

SB

148

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE

DATE: 2/27/91

FURTHER: Resources Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: 3-21-91 (in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 3-28-91

L&C Committee considered SB 148

Special appropriations to the Dept. of Natural Resources for the purchase of the inholdings of the Seldovia Native Association, and the timber rights of the Timber Trading Company, within the Kachemak Bay State Park; and recommended: a major of the Comte appts et the w/n rec.

- [] replace with CS [] same title [] attached amendment(s) [] new title [] letter of intent adopted [] do pass [] do not pass [] no recommendation [] individual recommendations [] further referral to

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

- [] fiscal note(s) Dept./Date [] zero fiscal note(s) DNR / 3-26-91 [] appropriation-no fiscal note [] Governor's bill w/fiscal note

SIGNING DO PASS:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Blank lines for signing do pass.

Other recommendations: Rick Halford NO REC, John Collier NO REC

Chair: Signature and Recommendation

STATE OF ALABAMA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version: SB 148
Bill (S) Publish Date: 4/2/91

Revision Date: _____ Department Affected: Natural Resources
 Title: Appropriation for Kachemak BRU: Land and Water Management
Bay Park Inholding Purchase Components: _____
 Sponsor: Sen Fischer
 Requestor: Senator Pearce COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 431

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND&STRUCTURES						
GRANTS,CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of Current year impact:

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Ron Swanson Phone: 762-2680
 Division: Land & Water Management Date: 3-26-91

Approved by Commissioner: Harold Heinze Date: 3-26-91
 Agency: Department of Natural Resources

Distribution (by preparer) : Legislative Finance, legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB,
& Impacted Agency(ics).

America's Best! WILDERNESS LODGE

Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge

China Poot Bay
via Homer, Alaska 99603

Michael and Diane McBride,
Proprietors

\$1,750 per day (5-day min.);
\$1,950 at Brown Bear Camp
(5-day min., air fare incl.)



At Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge, 225 miles from Anchorage, seals herd on the sand bar out front, Ollie the sea otter frolics on the beach, and eagles nest within walking distance. You can ride the incoming tides past wildflower cliff gardens, streams, and waterfalls. Or you can trace the line of ancient *barabaras* (sod houses) to reconstruct the past lives of ancient man. Most exciting of all is a bush flight into the northern camp to look for and photograph the magnificent brown bear, with an incomparable ice-blue glacier as your scenic backdrop.

Owners Mike and Diane McBride operate one of the few Alaskan lodges where guests join a year-round resident family. They have kept the camp small and usually accommodate only eight people at a time. The McBrides will meet you on a Thursday or a Sunday at the Homer Small Boat Landing. There they will show you something of the commercial fishing industry of the area, then head for the lodge in an open dory. On a clear day, you can see the mountains of Cape Douglas in the distance. Seals, porpoises, and whales help guide your way, and passing Gull Island, you'll see a rare nesting ground teeming with thousands of sea birds.

When you reach China Poot Bay, the area will be bustling with red-face cormorants, puffins, and guillemots playing in the waves. One of the hiking trails on the shore leads to the sea caves, which archaeologists think were used as the site of ancient burials.

The McBrides schedule their visitors according to the rhythms of nature—the salmon run, the extremely low tides, summer activity at the bird rookery, the concentrations of brown bears at the salmon streams.

The log lodge is dominated by a massive stone fireplace and is decorated with material the McBrides have salvaged and restored. (The kitchen cabinets came from an old halibut schooner.) Stone ledges in the living room walls lead to sleeping lofts.

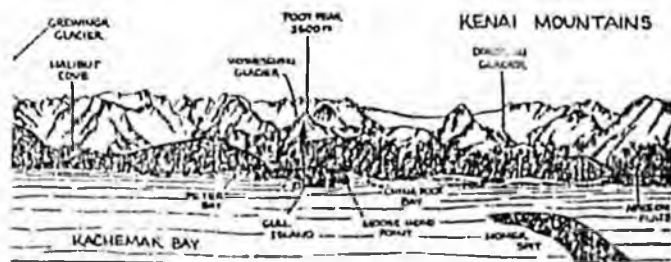
Meals always include home-baked bread and are served family-style in the dining room, where you can watch the ever-changing tidal pools from huge picture windows. Occasionally, a black bear will mosey by the window to check out the diners.

There are two guest rooms in the lodge, and private accommodations in three nearby cabins. They are considered deluxe by bush standards, containing electricity, wood stoves, and outside privies. There is also a community bathroom in the lodge with a tub and shower, and a large sod-roofed Finnish sauna.

The McBrides recommend visits of at least three days to become familiar with the territory. A typical day might include a trip to Grewingk Glacier, where you can sit and listen to the groaning of the ice and watch terns nest on the shoreline. You can also kayak, fish for salmon, trout, and halibut, hike through the dense forests, study the marine life—the possibilities are endless.

By special arrangement you can visit the Brown Bear Camp, 100 miles north of Kachemak Bay. This area has the largest concentration of brown bears in the world, and it's not unusual to see twenty bears at one time. The McBrides consider man to be the intruder in these parts. They feel he must be an unobtrusive visitor, and they will not allow you to take photographs unless you can guarantee that you will not interfere with the life patterns of the animals. The rustic tent cabins lie at the base of a great peninsular land bridge stretching toward Siberia. Archaeologists think this area may have been a link in man's earliest migrations.

The China Poot Bay area has had no permanent residents (except for a few scattered settlers) since the Athabaskans and the Eskimos, who flourished there centuries ago. Temperatures are rarely below freezing, and the proximity of the Japanese current makes the winter extremely warm. Mike fell in love with the area when he was stationed there with the Air Force. In 1969 he and Diane sailed across the Bay from Homer to settle their new home.



Position Statement: March 1991
Private

I came here to help the Hickel administration.

The Kachemak Bay State Park issue is an opportunity.

Through his charismatic leadership, Governor Hickel can garner great public approval if he will move firmly to protect environmental, spiritual, and tourist industry concerns in Kachemak Bay.

This single issue has the potential of assuaging the fears and concerns of even some of his most loyal supporters. If Governor Hickel takes a strong position on this issue, as he has tried to do on the very expensive Prince William Sound Parks concept, legislative fence - hangers will rally to the cause. Typical of Alaskan issues, this one is very evenly split. The Governor's support will certainly break the gridlock, and forge new support and trust.

This is an either/or issue which can become a win/win/win situation if the right decision is made. A strong pro-environmental stance on this long-fought issue will assist in creating public confidence in the Governor's ability and intent to develop ANWR sensitively. It will demonstrate his ability to "Do it right the first time."

Either the state will allow the 2nd most scenic view visible from the highway system of Alaska to be clear cut or it will move to protect this priceless resource for future generations.

The community of Homer, which fears a significant loss of real estate value, and all of Alaska await the governor's word and leadership. The impact of his positive decision will have far - reaching implications for the future of the tourism industry in the entire South Central region. The people of Homer are not looking for a "quick fix," but industry wide balance and wise use.

Public relations and national media coverage can present to the world a positive environmental Governor for a cost that history will easily prove is worthwhile to the state.

It is worthwhile to note that the Federal Government is presently investing in the future of the Homer and Kenai Peninsula tourist economy an amount equal to the buyout figure. They are presently spending \$20 million to build a visitor's center in Homer for the National Maritime Wildlife Refuge.

As a state we should accept their challenge and rise to match this capital investment which they are making to our tourist industry infrastructure.

George Ripley

POB 2074
Homer, Alaska 99603
(907) 235-5635 or 4174

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 148

Comments by David L. Nebert
862 Redpoll Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99712

I SUPPORT THE BUY BACK OF KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK LANDS.

The highest and best use for Kachemak Bay Park land is for recreation and tourism. Clear cut logging practices are NOT a compatible use. One need only tour the clear cut areas in S.E. and in the Pacific Northwest for confirmation. My youth was spent in Oregon where I vividly remember walking through decimated clear cut areas on public lands. I am in sympathy with those residents of the Homer area who would have their view and tourist related businesses compromised. High visibility clear cutting areas in the park have the same appeal as a junkyard next door.

Marine resources flourish in Kachemak Bay waters. As a marine scientist I have a selfish concern that logging operations may have an adverse impact on breeding and nursery areas which contribute to the region's abundant marine life. Marine scientists are presently attempting to study this relatively pristine and productive ecosystem. Disturbances produced by potential logging operations may cloud studies of long term natural variability. It is more difficult to understand natural variability when manmade disturbances are added.

The dollar value is reasonable as it was determined by a form of arbitration. Timber Trading Company should not be forced to take a business loss; they appear to be negotiating in good faith and should be commended for holding up a potential sale so that this buy back can occur.

I object to Section 4 of Senate Bill 148. This buy back should not be tied to any other issue; it should stand or fall on it's own merit.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input for your consideration.

David L. Nebert
26 MARCH 1991

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

400 WILLOUGHBY AVENUE
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1796
PHONE: (907) 465-2400
FACSIMILE: (907) 586-2754

March 26, 1991

The Honorable Drue Pearce, Chair
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Pearce:

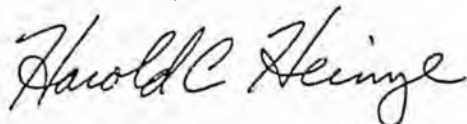
Subject: SB 148, which appropriates \$20 million to the Department of Natural Resources to purchase land and timber inholdings within Kachemak Bay State Park.

Position: The Department will carry out the wishes of the Legislature if the funds are appropriated.

The Department acknowledges that there is value in obtaining this sort of inholding in a designated park area. The amount of the appropriation is not unreasonable for this type of transaction. While the legal interpretations of the Exxon-Valdez settlement are not specifically DNR's area, we understand that the money from the settlement may not be available for this type of expenditure.

Recommendation: If a general fund appropriation is required for the purchase of this inholding, the Department recommends that the appropriation receive an high level of scrutiny.

Sincerely,



Harold C. Heinze
Commissioner

cc: Senator Fischer
Bruce Kendall, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Governor

**STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. SB 148

Revision Date: _____ Department Affected: Natural Resources
 Title: Appropriation for Kachemak BRU: Land and Water Management
Bay Park Inholding Purchase Components: _____
 Sponsor: Sen Fischer
 Requestor: Senator Pearce COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 431

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND&STRUCTURES						
GRANTS,CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of Current year impact:

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Ron Swanson Phone: 762-2680
 Division: Land & Water Management Date: 3-26-91

Approved by Commissioner: Harold Heinze Date: 3-26-91
 Agency: Department of Natural Resources

Distribution (by preparer) : Legislative Finance, legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB,
 & Impacted Agency(ies).



Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge

Hello Cloyd

5/8/91

I appreciate your presence in Juneau, working for all Alaskans. I'm sure that your work is difficult and often stressful. Be reminded however that even in China Poot Bay, we appreciate the selfless effort that you and your fellow legislators put forth.

