



# City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street Sitka, Alaska 99835

*Coast Guard City, USA*

September 18, 2014

Captain John F. Falvey, Jr., General Manager

Alaska Marine Highway System

[dot.amhs.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dot.amhs.comments@alaska.gov) RE: Comment --AMHS Summer 2015 Proposal

Dear Captain Falvey:

Every spring City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) comments on the proposed Winter AMHS schedule, requesting a minimum of two north and two south ferries per week, but only receives one northbound and two southbound for seven months of the year. Each fall, CBS comments that the peak Summer season starts in JUNE, not July, and Sitka needs a minimum of two north and two south ferries per week in May, June, and September, but the schedule remains the same—one mainline north and south, augmented by four Fairweather shuttles in June.

Meanwhile, Lynn Canal receives eight ferries per week during May, June and September and five stops during the Winter schedule. This is a matter of deployment, not vessel availability. Sitka's 9,000 residents and large number of visitors could generate much greater ridership during the shoulder seasons with greater ferry frequency and connectivity, just as they could in winter with many groups having to fly to/from events because ferry service to Sitka is so infrequent. The lack of service to Sitka compared to other ports is a continuing inequity. Please consider the following Summer 2015 schedule modifications:

1. Summer AMHS schedule should begin in June, not July. The July and August Summer schedule provides excellent service, but June is an equally busy summer month.
2. Please provide a minimum of two north and two south mainlines to Sitka in May, June (until June is returned to the Summer schedule), and September. The visitor season begins in April and ends in October, and visitors need connectivity throughout the region, including Sitka. Sitka needs to receive a similar level of service as does Lynn Canal and other mainline ports—not one third or less.

If these requests aren't granted, CBS would appreciate a detailed explanation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark Gorman, Municipal Administrator

cc: Senator Stedman  
Representative Kreiss-Tomkins

*Providing for today ... preparing for tomorrow*



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

## Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM  
Office of the General Manager

7559 North Tongass Highway  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901-9101  
Main: 907.228.7250  
Fax: 907.228.6875

9/9/2014

Dear Community Advisory Group Members:

It is time to begin the public review process for the next Alaska Marine Highway System scheduling cycle. The proposed schedule patterns that will be reviewed will cover the summer 2015 schedule.

The schedule patterns that are being proposed are based on an assumed funding level for FY16 similar to the FY15 operating budget. The operating plan has been designed to meet the essential needs for community service, staying within available funding, and maintaining regulatory and safety standards for the vessels.

Please take the time to review and comment on this proposal paying particular attention to any need for special events scheduling. Be sure to give the name of the event, date, location, and arrival and departure times needed for each special event.

Please provide your written comments prior to September 23, 2014. Information may be faxed to 907-586-8365 or emailed to [dot.amhs.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dot.amhs.comments@alaska.gov). A teleconference to hear comments and consider adjustments is scheduled for Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. for Southeast schedules and at 1:30 p.m. for Southwest and Southcentral schedules. The meeting will be held in Ketchikan at the Alaska Marine Highway's Marine Engineering Facility, 7037 North Tongass Highway for participants wishing to attend in person.

The toll free number to participate in both teleconferences is: 1-800-315-6338. **Please note the changed conference code: 03902#.** The link to access the proposed schedule patterns is: <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/share/schedule/considerations.pdf>.

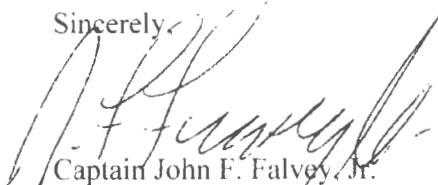
It is the policy of the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT & PF) that no person shall be excluded from participation in, or be denied benefits of any and all programs or activities we provide based on race, religion, color, gender, age, marital status, ability, or national origin, regardless of the funding source including Federal Transit Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration and State of Alaska Funds.

*"Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure."*

The State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT & PF) complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this public meeting should contact AMHS Operations Manager, Capt. Tony Karvelas at (907) 228-7252 and TDD (907) 269-0743, TTY 1-800-770-8793, Alaska Relay, Voice: 7-1-1 or 1-800-770-8255 no later than September 09 to make any necessary arrangements.

