

# FORESTRY

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## Goals

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**Economic Development.** Provide an adequate supply of timber at reasonable development cost to support a forest products industry that offers jobs and income to Alaskans.

**Personal Use.** Meet the personal use forestry needs of Alaskans.

**Resource Management.** Manage forests of the area to ensure continuous productivity, continuous availability of forest products at reasonable cost, maintenance or enhancement of other public resources over the long term, and access for public use and enjoyment.

Protect, as appropriate, public and private forests from wildfire, insects, and other destructive agents.

## Management Guidelines

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**A. Multiple Use Management.** Unless particular forms of natural resource use are specifically prohibited, all lands designated for forest use are intended to be managed for the fullest possible range of beneficial uses. The relative importance of each use will be specified in the management intent statements and controlled by the management guidelines for each management unit.

**B. Timber Salvage.** Timber salvage on lands that are to be cleared for other purposes, such as farms, transportation corridors, or utility corridors will meet the requirements of AS 41.17.083 (clearing of forest land for non-timber purposes). This will be accomplished by adherence to the following guidelines:

**1. Review.** The Division of Forestry will review proposals for significant land clearing actions to evaluate if the timber is worth salvaging and to advise the Director of the Division of Land on appropriate salvage methods.

**2. Scheduling.** Projects that involve clearing large amounts of forested land, such as agricultural projects, will be planned far enough in advance to allow a reasonable period to arrange for and conduct commercial salvage of timber. This advance planning includes sufficient time to conduct inventories and harvest.

**3. Timber Value.** If timber is not salvaged prior to sale of land to farmers, the value of the timber will be included in the evaluation of the land and in the price paid by the farmers, so that the state will be compensated for the loss of this public resource.

**4. Marking Leave Areas.** Where necessary as part of the most appropriate method of timber salvage, future farm home sites, wood lots, wooded wind breaks, and other areas to be left uncleared will be delineated. This may be done if timber on the project area is to be harvested in large blocks before sale of the farms, or if farms will be sold with the timber and then individual farmers are to be responsible for land clearing and possible timber harvest. The Division of Forestry will work with the Division of Agriculture, Division of Land, Department of Fish and Game, and the Soil Conservation Service to identify areas to be left uncut. Identification will include flagging or otherwise marking in the field so the timber harvest operator or landowner can distinguish the areas to leave.

**C. Forest Practices Act.** Guidelines for forest management in this plan assume compliance with the Forest Resources and Practices Act and regulations. That act and implementing regulations will guide forest management and help ensure protection of non-timber forest resources. The guidelines in this plan apply to forest management in addition to the direction given by the Forest Practices regulations. For more information, see the Forest Resources and Practices Act, AS 41.17, and its regulations, 11 AAC 95 (see also Stream Corridors and Instream Flow Guideline F, *Timber Harvest Near Streams*, page 2-26).

**D. Personal Use Wood Harvest.** An important objective of forest management is to provide opportunities for people to harvest firewood and houselogs from public land for their personal use. Therefore, when forested lands are available near communities and where personal-use harvest is consistent with other purposes for which the land is being managed, some of this land should be managed to help provide wood products for personal use. (See also Settlement Guideline D4, *Personal Use of Nearby Resources*, page 2-22).

**E. Fire Management.** Fire management practices, including prescribed burning, will be designed to implement the land management policies laid out in the area plan. These practices are described in the Tanana-Minchumina Fire Management Plan developed by the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Council.

**F. Other Guidelines Affecting Forest Management.** Other guidelines may affect forest management practices. See in particular the following sections of this chapter:

- Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest
- Lakeshore Management
- Materials
- Public Access
- Settlement
- Stream Corridors and Instream Flow
- Subsurface Resources
- Trail Management
- Transportation
- Wetland Management