I am pleased to share with you some information about the Kachemak Bay State Park issue. Many legislators have reservations about the wisdom of spending \$20 million dollars when it might be well spent elsewhere. There is a wealth of information about why it is important and economically worthwhile to do so, especially Anne Weilands thorough study, and its Executive Summary, "Logging In Kachemak Bay State Park—Public Values At Risk". If these arguments have not yet persuaded you to support the State Park, perhaps our personal story will point the way toward the larger economic significance of the issue.

I had the great good fortune to see Kachemak Bay in 1966 and was so overwhelmed with this "love at first sight" that I decided to spend the rest of my life here.

In the following years, I earned a commercial pilots license, guides license and Coast Guard License, I ran other lodges, I flew the bush. I gained skills to allow me to follow my dream of building a wilderness lodge in Kachemak Bay. My wife and I went to China Poot Bay in 1969 and started from ground zero. It was a difficult challenge, but we were young, optimistic. The great natural beauty of the area and its rich marine productivity gave us great vitality and endurance. One by one we began to attract clients. Our earliest guests paid about \$300 per week with meals, guide service and fine though rustic accomodations.

In 1980, at the end of 10 years of real struggle, crossing the Bay in small skiffs, home school for our little children, milking goats and raising chickens, we had progressed to a point where we could accomodate 10 guests. We had a staff of 6 and broke over what seemed the unbelievable income of \$100,000. Land that we had paid less than \$1,000 per acre for, now was worth more than TEN TIMES that.

By 1990, we had earned an enviabile reputation, and been listed in one of the Guinness Books, AMERICAS BEST 100, as Americas Best Wilderness Lodge. We were awarded national and international awards for the excellence of service and accomodations, there were write-ups in the New York Times and other newspapers

and magazines too numerous to mention. Movies and TV documentaries were filmed there. The State of Alaska filmed part of its TV tourism film there.

During this past season our clients paid almost \$2,000 per person for 4 nights!! We had a staff of nearly 20 including our children and a Swiss Master Chef. There are airplanes and pilots, boats and skippers involved in the business and about 5 year round positions. The State Department of Commerce and Economic Development says that monies spent with a Wilderness Lodge like ours is respent within the community, the region and the state about 10 times before it leaves this economic system. Nearly all of our income is spent in this community and Anchorage, with the grocer, the fuel company, building supply yard, secretarial and printing services etc etc. Thus if our gross income is \$400,000. it means about \$4 million is spent between all the ancillary service industries. Our entire income is drawn from outside Alaska.

Our success is not unlike that of other business' in the area who depend on the pristine scenic beauty of this area. It happens that we are surrounded by the land proposed for clearcutting and will clearly be put out of business if my back and front yards is logged. The visitors come because of the beauty, the view. Many have written to the Governor and legislators to say that the absence of logging is why they come here and exactly why they do not return to areas in Washington and Oregon for example, which have been logged in the last few decades. Recent magazine and newspaper articles attest to this visitor trend to avoid logged areas for vacations. .

There is plenty of room in this career field, the area in and around the Park can accomodate a dozen lodges like ours, in fact 5 others have grown up since we began. The potential is much bigger than most realize. The State doesn't have to do much to encourage small business entrepraneurs like us to evolve nor do we really have to work too hard to encourage visitors to come. We just must not maim or kill the goose which lays the golden eggs. The jobs offered are good jobs and draw quality people. Many of my former clients have purchased land around Homer, built homes, and pay State taxes. Several former staff are now responsible business members of this community, one returned to medical school while working for us and now practices in Anchorage.

None of this would have happened if this area had been logged when we arrived. Much of it will cease if the area is logged. 20 million dollars is a lot, but it is a very wise expenditure to assure and expand this vital part of the States long term economic heath. The return on the \$20 million will be strong and happen fairly quickly.

Please feel free to use me as a resource person, call me if I can be of help to you. I may be in Juneau in the coming weeks and would be happy to meet with you if you wish. Thank you for your concern.

Sincerely yours,

Michael McBride Diane

Michael and Diane McBride

A full set of Lodge brochures and media reprints are enclosed, including the defaced Homer of Commerce brochure showing the planned clearcut.



A Zealot's Repose

Enjoy all home's comforts in wild Alaska

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GALEN ROWELL

A few months ago *Time* magazine published a revealing essay about why political zealots stay in power despite their seeming irrationality and instability. Quite simply, they get things done. Normal checks, balances, morals and comforts are bypassed in pursuit of goals. However irrational those goals may seem, the methods of attaining them are clear, direct and effective.

Although the article was entirely about politicians, I couldn't help but think how the same principle applies to photographers. Without zealotry, people wouldn't lug heavy cameras and tripods into cold and remote places, sleep on the hard ground, and get up before dawn just to take a photograph. But zealotry has a flip side, too. In places like Alaska, it's easy to take the cold and hardship for granted and to think it's a necessary

component of fine wilderness photography there.

My wife, Barbara, is every bit as good a photographer as I am, but she is usually not a zealot. Given the choice of a hotel room with a shower or an icy dawn in a sleeping bag with the chance of alpenglow, she would take the room and I would take the photograph. Yet in Alaska we found a place on the Kenai Peninsula so appealing to both our different needs that we constantly talk of returning there together. If wilderness is defined as a place without roads or motor vehicles, then this place is definitely wilderness. If luxury living is defined in terms of comfort, tranquility, cozy ambiance and personal service, this place also fits that definition.

I remember a drizzly August afternoon at Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge, when neither Barbara nor I would have traded places with anyone else on earth. I had just returned from a walk to a nearby eagle's nest, where I had photographed a fledging about to make his very first flight.



BACK-TO-BACK BEAUTY: A charming cabin at Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge abides in close harmony with the eagles of Alaska's most primitive regions.



Photo Adventure

From a natural blind of spruce boughs, I watched the eagle make several test flights a few feet above the nest and then come back down and land. The next morning, he was gone.

I used a 540mm lens to photograph at a distance where I wouldn't disturb the nest. Because of the murky low-contrast light, I used Fujichrome Pro 100 pushed one stop. (This is a fine solution for low-light wildlife situations. The push builds up contrast and adds a bit of magenta to warm up the scene from the murky blues that other films render in deep shade.)

I arrived back at the lodge looking like a drowned rat. In a true wilderness situation I would have been pretty miserable standing in the rain, covered with wet leaves, soaked to the skin. On a point overlooking the bay, Barbara opened the door to our cabin. She had a fire going and within minutes I felt warm enough to don my swimming trunks, grab a beach towel, and head for the nearby sauna with her. There above a cove, nestled in a clearing, was a genuine Scandinavian sauna complete with a sod roof that sprouted native wildflowers. On another day when I felt warmer, I would take a picture of the sauna surrounded by purple fireweed, but for now I was content to sit inside on the wooden benches with Barbara.

After the sauna and a hot shower, we dressed casually and headed out onto the pier, where the six other guests of the lodge were standing on a covered deck sipping drinks and waiting for the evening appetizer. Out in the bay we could see colored buoys that marked the lodge's crab pots. A small Boston Whaler was making the rounds, bringing in a fresh crab to be boiled and served whole with drawn butter to each guest. This, however, was just the appetizer. The lodge's French chef was preparing a gourmet meal, soon to be served in the dining room.

Halfway through my crab, the sun burst through a hole in the clouds. The zealot in me was triggered. Here I was in perfect comfort, about to be served a perfect meal, and yet I was analyzing the situation in front of my eyes to see if it had the potential for

a fine photograph. Several factors made me think that if I returned to our cabin, a couple hundred yards away up on the point, I would see a rainbow over the bay.

As I rounded the corner to the cabin, I saw direct sunlight hitting an active rain cloud. There under the arc of a rainbow was the lodge's Boston Whaler heading in for the pier. I couldn't waste a second setting my camera and going through the steps I normally take to make a fine landscape photograph, so I grabbed a Nikon F3 from the cabin, put it on automatic, and shot only a couple of frames before the rainbow weakened.

Boats provide the only access to the lodge, except for the occasional float plane that lands in the bay to pick up or deliver special guests. We arrived from the town of Homer on a regularly scheduled ferry, which resembles a typical ferry about as much as the Alaska Highway resembles the New Jersey Turnpike. This ferry has no cars, no crowds, only a handful of passengers, and makes detours to see bird rookeries and hidden coves. We landed on a peninsula about a 10-minute walk from the lodge along a narrow forest trail. Our bags came later with lodge employees.

I first stayed in the lodge in 1979 when I led an Alaska wildlife safari for an adventure travel firm. That summer, the founders of the lodge, Michael and Diane McBride, were busy working on a second lodge an hour's flight by float plane across Cook Inlet on the opposite side of Homer. This is the Chenik Wilderness Camp, a full-service lodge in a virtually uninhabited section of the Alaska Peninsula, close to the famous McNeil River Brown Bear Sanctuary. The members of my safari did not have permits for the McNeil, which are given out long in advance in an annual lottery. Even so, we saw 17 Alaska brown bears during our first evening. Once again, I became a photography zealot, ignoring the subtleties that the McBrides arranged for us in pursuit of the perfect image.

What makes the Kachemak and Chenik experiences so special is an

intangible factor that's hard to put across in photographs or factual descriptions such as my own so far in this column. I've been writing from the point of view of a zealot rather than a typical guest. While I chased eagles and maneuvered the shoreline around 30-foot tides, other guests were fishing, reading, sea kayaking, or simply enjoying the homey comforts of their cabins.

Each cabin has been uniquely built and decorated with such personal touches that it's easy to imagine all this was done especially for you. Activities are conducted in a similar vein. Most lodges provide group experiences, but Michael and Diane McBride have a different premise. They cater to each individual's needs and desires, to make sure that the avid fisherman gets taken to a private hot spot for salmon, and yours truly, the zealot photographer, is shown the best spots for wildlife viewing. Many people chose to simply kick back and enjoy themselves in a place apart from the rest of the world.

The McBrides' vision is not cheap, however. A typical five-day package at either lodge goes for \$1,500 per person. Not everyone can afford such tariffs, but remember that they do include a private cabin, all meals, guide services roundtrip by boat, and virtually every incidental. I believe that Barbara and I saw Alaska both more intimately and more comfortably in our five days at Kachemak Bay than most Alaska tour groups see in a month of days spent crammed in buses in between the hours they are not in hotels, train stations or airports.

I still remain a photography zealot, addicted to those icy dawns in sleeping bags, but as far as compromises go, Kachemak Bay has the best I've ever seen, and I'm not alone in that judgment. An independent survey of America's best vacation retreats, conducted incognito by people posing as paying guests, rated Kachemak Bay as America's best wilderness lodge.

