Land Use Designations

Refer to chapter 3: Management Prescriptions

Land Use Designation Acreage

The following table shows the number of acres allocated to each LUD. The first column of numbers presents the total number of acres allocated to each LUD; summing these acres will exceed the National Forest acreage because more than one LUD can be applied to the same area (e.g., a Special Interest Area within Wilderness). Therefore, the second column of numbers counts each acre of the Tongass only once and associates each acre with only one LUD. For LUDs that allow timber harvest (e.g., Timber Production), many of the acres are unsuitable for commercial timber production.

Land Use Designation Allocations

Land Use Designation	Total Acres Allocated to Each LUD[1]	Total Acres Allocated to Each LUD without Overlays[2]
Wilderness LUD Group		
Wilderness	2,637,292	2,637,292
Wilderness National Monument	3,111,792	3,111,792
Nonwilderness National Monument	166,942	166,942
Total for Wilderness LUD Group		**5,916,026**
Natural Setting LUD Group		
LUD II	721,002	721,002
Remote Recreation	2,033,665	2,033,665
Semi-Remote Recreation[3]	3,023,152	3,023,152
Old-Growth Habitat	1,221,173	1,221,173
Enacted Municipal Watershed	45,226	45,226
Research Natural Area	58,788	26,093
Special Interest Area	342,137	221,176
Wild River	192,463	62,799
Scenic River	27,133	27,133
Recreational River	27,387	27,387
Total for Natural Setting LUD Group		**7,408,806**
Development LUD Group		
Experimental Forest[4]	31,405	31,405
Scenic Viewshed	307,402	307,402
Modified Landscape	728,679	728,679
Timber Production	2,381,486	2,381,486
Total for Development LUD Group		**3,448,972**
Overlay LUD Group[5]		
Minerals	249,570	0
Transportation and Utility Systems	--	0
TOTAL NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND		**16,773,804**

Wilderness and National Monument Wilderness

off limits (did not include descriptions)

Research Natural Area

Goals

To preserve areas of ecological importance in their natural condition for the purposes of research, monitoring, education, and/or to maintain natural diversity.

To allow natural physical and biological processes to prevail without human intervention.

Objectives

Provide opportunities for baseline monitoring of ecological processes and non-manipulative research and observation.

Maintain the natural, undisturbed character of each area by:

- Permitting no permanent facilities, and no roads or trails except for research purposes or as otherwise provided by law;
- Recommending withdrawal of the area from mineral entry when necessary, subject to valid existing rights;
- Limiting recreation uses to those that do not affect or alter natural biological processes; and
- Allowing vegetative manipulation, fish enhancements, wildlife improvements, and/or soil and water improvements only if they will provide a closer approximation of natural conditions than would be possible otherwise.

Desired Condition

All Research Natural Areas (RNAs) on the Tongass National Forest are characterized by essentially unmodified environments in which natural ecological processes prevail. They remain undisturbed by human uses or activities, and provide quality opportunities for non-manipulative scientific research, observation, and study. The RNA network is representative of the predominant vegetation types, wildlife habitats, and aquatic communities of the Tongass. The "National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units" is used to identify sites to be represented in the RNA network. RNAs are used as monitoring reference areas to evaluate other lands where management activities are undertaken to assess the effectiveness of various standards, guidelines, and mitigation measures in reducing or preventing adverse environmental effects.

Special Interest Area

Goals

To provide for the inventory, maintenance, interpretation, and protection of the existing characteristics and attributes of areas with unique cultural, geological, botanical, zoological, recreational, scenic, or other special features.

Objectives

Provide opportunities for public study, use, and enjoyment of unique natural areas that are suitable to, and do not compromise, the characteristics of each area.

Allow only facilities and recreation developments that contribute to the interpretation of natural features or provide for compatible public uses, and that blend with the natural setting.

Provide for existing Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) opportunities and activities, unless public use is specifically restricted for the protection of other resources.

