

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

PERIODIC TIMBER HARVEST IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE



Prepared by

Community Development Department

Land and Resource Management Division

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PERIODIC TIMBER HARVEST IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

This Periodic Timber Harvest Implementation Schedule (Schedule) for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) consists of all MSB commercial timber harvests scheduled for 2017 thru 2021. This Schedule is required of and is in compliance with MSB Code at 23.20.110; and is subsequent to the Five-Year Timber Harvest Schedule (FYTHS), adopted August 15, 2017.

This Schedule identifies specific criteria associated with Best Management Practices (BMPs) and establishes additional quantifiable data for specific size, type, amount, and minimum current market value of timber available within the units being harvested. Each harvest unit reported in the Schedule was reviewed for compliance with the MSB Asset Management Plan adopted September 21, 2010 and accomplished utilizing the MSB: Operable Forest Land Analysis Report dated February 2007 and amended June 2009, prepared by Sanders Forestry Consulting (Inventory). The most recent available aerial imagery was thoroughly reviewed prior to site visits. Site evaluations were performed by the Land & Resource Management Division (LMD) staff during the summer, fall, and early winter of 2018. All data collected from the site evaluations are available for review in the LMD office, and includes: unit location and access considerations, seasonal operation requirements, buffer zone analyses, adjacent private land use, a timber resource inventory based on sample plots within the harvest units, and unit specific requirements for forest regeneration. An overview of the Schedule is provided in this document, including Tables 1 and 2, which provide certain criteria pertaining to each harvest unit. Additional field data not provided in the Schedule, relating to the 2017 - 2021 timber harvest units is available for review upon request.

Unit Location and Access Considerations: A unit map, with each harvest unit shaded and labeled accordingly is provided in the Schedule. Additional information regarding access considerations, photographs and related GPS waypoints are available upon request for each of the timber harvest units.

Personal Use Firewood Area's (PUFA's): PUFA's will be available either in or adjacent to the Fish Creek Management and Point MacKenzie Management Units before and during any timber harvest (MSB 23.20.110).

Seasonal Operation Requirements: Certain harvest units are specified as winter access only (OWA), while other units are designated as harvestable year-round (OA). Any seasonal operation requirements are reported in the Schedule and have been appropriately applied during each harvest unit's specific site evaluation.

Buffer Zones: Several different buffer zone requirements were considered within the 2017 - 2021 timber harvest units, and include 100' buffers for riparian zones, lakes, wetlands, adjacent private lands, roads and trails; and 200' buffers for scenic byways, 300' buffers for historical sites and 300' buffers for peregrine falcons and 330' for eagle nests. Appropriate buffers were established via the most current, available GIS data and aerial imagery, while others were evaluated and

established during each unit's site evaluation. All unit specific buffer zone requirements are provided in the Schedule and will also be noted in the appropriate timber harvest unit contract.

Adjacent Private Land Use: Private land use adjacent to 2017 - 2021 timber harvest units was evaluated originally via the most current, available aerial imagery and more thoroughly examined during each unit's site evaluation. All adjacent residences discovered during site reconnaissance were evaluated for potential impact(s) from the 2017 – 2021 timber harvest activities. Any potential impact(s) to adjacent private land users can be found in the Schedule, including but not limited to: noise, lighting, buffers, truck traffic, scarification, and road maintenance specifically resulting from harvest activities.

Timber Resource Inventory: The Schedule specifies size and type, quantifies the volume, and estimates a minimum bid price (based on current market values, size of the parcel, location, access, and timber type/size being offered) appropriate to the timber resources available for harvest within each unit. All timber resources reported in the Schedule are in conjunction with the Inventory previously performed by Sanders Forestry Consulting 2007 and updated 2009. Each timber harvest unit was originally evaluated using the most recent timber inventory and utilizing the most recent available aerial imagery. Following this preliminary evaluation, the unit was accessed and a site evaluation was performed by LMD staff. During the survey an appropriate location was identified for evaluation of sample timber plots that most accurately represented an overall average of the timber harvest unit, forest type/size, and density. Coordinates were recorded, pictures were taken and data from a sample plots were collected. Only trees specific to each unit's harvest criteria (i.e. ALL timber species 8” diameter at breast height (DBH) were considered in this calculation. These numbers were used to create an estimated number of cunits for each unit.

Minimum Bid: The current minimum bids for the Schedule are established with consideration to the most recent Borough offerings based on species, type, size, accessibility and location of harvest. Commercial value of units being harvested for saw timber were summations of CCF calculated by timber cruise and/or inventory to establish minimum bid.

