

Corri A. Feige
Commissioner

www.DNR.Alaska.Gov



Department of
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Dec. 8, 2021

State forestry seeks public input for Tanana Valley State Forest plan

(Fairbanks, AK) – The Alaska Division of Forestry is seeking public input on possible changes to the 20-year-old Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan.

The current plan was composed in 2001 and the Division has determined that a revision is necessary to reflect current conditions and uses, said Northern Regional Forester Jeremy Douse in Fairbanks.

“The existing management plan was intended to have a 20-year life span. A core team of DOF staff reviewed the current plan and concluded there has been enough that has changed since 2001 to initiate a revision,” Douse said. “Twenty years is a substantial period of time and we want to make sure the plan aligns with our mission to manage the forest for the sustained yield of renewable resources while also providing multiple uses for the public.”

Two virtual public scoping meetings have been scheduled for Dec. 15-16 on WebEx where there will be opportunity for public questions. The Dec. 15 meeting will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the Dec. 16 meeting will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m. A teleconference line is also available for those who want to call in. Meeting details are available at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/pubnotfrm.htm>. Anyone who needs technical assistance should contact Ashley List at (907) 269-8481 or ashley.list@alaska.gov.

Each meeting will begin with a short presentation about the Tanana Valley State Forest and the plan revision process. The meeting will remain open for questions in an open house format for the duration of the scheduled meeting time.

The Tanana Valley State Forest consists of more than 1.8 million acres almost entirely within the Tanana River Basin from Tok to Fairbanks. The TVSF features a road system of more than 250 miles and the Tanana River flows for 200 miles through it. Timber production is the major commercial activity within the forest, about 85 percent of which lies within 20 miles of a state highway. The Forest is open to mining, gravel extraction,

oil and gas leasing, and grazing, although very little is done. The TVSF also offers abundant recreation opportunities.

Scoping issues the agency is seeking input on include but are not limited to:

- Access
- Recommended additions to the Tanana Valley State Forest.
- Updated forest inventory
- Silvicultural treatments
- Forest health and climate change
- Wildlife habitat management
- Recreation
- Research uses

For more information, please go to the [Tanana Valley State Forest management plan revision page](#).

The public may also submit written comments to dnr.for.tvsfrevision@alaska.gov. Written comments must be received by no later than 5 p.m. Monday, January 3, 2021. Comment should be sent by mail or email to the Alaska Division of Forestry, 550 W. 7th Ave. Suite 1450, Anchorage, AK 99501.

Public input from the scoping period will drive the development of the draft Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan, which will be available for public review and comment.

More information on the Tanana Valley State Forest and the 2001 Forest Management Plan is available at <http://forestry.alaska.gov/stateforests.htm>

CONTACT: Forest Planner Ashley List, (907) 269-8481 or dnr.for.tvsfrevision@alaska.gov