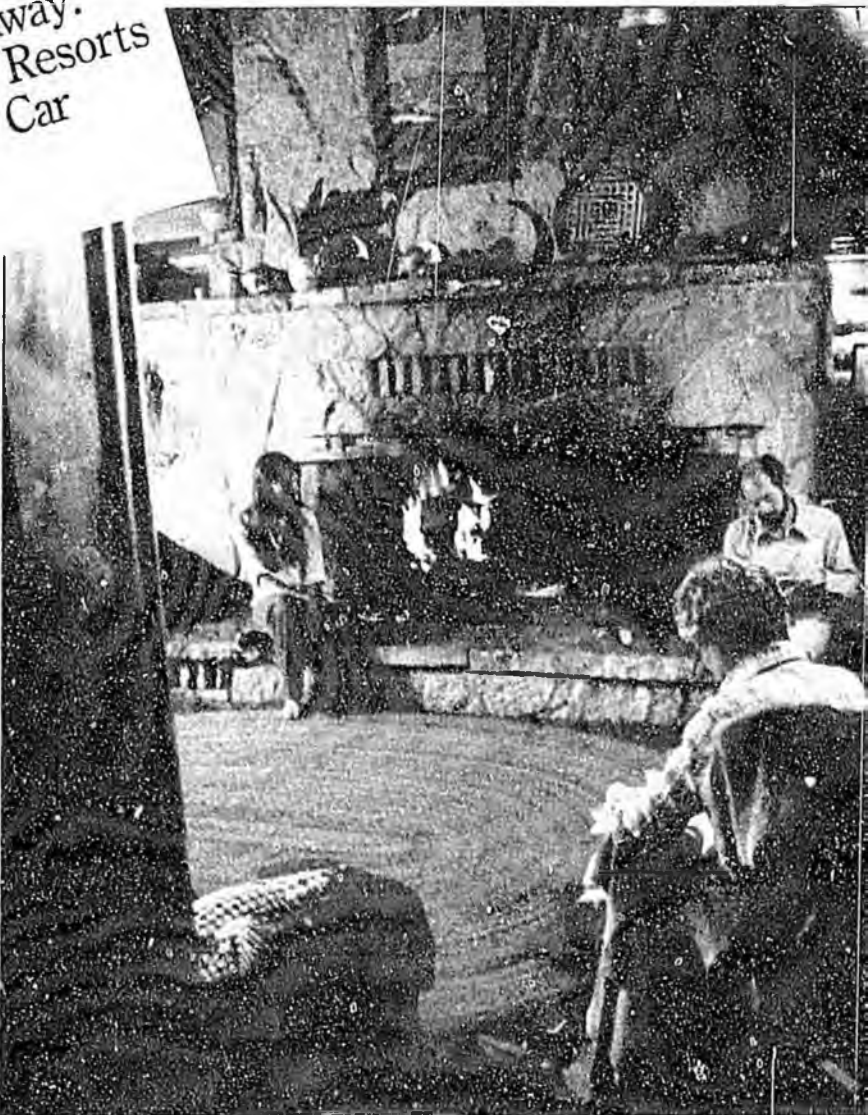
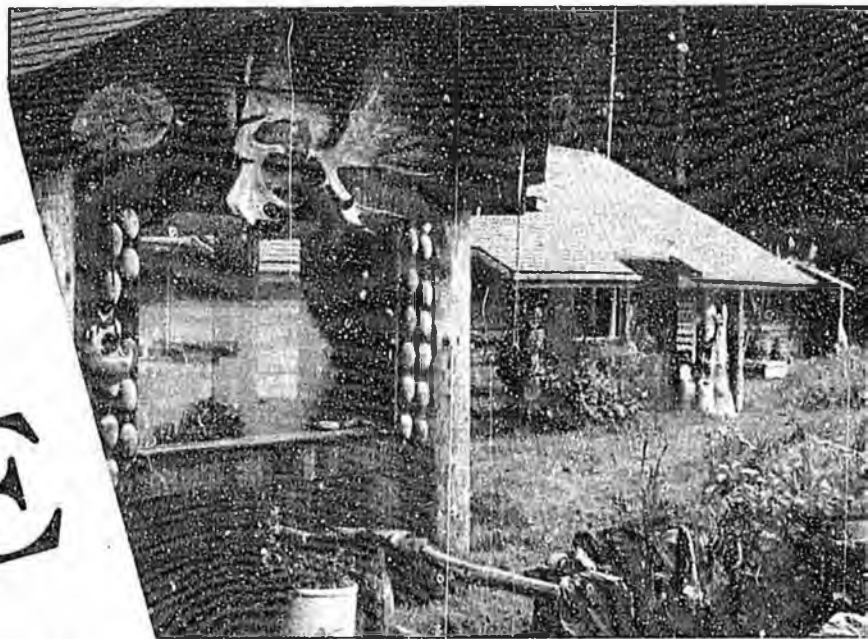
For more information, contact: Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge, Diane and Michael McBride, China Foot Bay, P.O. Box 956, Homer, Alaska 99603, (907) 235-8910. or



PURE ESCAPE

The Last Word in Getting Away:
Sixteen Far-Flung Wilderness Resorts
You Can't Get To in Your Car
by Deborah Easter

Kachemak Bay Lodge, Homer, Alaska. In 1970 Diane and Mike McBride bought 25 acres near Homer and proceeded to establish a lodge that now has one of the best word-of-mouth reputations in Alaska. Although not luxurious, the lodge is noted for its personal touches, such as homemade quilts on every bed and the McBrides' indefatigable efforts in the preparation of gourmet meals. The lodge and four cabins are on an "island peninsula" (an island at high tide, peninsula at low), which is a 30-minute boat ride from Homer. The guest limit is held to 12. King crab, blue mussels, shrimp, halibut, salmon, and octopus plucked from the bay out front make up the daily fare. One guest said she would go there every year just to eat. Birders and naturalists also return yearly and the managers provide guide service for an array of hiking and boating excursions (whales — including belugas — seals and sea otters frequent the bay). Guests pay \$1,750 for a five-day package rate, including transportation from Homer, meals, lodging and all activities. Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge, China Poot Bay, Homer, Alaska 99603; (907) 235-8910. Open: May 15 to December 15.



Top: Alaska's Kachemak Bay Lodge, known for its gourmet seafood and wilderness excursions. Bottom: The common room at Kachemak Bay Lodge.

In June, sunset at the Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge comes at midnight. If you've been up since sunrise (about 2 AM), that makes for a *very* long day. But in a place like this...well, you can always catch up on sleep at home. Where else, in the course of a single day, can you watch bald eagles play, catch your own crab dinner, enjoy fine food and wine in the shadow of mountains and glaciers, see whales, picnic on a beach in sight of sea otters and seals, or stroll among moss-draped trees in a forest primeval?

In recent years new wilderness lodges have sprung up in Alaska, offering comfortable, if not luxurious, alternatives to the traditional drab and drafty hunting camp. Foremost among these is the Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge on the Kenai Peninsula on Alaska's southern coast. Mike and Diane McBride moved here almost twenty years ago, attracted by the superlative scenery of Kachemak Bay. The Kenai Mountains rise abruptly out of the sea here, capped by one of the continent's largest icefields. The McBrides' dream was to build and operate a wilderness lodge where they could share the area's incredible beauty with others, and they've succeeded.

Located 100 air miles southwest of Anchorage, the Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge lies nestled in a cove across the bay from the town of Homer, which is served by commercial flights from Anchorage. As soon as you step off the boat onto the McBrides' dock you realize that everything here was built with loving care—and with an eye toward aesthetics. Cabins are tucked away in a glen of Sitka spruce and connected by pathways that bring to mind childhood fantasies of enchanted forests. The main lodge, solarium, and sauna are built to make it appear that they've been there for ages.

You can pack as much activity as you wish into a given day. The McBrides will take you by boat to the remote islands of Kachemak Bay to observe nesting sea birds or bald eagles. You may even see killer whales or dolphins at play. In the afternoon you can sit on the observation deck and enjoy hors d'oeuvres—steamed mussels and clams gathered from the cove in front of the lodge. Dinner may be fresh crab or halibut, served with a fine wine. Outside the dining room's picture windows are breathtaking views of snowcapped mountains.

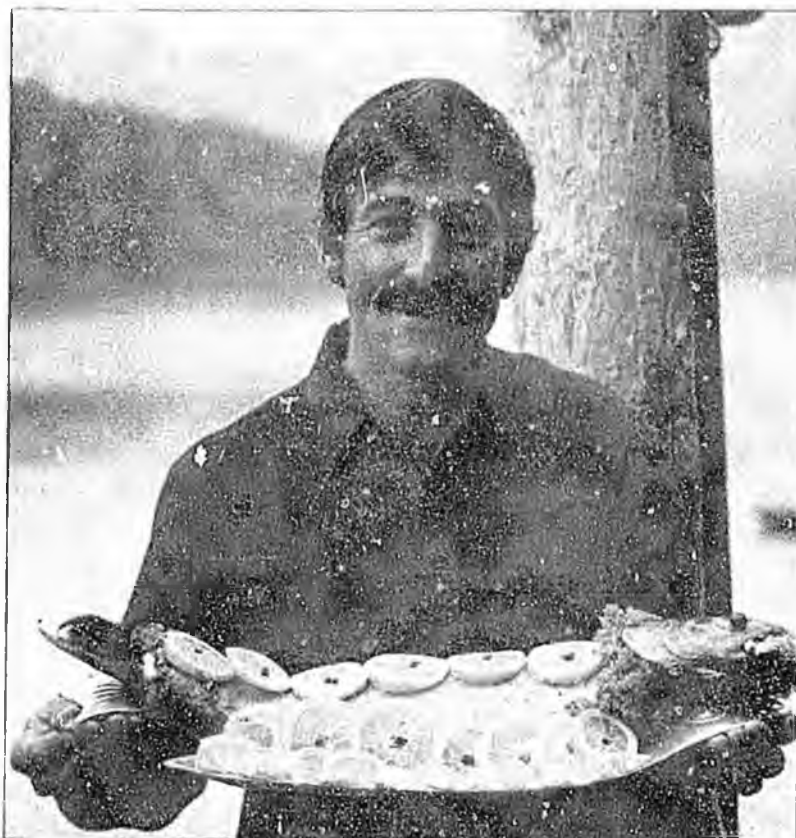


The grizzly bear is the true symbol of Alaska's wilderness. Found throughout the state, the largest concentration of *Ursus horribilis* is along the southwestern coastline of Cook Inlet, directly south of Anchorage, a remote region accessible only by bush plane. Grizzlies here are known as coastal brown bears, though they are the same species as those at Denali. The main difference is that coastal brown bears grow *very* large—some adults reach 1,200 pounds and stand nine feet tall. Fortunately, these behemoths tend to be more even-tempered and tolerant of people than their relatives of the interior. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that, from mid-June to mid-August, these bears gorge themselves on the salmon migrating up the area's streams and rivers. Well-fed bears, it seems, are happy bears. And that makes for some relatively safe viewing and photographing.

Perhaps the most luxurious way to see grizzly bears is to stay at the Chenik Brown Bear Camp in Kamushak Bay, another resort lodge operated by Mike and Diane McBride, in sight of the steaming Augustine volcano.

Wild Comforts

Enjoying Alaska's spectacular wilderness is easier than ever, especially if you stay at one of these luxury lodges. By Boyd Norton



If you've been on one of those deluxe photo safaris in East Africa, you'll understand what Chenik is like: wilderness with a touch of elegance. Only six guests at a time are accepted. There are two tent cabins and two permanent wood cabins, all tastefully designed and furnished. The main lodge overlooks Chenik Lagoon, which has 30-foot tides. And there's a delightful sod-roofed sauna next to a stream.