Regeneration: Alaska Forest Resources & Practices Act (FRPA) requirements state that within 12 years harvested areas must contain a specific minimum number (450) of seedlings per acre or a combination of residual trees and seedlings approved by the Division of Forestry. These post-harvest regeneration requirements outlined in 11 AAC 95.375 of the Division of Forestry, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Alaska Forest Resources & Practices Regulations March 2017, are the responsibility of the MSB. However, contractual agreements for the removal of forest timber, may require the contract holder to follow certain criteria and/or BMPs to meet harvest unit regeneration requirements. All units reported in the Schedule are being selectively cut for specific size timber. Select cutting of trees less than 8” DBH, could help to provide a variety of seed trees and facilitate meeting FRPA requirements. However, the contractor is required to ensure sufficient stocking levels (as determined by FRPA inspection) are met.

Timber Salvage Sales: Borough Code does not require we include the sale of salvage timber in the Implementation Schedule. However, Public Notice is being provided to inform the public and

industry notice of timber salvage sale opportunities within the Borough for 2018 and beyond. The Borough will be offering six (6) timber salvage sales beginning in 2018 to promote forest health and reduce fuelwood along the Parks Highway due to the spruce bark beetle infestation. All areas have been flagged on the ground. The timber resources will be offered through a competitive sealed bid sale. The minimum bid is \$15.00 per cunit. The estimated acreage volumes and projected totals for beetle killed spruce are indicated in the table below:

MILEPOST	ACRES	BOARD FEET (MBF)	CUNITS	MINIMUM BID
109 EAST SIDE	17	26.7 MBF	66	\$1122.00
109 WEST SIDE	30	43.4 MBF	111	\$1,665.00
110 WEST SIDE	29	40.7 MBF	96	\$1,440.00
110.2 WEST SIDE	24	33.7 MBF	79	\$1,185.00
110.5 WEST SIDE	38	53.3 MBF	125	\$1,875.00
111 WEST SIDE	36	50.5 MBF	119	\$1,785.00
TOTALS	172	248.3 MBF	596	\$9,072.00

PERIODIC TIMBER HARVEST IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE
UNIT DESCRIPTION
Point MacKenzie NRMU

The Point MacKenzie NRMU is located east of and along West Point MacKenzie Road beginning just north of Alsop Road and ending at the Port MacKenzie Port District near the southern terminus of Point MacKenzie Road; and is broken into three subunits. There are several potential transportation routes to access and/or remove the timber resources for processing and/or export, including Point MacKenzie Road, Knik Goose Bay Road, and the Point MacKenzie Rail Extension (PMRE). Primary access to the Alsop Road sub-unit harvest area would be from Alsop Road and/or Rex Bell Road. Primary access to the Mule Creek sub-unit harvest area would be from Alsop Road. Both sub-units are classified Resource Management with a primary designation of Forestry; and available for forest management, including commercial timber harvest. The Point MacKenzie NRMU contains 3,174 acres of commercial forest land. The proposed sub-units included in this Schedule contain 1,690 acres. A 2018 timber cruise was performed on the Alsop Road and Mule Creek NRMU.

No additional buffer zone requirements (other than the Wildlife Corridor) were discovered during the site evaluation for both the Alsop Road and Mule Creek Harvest Units. All necessary buffer zones for this area were avoided during the preliminary analysis of the aerial imagery although there is the potential for additional buffers zones requirements within the harvest units.

Fair Market Value of the most recent Borough timber sales were offered with a minimum bid of \$15 per cunit. The Borough actually received \$16.00 per cunit. This offering has a minimum bid of \$15.00 per cunit.

<u>Sale Number</u>	<u>Unit Names</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cunits</u>	<u>Min Bid Per Cunit</u>
18-002 CTH	Pt. MacKenzie	2018	1690	26,856	\$15.00

Est Cunits		Min Bid Per Cunit		Minimum Bid
26,856	x	\$15.00	=	\$402,840

PERIODIC TIMBER HARVEST IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE
UNIT DESCRIPTION
Fish Creek NRMU

LOCATION: The Fish Creek NRMU is located entirely within the Fish Creek Management Plan (FCMP) which is a joint effort of the Borough and Alaska State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Fish Creek NRMU is southwest of Big Lake and west of the Little Susitna River. There are several potential transportation routes to access and/or remove the timber resources for processing and/or export, including the Parks Highway, Point MacKenzie Road, Burma Road Susitna Parkway, Purinton Parkway and maybe the Point MacKenzie Rail Extension rail-bed. However, all routes currently require the use of a temporary winter ice road and temporary ice bridges for direct ingress and egress to the Fish Creek NRMU. Construction and maintenance of temporary bridges and winter ice roads are the responsibility of the purchaser.

It is important to note that in 2013/2014, the Borough and State facilitated the construction of a “winter ice road” (with temporary ice bridges) 6.7 miles across Borough land to State land on the other side of the Little Susitna River to access timber resources on Borough and State land in the Fish Creek area. The winter ice road begins at the west end of Susitna Parkway and currently ends at State land in Township 17N05W Section 20. An all season road feasibility study to upgrade the ice road (with all season bridges) to a single lane, low impact, resource recovery road was completed in 2014.

