regulations (FRPA). The sale area was not identified as crucial habitat (Ha) or prime habitat (Hb) in the current POWIAP. Although ADF&G has indicated in comment for this timber sale, the timber harvest areas are in high-intensity winter use deer habitat and therefore may qualify as “crucial” or “prime” habitat as defined in the POWIAP.

No areas of specific wildlife concern were indicated by ADF&G in the comments received for the 2013-2017, 2015-2019 or 2026-2030 FYSTS.

Hunting and trapping do occur in the area. It is likely that human interaction with wildlife may occur due to the area’s proximity to the communities of Edna Bay, Naukati and Craig. The spur roads associated with the timber harvest will provide some additional access for human activities associated with wildlife. Added hunting pressure is not anticipated to be significant due to the small quantity of road added and the proximity of a much larger road network elsewhere on Heceta and POW and the effort needed to mobilize to Heceta Island. The change in availability of deer for wolf predation on Heceta associated with this harvest is minor. The reduction in deer availability for humans may be more noticeable as the area regenerates to a second growth forest, thus diminishing areas with human access.

The SESFMP on Page 64 indicated a known wolf den in the area. Consultation with ADFG during the planning process indicated it was not in or adjacent to the units.

The USF&W eagle tree database was consulted. Two documented nests are in Section 7 in the costal retention area of Unit 2. The tagged trees were recovered in 2004, but the tags were not recovered in 2026. Eagle activity was observed along the coast, but no nests were identified.

ADF&G requests the retention of cedar snags where safety permits, to retain roosting potential for bats. This is typically implemented in State timber sales and is proposed here.

In the 2006 FYSTS the OHMP (now ADFG- Habitat) relayed observations from a collared deer study indicating that deer were documented using Unit 2 during winter conditions regardless of its observed minimal browse potential. Agency comment in the fall of 2002 as part of correspondence contributing to a proposed FLUP for the area, described the winter wolf kills as having indications of

starvation. The area was noted at the time as being one of a limited number of stands of older timber on the north end of the island that provide wintering shelter during deep snow conditions, if not some food.

While the timber harvest is not expected to cause significant adverse impact overall to the deer population on the POW area, the ADF&G commented during the public review that it recommended retaining timber within 1,000 FT of tidewater. This type of terrain feature has been categorically associated with important seasonal deer habitat of resilient deer populations and in turn generally with higher harvest rates by humans. For these and other resource reasons, the DFFP has overall retained timber near tidewater. Retaining additional timber precluded a feasible timber sale needed to supply a functional timber industry. The DNR has struck a compromise in this decision by observing that significant habitat exists elsewhere on the island while a contemporary and feasible timber supply does not.

The combination of ADFG's characterized deer habitat importance in 2006, the two cataloged eagle trees, and cultural resource models and evidence in the area (discussed in more detail later in this document), lead the DFFP to retain approximately a 200 to 300-foot-band of timber next to the coast on the east side of Unit 2. This coastal retention area is connected to the riparian retention area along Rice Creek and the USFS ownership to the west.

Even with a total removal of timber (clear-cut) on State ground on Heceta, the effect on deer population capacity is not projected to significantly change because the island-wide habitat will not significantly change. Total removal of timber on State land is not happening. A reduction in deer habitat in the immediate area will likely result from the harvest of this timber. Deer numbers will remain approximately the same as the stand regenerates but may diminish as the understory is shaded out during mid-term regeneration at approximately 30 years of age. Stand treatment with pre-commercial thinning can be scheduled for habitat improvement prior to canopy closure at 15 to 25 years of age.

Most of the State land in the Camp Cove area of Heceta Island has been harvested at least once. Stands vary from recently clear-cut regeneration to stands with mature young growth with a developing to clear understory. Much of the area was harvested approximately 25 to 50 years ago. Many of these stands have been thinned and are into a second stem exclusion phase. Though these stands provide some winter cover they generally have limited browse potential other than along their edges and on roads sides, etc.

The proposed harvests and the recent change in the mix of forest stages on both State and federal land is projected to improve browse availability to deer in the area for several decades. This in turn should generally increase availability of deer for hunters. Wintering conditions during the period may negate this abundance though due a decrease in old growth forest cover.

Most of the project area is State Forest, the management intent of the forest is for the production of forest resources; it is likely that the timber will be harvested again at approximately 80 years of age. The western proposed unit is classified General Use land and is likewise designated for forest resource values unless a more defined use is determined through land planning.

Heceta Island has a total area of approximately 43,556 acres. Of these, 3,249 acres are State owned. The amount of land harvested prior to 2016 on all ownerships is approximately 15,407 acres. About 13,869 Acres were harvested between 26 and 55 years ago. The State Heceta timber sale is 7% of State land and 0.5 % of the island. Most of the land on Heceta is owned by the USFS. About 20,989

acres or 48% of the island remains in productive old growth and approximately 6,734 acres or 15% is composed of bare rock, lakes and wetlands.¹

The USFS has reserved productive old growth timber (POG) for non-timber values (such as wildlife) in the 2016 Tongass Land Management Plan. In all plan alternatives, less than one percent of POG forest wide is projected to change in the next 100 years.

3. Fish Habitat, Water Resources, and Water Quality

The proposed sale has been designed and managed to protect fish habitat and water quality in compliance with the Forest Resources and Practices Act and regulations (AS 41.17 and 11 AAC 95). As required by AS 41.17.098, DFFP provided due deference to ADF&G to ensure all fish and wildlife habitat issues are addressed by the proposed timber sale design. DFFP provides due deference to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) for all water quality issues. ADFG Habitat Division has visited the site.

On May 1, 2002, a biologist with the ADF&G-Habitat office visited stream 103-90-10470 that flows adjacent to the western proposed harvest Unit #2. The purpose of the trip was to scope fish and wildlife resources. ADFG Habitat provided comments for a draft FLUP in the fall of 2002 describing the fish habitat and noted site vulnerability due the evident karst features at a proposed road crossing of stream 103-90-10470 on State land. ADFG requested that extreme caution be exercised during the development of the area and that a Fish Habitat Permit would be required for work in the “channel”. ADEC at the time reiterated the need to treat the area in a conservative manner to preserve the structure of the underlying karst and its flow characteristics. Due to market conditions and the need to determine the significance of historic indicators adjacent to the area, the 2002 FLUP was tabled.

As part of the Sustainable Salmon Fund work to map fish habitat on State Forest Land, ADFG Habitat worked in the area further documenting the extent of the upper reaches of the stream again in the summer of 2018. Though this work moved through the subject area it did not provide new information that had direct bearing on the fish habitat in the proximity of the proposed harvest unit. The DFFP has incorporated this ADF&G GIS stream data related to the cataloged anadromous and resident fish streams in the design of the sale.

Operations in and adjacent to cataloged anadromous stream 103-90-10470 have been completely avoided through the proposed access route across federal land to Unit 2. Most drainage in both units appears to be subsurface. Small surface water evidence is intermittent and was mapped in the southwest portion of Unit 2.

The underlying bedrock in both units is composed primarily of limestone and shows in overturned tree stumps. It is well fractured and facilitates good subsurface drainage. Unit 1 notably had no surface water other than on its southeast corner. The intent will be to avoid and maintain existing drainage patterns.

FRPA best management practices will be implemented to maintain bank and soil stability and water quality along all streams. It is standard practice on State timber sales to protect water quality of non-fish bearing water bodies through a combination of retention areas, directional felling, partial

¹ United States Forest Service, Heceta Commercial Thinning Study Environmental Assessment, Final E.A. and supplemental documents, ROD August 2004.

suspension of logs, split yarding, and removal of incidental logging debris (limbs, etc.) from stream channels.

4. Recreation, Tourism, and Scenic Resources.

There are no known commercial recreation operations that directly use the proposed sale area. The area is not known to have unique tourism values currently. The timber harvest will not be directly visible from the floating fishing lodge located in Section 20. Travelers to and from the lodge may notice the activity as part of the greater viewshed of the island.

Recreation in this part of the southeast Alaska is generally of a dispersed and remote nature tied closely to the existing road system and saltwater; use is occasional in nature for such things as hunting, trapping, berry picking, and wildlife viewing. These activities will be limited during active harvest operations. Past timber sales have provided road access for dispersed recreational opportunities, and this timber sale will provide similar access. This timber sale is expected to result in no changes to recreational or tourism use of the area. New road access may encourage subsequent hunting access but relative to the overall availability on Heceta and POW it will be a minor change. All the proposed roads are relatively short and dead end within the units. The roads will be water barred at the conclusion of the timber sale in a manner that will limit most highway vehicle use, which is rather limited regardless due to the island's separation from POW Island road system. ATV traffic will not be actively managed. Typically, unless cleared of alder by incidental users, the roadbeds will not be drivable by ATVs inside of fifteen years.

