

COMMITTEE REPORT
SENATE

FURTHER:

2/11/85

Date 3/14/85

Mr. President

The Committee on FINANCE considered SB 30
establishing the Yakotoga State Forest; etd.

and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass
- do pass with attached amendment(s)
- replace with/or adopt—CS for SB 30 (Finance)
- new title
- same title and recommends Do Pass w/ Senate Resource Letter of Intent
- and attached a "LETTER OF INTENT" NEW FISCAL NOTE
GFW
- reports it back without recommendation
- recommends referral to _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Chairman

Chairman recommendation

Offered: 2/11/85
Referred: Finance

Original sponsors: Eliason, V.Fischer
and Kerttula

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 30 (Resources)

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6

For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Yakataga State Forest; and providing for an effective date."

7

8

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9

* Section 1. AS 41.17 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10

ARTICLE 5A. YAKATAGA STATE FOREST.

11

Sec. 41.17.410. YAKATAGA STATE FOREST. (a) Subject to valid existing rights and except for land owned by or transferred to the University of Alaska under ch. ~~41~~²² SLA 1983, the state-owned or acquired land and water lying within the parcels described in (c) of this section is designated as the Yakataga State Forest.

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(b) The commissioner shall consider and permit the uses described in AS 41.17.230(e) within the Yakataga State Forest, subject to the procedures established in AS 41.17.230(f).

17

18

19

(c) The Yakataga State Forest includes the state-owned or acquired land and water lying within the following described parcels:

20

21

Township 19 South, Range 14 East, Copper River Meridian

22

Township 19 South, Range 15 East, Copper River Meridian

23

Township 19 South, Range 16 East, Copper River Meridian

24

Township 19 South, Range 17 East, Copper River Meridian

25

Township 20 South, Range 12 East, Copper River Meridian

26

Township 20 South, Range 13 East, Copper River Meridian

27

Township 20 South, Range 14 East, Copper River Meridian

28

Township 20 South, Range 15 East, Copper River Meridian

29

Township 20 South, Range 16 East, Copper River Meridian

1 Township 20 South, Range 17 East, Copper River Meridian
2 Township 20 South, Range 18 East, Copper River Meridian
3 Township 21 South, Range 9 East, Copper River Meridian
4 Township 21 South, Range 10 East, Copper River Meridian
5 Township 21 South, Range 11 East, Copper River Meridian
6 Township 21 South, Range 11 1/2 East, Copper River Meridian
7 Township 21 South, Range 12 East, Copper River Meridian
8 Township 21 South, Range 13 East, Copper River Meridian
9 Township 21 South, Range 14 East, Copper River Meridian
10 Township 21 South, Range 15 East, Copper River Meridian
11 Township 21 South, Range 16 East, Copper River Meridian
12 Township 21 South, Range 17 East, Copper River Meridian
13 Sections 1 - 9
14 Section 10, W1/2
15 Section 11, E1/2
16 Sections 12 - 13
17 Section 14, E1/2, SW1/4
18 Section 15, W1/2, SE1/4
19 Sections 16 - 36.
20 Township 21 South, Range 18 East, Copper River Meridian
21 Township 21 South, Range 19 East, Copper River Meridian
22 Township 22 South, Range 9 East, Copper River Meridian
23 Township 22 South, Range 19 East, Copper River Meridian
24 Township 22 South, Range 20 East, Copper River Meridian
25 Township 22 South, Range 21 East, Copper River Meridian
26 Township 22 South, Range 22 East, Copper River Meridian
27 Township 22 South, Range 23 East, Copper River Meridian
28 Township 22 South, Range 24 East, Copper River Meridian,
29 that portion west of Icy Bay

1 Township 23 South, Range 21 East, Copper River Meridian

2 Township 23 South, Range 22 East, Copper River Meridian

3 * Sec. 2. The commissioner shall prepare a management plan for the
4 Yakataga State Forest under AS 41.17.230. ~~The commissioner shall submit~~
5 ~~the management plan to the legislature for its approval within the first 10~~
6 ~~days of the Second Session of the Fifteenth Alaska State Legislature. The~~
7 ~~management plan for the Yakataga State Forest is approved unless the~~
8 ~~legislature adopts legislation disapproving the management plan.~~

9 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect July 1, 1985.

Alaska State Legislature

ARLISS STURGULEWSKI, Chairman
BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Vice Chairman
JACK COGHILL
DICK ELIASON
VIC FISCHER
RICK HALFORD
FRED ZHAROFF



POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA. 99811
(907) 465-4907

Senate Committee on Resources

February 8, 1985

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES
LETTER OF INTENT
FOR
SB 30

The Yakataga State Forest will comprise most of the habitable state owned land in the area between Cape Suckling and Icy Bay along the north coast of the Gulf of Alaska.

The legislature recognizes that certain future demands for land in the Yakataga area may be beyond the criteria allowed in a state forest designation.

Therefore in this unique situation the legislature intends for portions of township 215 Range 17E to be managed within the Department of Natural Resources general land management program for future use.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arliss Sturgulewski".