Throughout July and August, bears congregate along Chenik Creek to catch some of the thousands of migrating salmon. Led by Chenik naturalist guides, you'll have an opportunity to watch these great carnivores as they fish and frolic in the stream. It's a rare glimpse at a process that has been going on for thousands of years, a representation of all the wonder and fascination of Alaska's great land and wildlife.

Mike McBride, owner
of Kachemak Bay
Wilderness Lodge,
displays a salmon
dish prepared from
a fish caught in
a nearby stream.

America's Best! WILDERNESS LODGE

Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge

China Poot Bay
via Homer, Alaska 99603

Michael and Diane McBride,
Proprietors

\$1,750 per day (5-day min.)
\$1,950 at Brown Bear Camp
(5-day min., air fare incl.)



At Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge, 225 miles from Anchorage, seals herd on the sand bar out front, Ollie the sea otter frolics on the beach, and eagles nest within walking distance. You can ride the incoming tides past wildflower cliff gardens, streams, and waterfalls. Or you can trace the line of ancient *barabaras* (sod houses) to reconstruct the past lives of ancient man. Most exciting of all is a bush flight into the northern camp to look for and photograph the magnificent brown bear, with an incomparable ice-blue glacier as your scenic backdrop.

Owners Mike and Diane McBride operate one of the few Alaskan lodges where guests join a year-round resident family. They have kept the camp small and usually accommodate only eight people at a time. The McBrides will meet you on a Thursday or a Sunday at the Homer Small Boat Landing. There they will show you something of the commercial fishing industry of the area, then head for the lodge in an open dory. On a clear day, you can see the mountains of Cape Douglas in the distance. Seals, porpoises, and whales help guide your way, and passing Gull Island, you'll see a rare nesting ground teeming with thousands of sea birds.

When you reach China Poot Bay, the area will be bustling with red-face cormorants, puffins, and guillemots playing in the waves. One of the hiking trails on the shore leads to the sea caves, which archaeologists think were used as the site of ancient burials.

The McBrides schedule their visitors according to the rhythms of nature—the salmon run, the extremely low tides, summer activity at the bird rookery, the concentrations of brown bears at the salmon streams.

The log lodge is dominated by a massive stone fireplace and is decorated with material the McBrides have salvaged and restored. (The kitchen cabinets came from an old halibut schooner.) Stone ledges in the living room walls lead to sleeping lofts.

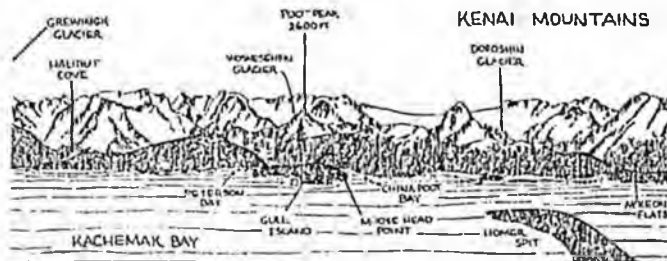
Meals always include home-baked bread and are served family-style in the dining room, where you can watch the ever-changing tidal pools from huge picture windows. Occasionally, a black bear will mosey by the window to check out the diners.

There are two guest rooms in the lodge, and private accommodations in three nearby cabins. They are considered deluxe by bush standards, containing electricity, wood stoves, and outside privies. There is also a community bathroom in the lodge with a tub and shower, and a large sod-roofed Finnish sauna.

The McBrides recommend visits of at least three days to become familiar with the territory. A typical day might include a trip to Grewingk Glacier, where you can sit and listen to the groaning of the ice and watch terns nest on the shoreline. You can also kayak, fish for salmon, trout, and halibut, hike through the dense forests, study the marine life—the possibilities are endless.

By special arrangement you can visit the Brown Bear Camp, 100 miles north of Kachemak Bay. This area has the largest concentration of brown bears in the world, and it's not unusual to see twenty bears at one time. The McBrides consider man to be the intruder in these parts. They feel he must be an unobtrusive visitor, and they will not allow you to take photographs unless you can guarantee that you will not interfere with the life patterns of the animals. The rustic tent cabins lie at the base of a great peninsular land bridge stretching toward Siberia. Archaeologists think this area may have been a link in man's earliest migrations.

The China Poot Bay area has had no permanent residents (except for a few scattered settlers) since the Athabaskans and the Eskimos, who flourished there centuries ago. Temperatures are rarely below freezing, and the proximity of the Japanese current makes the winter extremely warm. Mike fell in love with the area when he was stationed there with the Air Force. In 1969 he and Diane sailed across the Bay from Homer to settle their new home.



AMERICA'S BEST! 100

C. PAUL LUONGO

Want to munch the best brownies or savor the best banana ice cream? See the best Victorian melodramas? Breathe the best air (Honolulu, Hawaii, is full of it)? Experience the best hotel suite (it's the Royal Suite in the Waldorf Towers)?

You can - thanks to the imperious C. Paul Luongo, a very demanding Bostonian who is a public relations executive by trade and a quality-seeker by nature. Dissatisfied with stale hotel rooms, mediocre food, slipshod service, and flimsy products, Mr. Luongo set out six years ago to find the best - the very best - America has to offer.

After hundreds of thousands of miles of travel and an investment of more than a quarter of a million of his own dollars, he has come up with 100 of America's top goods and services, which he describes here in the fullest detail. If you can't experience C. Paul's choices first hand, his write-ups are a treat in themselves.

Did you know that Oysters Rockefeller are so called because they are so green and rich? America's Best are to be found at Antoine's in New Orleans. The porch at America's best summer hotel (The Grand Ho'el on Mackinac Island, Michigan) is 880 feet long. America's best steak (you'll find it at Murray's in Minneapolis) is aged for 17 to 21 days. A Sherle Wagner bathroom can cost \$500,000 and a Cecil Rhodes's closet \$10,000 (hangers included). Those aren't mechanical figures in the Marshall Field Christmas window - they're real people. Just one of the reasons why Field's is America's best department store. According to Ruth Allman of Juneau, Alaska, sourdough is as good a dessert as it is a wallpaper paste. She should know, since she makes America's best.

Mr. Luongo's choices are painfully selective, very informative, and just plain fun. If you, too, demand the best (we all should, according to C. Paul), you can't afford to miss AMERICA'S BEST!



KACHEMAK BAY WILDERNESS LODGE

China Poot Bay via Homer

Once a year, The Hideaway Report — a connoisseur's guide to peaceful and unspoiled places — compiles a list of the world's most enchanting hideaways. In 1982 Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge was one of five lodges featured from the United States. It marked the second year in a row that such an honor had been bestowed on the Lodge. And if you visit Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge, it's easy to see why. First of all, the setting: located on the remote southeastern side of Kachemak Bay — about 225 miles from Anchorage — Kachemak Wilderness Bay Lodge is nestled among tall, fragrant spruce on the rocky shores of pristine China Poot Bay. To the west — across Cook Inlet — lies the spectacular Alaska Range. Wildlife abounds. Red-faced cormorants, puffins and guillemots play in the waves along with seals, porpoises and whales. The air is filled with thousands of sea birds, the ground is covered with hundreds of different and colorful wildflowers. The log lodge itself is quaint and usually accommodates no more than eight or ten people. It is dominated by a massive stone fireplace and decorated with materials Michael and Diane McBride — the owners — have salvaged and restored from their surrounding environment. Meals always include home-baked bread and are served family-style in the dining room, where you can watch the ever-changing tidal pools from huge picture windows. Occasionally, a black

bear will mosey by the window to see what's for dinner. Most likely, the bear will see fresh caught salmon, trout, crab, shrimp, or recently harvested wild berries and hothouse vegetables.

There are two guest rooms in the lodge and private accommodations in three nearby cabins. Also located in the lodge is a large sod-roofed Finnish sauna and an open-air hot tub — a perfect place to end a day filled with wildlife and bird photography, deep-sea and stream fishing, glacier and forest hiking, salt and fresh water canoeing, or just contemplating the surrounding beauty.

By special arrangement, you can visit the Brown Bear Camp, 100 miles south, south-west of Kachemak Bay. This area has the largest concentration of Brown Bear in the world. It's not unusual to see twenty at a time. A photographer's dream.

For an incomparable interlude with nature and yourself, visit one of the world's best — Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge.

*Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge
China Poot Bay
Homer, Alaska 99603
radio/phone
(907) 235-8910*

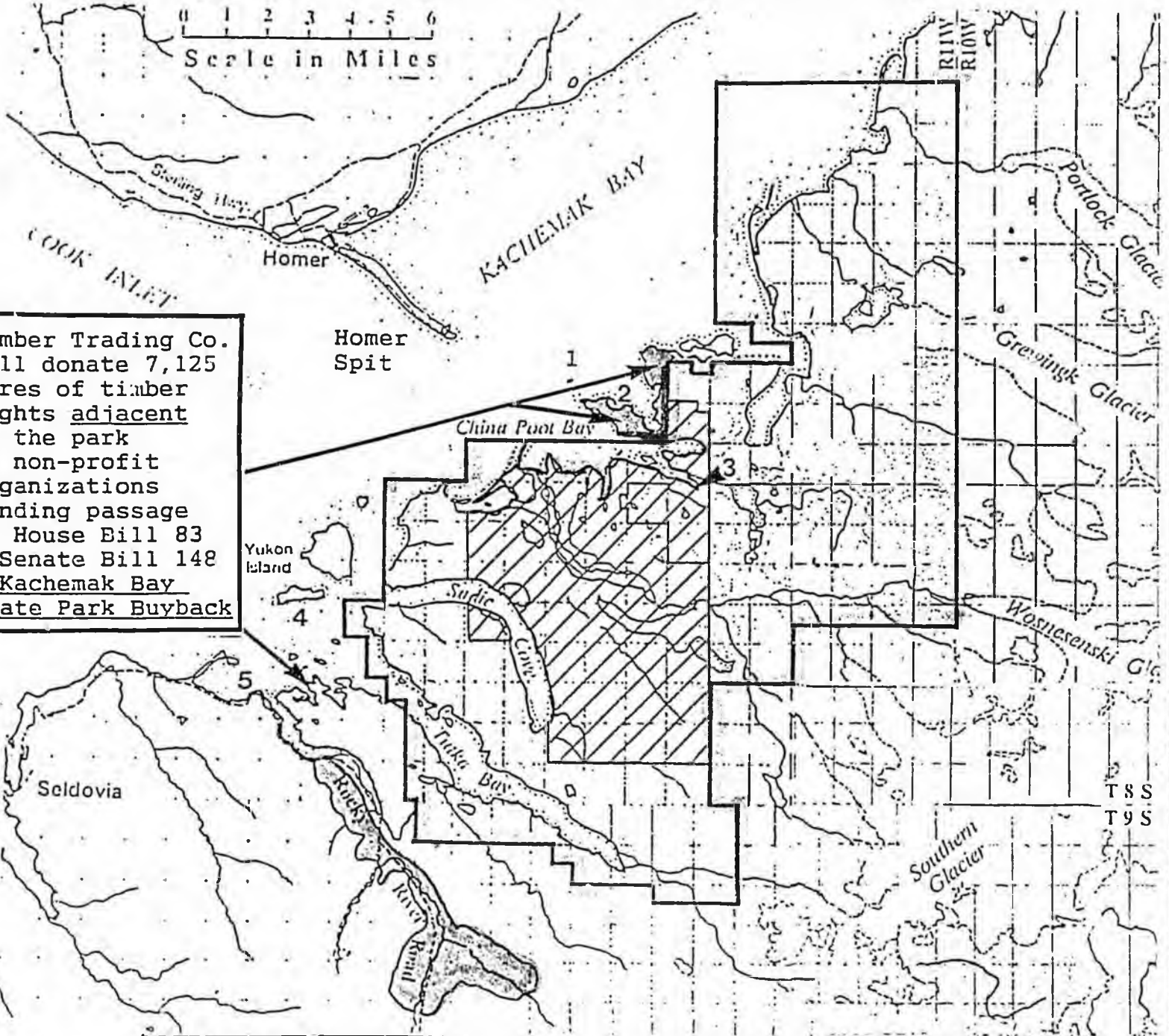
HB 83

8 7 million - FY 92




15 million - Bradley Lake
(15.1 mins.)

