

WHEREAS, the Southeast Regional Fish and Game Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries are directly involved with the management of our fish and game resources; and

WHEREAS, the regional council and the Board of Fisheries are concerned with current logging practices in the Tongass Forest as they relate to fish and game habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources is currently preparing a forest management plan for the Haines State Forest; and

WHEREAS, the current draft plan outlining timber harvest for the Haines State Forest does not offer adequate safeguards for current subsistence, sport, and commercial fish and game resources that are heavily utilized;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southeast Regional Fish and Game Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries request that the Alaska Department of Natural Resources adopt the habitat protection recommendations outlined by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, pages 46-47 of their November 19, 1984 comments on the draft Haines Forest Management Plan.

Gordy Williams
Gordy Williams, Chairman
Southeast Regional Fish and
Game Council

Ron Jolin
Ron Jolin, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Date: Feb 4, 1985

Date: 2/4/85

Haines Area Fish and Wildlife Resource Report
and Land Management Recommendations
for the Haines State Forest Resource
Management Area and Bald Eagle Preserve

Alaska Department of
Fish and Game
Juneau, Alaska
November, 1984

RECOMMENDED GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Natural vegetation will be maintained in the Riparian Management Zones described below. Habitat altering activities, including clearing and clear-cutting are prohibited within these zones unless DFG determines that the activity will have no significant adverse impact on fish and wildlife resources or will enhance these resources:
 - (a) 300-foot zone landward of the bank of anadromous fish streams designated in the "Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing, and Migration of Anadromous Fishes" (Stream designation extends to mean low water and includes the exposed bed and banks of all channels within a braided stream delimited by natural vegetation bordering the most distant channels.)
 - (b) 500-foot zone adjacent to the shoreline of lakes with anadromous fish populations and/or high recreational use of fish and wildlife. In addition to the general guideline, DNR shall determine, in consultation with DFG, that permitted uses will have no significant adverse impacts on recreational opportunities to harvest fish and wildlife.
 - (c) Existing coniferous stand within a 1000'-wide zone around moose concentration areas (see Figure 1).
 - (d) A windfirm buffer strip of timber not less than 1/2-mile wide adjacent to goat winter concentration areas (see Figure 1).
2. DNR will consult with ADFG to design the roads that will:
 - (a) Minimize habitat alteration through:
 - 1) single-lane design with turn-outs
 - 2) routing through less productive habitat types
 - 3) minimizing road-miles
 - (b) Minimize encroachment on streams; streams crossings will be perpendicular to the channel wherever feasible.
 - (c) Maintain cross-drainage
3. All secondary spur roads built to facilitate timber harvest will be considered for administrative closure. DNR will consult DFG on the positive and negative effects on fish and wildlife harvest management or enhancement of closures versus maintenance of public access. If roads are closed, construction of berms, removal of culverts and culvert bedding, and standard put-to-bed techniques will be employed that prevent vehicle access to stream beds and/or blockage of fish passage and sedimentation due to improperly maintained culverts and roadbeds.
4. All proposed stream crossings will be reviewed by ADFG on a case-by-case basis pursuant to AS 16.05.870 and 16.05.840.

5. Activities that are likely to result in violation of the water quality standards for turbidity and suspended sediment will be restricted, particularly during periods when spawning, migration, or rearing of anadromous fish occurs or when eggs and alevins are present in the gravels through timing restrictions or mitigative measures. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game shall identify critical time periods on a case-by-case basis.
6. Development activities that require the use of heavy equipment in wetlands will include mitigative measures that will, to the extent feasible and prudent, prevent damage to wetlands and wetland vegetation.
7. When DNR sells sand and gravel or issues a permit for mining adjacent to fish habitat, the land manager will require as a condition of the sale or permit, measures such as levees, berms and/or settling ponds and reclamation and rehabilitation measures recommended by DFG that will minimize the siltation and sedimentation of fish habitat.
8. To avoid adverse impacts on fish or fish habitat, dredging, filling or shoreline alteration in fish habitat, beaches, or tideflats will only be allowed where DFG determines that the proposed activity will not have a significant adverse impact on fish or fish habitat, or where DNR determines that no feasible and prudent alternative exists to meet the public need.
9. All disturbed areas should be left in a stabilized condition. Organic overburden removed during mining operation and suitable for use in restoration should be stockpiled and utilized during restoration. Other excavated waste materials should be disposed of in disposal sites approved by DNR and DEC. Excavated materials will not be stockpiled in rivers, streams, lakes or floodplains without prior approval by DFG.
10. Log transfer facilities shall be sited according to criteria contained in the "Consolidated Resource Agency Criteria for Siting and Operation of TTFs" (Appendix 4).
11. DNR and DFG will jointly develop a fire management policy with criteria for suppression or controlled burning of wildfires on state lands. The conditions for which burning would be allowed to continue should be established for all areas of the State Forest. Prescription burning techniques should be developed in order to benefit wildlife populations.