If you have any additional questions or need additional information, please contact the AMHS Operations Manager, Tony Karvelas, at (907) 228-7252 or (907) 617-4277.

Sincerely,



Captain John F. Falvey, Jr.  
General Manager

ENCLOSURES:

Draft FY16 Operating Plan 15.07  
Proposed Vessel Deployment  
Calendars of Events  
Weekly Vessel Pattern Graphs

DISTRIBUTION:

All Southeast Alaska Mayors  
All Southcentral Alaska Mayors  
All Southwest Alaska Mayors  
Alaska Travel Industry Association  
ARDORS  
Commercial Shipping Companies  
CVBs  
DOT/PF Southeast Regional Director  
Marine Transportation Advisory Board  
Managers, AMHS Terminals  
Masters, AMHS Vessels  
Unions  
IBU  
MM&P  
MEBA  
Tlingit & Haida Central Council  
S.E. Alaska Tribal Government Advisory Committee  
Governor's Office, Office of Management and Budget  
Governor's Office, Deputy Chief of Staff

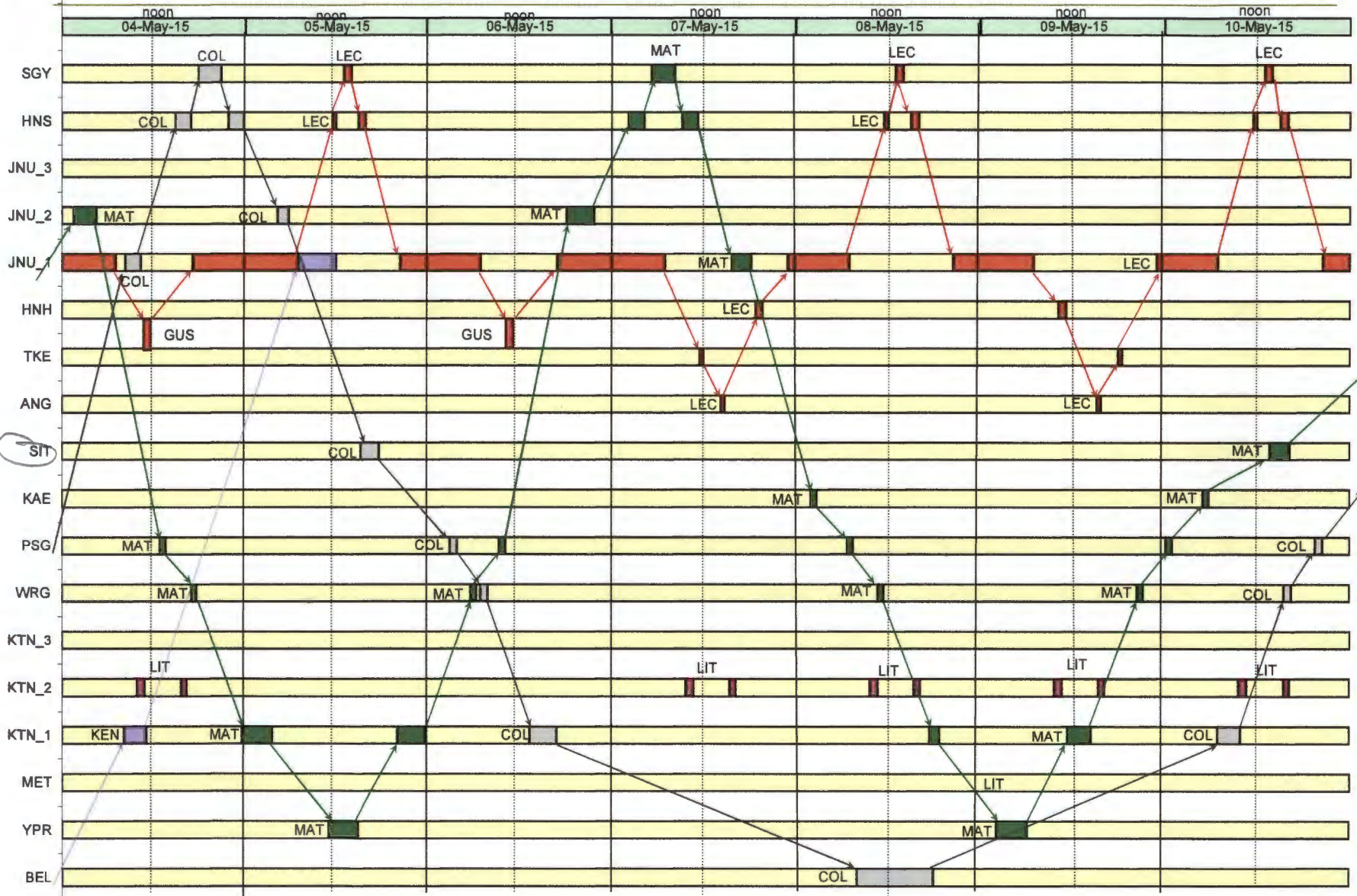
DRAFT

SE Summer 2015 May 1-15

DRAFT

Revised 12-29-2007

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY



add Mat SB Thru

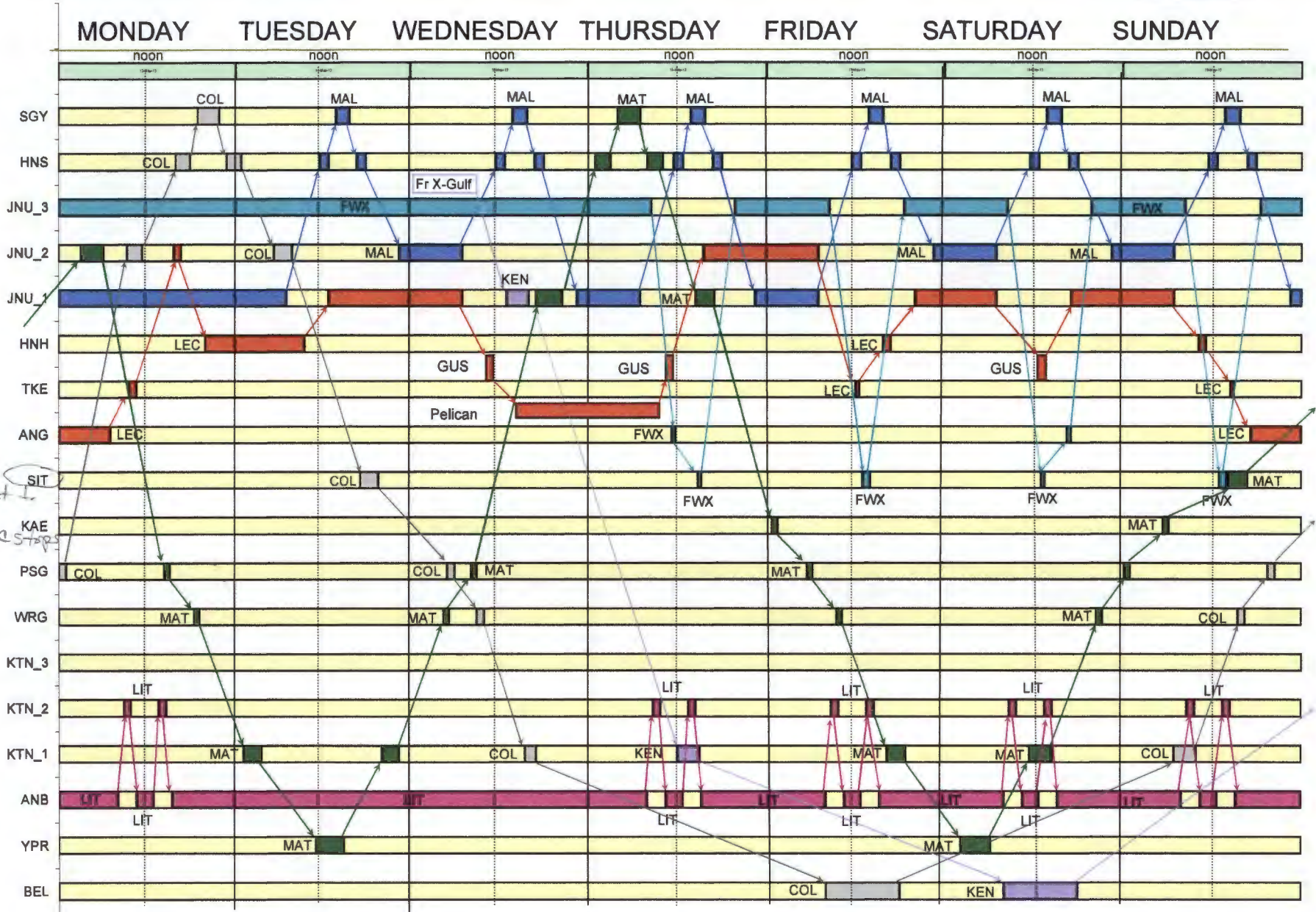
SIT

DRAFT

SE Summer 2014 mid-May - June Wk 1 & 3

DRAFT

Revised 08-21-2014



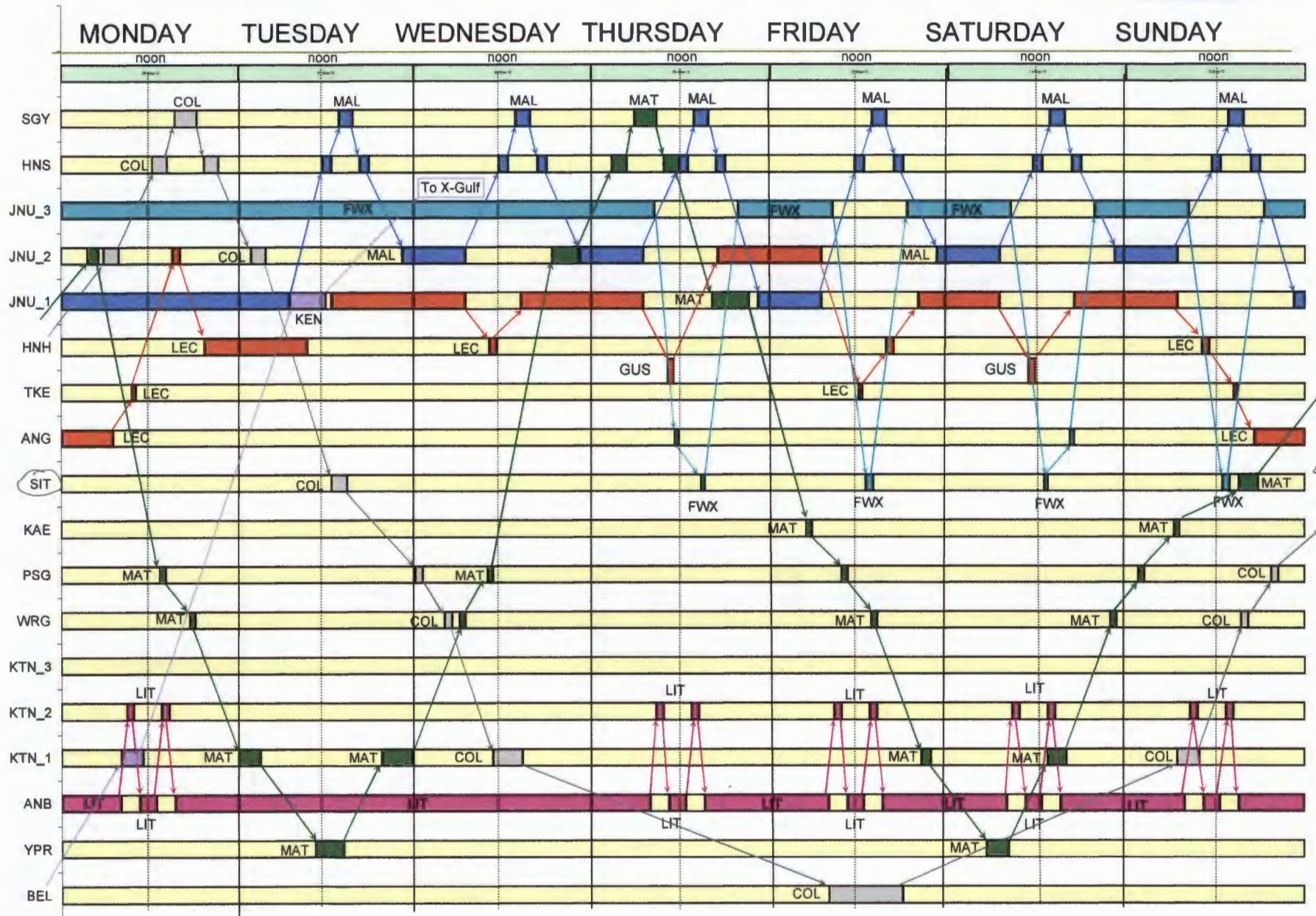
1 SB  
 Bring Mat 1  
 Sit SB -  
 delete 2 LEC stops  
 Thurs to 1

