



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry & Fire Protection

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1450
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561
Main: 907.269-8463
Fax: 907-269-8931

May 10, 2023

The Honorable Click Bishop, Co-Chair
The Honorable Cathy Giessel, Co-Chair
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: HB 104 Expedited Timber Sales Hearing May 8, 2023

Dear Senators Bishop, Giessel, and Wielechowski:

The following are responses from Division of Forestry and Fire Protection staff to questions asked by members in the Senate Resources hearing on Monday for HB 104:

Senator Bishop asked if a salvage sale under AS 38.05.117 within an area that had an already approved Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) would necessitate a new FLUP specifically for the salvage sale.

The answer is that in most cases it would not require a new FLUP. In most cases, the only thing that would change is the reason for harvesting the timber; the physical timber operations would be the same. The already approved FLUP covers any timber operation, including salvage.

Senator Dunbar asked how the proposed new section 124 under HB 104 would differ from the proposed new AS 38.05.117(b)(3).

Timber that has been cleared as part of a fire prevention activity can be harvested either under proposed AS 38.05.117(b)(3) or under proposed new AS 38.05.124. Timber cleared as part of fire suppression activities (under AS 41.15.040 and AS 41.15.120, as well as emergency procurement authorities elsewhere in code & regulations) is usually not used for commercial purposes, because it is secondary to fire suppression activities and not of a quantity or quality to be useful for commercial purposes.

Senator Claman asked if the Division of Forestry and Fire Protection is already doing fire prevention clearance under existing statutes.

The answer is yes.

Feel free to reach out with any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Helge Eng", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Helge Eng
Director, Division of Forestry and Fire Protection

CC: Laura Stidolph, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor
Representative Mike Cronk