Due to topography and its location, the timber sale will be visually removed from saltwater and incidental to the surrounding landscape. The visual footprint from the air will match the adjacent forest landscape in approximately 10 years as the stand regenerates. Historic timber harvest activity is dispersed throughout the island landscape, the nature of the viewshed change will be similar in landscape scope.

5. Cultural Resources.

The DFFP works with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to identify and avoid known cultural, historic or prehistoric sites in planning the proposed access routes and harvest areas. The SHPO requested site review in 2002 prior to timber harvest of the area based on information and observations developed by USFS archeologists working in the area on federal projects. Funding and other operational priorities within the DFFP and SHPO precluded visiting the area until April of 2017. Unit 1 had no observed indicators and due to the topography was determined to have a low likelihood of containing culturally historic sites.

The western site (Unit 2) on the other hand had associations of features (anadromous stream, protected shoreside, etc.) and information on file developed by the USFS that indicated historic use of the area. Previous observations in the area lacked geospatial reference on a scale and confidence to relate them to the proposed State unit. Consequently, the Alaska Archeology Survey Unit of the SHPO conducted a pedestrian survey of the western unit using more accurate geo-spatial tools (GPS) and refined information and observations based on several contemporary works on the subject. Previous indicators on file were determined to be outside the proposed unit.

The DFFP harvest methods proposed typically have limited ground disturbance associated with the harvest. Maintaining the integrity of the organic and vegetated mat categorically avoids historic

evidence residing predominately in the soil layers. Activities such as road building though are the exception to this statement. The road location in this unit is removed from the documented sites and occupies a terraced ground that requires little modification of the organic layer other than the removal of stumps and the rearrangement of surface debris that is in turn covered with a layer of shot rock. Known resources are well removed from the road location. Harvest activities have also been designed to avoid potential impacts by the placement of the cutting boundaries and the intent to retain wind firm timber adjacent to the known sites. If additional archaeological sites are identified, operations and road locations will be appropriately adjusted to avoid conflicts. If any historic or archaeological sites are encountered during road construction or harvest activities, DFFP will immediately inform SHPO and take action to protect the findings.

6. Subsurface Resources.

There is no known current mining activity in the immediate area. Other than sharing some of the same access roads, this sale should have no impact on the potential mining resources or mining activity in this area.

7. Residential Subdivision and Access.

The DMLW has scoped a residential subdivision in Section 17 that would have access planned to occur from saltwater. Access to that area is not related to this proposed timber sale. Timber sale Unit #2 is on General Use classified lands. Currently the DMLW has no immediate plans to develop this area. The best management practices of the FRPA encourage forest operations to develop the least amount of road for accessing timber. The DFFP believes that by choosing the proposed location it has met the intent of FRPA and likely accessed the area in a manner that is conducive to most likely future uses.

G. Costs and benefits

The DFFP will appraise the timber value in compliance with 11 AAC 71.092. The sale area will be appraised by using a residual value appraisal method. Selling values and extraction cost data are obtained from industry sources, the United States Forest Service, and previous operations.

The DFFP projects that it will need a large sale format in the proposed area to attract the capital to mobilize and access the site(s).

Access will be improved on State Forest land and General Use classified land for timber management which increases the long-term operational flexibility of the forest to meet its purpose.

Based on DFFP observations of the project area and historic markets, timber revenue is projected to cover administration, access and operating costs for this sale area and likely provide stumpage royalty to the State. The initial analysis of the costs of removal and the potential value of the timber indicate that the young growth hemlock and spruce timber will be exported in the round based on markets. There are currently limited domestic markets for this quantity of young growth but adequate interest from China. The larger old growth hemlock and spruce have several markets that have repeatable and high interest in North America and on the Pacific Rim. The characteristics of the old growth wood have retained its

value in these markets even with the overall decrease in volume available from the region. By making sales of this size available the markets that have been maintained are available for future applications.

While the DFFP encourages utilization of the timber resource by the timber purchaser, significant low-grade wood may be left because of the defect in the older wood and the smaller young growth stems that might be used for firewood in more accessible locations. The DFFP is not planning to leave the road systems open or inactive for firewood gathering due to the road system being isolated.

Timber sales have traditionally created broad economic benefits to the communities of Southeast Alaska. The business communities on POW and other nearby SE communities will receive direct economic benefits by providing support services for the operators such as transportation, fuel, food, housing, medical and miscellaneous supplies. The DFFP, in similar timber sale formats has, in conjunction with other land managers in Southeast, been able to contribute to a diversified economy and supply needed jobs for more than 30 years. Demand for these sales has been steady even during times of stressed market conditions such as Covid-19, the 2021 tariff restrictions and the more recent China market hiatus in 2025.

VI. PUBLIC REVIEW

The PBIF/FLUP was publicly noticed in compliance with AS 38.05.945. Notice was posted on the Alaska Online Public Notice System on May 15, 2026. Notices were also posted at the Ketchikan, Craig Public Libraries. Mailed notices were distributed to a mailing list maintained by the Southeast Area Office and public notices were sent to the post offices of Ketchikan, Ward Cove, Craig, Klawock, Thorne Bay, Coffman Cove, Naukati, Metlakatla, Wrangell and Petersburg. A legal notice was also provided in the Ketchikan Daily News, Wrangell Sentinel and the Petersburg Pilot and the Island Post.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

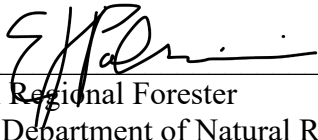
DOF received agency comment from ADF&G and ADEC on the Preliminary Best Interest Finding. No public comment was received.

The comments are summarized in Appendix D. The comment structure is based on the resources discussed in the Preliminary Best Interest document and the topics emphasized by commenters.

VIII. RECOMMENDATION AND DECISION

After due consideration of all pertinent information, the ADNR has reached the following decision: to offer for sale approximately 183 acres of mixed age timber from Southeast State Forest (SESF) and General Use (GU) State lands on Heceta Island. Harvest activities on the General Use lands will follow the management intent of the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan. The DOF finds that this decision satisfies the objectives stated in this document and it is in the best interest of the State to proceed with this action under its authority in AS 38.05.035(e) (Powers and Duties of the Director) and AS 38.05.110-120; 11 AAC 71 (Timber Sale Statutes and Regulations; and AS 41.17.010-.950 and 11 AAC 95 (Forest Resources and Practices Statutes and Regulations).

IX. SIGNATURE



Coastal Regional Forester
Alaska Department of Natural Resources

9/14/2026

Date

X. RECONSIDERATION

An eligible person affected by this decision of the department, and who provided timely written comment or public hearing testimony to the department, may request reconsideration to the DNR Commissioner per AS 44.37.011 and 11 AAC 02. Any request for reconsideration must be received by the Commissioner's Office within twenty (20) calendar days after issuance of the decision under 11 AAC 02.040. The Commissioner may order or deny a request for reconsideration within thirty (30) calendar days after issuance of the decision. If the Commissioner takes no action on a request for reconsideration within thirty (30) days after issuance of the decision, the request for reconsideration is considered denied. The Commissioner's decision on reconsideration, other than a remand decision, is a final administrative order and decision of the department. An eligible person must first request reconsideration to the Commissioner before seeking relief in superior court. The Alaska State Courts establish its own rules for timely appealing final administrative orders and decisions of the department.

Reconsideration may be mailed or hand-delivered to the DNR Commissioner's Office, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501; or faxed to (907)-269-8918 or sent by electronic mail to dnr.appeals@alaska.gov. Reconsideration must be accompanied by the fee established in 11 AAC 05.160(d)(1)(F), which has been set at \$200 under the provisions of 11 AAC 05.160(a)-(b).

If no request for reconsideration is filed by that date, this decision goes into effect as a final order and decision 30 days after signature.

A copy of 11 AAC 02 is enclosed and is also available on the department's website at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/pdf/DNR-11-AAC-02.pdf>.