Consider withdrawing each area from mineral entry, subject to valid existing rights, on a case-by-case basis, if mineral development would not be consistent with protecting the unique features of the area.

Apply the High Scenic Integrity Objective except around developed interpretive facilities, and other developments or structures.

Allow fish, wildlife, and/or soil and water improvements if they are compatible with the purposes for which each Special Interest Area was established.

Develop management plans for those Special Interest Areas needing specific direction for achieving these goals and objectives.

Desired Condition

All Special Interest Areas on the Tongass National Forest are characterized by generally unmodified environments in which unique natural features are preserved. They remain largely undisturbed by human uses or activities, except for localized interpretive purposes and, in some cases, recreation developments, and provide quality opportunities for public study, use, and enjoyment. Each is an example of one or more cultural, geological, botanical, zoological, paleontological, or other special features unique within the Tongass.

- Cultural areas possess prehistoric/historic sites, buildings, or artifacts of National Register of Historic Places Significance or having special cultural associations with Native Americans.

- Scenic areas are comprised of landscapes of outstanding beauty or natural characteristics, such as glaciers, alpine, and areas of diverse vegetative patterns/coverage. These are areas that could be viewed for a long duration from specific vantage points, such as developed recreation sites, trails, anchorages, travel routes, and communities.
- Geological areas have unique geologic features of the earth's development, including caves, volcanic features, stratigraphic and structural features, and fossilized specimens of plants and animals.
- Botanical areas contain specimens or groups of plants, plant groups, and plant communities that are significant because of form, color, occurrence, habitat location, life history, arrangement, ecology, environment, rarity, and/or other features.
- Zoological areas contain unique or significant animals, animal groups, or animal communities, habitat, location, life history, ecology, environment, rarity, or other features.

Remote Recreation

Goals

To provide extensive, unmodified natural settings for primitive types of recreation and tourism.

To provide opportunities for independence, closeness to nature, and self-reliance in environments offering a high degree of challenge and risk.

To minimize the effects of human uses, including subsistence use, so that there is no permanent or long-lasting evidence.

Objectives

Manage recreation and tourism use and activities to meet the levels of social encounters, on-site developments, methods of access, and visitor impacts indicated for the Primitive Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class.

Provide trails and primitive facilities that are in harmony with the natural environment and promote primitive recreation experiences.

Apply the High Scenic Integrity Objective.

Fish enhancement projects may occur. Design wildlife habitat improvements to emulate natural conditions and appearance.

Desired Condition

Areas in the Remote Recreation LUD are characterized by extensive, unmodified natural environments. Ecological processes and natural conditions are not noticeably affected by past or current human uses or activities. Users have the opportunity to experience independence, closeness to nature, solitude and remoteness, and may pursue activities requiring self-reliance in an environment that offers a high degree of challenge and risk. Interactions between users are infrequent. Motorized access is limited to traditional means: boats, aircraft, and snowmachines. Facilities and structures are minimal and rustic in appearance.

Municipal Watershed

The emphasis of this LUD is to provide protection of municipal water supplies for the following incorporated cities and boroughs: Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sitka, Juneau, Wrangell, Kake, Klawock, Craig, and Hydaburg. For the Petersburg watershed, consult 36 CFR 251.35. See Forest-wide Soil and Water Standards and Guidelines for state-classified public water supply source watershed protection outside of the Municipal Watershed LUDs.

Goals

To maintain these watersheds as municipal water supply reserves, in a manner that meets provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act and State of Alaska Drinking Water Regulations and Water Quality Standards, in accordance with Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2542 and 36 CFR 251.9.

Objectives

Limit most management activities to the protection and maintenance of natural resources. Consult with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and affected municipalities prior to authorizing activities that are likely to cause pollution.

Desired Condition

Lands managed as Municipal Watersheds are generally in a natural condition. Facilities or structures to provide municipal water supplies may be present. Uses or activities that could adversely affect water quality or supply do not occur. These watersheds provide municipal water that meets State of Alaska Drinking Water Regulations and Water Quality Standards.