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Chairman, Senate Resources Committee

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: CSSB 30 (Fin)
Title: Yakataga State Forest

Sponsor: Eliason
Requestor: Senate Finance
Date of Request: 3/14/85

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Division of Forestry - DNF
Program Category Affected: Resource Management
BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: Forest Management, Land & Water Resources

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING	0	0				
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0				
200 TRAVEL	0	0				
300 CONTRACTUAL	0	0				
400 SUPPLIES	0	0				
500 EQUIPMENT	0	0				
600 LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0				
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	0				
800 MISCELLANEOUS	0	0				
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0				

CAPITAL	0	0				
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REVENUE	0	0				
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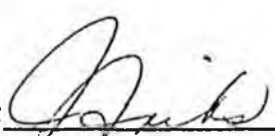
FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0				
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0				
OTHER	0	0				
TOTAL	0	0				

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0				
PART-TIME	0	0				
TEMPORARY	0	0				

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

Prepared By:  Phone: 465-4523
Division: Jan Eriks, Co-chairman Date: 3/14/86
Senate Finance Committee
Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: _____
Agency: _____

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

7/1/84

ANALYSIS FOR SENATE BILL 30

An Act establishing the Yakataga State Forest

This bill would establish the Yakataga State Forest along the coast of the Gulf of Alaska, between Cape Suckling and Icy Bay. Maps are included in the enclosed packet.

About 460,000 acres of state owned land are included in the proposed state forest. Designating this land as a state forest will commit the state to managing the land for multiple use under a long-term development plan. This development plan will provide the long-term stability needed by users of resources that require large capital investments ie. logging interests (see enclosed Division of Forestry Fact Sheet).

You may recall that an almost identical bill passed the Senate last year and made it to the Rules Committee in the House a few days before they adjourned. As introduced, this bill was identical to last year's version.

However, the Senate Resources Committee Substitute deleted about 1,000 acres for possible future state land disposal. There was also a Resources Committee Letter of Intent that relates to this deletion. Opposition to this change has been voiced by the Chugach Alaska Corporation. This proposed deletion lies immediately north of, and adjacent to a 1,040 acre tract of land which was conveyed to Chugach as a part of its 1982 Settlement Agreement with the federal government. They feel that this land is not well suited for recreational use or commercial development.

Senate Bill 30 has a \$84,900 fiscal note part of which funds one new position. This person would coordinate the development and implementation of State Forest Management Plans within the Southcentral Region. The fiscal also projects yearly revenues of at least \$850,000 from the sale of timber. It is important to note that this revenue is not contingent upon passage of this bill.

There is a technical error found on Page 1, Line 13. Chapter 41 should be Chapter 22 because 41 relates to "Controlled Substances". Correction of this error does not require any committee action as it will be corrected in enrolling.

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS FOR HOUSE BILL 30

An Act relating to payment for purchases by the state

Section 1

Requires that the state must pay its bills within 30 days after receipt of the billing from the vendor. An exception would be if the payment due date is stipulated in contract or purchase order. Discounts offered by vendors for paying within a specified period of time can only be used by the state if it pays within that specified period.

Failure to pay within 30 days would result in the state having to pay 1.5% interest per month unless there is an agreement with the vendor for a lower rate of interest. Interest charges may not be pro-rated.

Interest charges may not be assessed if the purchase price is over \$500,000 or if the state disputes the quality of goods received or the amount of the invoice.

All interest charges assessed would be charged to the budget of the state agency that purchased the goods or services.

Section 2

Does not apply to contract entered into before effective date of this act.

Section 3

Effective date of October 1, 1985.

The Department of Administration estimates that passage of this bill will cost the state \$2,700,000. However, as passed by the House, there is no fiscal impact because the Finance Committee attached a zero fiscal note.

YAKATAGA STATE FOREST
FACT SHEET

The establishment of a Yakataga State Forest will commit State-owned lands between Cape Suckling and Icy Bay to long term public retention to be managed for multiple use and sustained yields. There are about 460,000 acres within the area, of which an estimated 87,000 acres have more than 20,000 board feet per acre. These are among the most productive forest lands owned by the State and the timber resources are already being managed on a sustained yield basis. Commitment of the natural resources will have a beneficial effect on the economies of Yakutat and Cordova and will likely stimulate long term industrial and commercial development based on a standing sawtimber volume of 4.3 billion board feet with an estimated potential yield of the area of 20 million board feet (MMBF) per year. The annual revenue to the State at today's prices would be one to two million dollars with a total annual product value of 5 to 10 million dollars.

To date, 190 MMBF have been harvested within the proposed State Forest, all since 1970. An additional 49 MMBF was sold in 1983, to be harvested over the next five years. A jetty, log transfer facility, sort yard, logging camp, airstrip, and about 24 miles of mainline road have been constructed to date. A Division of Forestry (DOF) office trailer and cabin were built by the State.

The DOF has arranged for multiple use management of the forested lands within the proposed State Forest. The Division has worked with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to protect important wildlife habitat. Also, the DOF has worked out a cooperative use agreement with the Division of Mining and North Coast Mining Company for joint operation on mineral claims.

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: CSSB30 (Resources)
Title: Yakataga State Forest

Sponsor: Eliason
Requestor: Division of Forestry
Date of Request: 1/22/85

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Division of Forestry - DNR
Program Category Affected: Resource Management

BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: Forest Management, Land & Water Resources

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	49.9	49.9	49.9			
200 TRAVEL	10.0	10.0	10.0			
300 CONTRACTUAL	20.0	20.0	10.0			
400 SUPPLIES	5.0	5.0	5.0			
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	84.9	84.9	74.9			

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE	850.0	850.0	850.0			
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	84.9	84.9	74.9			
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	84.9	84.9	74.9			

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	1.0	1.0	1.0			
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

Timber sale receipts from state forest.