Miss County

HOUSE BILL 83 AND SENATE BILL 148:
 LAND AND TIMBER PURCHASE
 INSIDE KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK



Timber Trading Co. will donate 7,125 acres of timber rights adjacent to the park to non-profit organizations pending passage of House Bill 83 & Senate Bill 148
 Kachemak Bay State Park Buyback

-  Kachemak Bay State Park
 -  Seldovia Native Assoc. inholdings
 -  Timber Trading Co. timber rights outside the Park
- 1-Gull Is. seabird rookery
 - 2-Center for Ak. Coastal Studies facility
 - 3-ADFG personal use dipnet fishery
 - 4-sea otter habitat
 - 5-Univ. Ak. Fairbanks marine station

TSS
T9S

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

P.O. BOX 7-005
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510
PHONE: (907) 762-2501SPRUCE BARK BEETLE (Dendroctonus rufipennis Kirby)
OCCURRENCE ON SELDOVIA NATIVE ASSOCIATION (SNA) LAND/TIMBER
TRADING CO. (TTC) TIMBER IN KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK (KBSP)DLWM Spruce bark beetle information request

On December 10, 1990 Gary Gustafson, Director of the Division of Land and Water Management, Alaska Department of Natural Resources requested information on the current (and projected) status of spruce bark beetle (D. rufipennis Khy.) population levels within the Kachemak Bay State Park. The area of concern is located within the state park on land and timber currently owned by the Seldovia Native Association, Inc. (SNA) and Timber Trading Company (TTC), respectively, presently under consideration by the Alaska Legislature for purchase by the State of Alaska. The following questions are posed by Mr. Gustafson in the request:

1. What is the potential for increased bark beetle activity on SNA's land?
2. Do (spruce) bark beetles represent a significant threat to the timber on SNA's land?
3. What (overall) impact do spruce bark beetles have on this land and timber?

Introduction

This preliminary report prepared by the Division of Forestry, Resource Management Section summarizes what is currently known about the spruce bark beetle in the Kachemak Bay area and vicinity based on prior aerial surveys and biological evaluations performed by DNR personnel and the U.S. Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Pest Management Unit, Region 10, Alaska (S&PF) personnel in conjunction with ongoing survey and evaluation work projects performed by S&PF throughout Alaska.

Spruce bark beetle occurrence on SNA/TTC KBSP holdings

Historically, the south side of Kachemak Bay has had localized infestations in the vicinity of McKeon Flats and Sadie Cove. Infestations appear limited to small pockets (less than 5 acres) along the McKeon Flats river channel and exposed north-facing slopes along Sadie Cove's north side. These localized areas of dead trees on SNA land in KBSP appeared over a period of 2-3 years but did not increase markedly in size. Beetle populations, while heavier in these localized pockets, appear to stay at endemic (low,

natural) levels on the south side of Kachemak Bay. Weather, especially the normally cool, wet spring conditions along the bay, tends to shorten beetle dispersal periods during the peak adult emergence period, mid-May to early June. (Predominance of Sitka Spruce over White Spruce in this area tends to limit attack success by the beetle). Data from Alaska indicate a difference in host suitability. Spruce bark beetle brood production in White (P. glauca) and Lutz (P. x lutzii) Spruce is significantly higher than brood production in Sitka Spruce (P. sitchensis) (Holsten and Werner 1990).

Another localized spruce bark beetle infestation occurred on SNA land northeast of Seldovia during and after lot and road clearing for the Barbara Heights Subdivision (circa 1986, 1987). This area was examined and evaluated by Division of Forestry personnel in 1988. Clearing activities conducive to bark beetle brood development (whole trees piled in windrows along roads, fresh log decks and slash piles on lots) occurred in a series of continuing development activities. This infestation was confined almost totally to individual lots with fresh log and slash piles. Individual beetle populations declined in 2 or 3 years. This is a good example of normal climatic conditions, and non-preferred host species composition (e.g. Sitka Spruce) controlling spruce beetle populations at endemic levels when site disturbance creates favorable insect production conditions.

Spruce bark beetle occurrence near SNA/TTC KBSP holdings

Spruce bark beetle infestations have appeared on the peninsula between Halibut Cove Lagoon and Peterson Bay northeast of China Poot Bay (a portion of the area is outside Kachemak Bay State Park). This infestation area has been limited to approximately 1,000 - 1,500 acres and has decreased since 1988 (secs. 12,13,T7S,R12W & secs. 7,18,T7S,R11W,S.M.). Other large infestations near Mallard Bay (Holsten and Zogas 1987)¹, Aurora Lagoon and Bear Cove, have increased, moving northeasterly since 1981. The USFS, S&PF had planned a field biological evaluation at Bear Cove this past summer. Initial survey attempts were thwarted by the presence of large populations of hornets. The survey will continue in 1991.

Summary

Data examined from past surveys and biological evaluations shows a close association of climatic trends and spruce site disturbances

¹ The Mallard Bay infestation has been closely watched by the USFS since 1981, when 300 acres of windthrown spruce were noted by DNR Southcentral Region Forestry personnel. The USFS, S&PF, Forest Pest Management Section subsequently completed a biological evaluation of this area in November, 1987 (Tech. Rept. R10-90-18).

with dramatic spruce bark beetle population increases in the Kachemak Bay area (Holsten 1990, USDA Forest Service, 1985, 1989). One example is the Halibut Cove infestation which was associated with powerline right-of-way clearing.

Normally, field evaluations are not warranted unless beetle outbreak indicators are present and properly documented. Examples of such indicators include, but are not limited to: direct evidence of reduced stand vigor (low growth increment the last 5 years), continued unseasonable climatic conditions such as we experienced last summer/fall on the Kenai Peninsula, or a major site disturbance (e.g. windstorm, right-of-way clearing). Such indicators would justify a biological evaluation to determine beetle population and preference levels under altered stand conditions.

Conclusions

The short answer to questions 1. and 2. above is this: potential for increased spruce bark beetle activity on SNA land within the Kachemak Bay State Park (and subsequent threat of a major infestation developing) appears to be low at this time.

Field evaluations are needed to document stand composition and health. This will allow us to predict beetle attack susceptibility and insect population dynamics.

Based on surveys and biological evaluations already completed, a formal field evaluation of SNA's land is not warranted unless other outbreak indicators are documented.

Therefore, regarding question 3.: based on past detection surveys, spruce bark beetle impact on southside Kachemak Bay within Kachemak Bay State Park historically is low. Low spruce bark beetle impact is predicted, for the next 2-3 years, based on past survey data for this area. Major site disturbance such as unseasonable climatic trends could alter this prediction. Ongoing sampling will document beetle activity in live timber.

Absent logging, it is unlikely significant spruce beetle populations will occur on SNA/TTC land during the next 2-5 years. Localized infestations (1-20 trees) will likely occur. This observation is based solely on review of historical weather patterns and aerial detection surveys. Until a systematic biological evaluation is performed in this area it is only conjecture to say the local beetle population is decreasing, increasing or at static levels.

A coordinated Federal and state initial spruce beetle sampling

study could occur on SNA's acreage. This may be coordinated with legislative review of the proposed SNA/TTC land and timber purchase legislation. Seldovia Native Association, Inc. state park holdings can be added to the annual detection survey schedule given current KBSP spruce bark beetle interest shown by DLWM. (USFS generally calls for aerial survey service requests in February-April each year; survey generally starts after July 4th). The division will inform DLWM and DOPOR when details are available from the USFS, S&PF.