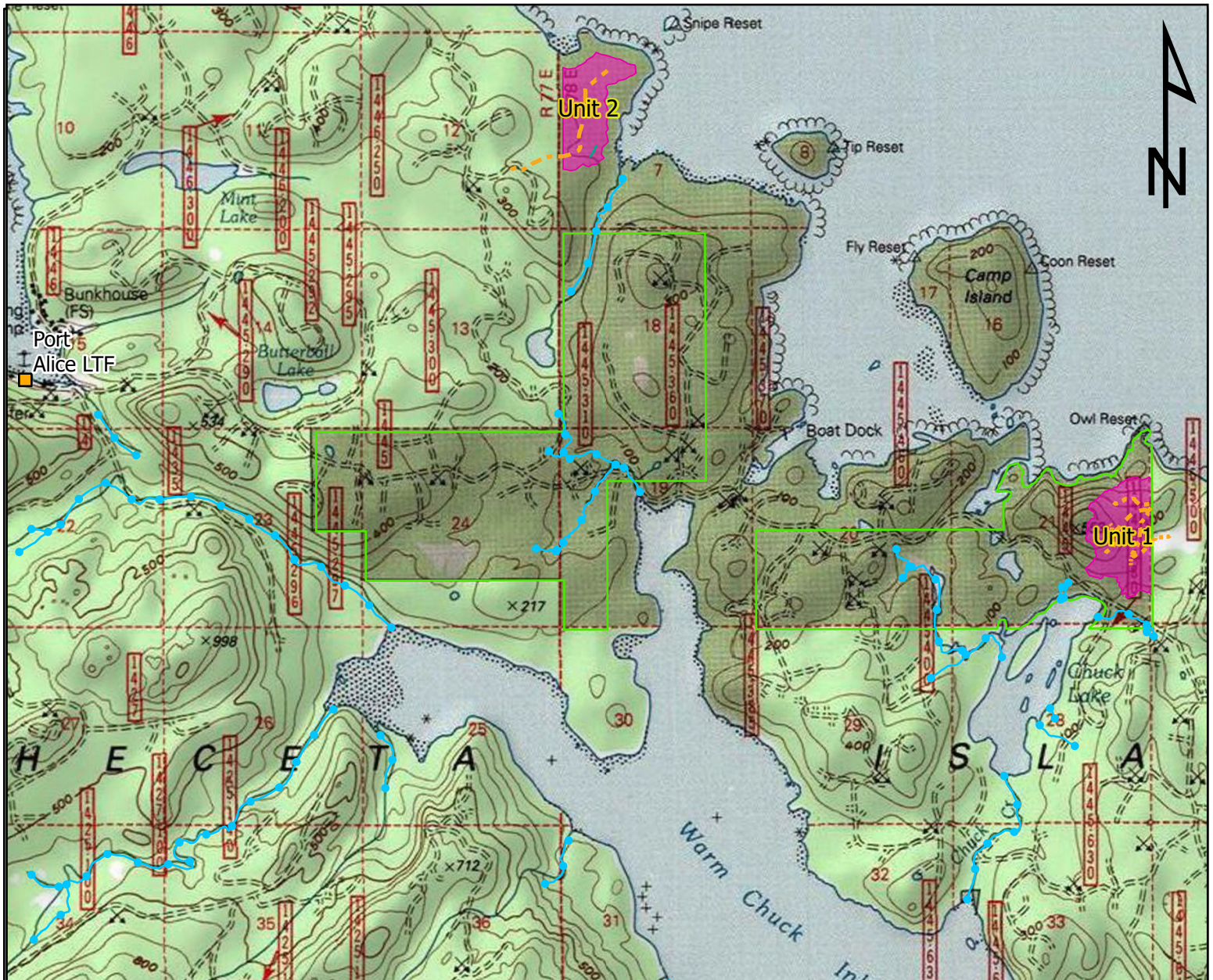
If you have any questions, please contact, Southeast Area Forester, dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov, 907.225.3070.

XI. APPENDICES

Appendix A	SSE-1357-K Heceta Timber Sale Area Map
Appendix B	References
Appendix C	Appeal Regulations
Appendix D	Comments & Responses
Appendix E	SSE-1357-K Heceta Forest Land Use Plan

Appendix A SSE-1357-K Heceta Timber Sale Area Map

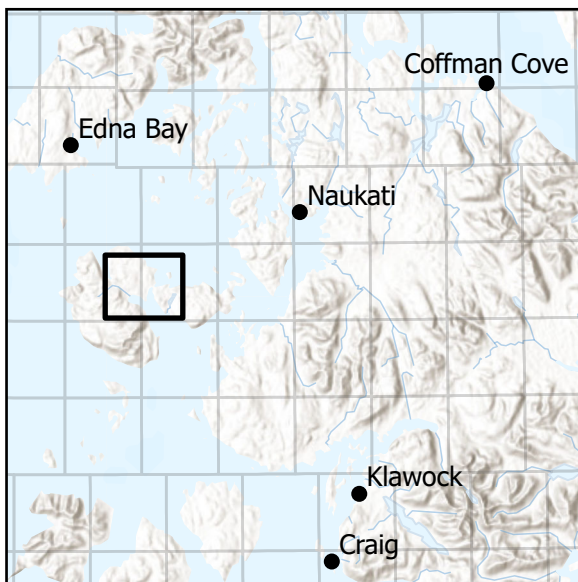
Vicinity Map (one page)



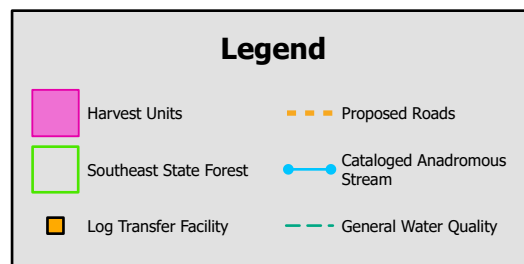
0 2,000 4,000 6,000 8,000 Feet
1 IN = 4,000 feet

MTR: C070S077E & C070S077E

APPENDIX A1 SSE-1357-K HECETA TIMBER SALE AREA MAP



Vicinity Map: 1 IN = 15 miles



LS 5/13/2026

Appendix B References

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Appendix C Appeal and Request for Reconsideration Regulations

Note: "Appeal" means a request to the commissioner to review a decision that the commissioner did not sign or cosign. "Request for reconsideration" means a petition or request to the commissioner to review an original decision that the commissioner signed or cosigned.

11 AAC 02 Regulations

11 AAC 02.010. Applicability and eligibility.

- (a) This chapter sets out the administrative review procedure available to a person affected by a decision of the department. If a statute or a provision of this title prescribes a different procedure with respect to a particular decision, that procedure must be followed when it conflicts with this chapter.
- (b) Unless a statute does not permit an appeal, an applicant is eligible to appeal or request reconsideration of the department's decision on the application. An applicant is eligible to participate in any appeal or request for reconsideration filed by any other eligible party.
- (c) If a statute restricts eligibility to appeal or request reconsideration of a decision to those who have provided timely written comment or public hearing testimony on the decision, the department will give notice of that eligibility restriction as part of its public notice announcing the opportunity to comment.
- (d) If the department gives public notice and allows a public comment period of at least 30 days on a proposed action, and if no statute requires opportunity for public comment, the department may restrict eligibility to appeal or request reconsideration to those who have provided timely written comment or public hearing testimony on the proposed action by including notice of the restriction as part of its public notice announcing the opportunity to comment.
- (e) An eligible person affected by a decision of the department that the commissioner did not sign or cosign may appeal the decision to the commissioner within the period set by 11 AAC 02.040.
- (f) An eligible person affected by a decision of the department that the commissioner signed or cosigned may request the commissioner's reconsideration within the period set by 11 AAC 02.040.
- (g) A person may not both appeal and request reconsideration of a decision.

11 AAC 02.015. Combined decisions.

- (a) When the department issues a combined decision that is both a final disposal decision under AS 38.05.035(e) and any other decision, including a disposal decision combined with a land use plan decision, or a disposal decision to grant certain applications combined with a decision to deny others, the appeal process set out for a disposal decision in AS 38.05.035(i) - (m) and this chapter applies to the combined decision.
- (b) Repealed 12/27/2012.

11 AAC 02.020. Finality of a decision for purposes of appeal to court.

- (a) Unless otherwise provided in a statute or a provision of this title, an eligible person must first either appeal or request reconsideration of a decision in accordance with this chapter before appealing a decision to superior court.
- (b) The commissioner's decision on appeal is the final administrative order and decision of the department for purposes of appeal to the superior court.
- (c) The commissioner may order or deny a request for reconsideration within 30 calendar days after issuance of the decision, as determined under 11 AAC 02.040(c) - (e). If the commissioner takes no action during the 30-day period, the request for reconsideration is considered denied. Denial of a request for reconsideration is the final administrative order and decision of the department for purposes of appeal to the superior court.
- (d) If the commissioner timely orders reconsideration of the decision, the commissioner may affirm the decision, issue a new or modified decision, or remand the matter to the director for further proceedings. The commissioner's decision, other than a remand decision, is the final administrative order and decision of the department for purposes of appeal to the superior court.