Prepared By: DAVE WALLINGFORD
Division: Division of Forestry

Phone: 265-4499
Date: 1/22/85

Approved by Commissioner: _____
Agency: _____

Date: _____

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

7/1/84

1.	POSITION TITLE Natural Resource Manager 1				RANGE/STEP 18A	BARG. UNIT GGU	FORM 12 PAGE/LINE	COV.	APPROV.	DISAP.
2.	TYPE OF POSITION PFT	STAFF MONTHS 12	RP NUMBER	PCI NUMBER New	ORJ PRIORITY	LOCATION Anchorage	ELECTION DISTRICT 92	LET.		
3.	CONTINUATION LEVEL				JUSTIFICATION					
4.	TYPE OF EXPENDITURE			AMOUNT						
	1	2	3							
	PERSONAL SERVICES									
5.	Salary	37,356								
6.	Benefits									
7.	Supplemental Benefits	9,874								
8.	Fixed Benefits	2,732								
9.	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	01	49,962							
10.	Travel	02	10,000							
11.	Contractual	03	20,000							
12.	Commodities	04	5,000							
13.	Equipment	05								
14.	Other									
15.	TOTAL COST	84,962								
	RECEIPT CODE	FUNDING SOURCE								
16.		Federal Receipts 1002								
17.		G.F. Match 1003								
18.		General Funds 1004		84,962						
19.		I-A Receipts 1005								
20.		Program Receipts 1028								
21.		Other								
FOR D&M USE ONLY										
4A KEY NUMBER _____										

This position will coordinate the development and implementation of State Forest Management Plans within Southcentral Region. Incumbent will be responsible for organizing and chairing interagency planning teams for gathering pertinent planning information, for preparing draft plans, for arranging and conducting public hearings, and for preparing final plan for submission to and approval of commissioner. Subsequent to management plan completion incumbent will be responsible for coordinating implementation of the plans. Incumbent will coordinate development of operating plans for interagency review. Will review and recommend amendments to plan, and will coordinate preparation of plan updates.

13 REQUEST FOR
NEW POSITION

AGENCY Natural Resources
 PROGRAM Mgmt. of Forest, Land & Water Resources
 ORJ Forest Management
 COMPONENT Forest Management

FY 88

Page _____ of _____
 Revised Date _____

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: SR 30

Title: Yakataqa State Forest

Sponsor: Eliason

Requestor: _____

Date of Request: 1/22/85

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Division of Forestry - DNR

Program Category Affected: _____
Resource Management

BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: _____
Forest Management, Land & Water Resources

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	49.9	49.9	49.9			
200 TRAVEL	10.0	10.0	10.0			
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600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	84.9	84.9	74.9			

CAPITAL						
----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE	*850.0	850.0	850.0			
----------------	--------	-------	-------	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	84.9	84.9	74.9			
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	84.9	84.9	74.9			

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	1.0	1.0	1.0			
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

* Timber sale receipts from state forest.

Prepared By: Dave Wallingford Phone: 265-4499
Division: Division of Forestry Date: 1/22/85

Approved by Commissioner: Arthur C. Winnick Date: 1/22/85
Agency: _____

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

7/1/84

1.	POSITION TITLE Natural Resource Manager 1				RANGE/STEP 18A	BARG. UNIT GGU	FORM 12 PAGE/LINE	COV.	APPROV.	DISAPP.		
2.	TYPE OF POSITION PFT	STAFF MONTHS 12	RP NUMBER	PCN NUMBER New	BRIU PRIORITY	LOCATION Anchorage	ELECTION DISTRICT 92	TEL.				
3.	CONTINUATION LEVEL				JUSTIFICATION							
4.	TYPE OF EXPENDITURE				<p>This position will coordinate the development and implementation of State Forest Management Plans within Southcentral Region. Incumbent will be responsible for organizing and chairing Interagency planning teams for gathering pertinent planning information, for preparing draft plans, for arranging and conducting public hearings, and for preparing final plan for submission to and approval of commissioner. Subsequent to management plan completion incumbent will be responsible for coordinating implementation of the plans. Incumbent will coordinate development of operating plans for interagency review. Will review and recommend amendments to plan, and will coordinate preparation of plan updates.</p>							
	1		2								3	
	PERSONAL SERVICES											
5.	Salary		37,356									
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7.	Supplemental Benefits		9,874									
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11.	Contractual		03								20,000	
12.	Commodities		04								5,000	
13.	Equipment		05									
14.	Other											
15.	TOTAL COST										84,962	
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18.					General Funds 1004							
19.					I-A Receipts 1005							
20.					Program Receipts 1028							
21.					Other							
FOR B&M USE ONLY												
AA KEY NUMBER _____												