Bob Dick

12/28/90

Malcolm R. "Bob" Dick, Director

Roger E. Burnside

by Roger E. Burnside, NRM I
Resource Management Section
Insects and Disease

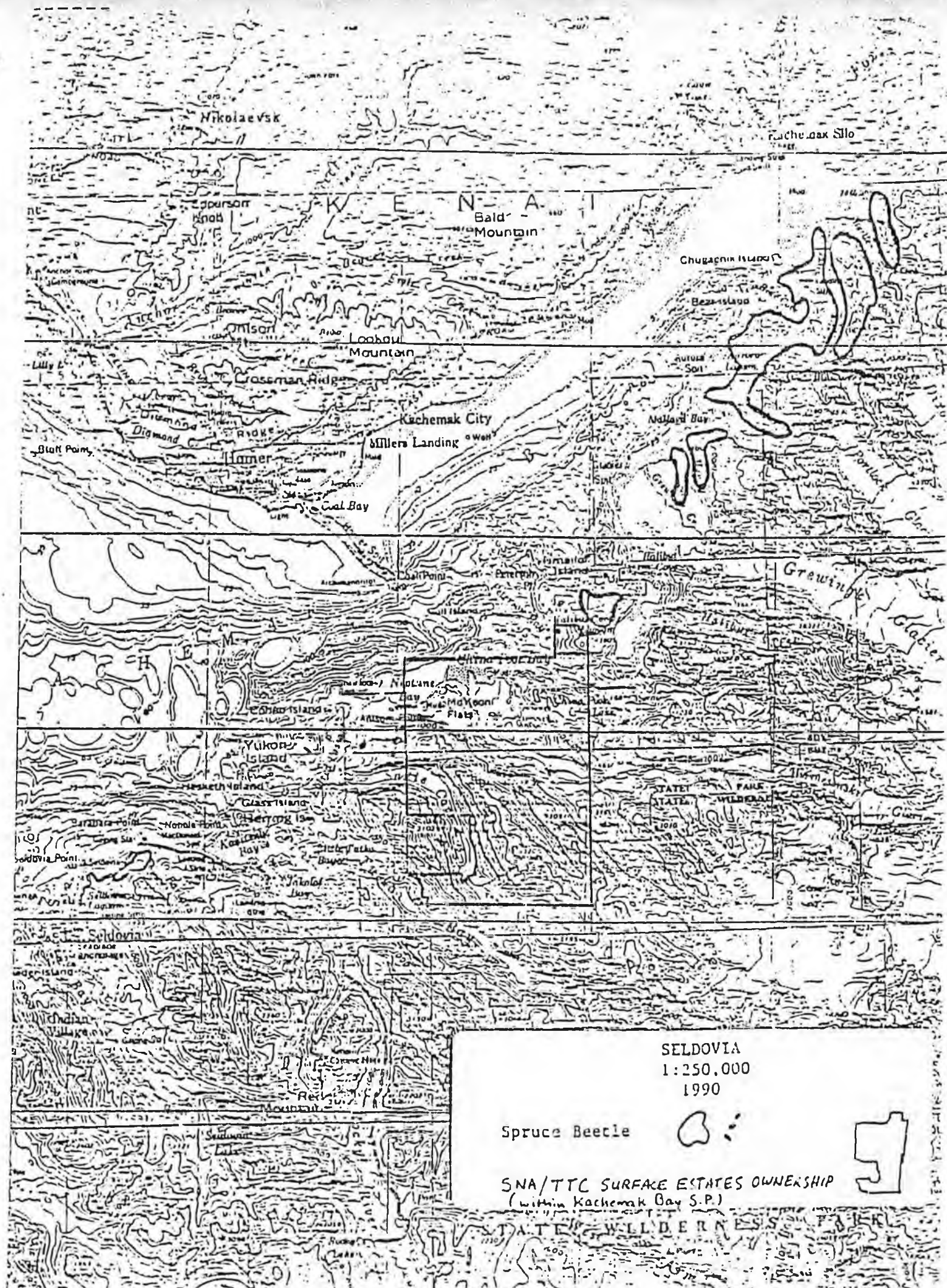
December 19, 1990

References (see page 5)

Attachments(2): map (spruce beetle activity
1985-1990, Kachemak Bay);
map (USFS 1990 aerial detection
survey, Kachemak Bay area)

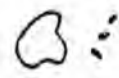
REFERENCES/LITERATURE CITED

- Holsten, E.H. 1990. Spruce Beetle Activity in Alaska: 1920- 1989. Technical Report R10-90-18. Forest Pest Management, State and Private Forestry, Region 10, Alaska. 28p.
- Holsten, F.H. and R.A. Werner. 1990. Comparison of white, Sitka, and Lutz spruce as hosts of the spruce beetle in Alaska. Can. J. For. Res. (in press).
- Holsten, E.H. and K. Zogas. 1987. Spruce Beetle: Mallard Bay. Biological Evaluation R10-87-6. Forest Pest Management, State and Private Forestry, USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region. 9p.
- USDA Forest Service. 1989. Forest Insect and Disease Conditions in Alaska - 1989. Forest Pest Management Report R10-89-C-1. Forest Pest Management, State and Private Forestry, Alaska Region, Juneau, Alaska. 20p.
- _____. 1985. Forest Insect and Disease Conditions in Alaska, 1985. Forest Pest Management, State and Private Forestry, Region 10, Anchorage, Alaska. 28p.
- Werner, R.A., B.H. Baker, and P.A. Rush. 1977. The Spruce Beetle in White Spruce Forests of Alaska. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report PNW-61. 13p.



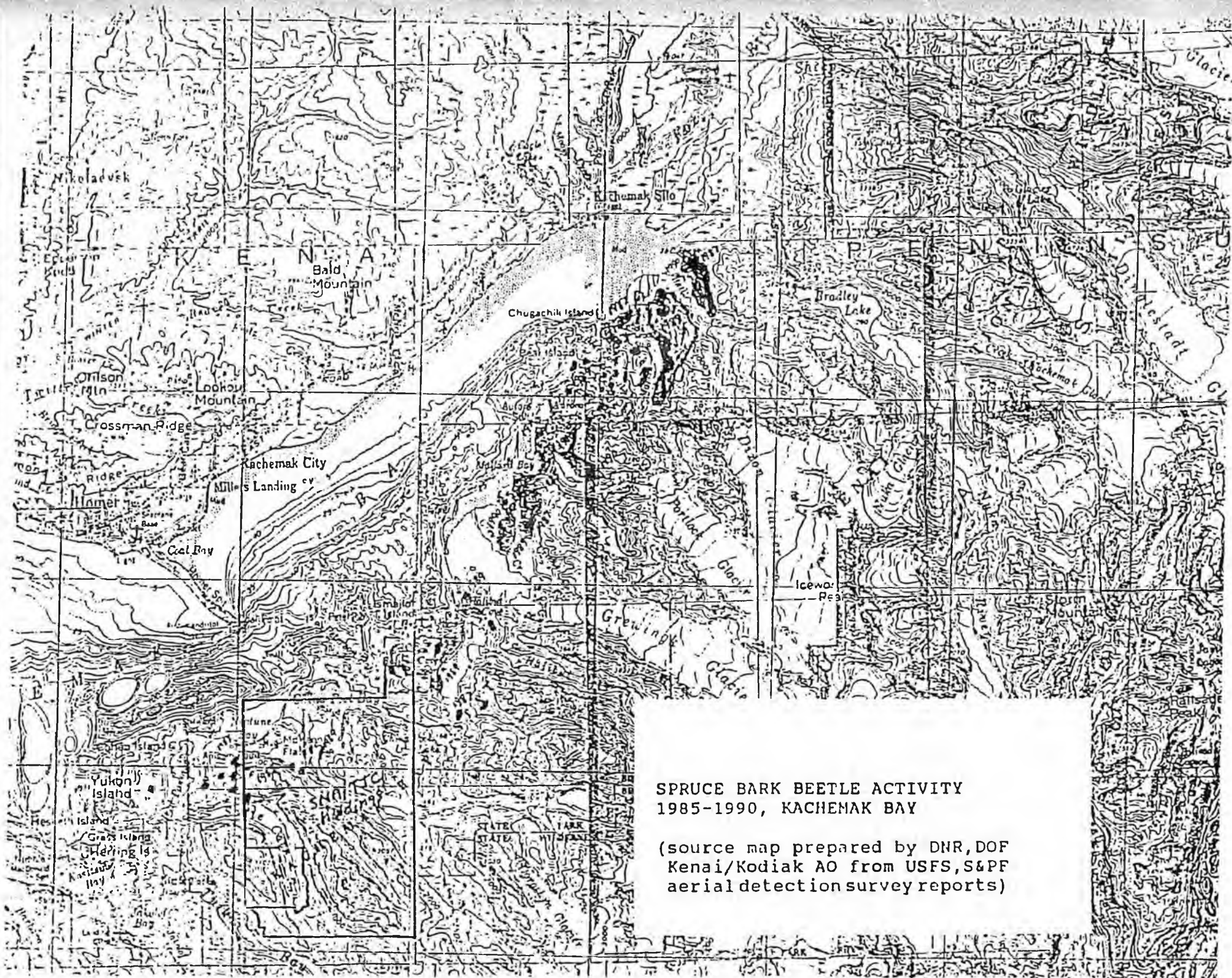
SELDOVIA
 1:250,000
 1990

Spruce Beetle



SNA/TTC SURFACE ESTATES OWNERSHIP
 (within Kachemak Bay S.P.)

STATE WILDERNESS



SPRUCE BARK BEETLE ACTIVITY
1985-1990, KACHEMAK BAY

(source map prepared by DNR,DOF
Kenai/Kodiak AO from USFS,S&PF
aerial detection survey reports)

HOMER

Homer—It's a humble name for a little town that is anything but ordinary. Named for Homer Pennock, a gold miner who established the first development on the Homer Spit in 1896, today's Homer is a thriving community of roughly 4,000 residents, most of whom came to this area for one main reason: It is one of the most beautiful places in the world.

Located near the southern tip of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, Homer is blessed with a view to the south that is stunning in its beauty and grandeur. Across the sparkling waters of Kachemak Bay, the rugged Kenai Mountains spread east, west, and south. Soaring snow-capped peaks overlook massive glaciers crawling toward the sea. Along the coastline, the steep mountain valleys form narrow fjords. The waters within rise and fall with the tides—witnessed at times only by

a bald eagle soaring overhead, or a black bear prowling the shore. The mountains have a thousand moods, depending on the time of day, the sun, the clouds, rain, snow, and wind. Because of this, people who have lived all their lives here still find themselves awestruck when a bend in the road suddenly reveals a glimpse of this panorama.

But what about this side of the bay? Is there anything special about Homer besides the view? Yes—the people who live here. Over the years, Homer has become a mecca for artists, craftspeople, and creative minds of all types. These people have come from all over to find a place where the natural beauty refreshes and inspires them, and where they can share their ideas and talents with others who flourish in this stimulating environment. Consequently, Homer has a wealth of

talent and cultural awareness in the arts— from pottery, weaving, and painting to music, dance, and theatre—typical of a much larger town. This is not to suggest that everyone in Homer is an artist. On the contrary—part of what gives this community its rich texture is the diversity of folk who live here. Fishermen and women abound, along with ranchers and homesteaders, small business owners, guides and outfitters, professionals of all kinds, and kids of all ages. Religious and political views come from left, right, and center. But one thing virtually every visitor to Homer will notice is that the people in this area are warm, enthusiastic, and friendly. The sense that we are all neighbors working to preserve the quality of life here is what holds the community together and provides us with a common identity. Homerites are proud of Homer, and