SURROUNDING LAND USE: The majority of the adjacent land is owned by the Borough and the State of Alaska. The Unit has a variety of dispersed recreational uses, mainly in the winter when access to the area is easier. The Iditarod Historic, Iditarod Pipeline Link, Flathorn Lake and Fish Creek Trails traverse the unit. In addition, portions of the FCMP are traversed by rights-of-way reserved by the State/DNR. The Point MacKenzie Rail Extension (PMRE) is still under construction and is located in close proximity to the Fish Creek NRMU.

EXISTING LAND USE PLANS: The harvest unit boundaries are within the following land use plans:

- Mat-Su Borough *Natural Resource Management Unit Plan* (2010)
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources, *Southeast Susitna Area Plan* (2009), the State land adjoining the unit has been designated as forestry. This plan does not apply to Borough land.
- The *Fish Creek Management Plan* (2010)

OPERABLE WINTER ONLY: All three of these sub-units have a primary or secondary Borough classification of Forestry and are within the Fish Creek NRMU. It is important to note that the timber harvests allowed within the FCMP are restricted to winter access at this time. Winter timber operations may be opened, closed, limited and/or suspended by the Borough at any time determined necessary by the Borough to protect and/or preserve Borough property, resources,

soils, water quality, fish, wildlife, fish & wildlife habitat, wetlands and waterbodies. Typical winter operations require a certain depth of frozen ground/ice and sufficient snow depth to protect wetland vegetation.

Approximately 7,061 acres of land in the Fish Creek NRMU are available for commercial timber harvest through this offering. The Borough proposes one offering encompassing three harvest units scheduled over 3 years.

The commercial value of Borough timber varies greatly dependent on location, access, road building costs, type, size, strata and seasonal access restrictions. Some of the recent State and Borough timber harvest offerings located with much easier access did not receive any bids. The Borough received \$16 per cunit for our two most recent sales. One sale was at Sheep Creek and one in Point Mackenzie. The Fish Creek sale has restrictive access and is a winter only operation. These items were considered when setting the minimum bid. The Borough proposes a competitive sealed bid sale process to solicit offers. All timber sale contracts being offered must be approved by the Assembly prior to execution. The 2009 Inventory data along with current plot sampling indicates the availability of 121,291 cunits of available timber resources.

<u>Sale Number</u>	<u>Unit Names</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cunits</u>	<u>Min Bid Per Cunit</u>
18-002 CTH	Fish Creek	2018	7,061	121,291	\$6.00

Est. Cunits		Min Bid Per Cunit		Minimum Bid
121,291	X	\$6.00	=	\$725,000 (rounded)

TABLE 1: Specific per Unit Criteria for 2017 - 2021 Timber Harvest Units

UNIT ID	Year	MSB #	Acres	Size & Type	Access Requirements	Buffers	Adjacent Land Use	Regeneration
Fish Creek Unit 1 Moraine Ridge	2018	007419	1,433	ALL Species 8" DBH and greater	OWA ²	See unit specific buffers	See Fish Creek Management Plan	YES
Fish Creek Unit 5 Lower Fish Creek	2019	007419	3,315	ALL Species 8" DBH and greater	OWA ²	See unit specific buffers	See Fish Creek Management Plan	YES
Fish Creek Unit 6 Homestead Creek	2020- 2021	007419	2,312	ALL Species 8" DBH and greater	OWA ²	See unit specific buffers	See Fish Creek Management Plan	YES
Point MacKenzie Alsop	2018	007359	845	ALL Species 8" DBH and greater	OA ¹ /OWA ²	Wildlife Corridor & unit specific buffers	See Pt. Mac. NRMU Plan	YES
Point MacKenzie Mule Creek	2018- 2021	007359	845	ALL Species 8" DBH and greater	OWA ²	See unit specific buffers	See Pt. Mac. NRMU Plan	YES

¹OA - Operable Year-Round ²OWA - Operable Winter Only

TABLE 2: Specific per Unit Timber Volume and Minimum Bids

UNIT ID	Acres	Cunits by Unit	Minimum Bid Per Cunit	Minimum Bid*
Fish Creek Unit 1 Moraine Ridge	1433	24619	\$6	\$147,714
Fish Creek Unit 5 Lower Fish Creek	3315	56952	\$6	\$341,712
Fish Creek Unit 6 Homestead Creek	2312	39720	\$6	\$238,320
Point MacKenzie Alsop	845	10,781	\$15	\$161,715
Point MacKenzie Mule Creek	845	16,075	\$15	\$241,125
2017-2021 Sales	8885	148,147	Varies By Unit	\$1,130,586

*Minimum bids were calculated using the specific size & type of timber being harvested per each unit, and based on current market values, size of the parcel, location, access, and timber type/size being offered.