AGENCY Natural Resources

PROGRAM Mgmt. of Forest, Land & Water Resources

BRIU Forest Management

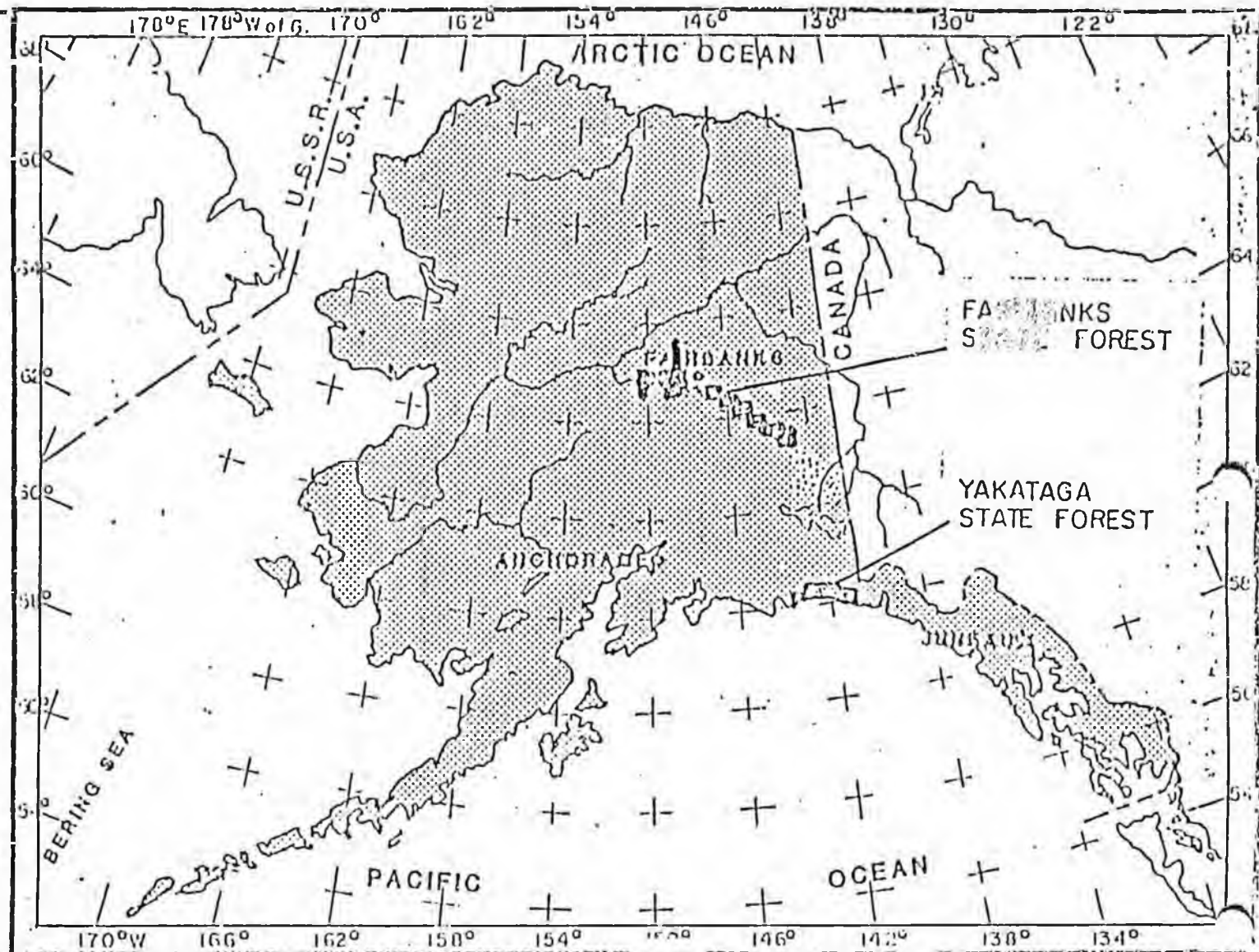
COMPONENT Forest Management

FY 86

13 REQUEST FOR
NEW POSITION

Page of

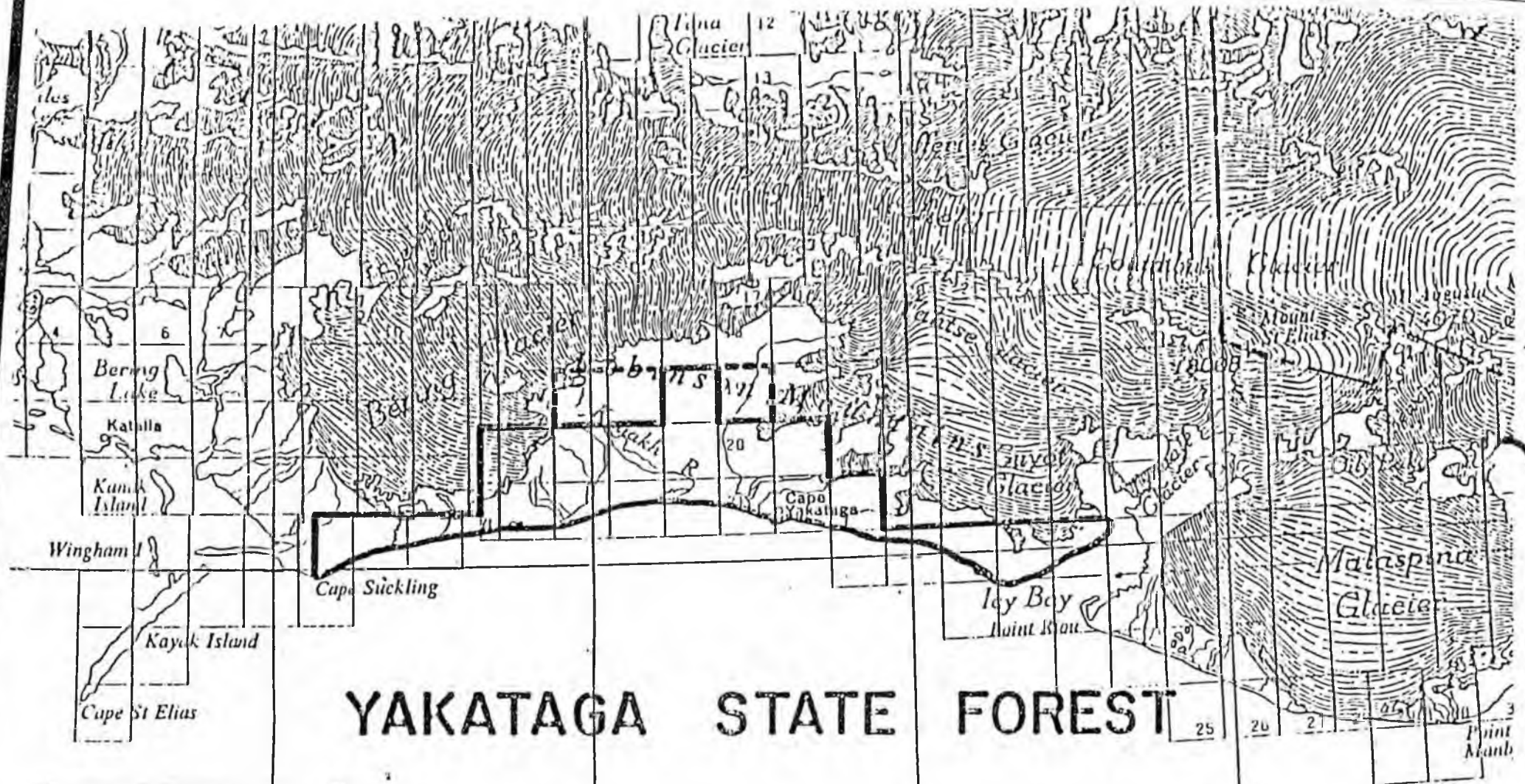
Revised Date



ALASKA
 LOCATION MAP OF FOREST AREAS

SCALE 0 100 200 300 400 500 MILES





YAKATAGA STATE FOREST



LOCATION MAP

- FOREST BOUNDARY
- - - - - ADDITIONS IF NATIVE RELINQUISHED

STATE OF ALASKA

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

POUCH M
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
PHONE:

January 22, 1985

The Honorable Arliss Sturgulewski
Alaska State Senate
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

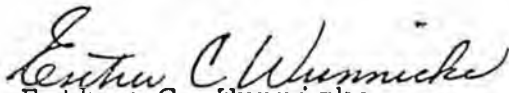
Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

The Department of Natural Resources supports the establishment of the Yakataga State Forest, as described in Senate Bill 30.

Section 1 amends AS 41.17, Forest Resources and Practices, to commit approximately 460,000 acres of state-owned land between Cape Suckling and Icy Bay to long-term retention and management for multiple use and sustained resource yields.

Section 2 requires the Commissioner to prepare a management plan for the forest which permits use of the forest for timber harvest, mining, mineral leasing and material extraction, recreation, wildlife and fisheries management, subsistence and other activities.

Sincerely,


Esther C. Wunnicke
Commissioner

cc: Ray Gillespie, Office of the Governor
Senate Resources Committee

STOOPS ASSOCIATES

Reed R. Stoops

Suite 218 Merchants Wharf

Lee M. Stoops

No. 2 Marine Way

Consulting, Government

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Relations, Management

907-586-3561

Services

February 7, 1985

Arliss Sturgulewski
Alaska State Senate
Chairman, Senate Resource Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

It is our understanding that an amendment to Senate Bill 30, "An Act establishing the Yakataga State Forest", has been proposed which would remove approximately 1,000 acres of state land from the boundaries of the prospective Yakataga State Forest. The purpose of the boundary adjustment would be to anticipate demand for a state land disposal sometime in the future.

On behalf of the Chugach Alaska Corporation, I wish to advise the Committee that it does not view the boundary adjustment as either necessary or desirable. First, the proposed deletion lies immediately north of, and adjacent to a 1,040 acre tract of land containing the Yakataga airstrip which was conveyed to Chugach as a part of its 1982 Settlement Agreement with the federal government. Should there be a demand for commercial or recreational land use in the area, the Chugach tract is better suited to development as it surrounds the only access to the area.

Second, the likelihood that future demand for the land will materialize is very small. The land is remote and not particularly suited for recreational use, and the opportunities for commercial

