

Land Management Planning

Background: The Forest Service policy and direction for improvement of government-to-government relationships, and collaborative, community-based resource stewardship attempts to achieve compatibility of forest service management activities with the goals and objectives of 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 2006 have been evaluated to determine if any non-National Forest System lands are adjacent or near to the project locations. Projects that have been appealed and decisions remanded during FY 2006 were **not** evaluated.

The projects identified as having adjacent non-National Forest System lands are listed below with details on the type of project, management objective, and consistency between the objectives on the National Forest and adjacent lands. Lands identified as adjacent are within a distance that could possibly be influenced by the project.

Admiralty National Monument

Plan of operations for Kennecott Greens Creek Mining Company exploratory drilling for 2006

This is a categorical exclusion for exploratory purposes and has been done every year since 1983 years on National Forest land, patented mining claims, and unpatented mining claims. This is a categorical exclusion to authorize the Kennecott Greens Creek Mining Company a special use permit for exploration drilling and associated activities may commence at up to twenty-four (24) of the sites with the exception of Cliff 1, 2, & 3; Upper Gal 8 & 9.

Permit for use of fuels storage tank

This is a categorical exclusion to authorize the United States Coast Guard a special use permit for an additional six 500 tanks, and construction of a 10 ft x 10 ft fueling platform at the Mt Robert Barron electronic site. The site is listed in Appendix E of the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).

Craig Ranger District

Plan of operations for Niblack Mining Corporation for exploratory drilling for 2006

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

No projects identified as having adjacent non-National Forest System lands.

Juneau Ranger District

West Lynn Canal Stone Site Permit

This is a categorical exclusion to authorize approve removal of rock from the West Lynn Canal Stone Site. The project is located on private land adjacent the National Forest System lands. The USDA Forest Service is the land management agency for the uplands at this site and only rock above the mean high tide line is included for sale and removal and within the scope of this decision. A landing craft and ATV may be used to bring equipment to the site and for haulage of the rock, subject to permission from the State of Alaska.

Lake Dorothy Hydroelectric Project Special Use Authorization Issuance

This is an EA with decision to issue a special use authorization for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Lake Dorothy Hydroelectric Project. Issuance is provided for by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976. FLMPA requires that conditions in the authorization require compliance with existing law, protect federal property, provide for efficient land management, and protect the public interest. The terms of the permits will be for 50 years and will run concurrently with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERRC) license for the project.

Auk Nu Trail Reconstruction

This is a categorical exclusion to reconstruct the Auk Nu Trail from the trailhead to the John Muir Cabin for non-motorized use. The Auk Nu Trail begins at 0.8 mile on the Spaulding Meadows Trail. The trailhead is located at mile 12.5 Glacier highway.

Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Traitors Cove Fisheries Research Work Camp

This is a categorical exclusion to authorize the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to use or occupy National Forest System Lands on Traitors Creek for the purpose of work camps to support of their commercial fisheries research projects.

Sealevel Mine Adit Closure

This is a categorical exclusion to approve authorize, in cooperation with the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the closure of three adits and three shafts that access underground workings at the abandoned Sealevel Mine. The mine is easily accessible to the public by boat. The purpose and need for the closure is to remediate hazards to public health and safety.

Carlanna Lake Trail

This is a categorical exclusion to construct the first phase of the 2.5 mile Carlanna Lake Trail. This trail will be open to foot traffic and include approximately one mile of gravel trail, with mixed sections of natural tread and boardwalk, from the dam at the outlet of Carlanna Lake to the bridge crossing. The second phase of the trail will consist of a mile and a half of existing

natural tread, with gravel and boardwalk sections for resource protection, from the end of the bridge site to the existing trail on the alpine ridge between Minerva Mountain and Juno Mountain. Construction and improvement of phase 2 will begin as soon as the necessary funding is procured. This funding will be pursued by the Ketchikan Outdoor Recreation and Trails Coalition (KORTC) and by the Forest Service through the Capital Improvement Process. Until then, the brushed and blazed trail will be maintained in its existing condition. As part of this process a public easement for trail access will be secured through all land owners. The Forest Service is working with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Alaska State Parks, and the Ketchikan Outdoor Recreation and Trails Coalition (KORTC) on a proposal to construct approximately 12 to 14 miles of hiking trails in the Ketchikan area.

Alaska Department of Fish and Hugh Smith Fisheries Research Work Camp

This is a categorical exclusion to authorize the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to use or occupy National Forest System Lands on Hugh Smith Lake for the purpose of work camps to support of their commercial fisheries research projects.

2006 Surface Exploration Drilling Starkey Wilson, Bell Island Alaska

This is a categorical exclusion to authorize surface exploration drilling as described in Wilson's Plan of Operations (POO). The activities will occur on the Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District on Bell Island. Prior to operation a Forest Service approved drill plan is required. Clean-up of the drill sites include filling of the holes to be monitored.

Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District Administrative Site Renovation

This is a categorical exclusion to renovate the KMRD administrative site in three phases. The KMRD administrative site is located in the city of Ketchikan along North Tongass Avenue across from Ketchikan General Hospital. The layout does not provide for the separation of activities as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The project area is located in the city of Ketchikan entirely within the confines of the existing administrative site.

Petersburg Ranger District

Woedodski Island Mineral Exploration Plan of Operations

This is a categorical exclusion to authorize 2006 mineral exploration by Bravo Venture Group, Inc. according to their Plan of Operations (POO). The activities will occur on the Woedodski Island. Prior to operation a Forest Service approved drill plan is required. Clean-up of the sites include reclaiming of the drill sites. This permit was amended the same year.