Old-Growth Habitat

Goals

Maintain areas of old-growth forests and their associated natural ecological processes to provide habitat for old-growth associated resources.

Manage early seral conifer stands to achieve old-growth forest characteristic structure and composition based upon site capability. Use old growth definitions as outlined in Ecological Definitions for Old-growth Forest Types in Southeast Alaska (R10-TP-28).

Objectives

Provide old-growth forest habitats, in combination with other LUDs, to maintain viable populations of native and desired non-native fish and wildlife species and subspecies that may be closely associated with old-growth forests.

Contribute to the habitat capability of fish and wildlife resources to support sustainable human subsistence and recreational uses.

Maintain components of flora and fauna biodiversity and ecological processes associated with old-growth forests.

Allow existing natural or previously harvested early seral conifer stands to evolve naturally to old-growth forest habitats, or apply silvicultural treatments to accelerate forest succession to achieve old-growth forest structural features. Consider practices such as thinning, release and weeding, pruning, and fertilization to promote accelerated development of old-growth characteristics.

To the extent feasible, limit roads, facilities, and permitted uses to those compatible with old-growth forest habitat management objectives.

Desired Condition

All forested areas within this LUD have attained old-growth forest characteristics. A diversity of old growth habitat types and associated species and subspecies and ecological processes are represented.

Semi-Remote Recreation

Goals

To provide predominantly natural or natural-appearing settings for semi-primitive types of recreation and tourism, and occasional enclaves of concentrated recreation and tourism facilities.

To provide opportunities for a moderate degree of independence, closeness to nature, and self-reliance in environments requiring challenging motorized or non-motorized forms of transportation.

Objectives

Manage recreation and tourism use and activities to meet the levels of social encounters, on-site

developments, methods of access, and visitor impacts indicated for the Semi-Primitive Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes. Enclaves of concentrated recreation and tourism developments within the LUD or management activities in adjacent LUDs may cause the ROS setting to become Rural.

Determine on a case-by-case basis whether roads, trails, and other areas should be closed to motorized recreation activities. If so, incorporate into off-highway vehicles (OHV) plans. If not, the use of boats, aircraft, and snowmachines for traditional activities is allowed.

Permit small-scale, rustic recreation and tourism facilities, and occasional enclaves of concentrated recreation and tourism facilities.

Apply the Moderate Scenic Integrity Objective to any developments, facilities, or structures.

Fish enhancement and wildlife habitat improvement may occur.

Desired Condition

Areas in the Semi-Remote Recreation LUD are characterized by generally unmodified natural environments. Ecological processes and natural conditions are only minimally affected by past or current human uses or activities. Users have the opportunity to experience a moderate degree of independence, closeness to nature, solitude, and remoteness, with some areas offering motorized opportunities and others non-motorized opportunities (except for the traditional uses of boats, aircraft, and snowmachines). Interactions between users are infrequent. Facilities and structures may be minimal or occasionally may be larger in scale, but will be rustic in appearance, or in harmony with the natural setting.

Land Use Designation II

Introduction

Twelve areas were permanently allocated to LUD II special management in the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990 (TTRA). These areas include Yakutat Forelands, Berners Bay, Anan Creek, Kadashan, Lisianski River/Upper Hoonah Sound, Mt. Calder/Mt. Holbrook, Nutkwa, Outside Islands, Trap Bay, Point Adolphus/Mud Bay, Naha, and Salmon Bay. Specific management criteria for LUD II areas are defined in the Tongass Land Management Plan, completed March 1979, and amended Winter 1985-1986 (pp. 8-9).

Goals

To manage the 12 areas designated in perpetuity as LUD II by the TTRA according to the direction for LUD II areas in the 1979 Tongass Land Management Plan, as amended.

Manage these areas in a roadless state to retain their wildland character.