use are quite limited. To date, Chugach has not been contacted by anyone with an interest in either commercial or recreational use.

Third, we believe that the sale of state land for recreational use would be in conflict with the objectives of the State Forest, which we understand to be the sustained harvest of the timber resources. Why create potential conflicts when Yakataga is now unique in the absence of conflict?

If the Committee does elect to delete land for potential disposal, then we strongly urge that you require the Department of Natural Resources to demonstrate that there is a demand for a disposal which cannot be reasonably accommodated by Chugach Alaska Corporation, and that the timber on the state tract be included as part of the timber inventory for the State Forest for the purpose of calculating sustained yield.

We thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this issue.

Sincerely,


Reed Stoops

Physical Description (continued)

Based upon information provided in the Soil Conservation Service publication, Exploratory Soil Survey of Alaska, three major associated classes of soils are found within the proposed area; typic cryorthents, typic cryaquents, and typic cryofluents.

Typic Cryorthents occupy moraines close to steep mountains and large glaciers. Thick forests occupy well drained hillsides and wet treeless sloping valleys from peat accumulation. Elevations range from slightly above sea-level to about 1,000 feet. There is no permafrost in these soils, which are usually very stony and gravelly till with large boulders near the surface.

Typic Cryaquents occupy broad outwash plains which extend to the steep slopes of the coastal mountains. Elevations are between sea level and 200 feet. The plains are primarily sandy, waterlaid sediment with irregular areas of peat accumulating in shallow basins. The water table is often near the surface and flooding is common. Moraines consisting of gravelly till occur near the mountains. The principle vegetation is aquatic plants with forests of spruce and hemlock occupying the moraines. In general, intensive use of these soils is greatly restricted because of the high water table and frequent flooding. Many of these soils support coastal meadows that are used heavily by migrating birds for stopover areas and nesting sites.

Typic Cryaquents - Typic Cryofluents are a very gravelly, nearly level association of soils occupying outwash plains and alluvial fans in the northern coast of the Gulf of Alaska. Elevations are low, from sea level to 100 feet and the water table is generally near the surface. These plains consist mainly of outwash deposits covered with waterlaid sediment. Dense stands of spruce and hemlock occur on well drained sites where cool moist summers and mild winters promote high forest productivity. Aquatic vegetation such as sedges, mosses and willows dominate the wetter sites.