Special Use Authorization for Blind Slough Log Transfer Facility and Twain Creek Road

This is a categorical exclusion to authorize a commercial operator to use the Blind Slough Log Transfer Facility (LTF) and mile 0.2 to mile 0.5 of Forest Development Road 6209 (Twin Creek Road). The use authorized would be associated with a timber sale located on Alaska Mental Health Trust lands on Mitkof Island. The remainder of the proposed haul route is located on lands owned by the Alaska Mental Health Trust.

Renewal of Special Use Permits

This is a categorical exclusion to renew permits to the City of Petersburg, AP&T Wireless Inc, Tlingit-Haida Regional Electrical Authority, United States Coast Guard, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Woodpecker Quarry Permit for State

This is a categorical exclusion to authorize approve removal of rock from rock quarry on Mitkof Island. The project is associated with the Mitkof Highway Reconstruction Project.

Sitka Ranger District

Kizhuchia Creek Fishpass Modifications

This is a categorical exclusion to authorize the Kizhuchia Creek fishpass modifications located in Redoubt Bay. The purpose of this fisheries enhancement project is to maintain access for coho salmon to stream habitat reaches located on Kizhuchia Creek through the removal of two Alaskan Aluminum Steep Passes and the construction of two blasted jump pools. By removing the two Steep Passes and constructing two blasted jump pools the sites would be structurally maintenance free. With the completion of this project, the Forest Service will not have to access the lower half-mile of stream (Native Allotment Land) for fishpass maintenance purposes.

Construction and maintenance of Cross Trail extension

This is a categorical exclusion decision to complete the following actions as they relate to the Cross Trail extension from the water tank above Gavan Hill Subdivision to Cascade Creek Road, Sitka, Alaska. Issue a special use permit for 20 years to the City and Borough of Sitka for the construction and maintenance of portions of a proposed extension to the existing Cross Trail. The extension is partially located on National Forest System (NFS) lands and is designed to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle use only. The permit will authorize only non-motorized use on NFS lands. Authorizes the permittee to construct the Cross Trail, from the water tank behind Gavan Hill Subdivision, for approximately 1 mile to the end of Cascade Creek Road. Authorize the permittee to construct a five-vehicle trailhead parking area at the west end of Cascade Creek Road. Authorize the permittee to build two berms to discourage access to private property and to discourage motorized access to the Cross Trail.

Thorne Bay Ranger District

ET Rock Crushing Negotiated Sale and 2059 1.5 Mile Mineral Sale

This is a categorical exclusion to issue two separate special use permits to authorize the negotiated sale of 8,000 cubic yards of mineral materials to ET Rock Crushing Sandy Beach Multi-Purpose Road/Trail Project and 5,000 cubic yards of gravel by competitive bid from the existing material source located at 1.5 mile on FSR 2059 road

State of Alaska Yatuk Creek Private Road Special Use Permit

This is a categorical exclusion authorizing a private road special use permit to the State of Alaska. The term of the permit shall be for two years. A one year extension may be allowed, if requested in writing within 6 months of the expiration of the permit. The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry (DOF) is preparing to offer State Timber

Sale SSE 1274-K. Access to this sale will require a 437 foot extension to FSR 2059410 located near Yatuk Creek in Section 9, Township 69 South, Range 80 East, Copper River Meridian. Approximately 146 feet of this extension will cross Federal land. The DOF maintains an ongoing timber sale program in Alaska. The DOF has been given a mandate by the governor and legislature to make available a consistent and sustainable timber supply to local markets. Obtaining access to state land is essential in order to provide local processors with resources they require. For this sale, it is more economical and will have less environmental impact to extend FSR 2059410, than to construct exclusively on state land.

Wrangell Ranger District

Continuation of Sunrise Lake Field Reconnaissance and Survey Work

This is a categorical exclusion decision to authorize the City of Wrangell to continue to conduct field reconnaissance and survey work for the Sunrise hydroelectric and drinking water project. Those activities may include the operation and maintenance of stream gauging equipment at the outflow of Sunrise Lake and on Sunrise Creek (approximately one half mile upstream from tidewater) on Woronkofski Island; conducting soil and water sampling/collections; and surveying proposed route(s) of a penstock. The purpose of the project is to assess the feasibility of, and to plan and design a proposed drinking water and hydroelectric project.

Zarembo Minerals Co. LLC Plan of Operations

This is a categorical exclusion decision to approve activities proposed by Zarembo Minerals Co. in their 2006 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 2006 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.

Yakutat Ranger District

No projects identified as having adjacent non-National Forest System lands.

Forest-wide or Multi District Projects

Auk Lake Reconnaissance Drilling

This is a categorical exclusion to authorize the implementation of the reconnaissance drilling near Auk Lake on government property (USDI Bureau of Land Management). This drilling is for preliminary data collection purposes only and will help determine the depth of the bedrock for future placement on a new research laboratory building. The drilling will occur on land located immediately adjacent to the University of Alaska and above the access path where the bedrock comes close to the land surface. Drilling will not occur on the Auk lake side of the path where the bedrock is known to be deep. Determining the actual bedrock depth allows for an improved estimation of future foundation design and construction cost. The drilling machine will course its way across the terrain on the west side of the property. Some small trees in its path will be removed. Access to the site will be by the road or the footpath. Either approach will require some fill in the access ditch for the machine to access the property. The material will be

removed upon completion of the project. The diameter of the drill-hole will be small (less than 6 inches in diameter). Where the bedrock comes close to the surface we may elect to use a backhoe to dig small 2 foot wide by 3 foot long exploratory ditches to locate the bedrock. Once located, the ditches will be immediately refilled.

Evaluation of Results

No projects approved in FY 2006 were found to be inconsistent with the plans of the agencies regulating the adjacent non-National Forest System lands during 2006. 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.