

Land Management Planning

Background: Forest Service policy and direction provides for improvement of government-to-government relationships; and collaborative, community-based resource stewardship. Through these means, the Forest Service strives to achieve compatibility of management activities with the goals and objectives of ownership and management on adjacent lands. In addition, 36 CFR 219.7(f) requires that a program of monitoring and evaluation shall be conducted that includes the effects of National Forest management on lands, resources, and communities adjacent or near the National Forest project or activity being planned.

Land Management Planning Question 1: Is the management of National Forest System lands consistent with management objectives of adjacent land and their management plans?

Monitoring Results

National Forest Management projects with decisions completed in FY 2007 have been evaluated to determine if any non-National Forest System lands are adjacent to, or near the project locations. Appealed projects and decisions remanded during FY 2007 were not evaluated.

Projects identified as occurring adjacent to non-National Forest System lands are listed below. Details on the type of project, management objective, and consistency between the objectives on the National Forest and adjacent lands are included in the list. Lands identified as adjacent to National Forest lands are those within a proximity that could possibly be influenced by the project.

Admiralty National Monument

No 2007 project decision documents for Admiralty National Monument were identified as having adjacent non-National Forest System lands.

Craig Ranger District

Scratchings Timber Sale

This is an EIS for timber sale activities on 866 Suemez Island acres in 28 units. Projected harvest is 21 MMBF. Portions of this sale occur adjacent to University of Alaska lands. The sale will build 6 miles of National Forest System roads and 4 miles of temporary road, which, with 11 miles of existing road, will be closed at the end of operations. Timber harvest units, as viewed from Waterfall Resort, will meet the Visual Quality Objective of Modification by unit design. The selected alternative modifies four of the small Old Growth Reserves in VCUs 6340, 6350 and 6370 through a non-significant Forest Plan amendment. Concerns for cumulative water quality effects in Port Dolores were considered. There will be a temporary increase in sediment delivery to streams from road and bridge construction, but design quality standards are expected to allow the maintenance of water quality in accordance with State of Alaska standards.

Plan of operations for Niblack Mining Corporation for exploratory drilling for 2007

This is a categorical exclusion (CE) for surface exploration drilling. The activities will occur north of Moira Sound on lands adjacent to Niblack. All non-drill related materials are to be stored on non-NFS lands. All drill related equipment will be removed from NFS lands.

Hoonah Ranger District

Invasive Weed Control or Eradication by Manual or Mechanical Methods

This is a categorical exclusion for the control or eradication of invasive weeds from campgrounds, housing areas, trails, cabins, quarries, Forest Service roads and administrative sites on National Forest System lands by other than chemical means. Activities will be conducted to avoid seed dispersal and will be part of an on-going program of weed control and eradication. Plant materials will be disposed of properly, to prevent further spread. This project addresses one of the Chief of the Forest Service's Four Threats, and addresses control of invasive species identified on the Alaska Natural Heritage Foundation database.

Juneau Ranger District

AELP Electrical Transmission Line Renewal

This is a categorical exclusion to re-authorize the continued use of National Forest System lands for electrical transmission lines serving the Juneau area. The locations of the lines are along the Glacier Highway reconstruction, Mile 2 Glacier Highway, the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center, the Mendenhall Campground and the Eagle Beach Boy Scout Camp Road. The permit term is for 20 years.

Ketchikan Misty Fiords Ranger District

Sealaska Shuttle Special Use Permit

This is a categorical exclusion for the issuance of a priority use permit for guided wildlife viewing at the Fish Creek Wildlife Observatory in Hyder. The new permit will authorize 665 priority service days and will have a term of ten years.

AP&T Wireless Communication Tower

This is a categorical exclusion to allow AP&T Wireless, Inc. a permit to construct a 60 ft. tower adjacent to its existing communications facility on Gravina Island, at the 2,500 ft. level. After construction, a smaller tower will be removed. The new tower will allow AP&T Wireless, Inc., to provide better service to the Ketchikan area and the potential for expansion of services to Metlakatla, Alaska. The project occurs in an inventoried roadless area; however, no roads will be constructed to access the site. Helicopters will be used to in construction and operation.