Resource Values

Fish and Game

The Yakataga area supports a wide variety of fish and game resources. A memo from the Commissioner of Fish and Game, Ronald Skoogs, to the Commissioner of Natural Resources, Robert LeResche, states that this area contains twenty-five anadromous streams. The drainages east of Cape Yakataga to Icy Cape contain mostly pink and coho salmon. These drainages are predominantly first order short drainages because of their very close proximity to steep glaciated mountains. The only drainage that currently

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES SOUTHCENTRAL DISTRICT
LAND PLANNING REPORT - YAKATAGA

Existing classification - None
Recommended classification - Forest

Proposed Classification

The proposed classification to Forest was requested by the Southcentral District Forestry Section to facilitate implementation of a sustained yield timber use program in the Yakataga area. The proposed Yakataga Forest area represents a relatively small but significantly rich area of spruce and hemlock forests on the Alaska gulf coast. The current estimate of sustained yield production per year from the Yakataga area is 25 million board feet on an eighty year rotation.

Location

The Yakataga area proposed for classification is located between the Suckling Hills on the west, Icy Bay on the east, the Gulf of Alaska on the south and Bering Glacier and the Robinson Mountains on the north (see attached location map). All lands are tentatively approved for patent to the State of Alaska.

The legal description for the proposed Yakataga Forest area are:

Township 23 South, Range 21 and 22 East, C.R.M.
Township 22 South, Range 24 C.R.M., that portion on the West side of Icy Bay
Township 22 South, Range 19 through 23 East, C.R.M.
Township 21 South, Range 9 East, C.R.M. East of Chugach National Forest Boundry
Township 21 South, Range 10 through 19 East, C.R.M.
Township 20 South, Range 13 through 18 East, C.R.M.
Township 19 South, Range 16 through 17 East, C.R.M.
Total area, 480,530 acres.

Physical Description

The geomophology of the area is glacial in origin. Topography ranges from a series of glacial till benches at the foot of glaciated mountains between Cape Yakataga and Icy Bay to glacial outwash plains formed by Bering Glacier. Elevations range from sea level to 4,500 feet on Mt. Duktok.

The climate of the Yakataga Forest area is maritime. Temperatures are modified by the Gulf of Alaska and provide relatively mild winters and cool summers. The climate is similar to that of Southeast Alaska but is influenced by offshore winds in the summer and in the winter from the Interior of Alaska. These offshore winds occur for short periods of time resulting in a wider range of annual temperatures for this area as compared to Southeast Alaska. The annual precipitation averages 103 inches.

Fish and Game (continued)

supports a commercial fishery in this area is the Priest River. According to Commissioner Skoogs memo this river produces less than 1,000 fish annually for commercial purposes. The drainages west of Cape Yakataga to Cape Suckling are more important as a commercial fishery. Coho salmon still are present in the major drainages and are the main dollar producer. The two drainages that produce a major setnet fishery are the Kalikh which produce a coho escapement of 12,000 and the Tsiu-Tsiuat which produce up to 50,000 coho salmon. The proposed forest management program in Yakataga area could enhance the commercial shore fisheries by increasing access to fishery sites.

This area supports wildlife species such as black and brown bear, mountain goats, moose and small furbearers, such as muskrat, beaver, and martin. The major habitat of bear occurs within the areas west of Yakataga in the spring and summer and along the salmon streams in the fall. The major range of mountain goats are the steep mountains to the north along the coast between Cape Yakataga and Icy Bay.

Mineral Resources

This area has a potential for minerals, oil and gas. The area has had exploration for oil and gas in the late 50's and early 60's. This exploration and subsequent drilling required road construction and various improvements which are used currently by logging interests. No major producing wells were discovered. Interest in offshore drilling may be renewed under future Federal lease sales.

Based on a review of the mineral status plat, the dominant mineral of this area is gold. A potential for hard rock mineral exists but little or no serious prospecting has taken place. Gold mining in this area is placer with all recorded claims occurring on the beaches and up the White River drainage.

Archeology

The Division of Forest, Land and Water Management has made request for a historical analysis of the proposed area. The archeology data for this area is limited. The area was known as a major migration route for the natives from the interior to the Yakataga area. There are no known native settlements in this area.

Forestry

The principle type of overstory vegetation of the proposed area is a mixture of Sitka Spruce and western hemlock with a small volume of Alaska yellow cedar occurring above the 500 foot contour and cottonwood with red alder occurring within riparian zones.

Forestry (continued)

The Southcentral District through a combination of air photo interpretation, cruise and inventory techniques has estimated the total area of potential commercial timber to be 80,000 acres. The evaluation of commercial forest was based on any timber stand having a volume per acre of 20,000 board feet or greater.

Economic Impact

Fisheries

The fish resource of this area is small compared to other areas of the State, but should not be discounted due to local dependence on this resource. Using data supplied by Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the 1978 and 1979 fishing season in this area returned between \$251,000 and \$354,000 annually. Another factor to consider is the potential to support a larger fishery as transportation problems are solved.

Minerals

The only mineral being mined presently in the area is gold. The total dollar values returned to the local communities is difficult to determine due to the type of mining operations.

Wildlife

No data is currently available to determine a figure but it can be assumed, through recorded hunting visits, to be relatively low.

Recreation

Due to the remoteness and the poor climate conditions, this area has shown little recreational usage and the total dollar return is insignificant.

Forestry

The economic impact of sustained yield forestry management in the Yakataga area is significant. In funds returned to the State's general fund based on a 25,000,000 board foot allowable cut would be at least \$1,000,000 per year based on an average stumpage of \$40.00 per thousand board feet.

The cash flow returned directly to the local economy of the surrounding area based on Southcentral Timber Developments logging expenditures for 1979 is \$2,500,000.