11 AAC 02.030. Filing an appeal or request for reconsideration.

- (a) An appeal or request for reconsideration under this chapter must
 - (1) be in writing;
 - (2) be filed by personal service, mail, facsimile transmission, or electronic mail;
 - (3) be signed by the appellant or the appellant's attorney, unless filed by electronic mail; an appeal or request for reconsideration filed by electronic mail must state the name of the person appealing or requesting reconsideration and a single point of contact to which any notice or decision concerning the appeal or request for reconsideration is to be sent;
 - (4) be correctly addressed;
 - (5) be timely filed in accordance with 11 AAC 02.040;
 - (6) specify the case reference number used by the department, if any;
 - (7) specify the decision being appealed or for which reconsideration is being requested;
 - (8) specify the basis upon which the decision is challenged;
 - (9) specify any material facts disputed by the appellant;
 - (10) specify the remedy requested by the appellant;
 - (11) state the address to which any notice or decision concerning the appeal or request for reconsideration is to be mailed; an appellant may also provide a telephone number where the appellant can be reached during the day or an electronic mail address; an appeal or request for reconsideration filed electronically must state a single address to which any notice or decision concerning the appeal or request for reconsideration is to be mailed;
 - (12) identify any other affected agreement, contract, lease, permit, or application by case reference number, if any;
 - (13) include a request for an oral hearing, if desired; in the appeal or request for reconsideration, the appellant may include a request for any special procedures to be used at the hearing; the appeal or request for reconsideration must describe the factual issues to be considered at the hearing; and
 - (14) be accompanied by the applicable fee set out in 11 AAC 05.160.

- (b) At the time an appeal is filed, and up until the deadline set out in 11 AAC 02.040(a) to file the appeal, an appellant may submit additional written material in support of the appeal, including evidence or legal argument.
- (c) If public notice announcing a comment period of at least 30 days was given before the decision, an appellant may not submit additional written material after the deadline for filing the appeal, unless the appeal meets the requirements of (a) of this section and includes a request for an extension of time, and the department determines that the appellant has shown good cause for an extension. In considering whether the appellant has shown good cause, the department will consider factors including one or more of the following:
- (1) comments already received from the appellant and others;
 - (2) whether the additional material is likely to affect the outcome of the appeal;
 - (3) whether the additional material could reasonably have been submitted without an extension;
 - (4) the length of the extension requested;
 - (5) the potential effect of delay if an extension is granted.
- (d) If public notice announcing a comment period of at least 30 days was not given before the decision, an appellant may submit additional written material after the deadline for filing the appeal, if the appeal meets the requirements of (a) of this section and includes a notice of intent to file the additional written material. The department must receive the additional written material within 20 days after the deadline for filing the appeal, unless the appeal also includes a request for an extension of time, and the department determines that the appellant has shown good cause for an extension. In considering whether the appellant has shown good cause, the department will consider factors including one or more of the following:
- (1) comments already received from the appellant and others;
 - (2) whether the additional material is likely to affect the outcome of the appeal;
 - (3) whether the additional material could reasonably have been submitted without an extension;
 - (4) the length of the extension requested;
 - (5) the potential effect of delay if an extension is granted.
- (e) At the time a request for reconsideration is filed, and up until the deadline to file a request for reconsideration, an appellant may submit additional written material in support of the request for reconsideration, including evidence or legal argument. No additional written material may be submitted after the deadline for filing the request for reconsideration.
- (f) If the decision is one described in 11 AAC 02.060(c), an appellant may ask for a stay as part of the appeal or request for reconsideration. The appellant must include an argument as to why the public interest requires a stay.

11 AAC 02.040. Timely filing; issuance of decision.

- (a) To be timely filed, an appeal or request for reconsideration must be received by the commissioner's office within 20 calendar days after issuance of the decision, as determined under (c) or (d) of this section, unless another period is set by statute, regulation, or existing contract. If the 20th day falls on a day when the department is officially closed, the appeal or request for reconsideration must be filed by the next working day.
- (b) An appeal or request for reconsideration will not be accepted if it is not timely filed.

(c) If the appellant is a person to whom the department delivers a decision by personal service or by certified mail, return receipt requested, issuance occurs when the addressee or the addressee's agent signs for the decision. If the addressee or the addressee's agent neglects or refuses to sign for the certified mail, or if the address that the addressee provided to the department is not correct, issuance by certified mail occurs when the decision is deposited in a United States general or branch post office, enclosed in a postage-paid wrapper or envelope, addressed to the person's current address of record with the department, or to the address specified by the appellant under 11 AAC 02.030(a)(11).

(d) If the appellant is a person to whom the department did not deliver a decision by personal service or certified mail, issuance occurs

(1) when the department gives public notice of the decision; or

(2) if no public notice is given, when the decision is signed; however, the department may state in the decision a later date of issuance and the corresponding due date for any appeal or request for reconsideration.

(e) The date of issuance constitutes delivery or mailing for purposes of a reconsideration request under AS 44.37.011(d) or AS 44.62.540(a).

11 AAC 02.050. Hearings.

(a) The department will, in its discretion, hold a hearing when questions of fact must be resolved.

(b) The hearing procedure will be determined by the department on a case-by-case basis. As provided in 11 AAC 02.030(a)(13), any request for special procedures must be included with the request for a hearing.

(c) In a hearing held under this section

(1) formal rules of evidence need not apply; and

(2) the hearing will be recorded, and may be transcribed at the request and expense of the party requesting the transcript.

11 AAC 02.060. Stays; exceptions.

(a) Except as provided in (c) and (d) of this section, timely appealing or requesting reconsideration of a decision in accordance with this chapter stays the decision during the commissioner's consideration of the appeal or request for reconsideration. If the commissioner determines that the public interest requires removal of the stay, the commissioner will remove the stay and allow all or part of the decision to take effect on the date set in the decision or a date set by the commissioner.

(b) Repealed 9/19/2001.

(c) Unless otherwise provided in a statute or a provision of this title, a decision takes effect immediately if it is a decision to

(1) issue a permit that is revocable at will;

(2) approve surface operations for a disposal that has already occurred or a property right that has already vested; or

(3) administer an issued oil and gas lease or license, or an oil and gas unit agreement.

(d) Timely appealing or requesting reconsideration of a decision described in (c) of this section does not automatically stay the decision. However, the commissioner will impose a stay, on the commissioner's own motion or at the request of an appellant, if the commissioner determines that the public interest requires it.

(e) A decision takes effect immediately if no party is eligible to appeal or request reconsideration and the commissioner waives the commissioner's right to review or reconsider the decision.

11 AAC 02.070. Waiver of procedural violations.

The commissioner may, to the extent allowed by applicable law, waive a requirement of this chapter if the public interest or the interests of justice so require.

11 AAC 02.900. Definitions.

In this chapter,

(1) "appeal" means a request to the commissioner to review a decision that the commissioner did not sign or cosign;

(2) "appellant" means a person who files an appeal or a request for reconsideration;

(3) "commissioner" means the commissioner of natural resources;

(4) "decision" means a written discretionary or factual determination by the department specifying the details of the action to be allowed or taken;

(5) "department" means, depending of the particular context in which the term is used, the Department of Natural Resources, the commissioner, the director of a division within the Department of Natural Resources, or an authorized employee of the Department of Natural Resources;

(6) "request for reconsideration" means a petition or request to the commissioner to review an original decision that the commissioner signed or cosigned.

Appendix D SSE-1357-K Heceta Timber Sale Comments & Responses

Preliminary Best Interest Finding and Draft Forest Land Use Plan Heceta Timber Sale (SSE-1357-K)
Comments

Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
June 2026

The following commenters submitted input:

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Area Habitat Biologist, Mark Minnillo
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water: Special Projects Coordinator, Brock Tabor

The following comments were received during the public comment period on the Preliminary Best Interest Finding and Draft Forest Land Use Plan Heceta Island Timber Sale (SSE-1357-K). They are organized by the topic structure of the decision documents.