Objectives

Manage recreation and tourism use and activities to meet the levels of social encounters, on-site developments, methods of access, and visitor impacts indicated by the Primitive and Semi-Primitive Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes. Apply the LUD II direction from the 1979 Tongass Land Management Plan, which is summarized as follows:

- Prohibit commercial timber harvest. Permit salvage logging only to prevent significant damage to other resources. Allow personal use of wood for cabin logs, fuelwood, float logs, trolling poles, etc.
- Permit water and power developments if designed to be compatible with the primitive characteristics of the area.
- Permit roads only for access to authorized uses, transportation needs identified by the state, or vital linkages. (See the Standards and Guidelines in this prescription.)
- Allow mineral development.
- Permit access by boats, aircraft, and snowmachines, unless such uses become excessive.
- Permit fish and wildlife habitat improvements. Design structures to minimize the effects to recreation resources.
- Permit primitive recreational facilities.
- Generally exclude major concentrated recreational facilities.

Salvage logging, personal use of wood, water and power development, fish and wildlife habitat improvement, and research facilities will be designed to be compatible with the primitive characteristics of the area.

Desired Condition

Areas in this LUD are characterized by extensive, generally unmodified natural environments, and retain their wildland character. Ecological processes and natural conditions are only minimally affected by past or current human uses or activities. Users have the opportunity to experience a high-to-moderate degree of independence, closeness to nature, solitude, and remoteness, and may pursue activities requiring self-reliance, challenge, and risk. Interactions between users are infrequent. Recreational facilities and structures are primitive.

Wild River

Goals

To manage designated river segments according to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542), National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility,

Classification, and Management of River Areas (Federal Register Volume 47, Number 173, 1982), and direction in Forest Service manuals and handbooks.

To maintain, enhance, and protect the free-flowing character and outstandingly remarkable values of rivers and river segments designated as Wild Rivers and included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

To maintain Wild Rivers in a natural, free-flowing, unmodified condition, and provide recreation and tourism opportunities affording a high degree of independence, closeness to nature, and self-reliance.

To manage recommended Wild River segments to maintain their outstandingly remarkable values and classification eligibility until Congress designates the segments or decides not to designate them.

Objectives

Manage Wild River segments to maintain an enduring wildland and free-flowing river resource, while providing for access and use consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA).

Withdraw Wild River segments from mineral entry when designated by Congress, subject to valid existing rights, and classify forested lands as unsuitable for timber production.

Manage recreation and tourism use and activities to meet the levels of social encounters, on-site developments, methods of access, and visitor impacts indicated for the Primitive or Semi-Primitive Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes.

Apply the High Scenic Integrity Objective within the river corridor.

Desired Condition

Wild Rivers and river segments are in a natural, free-flowing, and undisturbed condition. Ecological processes and changes predominate. The outstandingly remarkable values for which the river was designated remain outstanding and remarkable. Recreation users have the opportunity for primitive and semi-primitive experiences, solitude, and remoteness in a natural setting. Interactions between users are infrequent, and evidence of human activities is minimal. Facilities and structures are rustic in appearance and promote primitive recreation and tourism experiences.

Scenic River

Goals

To manage designated river segments according to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542), National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas (Federal Register Volume 47, Number 173, 1982), and direction in Forest Service manuals and handbooks.

To maintain, enhance, and protect the free-flowing character and outstandingly remarkable values of rivers and river segments designated as Scenic Rivers and included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

To maintain Scenic Rivers in a natural or naturally appearing, free-flowing condition, and provide recreation and tourism opportunities meeting these expectations.

To manage recommended Scenic River segments to maintain their outstandingly remarkable values and classification eligibility until Congress designates the segments or decides not to designate them.

Objectives

Manage Scenic River segments to maintain an enduring wildland and free-flowing river resource, while providing access and use consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

Permit timber harvest on suitable forest lands if adjacent lands are being managed for that purpose, in accordance with the standards and guidelines for the stated Scenic Integrity Objectives.