LAND PLANNING REPORT - YAKATAGA
Page 5

Summary of Resource Values

The following resources are ranked according to the dollar return to the State and to the local economics annually.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. Forestry | \$3,500,000 |
| 2. Fishing | \$ 354,000 - with fishing held to current levels |
| 3. Minerals | undetermined - value considered less than
Forestry or fishing |
| 4. Recreation | undetermined |

Resource Conflicts

The following conflicts relate sustained yield forestry to other resource use.

Timber/Wildlife

The conflicts between forestry management will be kept to a minimum due to State and District forestry management practices and policies. A summary of these policies and practices are:

1. Timber will be harvested in a patch cut with staggered entries.
2. Leave strips or buffer zones will be left along all major drainages, which include all anadromous fish streams.
3. Special use area for wildlife will be identified by Alaska Department of Fish and Game before completing a timber sale.
4. All operations will take place according to Alaska Statutes 16.10.010 and 16.05.840.
5. All timber will be harvested and managed according to the Best Management Practices as outlined by the Forest Practices Act.
6. Limited harvesting of timber above the 500 foot contour.
7. All timber harvesting programs will be subject to comment by the Department of Environmental Conservation and Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Timber/Fisheries

The impact on commercial fisheries in this area will be low and with increased access to fishing sites could increase commercial fishing potential.

Timber/Mining

The impacts on mineral extraction will be low because of the subsurface character of minerals. Placer operations require little timber for operations. Timber operations could improve mining potential by increasing accessibility.

Timber/Recreation

Due to the inaccessibility of this area it's use for recreation purposes is limited. Therefore the impact of timber management on recreation resources will be low.

Coastal Zone Consistency

The Alaska Coastal Policy Committee's standard and guidelines and the Department of Natural Resources Forestry Practices Act have set operation standards and policies for coastal timber management programs.

Recommendations

The Southcentral District recommends this area be classified as Forest to facilitate a program of sustained yield management. The District further recognizes the potential forestry value of the area and recommends consideration be given to placing this region in the State forest system. As the designation as a State Forest is legislative and requires a significant portion of time the District supports, as an interim measure, declaration of this area as a Forest Reserve.

DENNIS R. THOMASON
District Classification Officer

August 12, 1980

RATIONALE FOR A STATE FOREST SYSTEM

Historically, the forests of Alaska have provided its inhabitants with building materials, fuel, recreational opportunities, diversity of wildlife and untold other benefits. Recent rapid shifts in ownership patterns and single-use allocations of that land have severely hampered public availability of these resources and stifled the development of a viable forest products industry, especially in the interior of Alaska.

The full impact of these encroachments on the public use of the land, if allowed to continue, will not be fully realized for years and possibly decades. Continued pressures to further reduce the publicly owned forest land available for multiple-use management is eroding this base.

It is in the best interest of the State to legislatively designate large tracts of primarily forested lands for long-term public retention and management for a multiplicity of resources, as envisioned by the framers of the Constitution of the State of Alaska.

Simple classification of the land as "forest" does not assure that this diversity of benefits, so needed by Alaska, will remain available for future generations.

Forest land in private ownership might well produce the forest products necessary for the development of the State, but not allow the use of the land for its other resource values by the general public.

A state forest system is a use-oriented concept. It would not only provide the incentive to develop a stable forest products industry capable of reducing the amount of lumber being imported to meet our needs (some 75% of the sawn lumber used in the Interior), but also provide access for hunting, fishing, camping, berry picking, etc. State forests are not a lockup, but a dependable year-after-year source of all the renewable resources of the State, for all the residents of the State.

Revisor's notes. — Formerly AS 41.17.140. Renumbered in 1983.

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Quoted in Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Inc. v. State, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 2662 (File No. 5855), P.2d (1983).

Article 3. State Forest System.

Section	Section
200. State forest purposes	220. Management of state forests
210. State forests	230. Management plans

Sec. 41.17.200. State forest purposes. The purpose of AS 41.17.200 — 41.17.230 is to permit the establishment of designated state-owned or acquired land and water areas as state forests. The primary purpose in the establishment of state forests is the perpetuation of personal, commercial, and other beneficial uses of resources through multiple-use management. (§ 1 ch 91 SLA 1983)

Sec. 41.17.210. State forests. (a) The governor may propose to the legislature the establishment of state forests consisting primarily of commercially valuable forest land determined by the governor to be necessary for retention in state ownership for management under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield and consistent with AS 38.04.005. The proposal of the governor shall include a report and recommendations of the commissioner including

- (1) a preliminary forest inventory;
- (2) a summary of the testimony offered at public hearings held on the management of the proposed state forest in communities proximately located to a proposed state forest;
- (3) the findings of the commissioner on anticipated incompatibilities of uses described in AS 41.17.230(e) under AS 41.17.230(f);
- (4) written comments from appropriate state agencies on the compatibility of the uses described in AS 41.17.230(e) within the proposed state forest;
- (5) an estimate of the cost of a full implementation of an operational level forest inventory and the management plan.

(b) A state forest established by the legislature shall be retained in state ownership. (§ 1 ch 91 SLA 1983)

Sec. 41.17.220. Management of state forests. Land within a state forest or within a unit of a state forest shall be managed under

- (1) the principles of multiple-use and sustained yield;
- (2) this chapter; and
- (3) a management plan prepared by the department. (§ 1 ch 91 SLA 1983)

Sec. 41.17.230. Management plans. (a) The commissioner shall prepare a management plan consistent with AS 38.04.005 and this chapter for each state forest and for each unit of a state forest to assist in meeting the requirements of this chapter. An operational level forest inventory shall be completed before a management plan for the state forest or the unit of a state forest is adopted. The management plan shall be adopted, implemented and maintained within three years of the establishment of a state forest by the legislature.