Benson Waterline and Shoreline

This is a categorical exclusion to authorize use and maintenance of a waterline on Sitklan Island, and to use a mooring point on an unnamed island in Lincoln Channel. The waterline supplies water to a fishing float anchored at the mooring. In addition to the applicant, others who use the water are those frequent the area primarily for fishing.

This project complies with the provisions of ANILCA, and a Coastal Project Questionnaire will be submitted to the State of Alaska for a consistency determination before a permit is issued.

Alaska Department of Public Safety Cabin in Foggy Bay

This categorical exclusion will authorize the continued operation and maintenance of a service building in the Foggy Bay area, providing an administrative site for the Alaska Department of Public Safety. The site is needed because of the extensive salmon fishery in the area. This project is in an inventoried roadless area, and within designated wilderness. However, it meets

the provisions of ANILCA, will not require road construction for operation and maintenance, and will have a consistency determination issued by the State of Alaska prior to permit issuance.

Pankow Impoundment and Waterline near Loring, Alaska

This is a categorical exclusion to authorize construction and maintenance of one 6' by 6' by 3' wooden impoundment structure and a 150 ft. long water hose on National Forest land adjacent to Lot 2 of the subdivision of Lot 16, U.S. Survey 4569 and U.S. Survey 2109, in Loring, Alaska. The impoundment will be approximately 108 square feet in size, and will be used to provide fresh water to Mr. Pankow's cabin. The permit term is 5 years. The permit will not require road building and a State Coastal Project determination of consistency will be obtained prior to permit issuance.

Signature Seafoods Waterline and Shoretie Special Use Permit

This categorical exclusion authorizes Signature Seafoods, Inc. (SSI) for the placement of a 100-foot long, 1.5-inch diameter waterline on National Forest System land adjacent to Rockfish Cove. The waterline will carry water from a small spring to a fish-processing vessel seasonally operated by SSI. A shoretie will also be authorized to assist with the safe moorage of the vessel. All waterline and shoretie materials will be removed when not in use. A Coastal Project Questionnaire will be submitted to the State of Alaska, and a consistency determination issued prior to authorizing this use.

Petersburg Ranger District

Woewodski Island Mineral Exploration Plan of Operations

This is a categorical exclusion to authorize 2007 mineral exploration by Bravo Venture Group, Inc., according to their Plan of Operations (POO). The activities will occur on Woewodski Island. Prior to operation, a Forest Service approved drill plan is required. Cleanup includes reclaiming the drill sites. This permit was amended the same year.

Keku Strait Tide Gauge Stations

This is a categorical exclusion for installation of two temporary tide gauge stations in Keku Strait and near Monte Carlo Island. The gauges would be in place for several months during 2007. NOAA desires these sites because permanent survey monuments tie into previous hydrographic data sets, which is a federal government requirement for this project. Access to the site would be by charter vessel for equipment installation and removal. Crews will live on the vessel and access the stations by skiff. The gauges require a temporary enclosure approximately 60 sq. ft. in size, and solar cell power. The tide gauges bubble air through a small plastic hose, which runs from the gauge to an anchor, about 25 feet in depth. Up to five 4-inch diameter benchmarks may be permanently installed at each site for reference elevation and datum. All equipment and materials will be removed by December 31, 2007. No separate consistency review is required for this project.

Mitchell Creek Fish Pass Stem Wall Extension

This categorical exclusion is to authorize the extension of the existing concrete stem-wall at Mitchell Creek Fishpass, located approximately 3.0 miles upstream of Duncan Canal, Kupreanof Island. This modification project will connect the existing wall with the streambank and increase the efficiency of the inlet to the fishpass. This stem-wall was originally built with the fishpass to deepen the pool located behind the wall and concentrate flow towards the fishpass inlet. The

fishpass is an important sport-fishing destination for local guides, their clients and Petersburg residents. ADFG was consulted on this project and are in full support. This project is within a category of actions that does not require a separate Coastal Project consistency determination.