Manage recreation and tourism use and activities to meet the levels of social encounters, on-site developments, methods of access, and visitor impacts indicated for the desired Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class (generally Semi-Primitive).

Permit roads to provide access to, and occasionally cross, the river. Roads, except for short segments, are not visually evident to river users.

Apply the High Scenic Integrity Objective to foreground areas as seen from the river, roads, and trails, and Moderate for all other seen areas within the river corridor.

Desired Condition

Scenic Rivers and river segments are in a generally unmodified, free-flowing condition. Ecological processes and changes may be somewhat affected by human uses. The outstandingly remarkable values for which the river was designated remain outstanding and remarkable. Recreation and tourism users have the opportunity for experiences ranging from Primitive to Roaded Natural in a natural-appearing setting. Resource activities within the river corridor are not visually evident to the casual observer. Interactions between users are moderate. Facilities and structures are rustic in appearance, and promote semi-primitive recreation experiences

and/or public safety. A yield of timber may be produced that contributes to the Forest-wide sustained yield.

Recreational River

Goals

To manage designated river segments according to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542), National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas (Federal Register Volume 47, Number 173, 1982), and direction in Forest Service manuals and handbooks.

To maintain, improve, and protect the essentially free-flowing character and outstandingly remarkable values of rivers and river segments designated as Recreational Rivers and included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

To provide recreation opportunities in a pleasing, though modified, generally free-flowing river setting, while allowing timber harvest, transportation, and other developments.

To manage recommended Recreational River segments to maintain their outstandingly remarkable values and classification eligibility until Congress designates the segments or decides not to designate them.

Objectives

Manage Recreational River segments to maintain a free-flowing river resource, while providing for access and use consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA).

Permit timber harvest on suitable forest lands if adjacent lands are being managed for that purpose, in accordance with the standards and guidelines for the stated Scenic Integrity Objectives.

Manage recreation use and activities to meet the levels of social encounters, on-site developments, methods of access, and visitor impacts indicated for the desired Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class (generally Roaded Natural).

Permit roads to access, parallel, or cross the river. In general, design access roads to accommodate passenger cars, and open them to public use.

Apply the Moderate Scenic Integrity Objective to foreground areas within the corridor seen from the river, roads, and recreation facilities, and Low to all other seen areas within the river corridor.

Desired Condition

Recreational Rivers and river segments are in a generally unmodified to modified, essentially free-flowing condition. Ecological processes and changes may be affected by human uses. The outstandingly remarkable values for which the river was designated remain outstanding and remarkable. Recreation users have the opportunity for a variety and range of experiences in a modified but pleasing setting. Resource activities and developments may be present within the river corridor, and may dominate some areas. A variety of scenic conditions occur. Interactions between users may be moderate to high. A yield of timber may be produced, which contributes to Forest-wide sustained yield.

Experimental Forest

Goals

To provide for long-term opportunities for forest research and demonstration essential to managing forest resources.

Objectives

The Director of the Pacific Northwest Research Station will prepare a development plan for each experimental forest in consultation with the Forest Supervisor designed to achieve the desired research objectives. Experimental forests are jointly administered by the Pacific Northwest Research Station and the Ranger District in which it is located.

Allow timber harvest, as specified in the development plan, for research and demonstration purposes. Timber harvest is not counted towards the Allowable Sale Quantity, and forest lands are classified as unsuitable for timber production.

Roads and trails will generally complement research and interpretation. Allow facilities necessary for ongoing research, as specified in the experimental forest's development plan.

Allow fish enhancement or wildlife improvement projects for research purposes, or if they are compatible with the establishment objectives of the experimental forest.

Desired Condition

Each experimental forest is managed for the purposes for which it was established. Ongoing research provides useful needed information for forest management. Non-research types of activities and uses may be compatible with, and do not interfere with, research or demonstration objectives. Opportunities for public use of roads may be present.