(b) The commissioner shall review a management plan at least once every five years and may revise the plan when necessary.

(c) A management plan may not be adopted or revised after the establishment of the state forest without prior review by the Board of Forestry and by other appropriate state agencies or without prior public hearings held in a community proximately located to the state forest or to a unit of a state forest.

(d) A copy of a management plan or a revision to a management plan adopted or prepared by the commissioner shall be provided to the legislature within 30 days of its adoption or revision or within the first 10 days of the first regular session of the legislature to convene after its adoption or revision.

(e) The commissioner shall consider and permit the following uses under a management plan prepared under (a) or (b) of this section subject to a determination under (f) of this section:

- (1) commercial timber harvest and related activities;
- (2) harvest of forest products for personal use;
- (3) mining, mining claim, and mineral leasehold location;
- (4) mineral leasing;
- (5) material extraction;
- (6) recreation;
- (7) wildlife and fisheries habitat management including critical habitat management;
- (8) greenbelts;
- (9) trapping and sport and subsistence fishing and hunting;
- (10) grazing;
- (11) watershed management;
- (12) research;
- (13) uses consistent with the policies of AS 38.04.015; and
- (14) other traditional, compatible uses.

(f) A management plan prepared by the commissioner shall consider and permit the uses described in (e) of this section. If the commissioner finds that a permitted use is incompatible with one or more other uses in a portion of a state forest, the commissioner shall affirmatively state in the management plan that finding of incompatibility for the specific area where the incompatibility is anticipated to exist and the time period when the incompatibility is anticipated to exist together with the reasons for each finding. (§ 1 ch 91 SLA 1983)

Introduced: 1/14/85
Referred: Resources
and Finance

BY ELIASON, V. FISCHER
AND KERTULA

1 IN THE SENATE

2

SENATE BILL NO. 30

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Yakataga State Forest; and
7 providing for an effective date."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 41.17 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 ARTICLE 5A. YAKATAGA STATE FOREST.

11 Sec. 41.17.410. YAKATAGA STATE FOREST. (a) Subject to valid
12 existing rights and except for land owned by or transferred to the
13 University of Alaska under ch. 41, SLA 1983, the state-owned or
14 acquired land and water lying within the parcels described in (c) of
15 this section is designated as the Yakataga State Forest.

16 (b) The commissioner shall consider and permit the uses des-
17 cribed in AS 41.17.230(e) within the Yakataga State Forest, subject to
18 the procedures established in AS 41.17.230(f).

19 (c) The Yakataga State Forest includes the state-owned or
20 acquired land and water lying within the following described parcels:

21 Township 19 South, Range 14 East, Copper River Meridian

22 Township 19 South, Range 15 East, Copper River Meridian

23 Township 19 South, Range 16 East, Copper River Meridian

24 Township 19 South, Range 17 East, Copper River Meridian

25 Township 20 South, Range 12 East, Copper River Meridian

26 Township 20 South, Range 13 East, Copper River Meridian

27 Township 20 South, Range 14 East, Copper River Meridian

28 Township 20 South, Range 15 East, Copper River Meridian

29 Township 20 South, Range 16 East, Copper River Meridian

1 Township 20 South, Range 17 East, Copper River Meridian
2 Township 20 South, Range 18 East, Copper River Meridian
3 Township 21 South, Range 9 East, Copper River Meridian
4 Township 21 South, Range 10 East, Copper River Meridian
5 Township 21 South, Range 11 East, Copper River Meridian
6 Township 21 South, Range 11 1/2 East, Copper River Meridian
7 Township 21 South, Range 12 East, Copper River Meridian
8 Township 21 South, Range 13 East, Copper River Meridian
9 Township 21 South, Range 14 East, Copper River Meridian
10 Township 21 South, Range 15 East, Copper River Meridian
11 Township 21 South, Range 16 East, Copper River Meridian
12 Township 21 South, Range 17 East, Copper River Meridian
13 Township 21 South, Range 18 East, Copper River Meridian
14 Township 21 South, Range 19 East, Copper River Meridian
15 Township 22 South, Range 9 East, Copper River Meridian
16 Township 22 South, Range 19 East, Copper River Meridian
17 Township 22 South, Range 20 East, Copper River Meridian
18 Township 22 South, Range 21 East, Copper River Meridian
19 Township 22 South, Range 22 East, Copper River Meridian
20 Township 22 South, Range 23 East, Copper River Meridian
21 Township 22 South, Range 24 East, Copper River Meridian,
22 that portion west of Icy Bay
23 Township 23 South, Range 21 East, Copper River Meridian
24 Township 23 South, Range 22 East, Copper River Meridian

25 * Sec. 2. The commissioner shall prepare a management plan for the
26 Yakataga State Forest under AS 41.17.230. The commissioner shall submit
27 the management plan to the legislature for its approval within the first 10
28 days of the Second Session of the Fifteenth Alaska State Legislature. The
29 management plan for the Yakataga State Forest is approved unless the

1 legislature adopts legislation disapproving the management plan.

2 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect July 1, 1985.

COMMITTEE REPORT
SENATE

FURTHER:

FINANCE

1/14/85

Date 2/8/85

Mr. President

The Committee on RESOURCES considered SB 30
establishing the Yakataga State Forest; efd.

and ~~(a majority of the committee)~~ (the committee) reports it back with
the following recommendations:

- do pass
- do pass with attached amendment(s)
- ~~replace with/or adopt~~ CS for SB 30 (RESOURCES)
new title
- same title and recommends _____
- and attached a "LETTER OF INTENT" NEW FISCAL NOTE
- reports it back without recommendation
- recommends referral to _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

[Handwritten signatures]

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Arlin Sturguleski
Chairman

Do Pass
Chairman recommendation