DRAFT

SE Summer 2014 mid- May - June Wk 2 & 4

DRAFT

Revised 08-20-2014

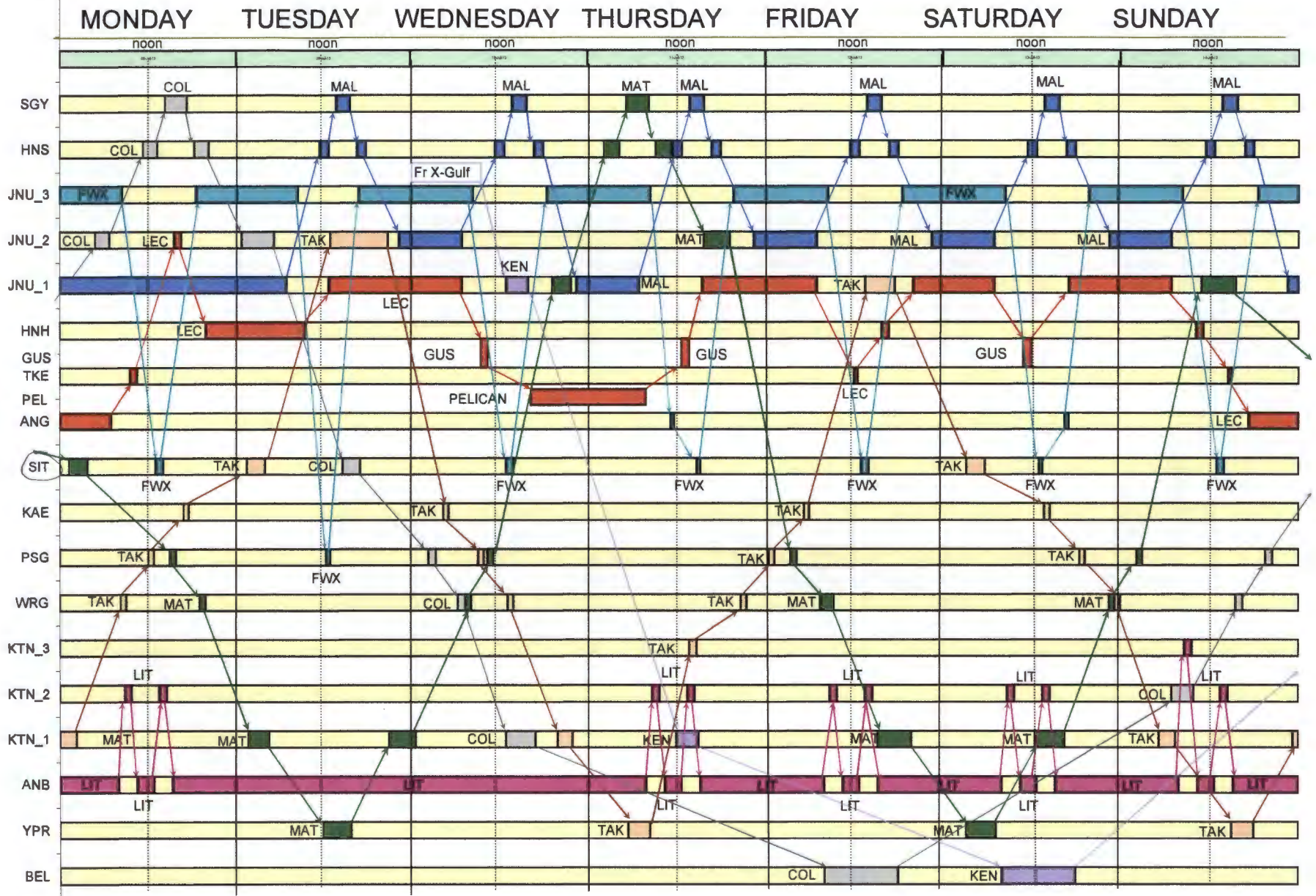


DRAFT

SE Summer 2015 JUL-AUG Wk 1 & 3