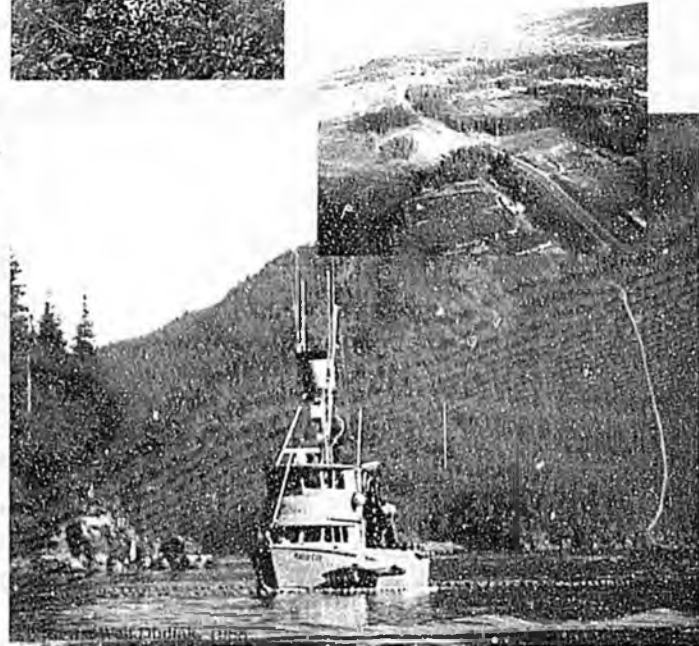
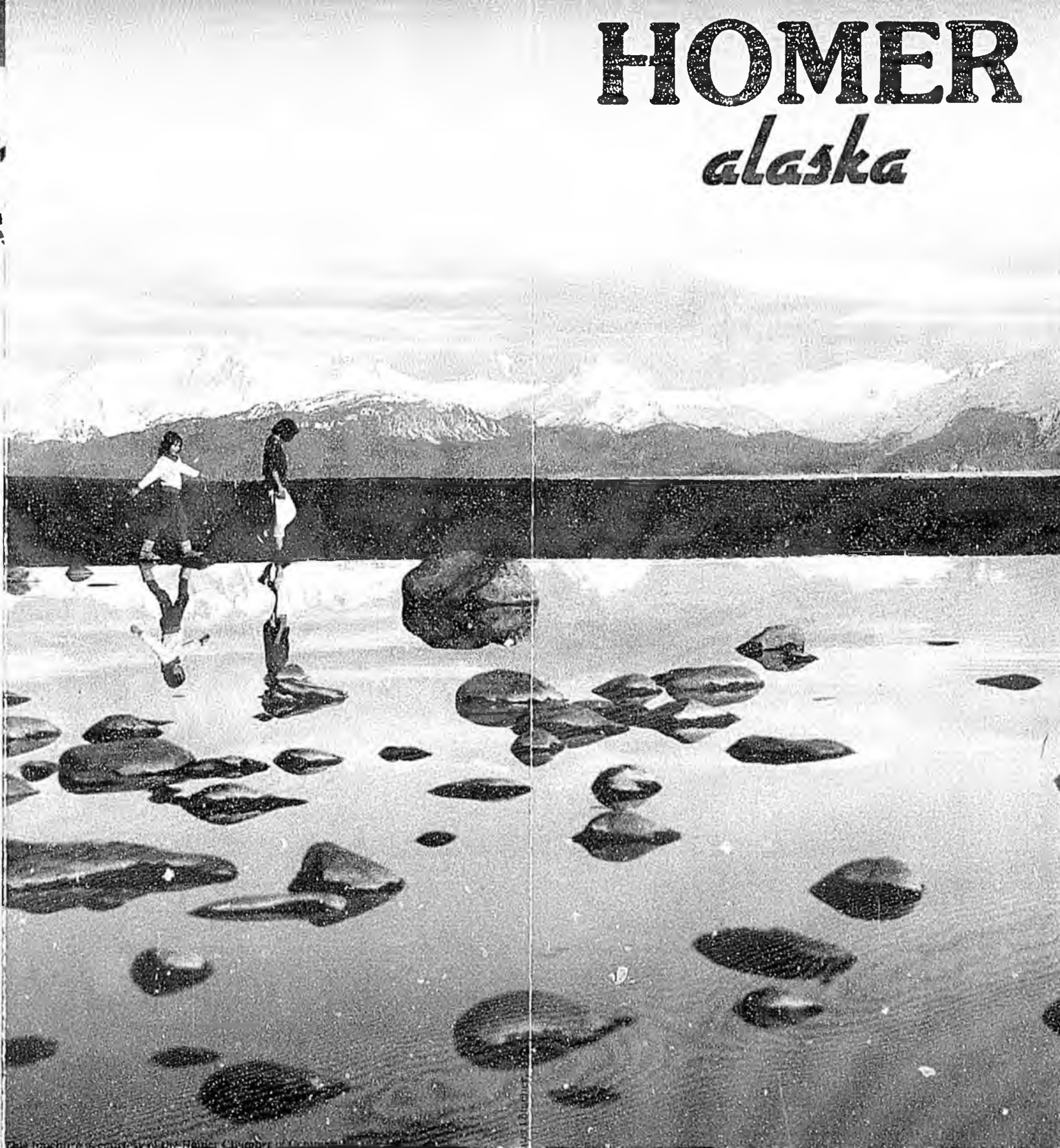
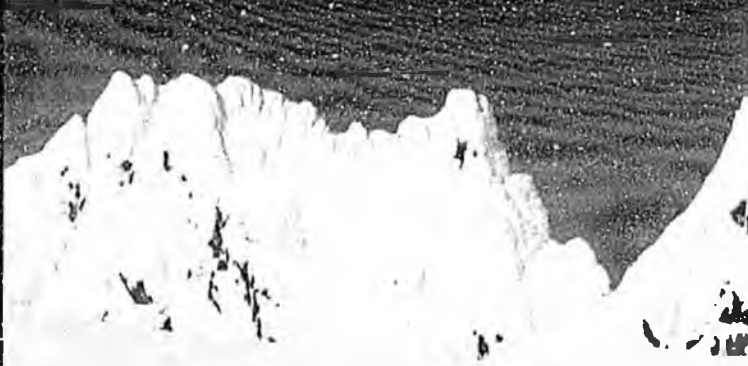
are happy to show visitors from outside the area what a special place this is, whether it's with a tour of the local museums and galleries or a day spent fishing for those world-renowned halibut.

On the high bluffs surrounding Homer, the fireweed bloom in red-violet profusion, catching the light of the setting sun on a late summer's night. A cow moose leads her calf across a grassy field, pausing at the sight of a child on horseback exploring a trail along the ridge. Out on the bay, some fishermen are just returning with their catch of halibut and salmon, as a lone kayaker rounds the tip of the Spit, lured perhaps by a teasing sea otter. This is Homer, the little community of Kachemak Bay which has come to be called the "hamlet by the sea." Come see for yourselves.

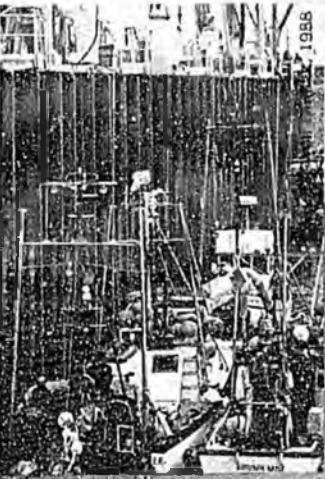


HOMER

alaska



© Janice Schofield, 1988



1988



Alaska State Legislature

Senator Drue Pearce, Chair
Senator Virginia Collins, Vice Chair
Senator Dick Eliason
Senator Rick Halford
Senator Jay Kerttula



WHILE IN JUNEAU
P.O. BOX V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3844

3111 C STREET, SUITE 150
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99504
(907) 561-2018

SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

TO: Senator Lloyd Jones, Chair
Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Senator Drue Pearce, Chair *Drue Pearce*
Senate Labor & Commerce Committee

DATE: April 3, 1991

RE: SB 148 - Kachemak Bay State Park

In spite of taking extensive testimony on the subject legislation, there were a considerable number of individuals who, in the interest of time, waived their chance at offering testimony.

For that reason, I would encourage the Senate Resources Committee to allow for teleconference testimony when hearing this legislation. I have enclosed a copy of those who signed up to testify and were unable to do so when it was being heard in the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee.

Attachment

DP:rrm



Alaska Center for the Environment

519 West 8th Avenue, Suite 201 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501 • (907) 274-3621

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 83/SENATE BILL 148 RELATING TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF SELDOVIA NATIVE ASSOCIATION LAND AND TIMBER TRADING COMPANY TIMBER RIGHTS WITHIN KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK.

WHEREAS, Kachemak Bay State Park was established in 1970 by the Alaska State Legislature in order to protect and preserve these lands and waters for their unique and exceptional scenic nature, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Park legislation was primarily to preserve its outstanding natural features, keeping development to a minimum and only for the purpose of making areas available for public enjoyment in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural values such as camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, riding and related activities with no major modification of the land, forests or water, and

WHEREAS, 29,000 acres of land established as state park by the Alaska State Legislature was awarded to the Seldovia Native Association as a result of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and

WHEREAS, due to past failed negotiations with the State of Alaska, in 1987 Seldovia Native Association sold their timber rights on native owned land within the Park in order to generate revenue with the land, and

WHEREAS, the most recent round of negotiations produced a cash settlement with the State of Alaska at a value of \$15.5 million to acquire the land from SNA and \$4.5 million to acquire timber rights from Timber Trading Company to remove inholdings from within the Park, and

WHEREAS, Alaska Center for the Environment recognizes Kachemak Bay State Park is a park for all Alaskans and merits permanent protection from any unnecessary development within and adjacent to the park boundaries,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT

Alaska Center for the Environment urges the 1991 Alaska State Legislature to appropriate the necessary funds to purchase all inholdings within the legislative boundaries of Kachemak Bay State Park, and therefore return these lands to their highest and best use for the people of Alaska. Be it further resolved that the Governor is urged to support the appropriation of funds in its entirety.

As resolved by the Alaska Center for the Environment Board of Directors
April 11, 1991.



Enclosed are reprints from two recent nationally distributed magazines, EDDIE BAUER CATALOG, and NATIONAL FISHERMAN. Both publications remind their millions of subscribers about the importance of wetlands.

Please add the voices of these important publications to the voices you are hearing from around the state and around the world.

Kachemak Bay is valuable, it is productive, its marine productivity is spectacular. It will not remain so if its wetlands, and the shoreline surrounding its chief estuary, China and the Kachemak Bay State Park, is clearcut logged.

Eddie Bauer asks you to think about WETLANDS, "These Vanishing Treasures" and gives prestigious awards to volunteers working to save them.

National Fisherman features FISHERIES IN CRISIS Loss of fisheries habitat. "It is obvious that important estuaries are disappearing at an alarming rate and any plans to improve fishing must include regaining habitat". Think how much cheaper it is to protect Kachemak Bay by protecting its estuaries, rather than by trying to restore that productivity, once lost.

We would like not only to ask for your yes vote for HB33 but also for your support beyond the vote.

As we approach the next century, it has become clear to everyone on this earth, that we must all live and work in ways which are more environmentally sound. As one of our trusted leaders, we want to help you to make the best decisions. We are confident of your support for the wise investment in Kachemak Bays continued richness.

There will never be enough money to match all the funding requests for any state budget. Everywhere in the world legislators are being called upon to forego other expenses to invest in the environment. It makes very sound dollars and sense to Alaska, to protect Kachemak Bay State Park from clearcut logging, then watch over the years as the system continues to quickly repay that investment. It will continue doing so for many future generations.

Sincerely yours,

Michael, Diane, Shannon and Morgan McBride

National Fisherman

APRIL 1991 • VOLUME 71, NO. 12

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS & FEATURES

20 **Fisheries in crisis**
Making the connection between habitat and poor fishing



FISHERIES IN CRISIS

Our Crisis series continues with a comparison between the loss of fisheries habitat, such as wetlands, and declining fish and shellfish stocks.

Although the connection between the two is not clearcut, it's obvious that important estuaries are disappearing at an alarming rate, and any plans to improve fishing must include regaining habitat.

Making the habitat connection

Call toll-free
1-800-426-8020

You Make The Difference

At Eddie Bauer, we're concerned with the state of the earth. Our associates participate in desk-side recycling and are working to reduce waste by recycling aluminum, plastic and glass.

We also encourage you to recycle all catalogs responsibly. We've launched a pilot program that allows customers to recycle catalogs—ours and others—at our stores in select markets.