Duncan Creek Barrier Modification

The Duncan Creek project is a categorical exclusion to authorize the modification of the cascade barrier on Duncan Creek, located ¼ mile upstream of the Duncan Creek fishpass, Kupreanof Island. The fishpass was completed in 1999 and opened up 17 miles of new salmon habitat and is potentially a large benefit to the commercial salmon fishery. The semi-barrier site was modified in 2003, and again in 2005. Monitoring has shown that more work was needed. The project will be constructed by USDA Forest Service personnel and is scheduled to be completed by the end of July 2007. The work will consist of blasting bedrock to widen/deepen resting pools and constructing small concrete walls to direct flow during low water conditions. The modification of this barrier will effectively ensure that coho salmon will ascend the partial barrier. ADFG was consulted on this project.

Slippery Fishpass Safety Fence

This project is a safety fence at Slippery Creek Fishpass, located south of Keku Straight on Kuiu Island, authorized under a categorical exclusion. The fishpass was completed in 1988 and opened up 13 miles of new salmon habitat and is potentially a large benefit to the commercial salmon fishery. The steep pass construction at the fishpass has continually clogged with loose rock and debris and this project will remedy the problem. The project will be constructed by USDA Forest Service personnel and is scheduled to be completed by the end of September 2007. The work will consist of a permanent placement of fence posts and fencing material above the top of the fishpass opening by use of pionjar, bolts, and resin to stabilize the rock above the steep-pass.

Sitka Ranger District

Herring Cove- Beaver Lake Trail

This categorical exclusion authorizes construction of a 2400-foot hiking trail from Herring Cove to Beaver Lake Trail on National Forest System Lands in Sitka, Alaska. This project will repair approximately 450 square feet of damaged wetlands. Approximately 10 Alaska yellow cedar trees are planned for harvest to build trail and trail structures. Sixty percent of the planned trail will be located on City land and 40% on NFS land. This decision will only apply to work done on NFS land. The trailhead will be located at Herring Cove approximately 5 miles southeast of town on the City managed Green Lake Road. Construction of the trail is planned in 2007.

The entire trail construction project including the section located on City land has been reviewed by a qualified archeologist. A wetlands determination has been completed for the entire project to determine if a permit application with the Army Corp of Engineers is needed.

The trail tread will be two feet wide and built using aggregate surfacing from the site. Approximately 300 feet of boardwalk will be built where the trail crosses forested wetland habitat. Wetland hydrology will not be adversely altered due to the elevated surface of the boardwalk. No fill will occur in wetlands. Bridges and open top drains will be installed on the trail where needed to allow the continued flow of water in small streams and runoff channels.

Invasive Weed Control or Eradication by Manual or Mechanical Methods

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Temsco Fuel Dock Re-authorization

This categorical exclusion authorizes Temsco Helicopters, Inc. (Temsco) to continue to use and operate a fuel storage and helicopter-landing site on National Forest System (NFS) lands for a 5-year term. Temsco has held a special use permit for this site since 1987. Authorized improvements on NFS lands include an A-Frame building on skids, 25 feet long, 15 feet wide and 15 feet in height containing a 6,000-gallon fuel tank, fuel containment bladder for fuel spills, pump, hose, filter and generator, as well as an adjacent helicopter landing area approximately 100 feet by 100 feet.

The State of Alaska recommended spill response materials on site and that spill containment systems be monitored and maintained. The permit will contain terms and conditions stating the holder's responsibilities regarding spill prevention and control measures, including compliance with all applicable Federal, State and local laws, regulations, and standards.

The existing improvements are located on Chichagof Island about 1.25 miles northwest of the Forest Service administrative facilities at False Island, at the northwest end of the False Island road system, about 50 feet from tidewater. Within the SW1/4, SW1/4, NW 1/4, section 18, T. 50 S., R. 64 E., CRM.

