

## **MINERALS EXTRACTION AND/OR PROCESSING RESOURCE LUD (OVERLAY)**

### **GOALS**

To encourage, facilitate, and expedite the exploration, permitting, development, construction and operation of mineral extraction, processing, export, and value added resources in areas of the Tongass National Forest having potential for economic deposits of minerals, including those identified by agencies of the United States, including the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and United States Geological Survey; the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources; and private developers. Various inventories of mineral occurrences, permissive geology, geophysical anomalies, field mapping and soil, rock, and water geochemical sampling exist in federal, state, and private databases documenting the ubiquitous extent of potential mineral deposits on the Tongass National Forest (TNF). One such database can be found on the USGS website given below:

<http://mrdata.usgs.gov/general/map.html?x=Q152.235438177814&y=64.2410308901166&z=10>

Mineral occurrences have been described in the literature. These specific areas should be given planning status under any and all other LUDs as objectives and/or guidelines for mineral development. A general overlay LUD should be incorporated into this planning exercise as described below.

### **OBJECTIVES**

Apply this management prescription to properly located and maintained federal mining claims and those enjoying valid existing rights. Apply this management prescription to areas open to mineral entry and/or managed for locatable minerals, leasable, and saleable minerals. Apply this management prescription to all mineral proposals authorized by plans of operation. Apply this management prescription to those Mineral Extraction and/or Processing projects for which authorization is deemed necessary by a Special Use Permit.

Use this prescription as criteria in the planning, design, permitting, and development of mineral extraction and/or processing projects and plans of operations.

During the period before actual construction of a new Mineral Extraction and/or Processing 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 Mineral Extraction and/or Processing Resource. Upon initiation of construction, and during project operation this Mineral Extraction and/or Processing Resource management prescription will apply. The Mineral Extraction and/or Processing 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 mineral extraction and/or processing projects can be built along with road and infrastructure access to such projects.

For application of this LUD Mineral Extraction and/or Processing Resources are defined as metallic, industrial, and construction geologic materials extracted in situ or the same imported for purposes of value added processing. This would include locatable, leasable, and saleable

minerals. Leasable and saleable minerals have not before been analyzed under NEPA for planning purposes. This is an essential step in the management of these minerals, which has potential to adversely affect AMA membership and others interested in leasable and saleable minerals, including but not limited to geothermal, coal, oil and gas, limestone, gravel (crushed or rounded to any degree).

Construction of a Mineral Extraction and/or Processing Resource project outside the bounds of a mining claim may require a plan of operations, which, in turn, may require a project level NEPA analysis and decision making. Mineral Extraction and/or Processing 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 Mineral Extraction and/or Processing Resource project need be considered.

Allow special uses and facilities associated with Mineral Extraction and/or Processing Resource development. For application of this LUD “associated facility” is defined as any facility or corridor needed to access, develop, construct, and monitor Mineral Extraction and/or Processing Resource projects. Examples of such associated facilities include roads, vessel loading/unloading facilities, wharves, tailings facilities, stockpiles, warehouses, milling facilities, electrical generation, housing facilities, fuel storage, low voltage electrical, high voltage electrical systems, pipelines of any diameter, conveyors, communication equipment (including radio, microwave, fiber optic cables, and high-speed broadband).

Allow special uses and facilities associated with Mineral Extraction and/or Processing Resource development even if a portion of the project is based on adjacent non-TNF land, such as State of Alaska or private land, including tidelands.

Allow special uses and facilities not related to Mineral Extraction and/or Processing Resource development if compatible with present or future Mineral Extraction and/or Processing Resource development.

If the development of Mineral Extraction and/or Processing 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 Mineral Extraction and/or Processing Resource projects.

Following construction of Mineral Extraction and/or Processing Resource projects, lands that are permanently cleared for such projects will be considered unsuitable for timber production. To the extent practicable, Mineral Extraction and/or Processing Resource projects would be reclaimed to a condition consistent with management for the pre-existing underlying LUD.

Mineral Extraction and/or Processing 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 practicable.

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

### **DESIRED CONDITION**

Mineral Extraction and/or Processing 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 practicable. The minimum reasonable land area consistent with an efficient, safe, economic, and maintainable Mineral Extraction and/or Processing Resource project has been used for their development. Effects on other resources have been recognized and resource avoidance, protection, or mitigation has been provided. Other resource uses and activities do not conflict with Mineral Extraction and/or Processing Resource project operations.