DRAFT

Revised 08-20-2014

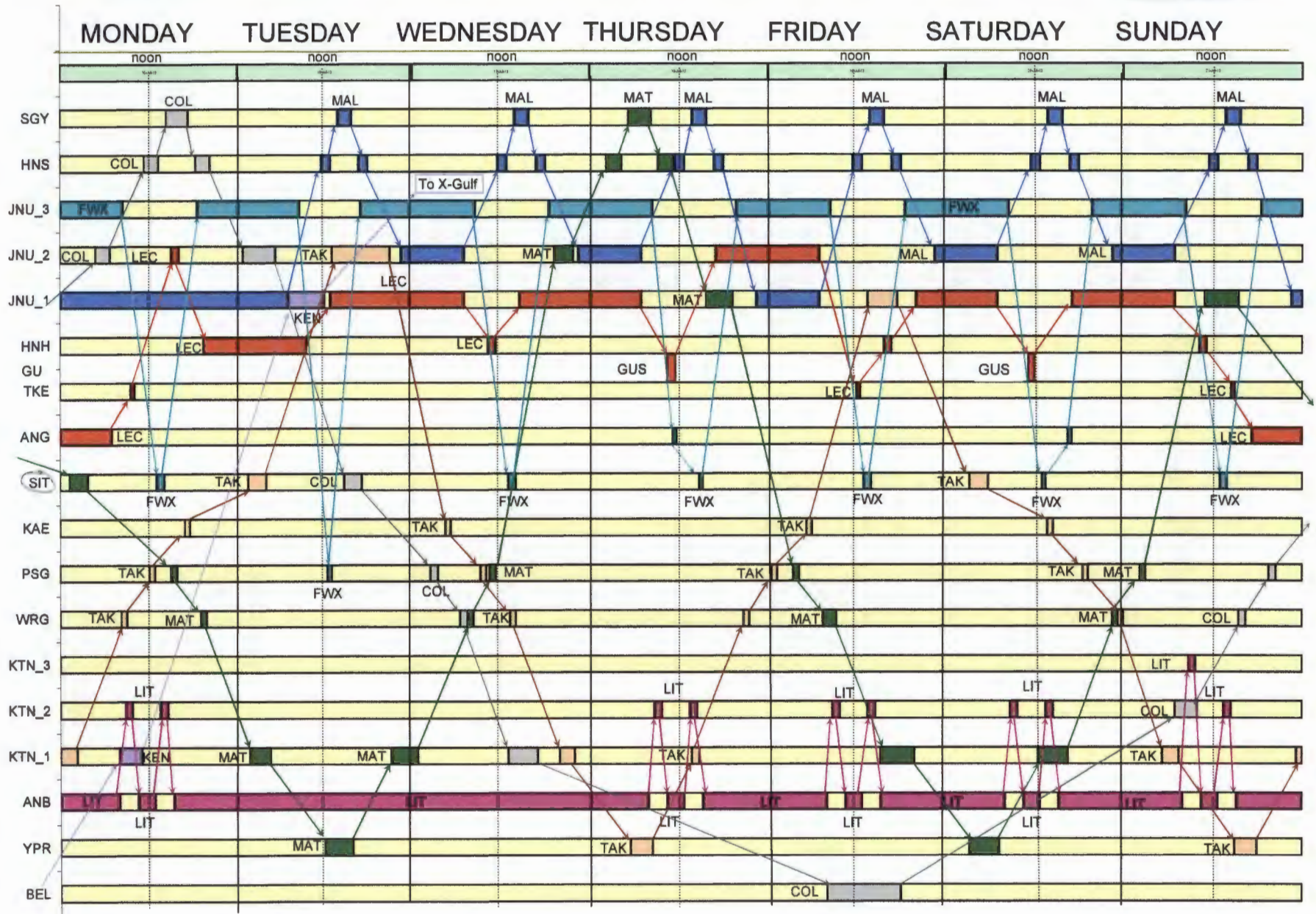


DRAFT

SE Summer 2015 JUL- AUG Wk 2 & 4

DRAFT

Revised 08-20-2014