Contents

Preliminary Best Interest Finding 2

 F. 2. Wildlife Habitat and Harvest 2

 F. 3. Fish habitat, Water Resources, and Water Quality 4

Draft Forest Land Use Plan..... 5

 D. Slash Abatement 5

Commenter	Comment	Response
Preliminary Best Interest Finding		
	F. 2. Wildlife Habitat and Harvest	
ADF&G	Adjacent to these timber harvest units, deer winter habitat has previously been reduced by logging and subsequent regeneration of second growth stands. Although this timber sale is relatively small, it predominantly includes important winter deer habitat between previous timber harvest units. ADF&G expects the overall impact of this timber sale to the GMU 2 deer population to be relatively small. However, the cumulative effect of this additional harvest to this localized deer population should be considered. Although the areas within and immediately adjacent to the proposed timber sale units are not identified in the POWIAP for intensive community harvest, harvest of big game occurs on Heceta Island, including between 13 and 57 deer taken per year from regulatory year 2015 to 2024.	To mitigate shoreside winter deer habitat loss concerns, the DFFP intends to leave shore side timber within approximately 300 FT of the beach. The scope of the shoreline retention area is in keeping with the intent of the POWIAP, the SESF Plan, and ADF&G input on the subject. Comment noted, no change required.
ADF&G	ADF&G recently commented to DNR on the POWIAP revision and included updates to deer winter habitat. Those maps are provided here as they apply to the state land identified in the Heceta Island Timber Sale (Fig. 1). Although the sale area was not identified as crucial or prime habitat in the 1998 POWIAP, the areas identified in Figure 1 have been identified by ADF&G as areas of high-intensity use during winter by deer, and therefore may qualify as “crucial” or “prime” habitat as defined in the POWIAP. The resource selection function map of crucial winter deer habitat (Fig. 1) was produced from the covariate values generated from 61 female deer GPS collared on POW between 2010–2013 (Gregovich et al. 2024). The factors that significantly contributed to this Page 3 habitat map included elevation, slope, distance from open/closed roads, solar radiation, and understory cover. The value of this research is profound at the larger study area as there are major winter habitat characterizations that are more difficult to observe in this smaller area, however the habitats identified in blue (Fig. 1) are valued as the top 20% of all winter deer habitat, highlighting the relative importance of this state land to deer. This data may benefit future efforts to prioritize	

Commenter	Comment	Response
	restoration through pre-commercial thinning or other disturbance treatments.	
ADF&G	The Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan provides a 1,000-foot marine shoreline buffer to help maintain important deer winter habitat. Deer preferentially select forested habitat within 1,000 feet of the shoreline during winter (Doerr et al. 2005). As both timber harvest units within this sale propose harvest within 1,000 feet of the shoreline (Fig. 2), additional allowances for wildlife habitat are recommended in both timber harvest units. What appears to be prior logging history along the northern shoreline between and adjacent to these timber harvest units (as evidenced from aerial imagery) will likely compound movement and forage availability challenges for deer in winter. We recommend reducing the timber harvest unit boundaries by an appropriate distance to improve timber windfirmness, which will enable wildlife movement corridors and access to winter forage for deer.	Management of the timber sale area is consistent with the POWIAP, which does not require a 1,000 FT shoreline buffer. Leaving 1,000 FT of timber adjacent to the beach precludes multiple uses of the land in this management area and, more specifically, feasible timber sales. Constraining the timber harvest to that extent does not meet the objectives of the POWIAP or the timber sale. The DNR perspective additionally considers the very limited activity planned for the foreseeable future on adjacent federal land. To mitigate shoreside winter deer habitat loss concerns, the DFFP intends to leave shore side timber within approximately 300 FT of the beach. The scope of the shoreline retention area is in keeping with the intent of the POWIA, the SESF Plan, and ADF&G input on the subject. The DFFP considered past evidence of wind throw and designed the units relative to terrain and timber types for the retained timber to be wind firm relative to prevailing winds. Comment noted, no change made.
ADF&G	We recommend that the DFFP implement the recommendations of the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration for Deer Stewardship (HERDS; Blacktail Deer Foundation 2025) group to prioritize older stands within the proposed timber sale units for effective thinning treatments, prior to stem exclusion, as this would benefit deer and hunter harvest opportunities. Extensive clearcut logging causes thick second-growth stands that can last for 150 years or longer (Alaback 1982), which lowers the carrying capacity for deer (Brinkman et al. 2011), and subsequently wolves (Person and Brinkman, 2013).	The DFFP has an active pre-commercial thinning program on State land. Precommercial thinning effectively enables improved forest vigor and future product utilization of the retained timber for sawlogs, and mitigates the wildlife access issues noted. We are additionally working with ADF&G to implement slash treatments in young growth stands to improve deer and hunter travel corridors in the treated stands per the recommendations of the HERDS group. Comment noted, no change required.
ADF&G	Maintaining deer populations is important not only for hunter	Comment noted, no change required.

Commenter	Comment	Response
	harvest opportunity, but also for sustaining species of wildlife that depend on deer. Maintaining large, contiguous tracts of high-quality deer habitat may therefore have carryover effects for wolves.	
ADF&G	No documented wolf dens occur nearby the proposed timber harvest units. However, there may be wolf dens that have not been documented by the department. Effective wolf conservation and management includes providing adequate protections for newly discovered den sites. If a wolf den is discovered during project planning or timber harvest, DWC requests that DFFP notify the department about their existence so that an appropriate no-harvest buffer can be generated for these dens.	Comment noted, no change required.
ADF&G	ADF&G research shows black bears select large woody structures (both live and dead) in habitat classified as commercial forest lands in GMU 2 (Porter et al. 2020, Porter et al. 2021). Buffers of 60 meters or greater are recommended to prevent windthrow from destroying, disturbing, or otherwise modifying bear den sites (Zielke 2022, Davis 2025). Black bears in GMU 2 typically occupy dens between November 1st through March 31st (Porter et al. 2020). Previous research suggests that no-activity buffers of 1km should be implemented to prevent den abandonment (Linnell et al. 2000). The abandonment of dens, especially by females with cubs, may have negative impacts to the population. Although there are no catalogued bear dens within 1km of the proposed timber harvest units, there may be bear dens within the project area that have not been documented by the department. Effective conservation and management for black bears includes providing adequate protections for newly discovered den sites. If a black bear den is discovered during planning or timber harvest, DWC requests that DFFP notify the department about their existence so that appropriate no-harvest and no-activity buffers can be generated for these dens.	Comment noted, no change required.
	F. 3. Fish habitat, Water Resources, and Water Quality	
ADF&G	ADF&G reviewed the maps included with the PBIF/FLUP, Atlas and Catalog of Anadromous Waters, and ADF&G Habitat GIS	Comment noted, no change required.

Commenter	Comment	Response
	stream survey mapping database. Although it appears the proposed harvest areas will not impact fish habitat, ADF&G staff can be available to conduct additional stream surveys of any streams found to contain fish or fish habitat. Road access is via existing, reconstructed, and new spur road construction. None of the reconstruction nor new road construction will cross any known fish-bearing water bodies.	
ADEC	DEC has no comments on SSE-1357-K at this time.	Comment noted, no change required.
Draft Forest Land Use Plan		
	D. Slash Abatement	
ADF&G	Slash generated as a result of clearcuts and thinning treatments may preclude/prevent the use of recently clearcut or thinned stands by wildlife (Farmer et al. 2006). While shovel logging methods of tree removal may lessen the amount of slash, we request that contractors remove remaining slash by bucking, piling, chipping, burning, etc. to facilitate forage initiation, wildlife travel, and hunter access within harvested and thinned units.	The DFFP works with timber purchasers through contract requirements to manage slash build up in logged units to enable prompt natural reforestation of the harvested area, and to ensure wood utilization while minimizing access impediments for wildlife and hunters to the extent practicable. Comment noted, no change required.

Appendix E SSE-1357-K Heceta Timber Sale Forest Land Use Plan

State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry & Fire Protection



Coastal Region-Southeast Area Office
Forest Land Use Plan

Heceta Timber Sale
SSE-1357-K

September 2026

Abbreviations

ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ADNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
BIF	Best interest finding
DMLW	Division of Mining, Land and Water
DOF	Division of Forestry & 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
POWIAP	Prince of Wales Island Area Plan
ROW	Right-of-way
SESF	Southeast State Forest
SESFMP	Southeast State Forest Management Plan
UA	University of Alaska
USFS	United States Forest Service

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I. Introduction

Project File Number: SSE-1357-K

Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Office: Southeast

Area Forester: Greg Staunton

Forest Practices Geographic Region (AS 41.17.950): Region I

This Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) covers proposed forest operations on approximately 183 acres of land from state lands on Heceta Island, approximately 12 miles southwest of the Community of Naukati on Prince of Wales Island. It is intended to provide the best available information regarding the proposed harvest of timber, and management of other non-timber uses in compliance with AS 38.05.112 and AS 41.17.060, and must be adopted by the DNR before the proposed activity can occur.