Scenic Viewshed

Goals

To provide a sustained yield of timber and a mix of resource activities while minimizing the visibility of developments as seen from Visual Priority Travel Routes and Use Areas.

To recognize the scenic values of suitable forest lands viewed from selected popular roads, trails, water travel routes, recreation sites, bays, and anchorages, and to modify timber harvest practices accordingly.

To seek to provide a supply of timber from the Tongass National Forest that meets the annual and planning-cycle market demand, consistent with the standards and guidelines for this LUD.

Objectives

Within this LUD, apply the Scenic Integrity Objective of High in the foreground distance zone and Moderate in the middleground and background distance zones, as seen from the Visual Priority Travel Routes and Use Areas (see Appendix F). Apply the Very Low Scenic Integrity Objective to all other areas.

Suitable forest lands are available for timber harvest. Utilize appropriate silvicultural systems consistent with the adopted Scenic Integrity Objectives. Other timber management considerations include:

- Seek to reduce clearcutting when other methods will meet land management objectives;
- Identify opportunities for diversifying the wood products industry (e.g., special forest products and value-added local production);
- Use forest health management to protect resource values;
- Improve timber growth and productivity on commercial forest lands;
- Plan, inventory, prepare, offer, sell, and administer timber sales and permits to ensure the orderly development of timber production; and
- Emphasize the overall reduction of costs, increase of revenues, and improvement of public service within the timber program.

Perform viewshed analysis in conjunction with project development to provide direction for retaining or creating a scenically attractive landscape over time, and for rehabilitation of areas overly modified in the past.

Provide a spectrum of recreation and tourism opportunities consistent with the capabilities of this LUD.

Semi-primitive to roaded experiences may be offered.

Design roads and trails to be compatible with the characteristic landscape.

Extend rotations, as necessary, to meet the Scenic Integrity Objectives.

Desired Condition

In areas managed under the Scenic Viewshed LUD, forest visitors, recreationists, and others using identified popular travel routes and use areas will view a natural-appearing landscape (refer to Appendix F). Management activities in the foreground will not be evident to the casual observer. Activities in the middleground and background will be subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Areas topographically screened from Visual Priority Travel Routes and Use Areas may be heavily modified. Within these viewsheds, even-aged timber harvest units are typically small and affect only a small percentage of the seen area. At any given point in time, roads, facilities, and other structures are either not visually evident or are subordinate to the landscape. A variety of successional stages providing wildlife habitat occur, although late successional stages predominate. Recreation and tourism opportunities in a range of settings are available. In the areas managed for High or Moderate Scenic Integrity Objectives, timber yields will generally be obtained through the use of small openings or uneven-aged systems. A yield of timber is produced, which contributes to Allowable Sale Quantity.

Modified Landscape

Goals

To provide a sustained yield of timber and a mix of resource activities while minimizing the visibility of developments in the foreground distance zone.

To recognize the scenic values of suitable forest lands viewed from identified popular roads, trails, marine travel routes, recreation sites, bays, and anchorages, and to modify timber harvest practices accordingly.

To maintain and promote wood production from suitable forest lands, providing a continuous supply of wood products to meet society's needs.

To seek to provide a supply of timber from the Tongass National Forest that meets the annual and planning-cycle market demand, consistent with the standards and guidelines for this LUD.

Objectives

Within this LUD, apply the Scenic Integrity Objective of Moderate in the foreground distance zone and Low in the middleground and background distance zones, as seen from the Visual Priority Travel Routes and Use Areas (see Appendix F). Apply the Very Low Scenic Integrity Objective to all other areas.

Suitable forest lands are available for timber harvest. Utilize appropriate silvicultural systems consistent with the adopted Scenic Integrity Objectives. Other timber management considerations include:

- Seek to reduce clearcutting when other methods will meet land management objectives;
- Identify opportunities for diversifying the wood products industry (e.g., special forest products and value-added local production);
- Use forest health management to protect resource values;
- Improve timber growth and productivity on commercial forest lands;
- Plan, inventory, prepare, offer, sell, and administer timber sales and permits to ensure the orderly development of timber production;
- Emphasize the overall reduction of costs, increase of revenues, and improvement of public service within the timber program.