City of Port Alexander Waterline

This categorical exclusion authorizes the City of Port Alexander (City) to continue to maintain and operate existing municipal water system improvements on National Forest System lands. The City has maintained and managed the water system, under special use permit, since July 1986. Authorization will occur through issuance of a special use permit to the City for a period of 20 years.

Authorized improvements on National Forest System lands consist of a 4 x 10 foot concrete and wood dam, 125,000 gallon water storage tank and approximately 1500 feet of 4 inch (inside diameter) HDPE waterline, approx. 9" outside diameter. The water system provides the entire City with uncontaminated water under adequate pressure. Nothing is changing and no ground disturbance is anticipated. Improvements are located west of and adjacent to Port Alexander within the SE ¼, section 12, T. 65 S., R. 69 E., CRM. Before a permit is issued to the City, a Coastal Project Questionnaire and consistency determination will be completed.

Fish Bay Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement

This categorical exclusion authorizes the Fish Bay enhancement project to improve fish habitat and restore fish passage on road 7580, 75801, 75802, and 75803 located at the head of Fish Bay. The purpose of this enhancement project is to improve fish habitat and restore the watershed back to a more natural condition. The project will remove 36 corrugated metal pipes, log

stringer bridges, and log culverts to alleviate re-routing of stream channels and restricted fish passage. These actions will re-establish fish access and restore natural floodplain channel functions to approximately nine miles of stream.

The project is scheduled to occur during the fish-timing window June 1 to July 15, starting in 2007. The project site is on west Baranof Island, within the Sitka B-5 Quadrangle, T52S, R62E, Sections 14 & 20-23; and drains into Fish Bay about 7 miles east of Salisbury Sound / Kakul Narrows.

Thorne Bay Ranger District

Keller Waterline

This categorical exclusion authorizes a special use permit for a term of 5 years, for a spring box and waterline to a lodge operated by Glenn and Kay Keller, located north of Prince of Wales Island, Sec. 10, T 66 S, R 78 E, CRM. The 3-inch waterline traverses approximately 10 feet of National Forest Service lands. The spring used as a water supply flows from the base of an epikarst feature.

Rabbit Ears Pavilion SUP

This is a categorical exclusion for a special use permit authorizing the City of Coffman Cove to build a pavilion for public use on 1 acre of land at Rabbit Ears Lake, on Prince of Wales Island. The site will be maintained by local volunteers and city maintenance personnel for use by residents and tourists. Recreation events held at the site will require a separate permit. The site is located at Sec. 17, T 69 S, R 81 E, CRM.

Wrangell Ranger District

Baht Timber Sale

This EIS analyzes the 57,600-acre Baht project area, located on the northern half of Zarembo Island, approximately 17 air miles west of Wrangell, Alaska. Previous timber harvest has taken place in the area and there are two existing log transfer facilities (LTFs) with associated roads. There are 1,652 acres of State land within the project area boundary. The sale will harvest 1,132 acres of commercial forestland and approximately 39.5 million board feet (MMBF) of sawlog and utility volume. It includes construction of 5.9 miles of National Forest System (NFS) road and 6.5 miles of temporary road. All new NFS road will be placed in storage and temporary roads decommissioned and allowed to return to resource production after harvest. None of the timber harvest and road building is in inventoried roadless areas. NFS road 52026 (Zigzag Road), which was closed, will remain open for recreation and subsistence use. Units 3 and 17 from Alternative 3 may be included at a future date. These two units are partially in inventoried roadless areas. The final approval for harvest of these two units and the associated temporary roads will not be determined until after the Forest Plan Amendment is completed, as agreed to in the Settlement with NRDC.

U.S. Coast Guard Communication Site on Zarembo Island

This is a categorical exclusion to issue the United States Coast Guard (USCG) an authorization to continue the operation and maintenance of radio communication equipment, and support facilities, at the designated mountaintop Electronic Site on Zarembo Island for a period of 20 years. The communication site is a vital part of the Coast Guard's marine VHF radio system need for marine communication and public safety. The Zarembo Electronic Site is located on the

Wrangell Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest, on Zarembo Island. The site is located southeast of the summit of a centrally located peak (2444 ft.), within the SW ¼ of Section 1, T64S, R80E, CRM; also 56° 20' 45.14" N. -132° 51' 42.97" W, NAD 83. The currently authorized project area is about 100 ft by 200 ft.

