

## RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE

### GOALS

To encourage, facilitate, and expedite the exploration, permitting, development, construction and operation of Renewable Energy Resources in areas of the Tongass National Forest having potential for renewable energy development, including those identified by agencies of the United States, including the Forest Service, the State of Alaska, the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), and private developers. An existing data base is currently in place and maintained by AEA and can be found by using the following link:

<http://www.akenergyinventory.org/downloads/HYD2011-2/HYD2011-2.kmz>

### OBJECTIVES

Apply this management prescription to those public and private project areas having an approved Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) preliminary permit or other authorization for non-hydropower type renewable energy projects. . Apply this management prescription to project areas having a geothermal lease or lease application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Apply this management prescription to those projects for which application is made for a Special Use Permit to develop a Renewable Energy Resource project.

Use this prescription as criteria in the planning, design, permitting, and development of renewable energy resource projects and plans of operations.

During the period before actual construction of a new Renewable Energy Resource project, the management prescription(s) of the (initial) LUD(s) underlying the project area will remain applicable, but will not interfere with or impede the exploration, feasibility reviews, permitting and development of the Renewable Energy Resource. Upon initiation of construction, and during project operation this Renewable Energy Resource management prescription will apply. The Renewable Energy Resource LUD takes precedence over any underlying LUD (subject to applicable law) regardless of whether the underlying LUD is an Avoidance LUD or not. As such it represents a “window” through the underlying LUD through which renewable energy projects can be built along with road and infrastructure access to such projects.

For application of this LUD Renewable Energy Resources are defined as public and private hydropower, geothermal, wind, hydrokinetic, solar, tidal, wave and biomass.

Construction of a Renewable Energy Resource project requires a Special Use permit, which, in turn, requires a project level NEPA analysis and decisionmaking. Renewable Energy Resource projects may be located in an Avoidance LUD whether or not feasible alternatives exist outside the Avoidance LUD. As required by the Council of Environmental Quality regulations, only “reasonable alternatives” to the proposed Renewable Energy Resource project need be considered.

Allow special uses and facilities associated with Renewable Energy Resource development. For application of this LUD “associated facility” is defined as any facility or corridor needed to

access, develop, construct, and monitor Renewable Energy Resource projects. Examples of such associated facilities include roads, low voltage electrical, high voltage electrical systems, pipelines of any diameter, communication equipment (including radio, microwave, fiber optic cables, and high-speed broadband).

Allow special uses and facilities associated with Renewable Energy Resource development even if a portion of the project is based in waters adjacent to TNF land, such as ocean energy tidal and wave.

Allow special uses and facilities not related to Renewable Energy Resource development if compatible with present or future Renewable Energy Resource development.

If the development of Renewable Energy Resources changes the Recreation Opportunity System (ROS) setting, manage recreation and tourism in accordance with the new setting. Consider the development of recreation and tourism facilities in conjunction with the planning of state or federal highways, and Renewable Energy Resource projects.

Following construction of Renewable Energy Resource projects, lands that are permanently cleared for such projects will be considered unsuitable for timber production.

Renewable Energy Resource projects 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 fish habitat to the extent feasible.

## **DESIRED CONDITION**

Renewable Energy Resource projects have been constructed in an efficient, economic, and orderly 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, economic, and maintainable Renewable Energy Resource project has been used for their development. Effects on other resources have been recognized and resource protection has been provided. Other resource uses and activities do not conflict with Renewable Energy Resource project operations.