Provide a spectrum of recreation and tourism opportunities consistent with the capabilities of this LUD. Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized to Roaded experiences may be offered. Avoid changing Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized settings to Roaded when feasible.

Design roads and associated rock quarries to meet the applicable Scenic Integrity Objective.

Desired Condition

In areas managed under the Modified Landscape LUD, forest visitors, recreationists, and others using popular Travel Routes and Use Areas will view a somewhat modified landscape (refer to Appendix F). Management activities in the visual foreground will be subordinate to the characteristic landscape, but may dominate the landscape in the middle and backgrounds. Within the foreground, timber harvest units are typically small and affect only a small percentage of the seen area at any one point in time. Roads, facilities, and other structures are also subordinate to the foreground landscape. Recreation opportunities associated with natural-appearing to modified settings are available. A variety of successional stages provide a range of wildlife habitat conditions. A yield of timber is produced, which contributes to Forest-wide sustained yield.

Timber Production

Goals

To maintain and promote wood production from suitable forest lands, providing a continuous supply of wood to meet society's needs.

To manage these lands for sustained long-term timber yields.

To seek to provide a supply of timber from the Tongass National Forest that meets the annual and planning-cycle market demand, consistent with the standards and guidelines for this LUD.

Objectives

Within this LUD, apply the Scenic Integrity Objectives of Low in the foreground distance zone, as seen from Visual Priority Travel Routes and Use Areas (see Appendix F). Apply the Very Low Scenic Integrity Objective to all other areas.

Locate and design timber harvest activities primarily to meet timber objectives. Suitable forest lands are available for timber harvest; appropriate silvicultural systems may be used. Other timber management objectives include:

- Seek to reduce clearcutting when other cutting methods will meet land management objectives;
- Identify opportunities for diversifying the wood products industry (e.g., special forest products, and value-added local production);
- Use forest health management to protect resource values;
- Improve timber growth and productivity on commercial forest lands;
- Plan, inventory, prepare, offer, sell and administer timber sales and permits to ensure the orderly development of timber production;
- Emphasize the overall reduction of costs, increase of revenues, and improvement of public service within the timber program.

Provide a spectrum of recreation and tourism opportunities consistent with the capabilities of this LUD. Manage recreation and tourism use to be compatible with timber production objectives. Manage changed recreation settings in accordance with the appropriate Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class.

Plan a transportation network of roads and helicopter access that will eventually access most of the suitable forest lands for standard logging or helicopter yarding systems and transition to young-growth management.

Desired Condition

Suitable forest lands are managed for the production of sawtimber and other wood products on an even-flow, long-term sustained yield basis; the timber yield produced contributes to Allowable Sale Quantity. An extensive road system provides access for timber management activities, recreation uses, hunting and fishing, and other public and administrative uses; some roads may be closed, either seasonally or year-long, to address resource concerns. Management activities will generally dominate most seen areas. Tree stands are healthy and with a mix of age classes from young stands to trees of harvestable age, often in 40- to 100-acre stands. Recreation opportunities, associated with roaded settings from Semi-Primitive to Roaded Modified, are

available. A variety of wildlife habitats, predominantly in the early and middle successional stages, are present.

Minerals

Goals

To encourage the prospecting, exploration, development, mining, and processing of locatable minerals in areas with the highest potential for minerals development.

To ensure minerals are developed in an environmentally sensitive manner and other high-valued resources are considered when minerals developments occur.

Objectives

Apply this management prescription to the project areas of currently approved Minerals Plan of Operations. Use the prescription as criteria in the planning and design of proposed mineral developments and Plan of Operations. During the period before approval of the Plan of Operations, the underlying (initial) LUD(s) continue to apply to the project area.