Structures and facilities at the communication site include: an 8 ft by 10 ft fiberglass shelter with electronic equipment; a 17.5 ft x 10 ft metal building with propane powered electrical generation system and bank of electrical batteries; a 48 panel solar array; 5 propane tanks with support cribbing; and a 50 ft tower with antennas. The exterior surfaces of the structures are colored to blend with the surrounding landscape.

Zarembo Minerals Co. LLC Plan of Operations

This is a categorical exclusion decision to approve activities proposed by Zarembo Minerals Co. in their 2007 Plan of Operations for surface exploration and surface drilling on Zarembo Island, with the required changes, modifications, and special mitigation as included by the Forest Service in section VI of that Plan of Operations. Activities described in the 2007 Plan of Operations that are subject to environmental analysis prior to a decision include the following: upland camp construction and operation; development of helicopter access areas; and surface core drilling activities on Zarembo Minerals' mining claims, including water withdrawal and discharge.

Tyee Bench and Etolin Communication Facilities

This Environmental Assessment amends the Forest Plan to designate the Tyee Bench site as an Electronic Site, and authorizes the installation of a passive solar microwave reflector at Tyee Bench for improving communication with the Tyee powerhouse. The Tyee Bench site is located near Bradfield Canal in the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Sec 23, T 65 S, R 90 E, CRM. Use of the proposed passive microwave repeater at the Tyee Bench site is dependent on the transmission of a microwave signal from Etolin Island (Burnett) electronic site. This site is located at the NW ½ of Sec. 22, T 66 S, R 84 E, CRM. The authorization also allows modifications to the Etolin Island Electronic Site to include the installation of microwave communication equipment, an antenna tower, and dish antennas to transmit and receive the microwave signal, and other modifications requested by AP&T, a leaseholder at the Etolin Island (Burnett) site, to upgrade and consolidate existing and proposed facilities. The proponent will need to submit a Coastal Project Questionnaire and demonstrate the State's concurrence with coastal zone provisions prior to a permit being issued.

Wrangell District Access and Travel Management Plan

This environmental assessment evaluates management of the Tongass National Forest System roads on Wrangell Ranger District. The purpose of the project is to determine what transportation system meets public needs and environmental concerns, while addressing maintenance budget concerns of the agency. Forest Service roads are used by the agency and the public for commodity production, subsistence, recreation and other uses. A product of the analysis will be a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) to be published annually, identifying those roads remaining open to motorized traffic. Following designation in this decision and publication of the map, the new Travel Management Rule will prohibit motor vehicle use off designated roads or areas.

Yakutat Ranger District

Yakutat Small Sales

This is an environmental assessment for the Yakutat Small Timber sales project. This project will provide small sawmill owners in the Yakutat area with a continuous supply of small timber sales on the Yakutat Ranger District for the next 5 to 10 years. The project will also provide areas where 10,000 Board Foot Personal Free-Use Permits may be issued to the public and will assist in providing a diversity of opportunities for resource uses that contribute to the local economies within the Southeast Alaska region.

Forest-wide or Multi District Projects

There were no projects in this category for 2007.

Evaluation of Results

No projects approved in FY 2007 were found to be inconsistent with the plans of the agencies regulating the adjacent non-National Forest System lands during 2007. Efforts of the Forest Service to improve government-to-government relationships through collaboration have continued.

Action Plans

Continuation of the Tongass efforts to improve government-to-government relationships as well as collaborative, community-based stewardship and other private party interests is essential to Forest Service land management planning. Monitoring the effects of Tongass National Forest management on lands, resources, and communities adjacent to or near Tongass projects will continue. The Forest will also monitor the effects to the Tongass from activities on nearby lands under other jurisdictions.