A draft of this plan was distributed to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), other State and Federal Agencies, and the public for their review and comments relevant to the consistency of this proposed project with the statutes governing forest land use plans (AS 38.05.112) and the requirements of the Alaska Forest Resources & Practices Act (AS 41.17) and its Regulations (11 AAC 95).

After public and agency review of the draft FLUP, the DFFP reviewed comments, made changes as appropriate, and prepared this FLUP for adoption. An eligible person affected by this decision, and who provided timely written comment or public hearing testimony to the department, may appeal the decision to the DNR Commissioner per AS 44.37.011 and 11 AAC 02.

This timber sale is designed to be consistent with the management intent of the following documents:

- Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act
- Southeast State Forest Management Plan
- Prince of Wales Island Area Plan
- Heceta Timber Sale Preliminary Best Interest Finding, SSE-1357-K

The administrative record for this sale is maintained at the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Southeast Area Office filed as SSE-1357-K.

A. Legal description

The timber sale area is found within Sections 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 of Township (T) 70S South(S), Range (R) 78 East (E), and Sections 12, 13, 23, and 24 of T70S, R77E all referenced to the Copper River Meridian (CRM). (see attached maps titled Appendix A SSE-1357-K Heceta Timber Sale Maps)

B. Operational Period

Calendar years 2026-2030

C. Timber Disposal

- ☒ Timber will be sold and will have a contract administrated by the State.
- ☒ Timber will be available to the public; permits obtained by the public will be issued by the State.
- ☐ Other

Objectives and Summary

1. To follow the Alaska Department of Natural Resources' (ADNR) constitutional mandate to encourage the development of the State's renewable resources, making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest;
2. To help the State's economy by providing royalties to the State in the form of stumpage receipts, an infusion to the State's economy through wages, purchases, jobs, and business.
3. To help the local economy of the communities within southern Southeast Alaska by creating additional jobs due to the combination of road building, logging, trucking and potentially milling.

II. Affected Land Owners/Jurisdictions

A. State

Activity on ownership:	Access Easement	Harvest	Written Representative Approval
☒ Southeast State Forest	☐	☒	☒
☒ Other state land managed by DNR	☐	☒	☒
☐ University of Alaska	☐	☐	☐
☐ Mental Health Trust	☐	☐	☐
☐ School Trust	☐	☐	☐

B. Other Land Interests

Land Interest, Representative:

- USFS Road Construction and Use, USFS District Ranger and Engineering Staff

III. Harvest Methods, Silvicultural Actions, and Management of Non-timber Resources

Forest operations will be designed to:

- Protect fish habitat and water quality in compliance with the best management practices in 11 AAC 95.260-.370,
- Manage for the other land uses and activities identified in AS 41.17.060 and the Best Interest Finding for this timber sale, and
- Ensure prompt reforestation and maintenance of site productivity in compliance with AS 41.17.060(c) and 11 AAC 95 .375-.390.

Harvest and Silvicultural Methods:

- ☒ The silvicultural actions are described in this document, and no prescription was written or is necessary.
- ☐ A silvicultural prescription has been written and is attached to this document in Appendix B.

A. Timber Stand Description and History

Harvest units are comprised of mix of mature old growth and mature young growth composed of western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*) and incidental Alaska yellow cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*). Approximately 50-70-year-old young growth timber surrounds Unit 1. The stand was thinned commercially to the east on USFS land in 2016. Unit 2 has 30-40-year-old second growth bordering the western side of the unit and 80-year-old young growth to the east alongside Sea Otter Sound. These coastal areas have been generally logged selectively in the early 1940's and retain some old growth characteristics.

B. Timber Harvest Activities

Timber Harvest Activities are displayed in Table 1.

Table 1. Timber Harvest Activities

Unit ID	Acres	Topography	Silvicultural Action	Logging Method
1	100.7	Irregular Slopes	Even-aged Management utilizing the clearcut system	Cable with Shovel Logging
2	82.6	Irregular Slopes	Even-aged Management utilizing the clearcut system	Shovel Logging
Total	183.4			

C. Site Preparation

☒ Site preparation will not be necessary. There is either sufficient residual stocking, or because there has been sufficient soil disturbance by logging to forego scarification.

☐ Site preparation will be implemented and described in Table 2:

Table 2. Site Preparation

Unit ID	Acres	Site Preparation Method	Date of Completion
--	--	Not Applicable	--

D. Slash Abatement

- ☐ Potential for insect infestations caused by slash accumulations exists. Slash abatement for controlling infestations will be implemented as required by 11 AAC 95.370.
- ☒ Scatter slash; accumulations will be kept to less than 2 feet in height.
- ☒ Slash will be disposed of by the operator ☐ Slash will be disposed of by the State
- ☐ Other - method of slash disposal: ☐ removal off site ☐ crushing or grinding ☐ burning
- ☐ Burn permits necessary from DOF and DEC to be acquired.
- ☐ The operator will contact the DOF local area office prior to ignition of debris.

E. Soil Stability / Erosion / Mass Wasting

- ☐ Maximum percent slopes are $\leq 50\%$
- ☒ Maximum percent slopes are $> 50\%$

Percentage of sale area with slopes $> 50\%$: 5%

Maximum percent slopes: Unit 1: 60% Unit 2: 30%

- ☒ There are no indicators of unstable areas.
- ☐ Indicators of unstable areas were identified and will be mitigated by actions indicated below.

Note: Observed windthrow was associated thin soil overlying bedrock.

F. Timber Harvest—Surface Water Protection

- ☐ There are no streams or lakes abutting or within a harvest unit.
- ☒ Known surface waters and protection measures are described in Table 3 below. *Locations are included in the operational map in the Appendices.*

Table 3. Protection for Known Surface Waters

Unit	Waterbody Name	AS 41.17.950 Classification	ADF&G AWC #	Required Riparian Protection	Site-specific actions to minimize impacts on riparian area
2	Rice Creek	Anadromous	103-90-10470	100 FT. Timber Retention	Implement AFRPA and Reg., 300 FT. Timber Retention

Surface waters listed above were reviewed by the Department of Fish and Game:

- ☒ During the timber sale planning process
- ☒ During the agency review conducted for the Best Interest Finding for this sale
- ☒ During the drafting of this Forest Land Use Plan
- ☐ Stream Crossings (Title 16) Permits are needed per ADF&G Division of Habitat

Surface waters listed above were reviewed by the Department of Environmental Conservation:

- ☒ During the timber sale planning process
- ☒ During the agency review conducted for the Best Interest Finding for this sale
- ☒ During the drafting of this Forest Land Use Plan

Non-classified surface waters are subject to applicable BMPs in 11 AAC 95.

Notes: Several small intermittent surface waters sloped greater than 12% were observed in the southeastern portion of Unit 2.

G. Wildlife Habitat

- ☒ Wildlife species and allowances for their important habitats were addressed in writing by the Department of Fish & Game during the Best Interest Finding review.
- ☒ Wildlife species and allowances for their important habitats were addressed in writing by the Department of Fish & Game during the drafting and review of this Forest Land Use Plan.

Silvicultural practices to be applied to minimize impacts to wildlife habitat or wildlife management:

- ☒ Timber retention - concentrations of timber surrounding harvest units, or interspersed within harvest units to provide cover.
- ☒ Snag Retention- snags or isolated trees left for cavity nesting species.
- ☐ Large Woody Debris – concentrations of downed timber or logging debris interspersed within harvest units to provide cover left on site.
- ☒ Other actions: *Retention of area adjacent to tidewater in Unit 2 benefiting bald eagle nest and deer wintering area.*

H. Cultural and Historical Resource Protection

- ☒ This project was reviewed by the State Historic and Preservation Office (SHPO).
- ☐ No artifacts have been reported within the project area(s).
- ☒ Known or likely sites have been identified, and a mitigation plan is in place. Mitigation actions: *Retain a multipurpose 300-foot retention area along anadromous stream 103-90-10470 and approximately a 200-to-300-foot coastal area along Unit #2. Minimize significant disturbance of the soil surface in the unit (retain vegetative surface integrity and minimize stump pulling for skidding trails along the eastern edge).*

I. Other Resources Affected by Timber Harvest and Management

- ☐ There are other resources and areas of concern besides surface water, fish habitat, and wildlife habitat that may be affected. Mitigations actions were addressed in the Best Interest Finding.
- ☒ There are no affected resources or areas of concern other than surface water, fish habitat, and wildlife habitat, which are addressed in this Forest Land Use Plan.

J. Reforestation

Reforestation utilizing the clearcut method is expected to result in optimal growing conditions for regenerating Sitka spruce, western hemlock, and western redcedar. Increased availability of light and nutrients along with moderately scarified ground from track-based logging equipment is expected to result in a stocked stand within five years of harvest. Historically natural regeneration after a timber harvest in Southeast Alaska has been satisfactory in meeting FRPA reforestation requirements.