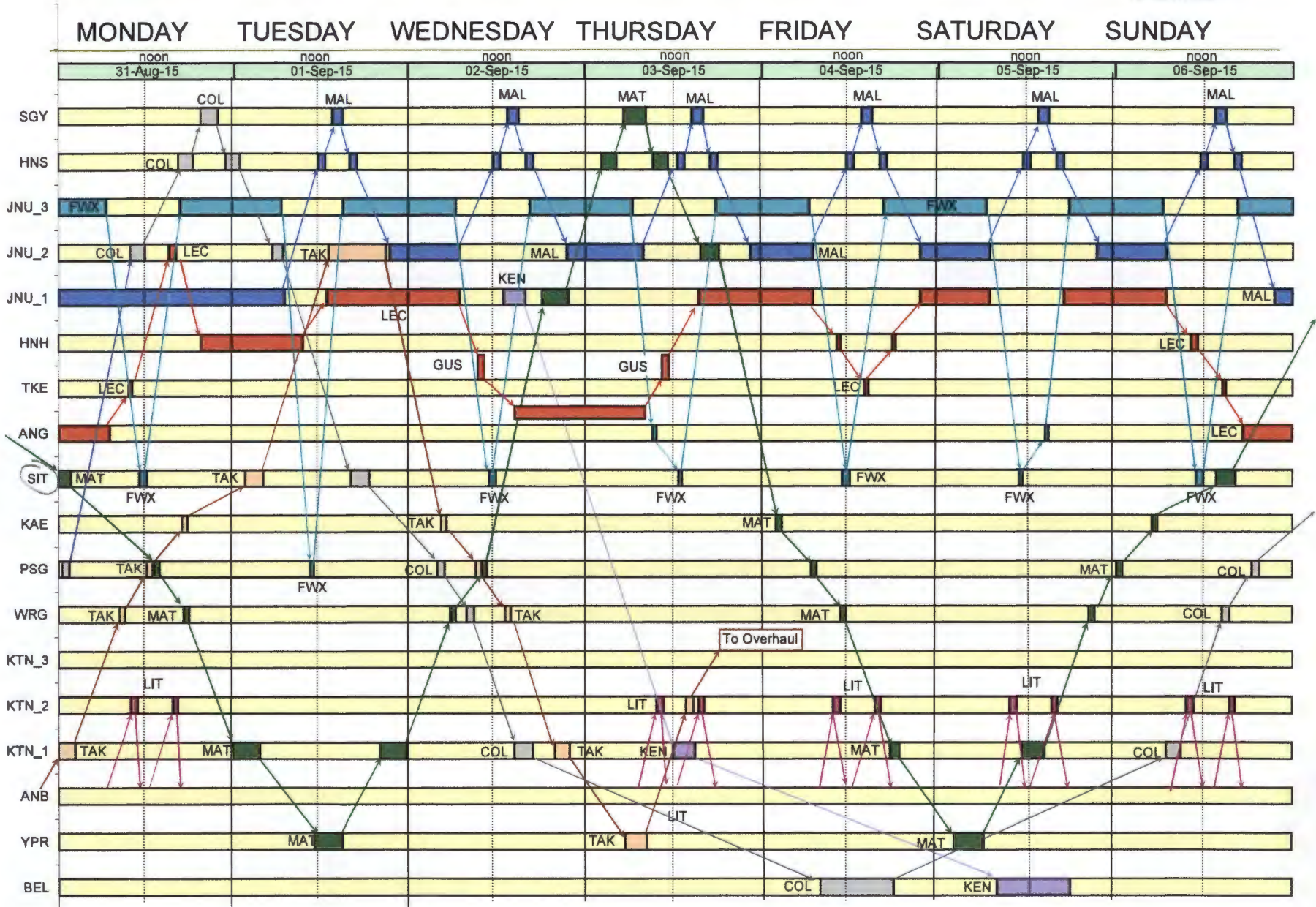


DRAFT

SE Summer 2015 Sept 1-15

DRAFT

Revised 08/25/14



DRAFT

SE Summer 2015 Sept 15-30

DRAFT

Revised 08-29-2014