Use the following as guidance for minerals activities:

- Authorize special uses that facilitate such activities;
- Allow reasonable access, consistent with other resource values;
- Apply the Low Scenic Integrity Objective to foreground areas viewed from the Visual Priority Travel Routes and Use Areas (Appendix F); otherwise, the Very Low objective applies; and
- Maintain present and continued soil productivity and water quality to the extent feasible. Apply Best Management Practices (BMPs) and meet State Water Quality Standards.

Use the following as guidance for non-minerals activities:

- Authorize special uses that will not substantially conflict with present or anticipated mineral-related activities;
- Limit new recreation facilities to those compatible with mineral developments; and
- Manage recreation settings and opportunities to be as compatible as possible with the initial LUD.

Maintain the present and continued productivity of anadromous fish and other foodfish habitat, as well as wildlife habitats, to the maximum extent feasible. Stress the protection of fish and wildlife habitats to prevent or minimize the need for mitigation.

Rehabilitate soil and water resources and fish and wildlife habitats after the completion of mining operations.

After the completion of mining activities and restoration, manage the area according to the original LUD.

Desired Condition

During mining operations, mining activities are limited to the area necessary for their efficient, economic, and orderly development. Mining is carried out so that any effects on other resources are minimized to the extent feasible, all minimum legal resource protection requirements are met, and other resource uses and activities in the area do not conflict with mining operations. After the completion of mining, affected areas are reclaimed and, in most cases, the area once again provides the settings and opportunities of the original LUD.

Transportation and Utility System

Goals

To provide for, and/or facilitate the development of, existing and future major public Transportation and Utility Systems, including those identified by the State of Alaska and the Alaska Energy Authority.

Objectives

Apply this management prescription to existing major systems corridors. Use the prescription as criteria in the planning and design of future system corridors. The corridors shown on the Land Use Designations (LUD) Map (2007) do not include viable routes that may be considered during project analysis. Consideration of alternate routes that meet corridor objectives while reducing costs and/or minimizing resource impacts is encouraged. During the period before actual construction of new systems occurs, the management prescription(s) of the (initial) LUD(s) underlying the corridors will remain applicable. Upon initiation of construction, and during system operation, this management prescription will apply. The Transportation Utility System (TUS) LUD takes precedence over any underlying LUD (subject to applicable laws) regardless of whether the underlying LUD is a TUS Avoidance LUD or not. As such, it represents a "window" through the underlying LUD through which roads and/or utilities can be built.

For application of this LUD, "major systems" are defined as state and federal highways, railroads, public hydroelectric power projects and associated facilities, powerlines 66 kV or greater, and pipelines 10 inches or greater in diameter.

Allow special uses and facilities not related to transportation or utility systems, if compatible with present or future systems.

If the development of systems changes the Recreation Opportunity System (ROS) setting, manage recreation and tourism opportunities in accordance with the new setting. Consider the development of recreation and tourism facilities in conjunction with the planning of state or federal highways or reservoirs.

Following construction of systems, lands in the right-of-way, if permanently cleared, will be considered unsuitable for timber production.

Transportation and utility corridors, to the extent feasible, should follow the same route.

Transportation Utility Systems may dominate the seen foreground area, yet are designed with consideration for the existing form, line, color, and texture of the characteristic landscape.

Minimize and/or mitigate adverse effects to wildlife habitat and populations to the extent feasible.

Maintain the present and continued productivity of anadromous fish and other fish habitat to the extent feasible.

Desired Condition

Transportation Utility Systems have been constructed in an efficient and economic manner, and have been designed to be compatible with the adjacent LUD to the maximum extent feasible. The minimum land area consistent with an efficient, safe facility is used for their development. Effects on other resources have been recognized and resource protection has been provided. Other resources uses and activities in the area do not conflict with utility operations. State and federal highways and reservoirs offer new developed recreation opportunities, as appropriate.