Harvest type as it relates to reforestation requirement:

- ☒ Clearcut
- ☐ Region I: Partial Harvest leaving more than 50% live basal area (11 AAC 95.375(b)(3))
- ☐ Region II or III: Partial Harvest relying on residual trees to result in a stocking level that meets standards of 11 AAC 95.375(b)(4).

Season of harvest:

- ☐ Winter harvest only
- ☐ Non-winter harvest only
- ☒ All-season harvest

Regeneration type:

- ☒ Natural regeneration

List species: Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*).

- ☐ Coppice
- ☐ Artificial regeneration
- ☐ Seeding: Species and source of seed (general vicinity location of seed source)

-
- ☐ Planting: Species: _____ Date of proposed planting: _____
Source of seedlings (location of seed source): _____

IV. Roads and Crossing Structures

A. Road Design, Construction, and Maintenance

Roads will be designed, constructed, and maintained to prevent significant adverse impacts on water quality and fish habitat (AS 41.17.060(b)(5)), and site productivity (AS 41.17.060(c)(5)). Roads will comply with the best management practices in the Forest Resources and Practices Regulations (11 AAC 95.285 – 95.335). All roads used in this timber sale will conform at a minimum to the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Road Standards, site specific design may supersede this standard and will typically be specified and applied through the timber sale contract. USFS system and temporary roads shall conform to Road and Special Use permits requirements.

Roads or other means required for the access and removal of this timber from the harvest area(s) or unit(s) are listed in Table 5A and 5B.

Table 5A. Road Reconstruction and Use

Road ID	Harvest Unit	Mile**	Road Class	Maximum Grade %*	Constructed By	Maintained By
1445000	1	6.8	Primary	NA	Existing	Purchaser
1445500	1	0.22	Secondary	NA	Existing	Purchaser
1445510	1	0.31	Spur	12	Existing	Purchaser
1445000	2	2.62	Primary	NA	Existing	Purchaser
1445310	2	2.12	Secondary	NA	Existing	Purchaser
1445311	2	0.26	Spur	18	Existing	Purchaser

Table 5B. New Road Construction and Use

Road ID	Harvest Unit	Mile/ Station **	Road Class	Maximum Grade %	Constructed By	Maintained By
1445311	2	.84	Spur	18	Purchaser	Purchaser
1445510	1	0.82	Spur	18	Purchaser	Purchaser
1445514	1	0.05	Spur	18	Purchaser	Purchaser

Road ID	Harvest Unit	Mile/ Station **	Road Class	Maximum Grade %	Constructed By	Maintained By
1445516	1	0.25	Spur	18	Purchaser	Purchaser
1445518	1	0.05	Spur	18	Purchaser	Purchaser

Road Class is as defined in the DOF Road Standards.

**Note: Roads must be less than 20% grade per 8 AAC 61.1060 Additional Logging Standards.*

*** One station equals 100 feet. One mile equals 5,280 feet.*

B. Soil Erosion / Mass Wasting

Maximum percent side slopes: 40%

☒ Maximum percent side slopes are $\leq 50\%$

☐ Maximum percent side slopes are $> 50\%$

☒ There are no indicators of unstable areas where roads will be constructed

☐ Indicators of unstable areas were identified and will be mitigated by actions indicated below:

Table 6. Road Erosion Control Risk and Mitigation

Road ID	Mile/ Station or Point Label	Identified Erosion Risk	Risk Level	Mitigation
All	--	None	<i>Low</i>	Standard FRPA Best Management Practices

General Timber Sale Erosion Control:

☐ Grass seeding
 ☐ Erosion control mats
 ☐ Wattle
 ☒ Drivable waterbars
 ☐ Other: _____
 ☐ Not applicable

C. Crossing Structures

Are you removing or replacing drainage structures? ☐ YES ☒ NO

☒ No crossing structures are needed within the project area.

☐ Crossing structures will be placed in access roads as described in the table below:

Table 7. Required Drainage and Crossing Structures on Known Surface Waters

Road ID	Point Label	Bridge Length (ft.) or Culvert Diameter (in.)	Structure Type [ex. Corrugated Plastic Pipe, Log Stringer, Fabricated, Ice]	AS 41.17.950 Stream Classification	ADF&G AWC Number	Duration of crossing structure in place
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Roads constructed for the timber sale that are left open will be subject to maintenance standards under 11 AAC 95. 315. Otherwise, roads constructed for the timber sale will be closed, subject to standards under 11 AAC 95.320.

Table 8. Road Closures

Road ID	Segment	Closure Type All Season/Winter	Estimated Closure Date	Projected Road Use after Timber Harvest
1445311	All	All Season	End of harvest	Silviculture
1445510	All	All Season	End of harvest	Silviculture
1445514	All	All Season	End of harvest	Silviculture
1445516	All	All Season	End of harvest	Silviculture
1445518	All	All Season	End of harvest	Silviculture

D. Material Extraction

- ☐ There will be no material extraction sites in the project area.
- ☐ Material extraction and associated overburden disposal will be located outside of riparian areas and muskegs. Material extraction and disposal will be located as shown on the operation map, in a manner that prevents runoff from entering surface waters.
- ☒ Other: Depending on suitable material availability, several rock pits will be developed for construction of the road. The development of any pit will be part of the timber purchaser's operating plan prior to commencing operations and subject to DFFP approval.

E. Other Resources Affected by Roads or Material Extraction

List resources other than water, habitat or cultural resources potentially impacted by road construction, and indicate how impacts will be mitigated. Other affected resources could be, but are not limited to mining claims, scenic areas, recreational trails, etc.

Table 9. Other Affected Resources

Impacted Resource	Reviewing Agency	Impact / Mitigation Actions
--	--	--

Appendix A: Timber Sale Maps

Appendix A1 Area Map (1 page)

Appendix A2 Unit Map (2 pages)

Appendix B: Supporting Information

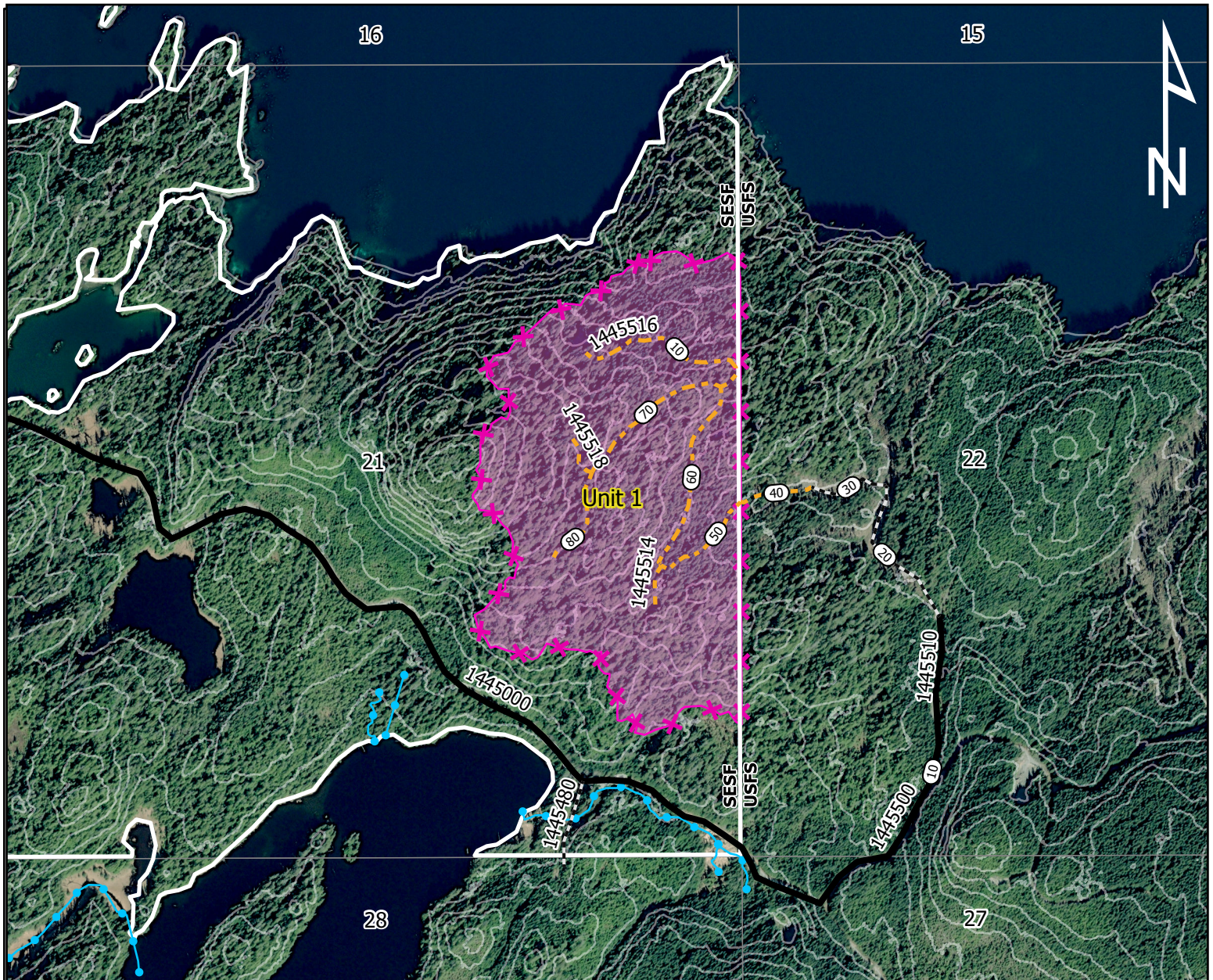
Note: Silvicultural and stand information has also been described in the BIF.

