



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