



Alaska Society of American Foresters

February 18, 2010

Chris Maisch, State Forester
Alaska Division of Forestry
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Dear Mr. Maisch,

The Alaska Society of American Foresters strongly supports the adoption of House Bill 162: "An Act establishing the Southeast State Forest and relating to the Southeast State Forest; and providing for an effective date" and the corresponding Senate Bill 127.

The Alaska Society is a state chapter of the national Society of American Foresters (SAF), the national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States. The Alaska SAF's support of House Bill 162 parallels the SAF Core Values:

- Forests are a fundamental source of global health and human welfare,
- Forests must be sustained through simultaneously meeting environmental, economic, and community aspirations and needs,
- Foresters are dedicated to sound forest management and conservation, and
- Foresters serve landowners and society by providing sound knowledge and professional management skills

The Alaska SAF supports the establishment of the southeast state forest as it promotes continued timber and resource management in Southeast Alaska. In doing so, state forests support timber production, wood energy, recreation, habitat and jobs. Formal designation as a state forest provides the incentive for the Alaska Division of Forestry to invest in management of these lands for their multiple benefits to the community and natural resources of the region.

Furthermore, the Alaska SAF concurs with the Juneau Chapter of SAF in its Resolution attached.

Sincerely,

Sue Rodman, Chair
Alaska Society of American Foresters

Enclosure

Resolution

Whereas the majority of timber in SE Alaska is on federally owned National Forest land, harvest of which has drastically declined and local mills are heavily dependent on sale of state timber, and;

Whereas the state is committed to maximizing the sustainable supply of timber from the small state timber land base, and;

Whereas, there is broad support for shifting timber harvesting in SE Alaska from old growth to young growth stands, which yield higher volumes per acre on shorter rotations, and have less impact on wildlife, and;

Whereas, much of the state timber land was conveyed from the federal government with young growth stands, the shift from old growth to young growth harvest can be accelerated by thinning these stands, and;

Whereas, thinning and subsequent young growth management constitutes long-term investment, it is only justified if the land will continue to be available for forest management, and;

Whereas land designated as State Forest would ensure that some land will remain available for long-term management for multiple uses including the supply of timber to local processors, and;

Whereas, the State owns 20 parcels of land comprising approximately 25,291 acres suitable for designation and subsequent management as a State Forest, now therefore;

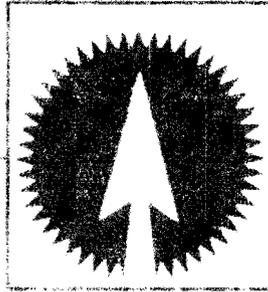
Be it resolved that the Juneau Chapter Alaska Society of American Foresters (SAF) generally endorses establishment of a Southeast Alaska State Forest as currently proposed in House Bill #162 "An Act establishing the Southeast State Forest and relating to the Southeast State Forest; and providing for an effective date" and Senate Bill #127.

And be it finally resolved that the Juneau Chapter of the Alaska Society of American Foresters transmit this resolution to the Governor of Alaska, House and Senate Resource Committee Chair, Alaska State Legislature, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, the U.S. Forest Service Chief, U.S. Forest Service Alaska Regional Forester.

Adopted by unanimous vote of the Juneau Chapter, Alaska Society of American Foresters, January 20, 2010.

/s/ Michael McClellan
Michael McClellan, Chair

Alaska Forest Association, Inc.



111 STEDMAN STREET, SUITE 200
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901
Phone: 907-225-6114
Fax: 907-225-5921
E-mail: afa@akforest.org

January 28, 2010

Senator Lesil McGuire, Co-Chair
Senator Bill Wielechowski, Co-Chair
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB 162-An Act to Establish the Southeast Alaska State Forest

Dear Senators McGuire and Wielechowski:

The Alaska Forest Association (AFA) is one of the oldest trade associations in the State of Alaska and represents more than 120 members sharing an interest in the timber industry and public lands of Alaska. Our mission is to advance the restoration, promotion and maintenance of a healthy, viable forest products industry that contributes to the economic and ecological health in Alaska's forests and communities.

Most of the timber industry in Southeast Alaska has been operating for only about 50-years and since it takes about 100-years to grow our commercial timber to maturity, we will not be able to begin a significant transition to young-growth operations for at least other 50-years. As a result, we must continue harvesting old-growth timber during the next 50-years. The harvest on federal lands will likely continue to be controversial because of this unavoidable reliance on old-growth timber. The State Division of Forestry has been able to sustain a viable but small timber sale program and we encourage the State Legislature to take advantage of every opportunity to increase the amount of commercial timber the State can make available to our mills.

We are in support of HB 162 which would establish a State Forest in Southeast Alaska and thus make it more efficient for the State Division of Forestry to perform thinning and other intensive forestry management practices that will maximize the growth of commercial timber on State lands.

Sincerely,

Owen Graham
Executive Director
Alaska Forest Association