Alaska Forest Practices and Regulations.

<http://forestry.alaska.gov/forestpractices>

Forest Road Standards.

http://forestry.alaska.gov/Assets/pdfs/resources/forest_road_standard_design_20151231.pdf

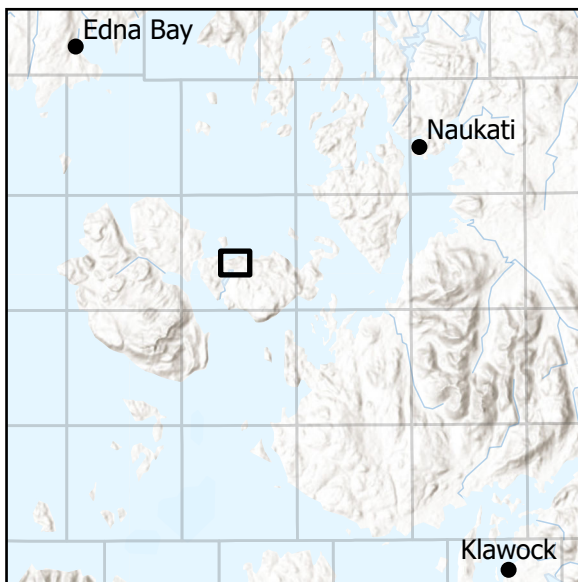


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Feet
1 IN = 1,000 feet

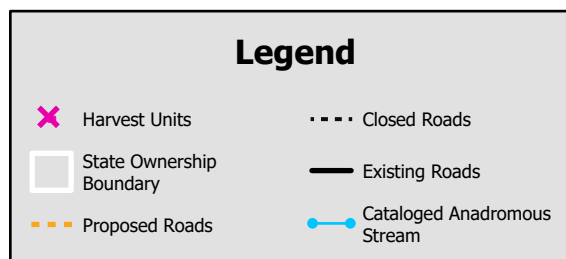
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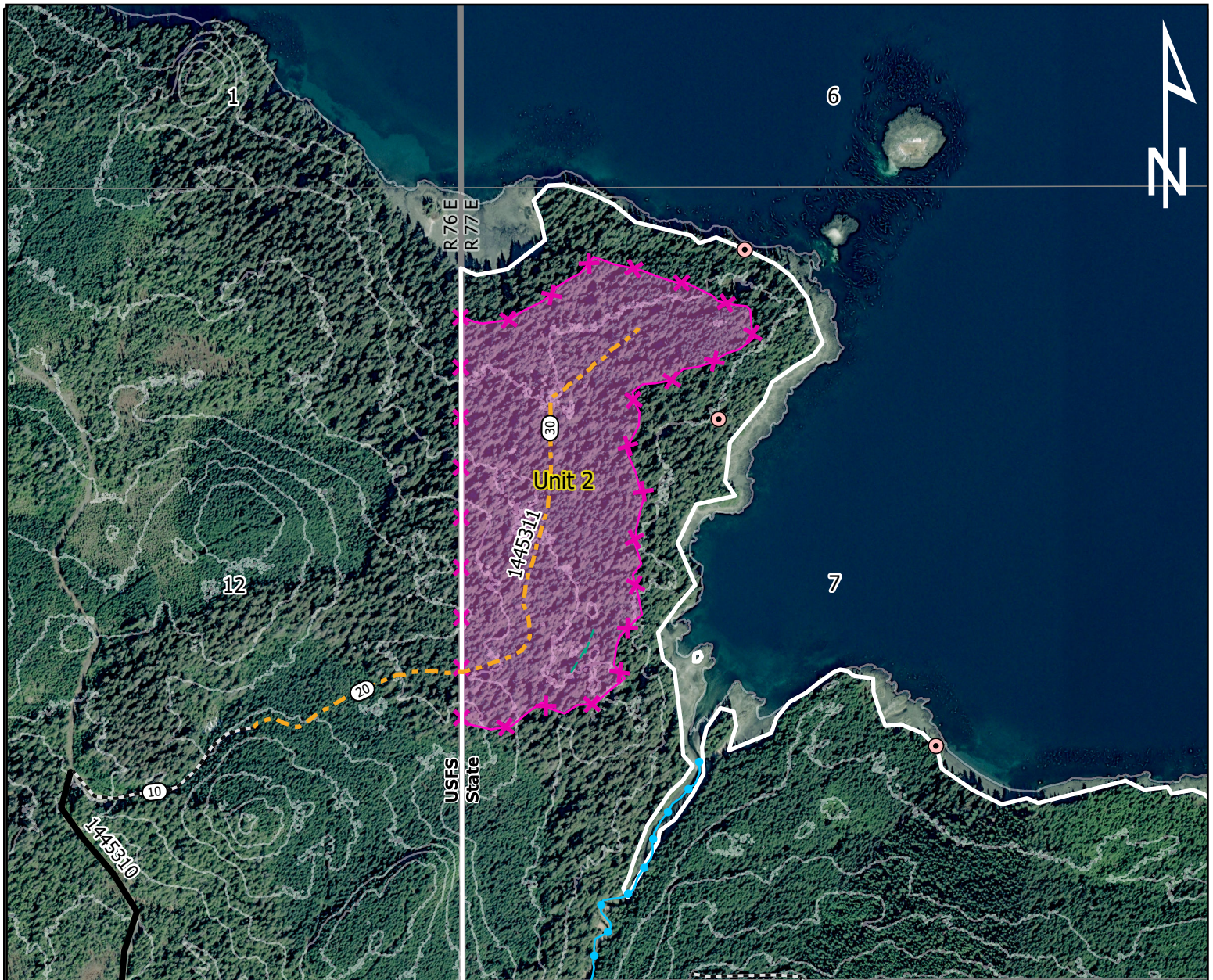
APPENDIX A2-1 SSE-1357-K HECETA TIMBER SALE UNIT 1 MAP



Vicinity Map: 1 IN = 10 miles



LS 5/13/2026

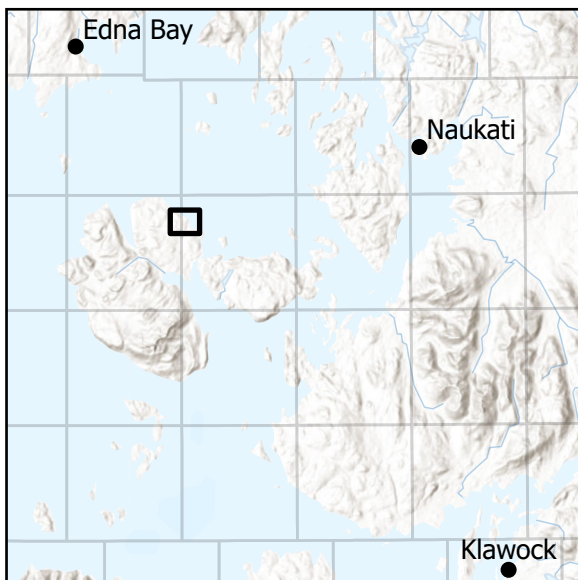


0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000
Feet
1 IN = 1,000 feet

MTR: C070S077E & C070S078E
Section(s): 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, 18

Contour Interval = 40 FT

APPENDIX A2-2 SSE-1357-K HECETA TIMBER SALE UNIT 2 MAP



Vicinity Map: 1 IN = 10 miles