In caring for this planet—whether preserving wetlands or recycling our waste—it's the individual effort that makes a difference. This is why we've established "Heroes For The Earth," a program that honors individual efforts to improve and protect the environment.

We rely on you to nominate individuals whose efforts have made a difference in our world. If you know of a person worthy of this honor, send nominations to: *Eddie Bauer Heroes For The Earth*, 14850 N.E. 36th St., Redmond, WA 98052. It will be worth your effort.

Nancy Brown is president of Friends of the Everglades, volunteers who advocate restoration of the natural stream flow in this extraordinary wetland.



Prices in effect through June 30, 1991.

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE

DATE: 2/27/91

FURTHER: Resources
Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: _____
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
INTO OFFICE: _____

L&C Committee considered SB 148

Special appropriations to the Dept. of Natural Resources for the purchase of the inholdings of the Seldovia Native Association, and the timber rights of the Timber Trading Company, within the Kachemak Bay State Park; and recommended:

- replace with _____ CS _____ same title
- attached amendment(s) new title
- _____ letter of intent adopted

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to _____

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

fiscal note(s) Dept/Date _____

zero fiscal note(s) Dept/Date DNR 13-26-91

appropriation-no fiscal note

Governor's bill w/fiscal note

SIGNING DO PASS:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Dick Halford NO REC

John Collier NO REC

[Signature]

Chair: Signature and Recommendation

Operators response attached

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Fish and Game

TO: Martin Maricle
Area Forester
Dept. of Natural Resources
Glennallen

DATE: January 22, 1991

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 267-2284

SUBJECT: Forest Practices
Renewal of
Notification
SC91-19

FROM: ^{SWA} Steven W. Albert
Habitat Biologist
Region II
Habitat Division
Dept. of Fish and Game

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has reviewed the Forest Practices Notification submitted by Whitestone Logging Co. for proposed timber harvest activities north of the Cordova Airport on lands owned by EYAK Corporation. We do not believe that the notification submitted by the operator provided a sufficient amount of information describing their proposed timber harvesting activities. Because the proposed startup date will occur in mid-March, we would have preferred waiting longer to allow submittal of a more complete notification and still allow the operator to begin operations at that time.

A total of 430 acres in 3 sale units located in portions of Sects. 28, 29, and 30, T. 15 S., R. 1 W., C.R.M. are proposed for harvest. These harvest units are located on lands owned by EYAK Corporation and will be clearcut using cable and shovel logging systems. Activities are scheduled to begin during March 15, 1991 and will continue through October 15, 1991.

There are no catalogued anadromous fish streams in the proposed harvest units. However, please be advised that area streams have not been adequately surveyed to determine the distribution of anadromous fish species. We hope to conduct such surveys at the appropriate time later this summer if needed.

Sitka spruce ecosystems in the Cordova area are very productive and support abundant fish and wildlife, biodiversity, and public recreational values. The department believes that these values could be better maintained if wood utilization levels could be increased in units harvested by the operator. Higher utilization rates and the increased removal of debris/slash will increase access and use of the area by wildlife, hasten regeneration of the forest cover and associated browse, and

Should
stop
here -

January 22, 1991

reduce the risk of bark beetle infestation. Presently, the amount of large debris left on the site appears excessive and does not represent responsible forest management with respect to the use of this area by public resources such as wildlife and fish. We recommend the operator submit a detailed debris/slash management plan to describe what will be done to reduce debris levels. We believe such a plan needs to be developed as soon as possible before beginning new operations to reduce the risk of spruce bark beetle infestations.

As you may already know, the spruce bark beetle can attack all species of Picea in North America. Downed material such as fresh windthrown trees, cull logs, and logging debris/slash are highly productive breeding sites for beetles. Evidence indicating bark beetle infestations of Sitka spruce trees is available from the Blackstone Bay, Yakutat Forelands, Glacier Bay, and Kachemak Bay areas. We recommend that spruce debris exceeding 5-inch diameter should be properly handled before beetle emergence. Proper handling includes increased utilization rates, burning, burying, physical removal, or some combination of these methods.

Additionally, we recommend that the operator consider incorporating the following forest management practices in the silvicultural prescription (sale layout, harvest, and post-harvest activities) for these clearcut units that would benefit fish and wildlife resources:

1. Timber harvesting should be avoided on steep slopes or V-notches adjoining any fish streams.
2. Where feasible, soft snags should be left standing in the clearcut areas to provide habitat for hole-nesting birds, woodpeckers, raptors, and other species requiring perching habitat. *Against OSHA laws*
3. Irregular edges are preferable to straight edges. They result in a greater ratio of edge distance to area and allow more complete use of clearcut areas by wildlife by providing peninsulas of cover, thereby reducing the mean maximum distance to cover. Irregular shapes are more aesthetic to most people and should be preferable especially in areas easily seen by the public.
4. Travel corridors for wildlife should be maintained either in the form of ungut strips or clumps of trees scattered throughout the cut area.
5. Because many forest-dwelling wildlife species (moose, black bears, et al.) are reluctant to travel far from cover, clearcut openings should be designed so that the maximum

See Whitestone
response attached

January 22, 1991

distance from the forest edge should not exceed 330 feet from the center of the opening, i.e. 660 feet maximum width.

6. The enhancement of habitat diversity should include retaining large cull trees, residual shrub thickets, naturally vegetated areas surrounding lakes and ponds exceeding 5 acres, and any other special value habitats that can be identified.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed sale units and look forward to working with you on this project. Please contact me at 267-2284, if you have any questions regarding our comments or recommendations.

cc: H. Griese, ADF&G
J. Westlund, ADF&G
S. Trickett, DEC
J. Brady, ADF&G
D. Wallingford, DOF

Feb. 5, 1991

Martin Maricle
Area Forester
Dept. of Natural Resources
Box 185
Glennallen, Alaska 99588

Dear Martin,

I have a few comments concerning the memorandum from Steve Albert about our recent Forest Practices Notification.

Paragraph four suggests Whitestone is not properly utilizing the wood. The fact is that Whitestone is taking more of the wood in this area than any other logging area known to me in Alaska. We have been taking tops down to a four inch diameter which is two inches smaller than State or Forest Service standards.

All of our logging methods to date have been to bring the trees full length to the road before limbing or bucking them. This results in much less debris left on the ground than the normal practice of limbing and bucking in the woods. This also provides the local population with an easily accessible source of firewood which is made available by Eyak when the logging is finished. These concentrated piles also make it possible for spot burning if the landowner should so desire. However the DEC may have some objection to slash burning. Also slash burning has never been the practice in Alaska coastal areas. Sherstone Inc. is the timber owner and has voluntarily left buffer zones along the Sheridan River and other water bodies and plans to continue this practice beyond any requirement of the State Forest Practices Act. An example is a wide buffer zone left around Cabin Lake and the nearby campground. Some 30 to 40 thousand board feet of commercial timber was left here purely to enhance public use and enjoyment.

The suggestion that Whitestone submit a debris/slash management plan appears to be another attempt by Fish and Game to expand into areas not specified by the new Forest Practices Act. There is nothing in the act to suggest such a requirement. The comment that debris piles left on the ground, not in streams or lakes, may have an effect on fish populations is ridiculous unless we are expecting a migration of the walking catfish from Florida.

The concern with bark beetle infestations is misplaced. The areas presently infected are standing timber and these beetles did not start from slash. There has been no logging

anywhere near the infestation at Glacier Bay. The huge beetle infestation on the Kenai started in windfalls.

The most effective and proven method of beetle control is aerial spraying with the appropriate pesticides. The next most effective would be a state policy of immediately logging new windthrow areas if they are accessible. Since this would be a beetle control effort, not a commercial enterprise, controlled slash burning could also be used.

The areas laid out in Whitestone's current F.P.A. notification and nearly all of the remaining timber to be logged by Whitestone have little risk of contributing to bark beetle proliferation for two reasons. One, the timber is 80% or more hemlock and two, it is growing on higher elevations and is a mixed stand. U.S.D.A. Alaska Region, Report No.181 "Insects and Diseases of Alaskan Forests" states "the susceptibility of standing spruce decreases in the following order: (1) Large diameter trees along creek bottoms, (2) better stands on benches, (3) poorer stands on ridges and benches, (4) mixtures of spruce and other species, and (5) stands of immature trees." If this study is accepted as fact, then the new requirement for buffer strips, which run heavily to large old growth spruce, along fish streams may be a contributor to spruce beetle proliferation.

Further comments concern recommendations 1 through 6.

1. How steep is too steep? Is this a subjective judgement or is there some guideline to follow? Vague recommendations such as this lead to confusion and debate and have little practical application. Most v-notches in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska occur on slopes too steep to sustain any fish populations. Experience in Southeast Alaska shows that timber left as buffers to v-notches will almost invariably blow down and choke any water course in the v-notch. A good logging practice is to log both ways away from the v-notch and avoid logging straight up or down it.
2. This recommendation is in direct conflict with Federal and State OSHA safety regulations. We are required to cut all snags in clearcut areas.
3. Most timber stands by their nature will grow in irregular patterns. However I question the reference to aesthetic values. This is definitely a subjective area and one man's art is another man's garbage. What study can be referenced to show that irregular shapes are preferable to the majority? The vast croplands of the American heartland are beautiful to my eye in their regularity and symmetry. Does Fish and Game suggest these fields be broken up and made irregular to become more aesthetic or is this idea only applicable to private timber stands in Alaska.

4. Observation will show this is already being done voluntarily.
5. This is another example of attempted rule making, after the fact, by the Fish and Game. As mentioned above, travel corridors are already being left but I question the validity of the comment that "(moose, black bears, et al) are reluctant to travel far from cover" especially as it applies to moose. I recently traveled by helicopter from Cordova to Icy Bay and counted more than fifty moose feeding and bedded down in the Copper River, Bering River, and other areas, miles from any cover higher than four foot willows. I have seen Brown bears crossing high ridges in the snow with no cover for miles. I have also seen bears fishing 200 yards from shore when the tide was out, along the Alaska Peninsula, west of Afognak Island. Any wild game will respond to hunting pressure by holding to cover but, when hunting pressure is removed, game will show no reluctance to live and feed in the open. An example is the large herds of Mule deer and Elk which can be observed near Delta, Colorado in late fall. Moose are commonly seen in residential areas of Anchorage in the winter.

What study supports the recommended 660 foot maximum clearcut width? Is this another shot in the dark by Fish and Game? Without support, this is another vague idea with little if any merit and suggests a Fish and Game bias against timber cutting which seeks to limit harvest by any means.

6. Habitat enhancement is not and should not be a primary goal of private, commercial timber owners.

I believe the recommendations by Mr. Albert have little merit and reveal little understanding of our operations. I know from personal observation over the last 24 years that many of the ideas advanced do not fit the facts. For the record I could not let Mr. Albert's recommendations go unchallenged.

Unreasonable efforts by any State or Federal agency to encroach on or limit the right or ability of private timber owners to develop their resource should be resisted by every means available.

Sincerely,

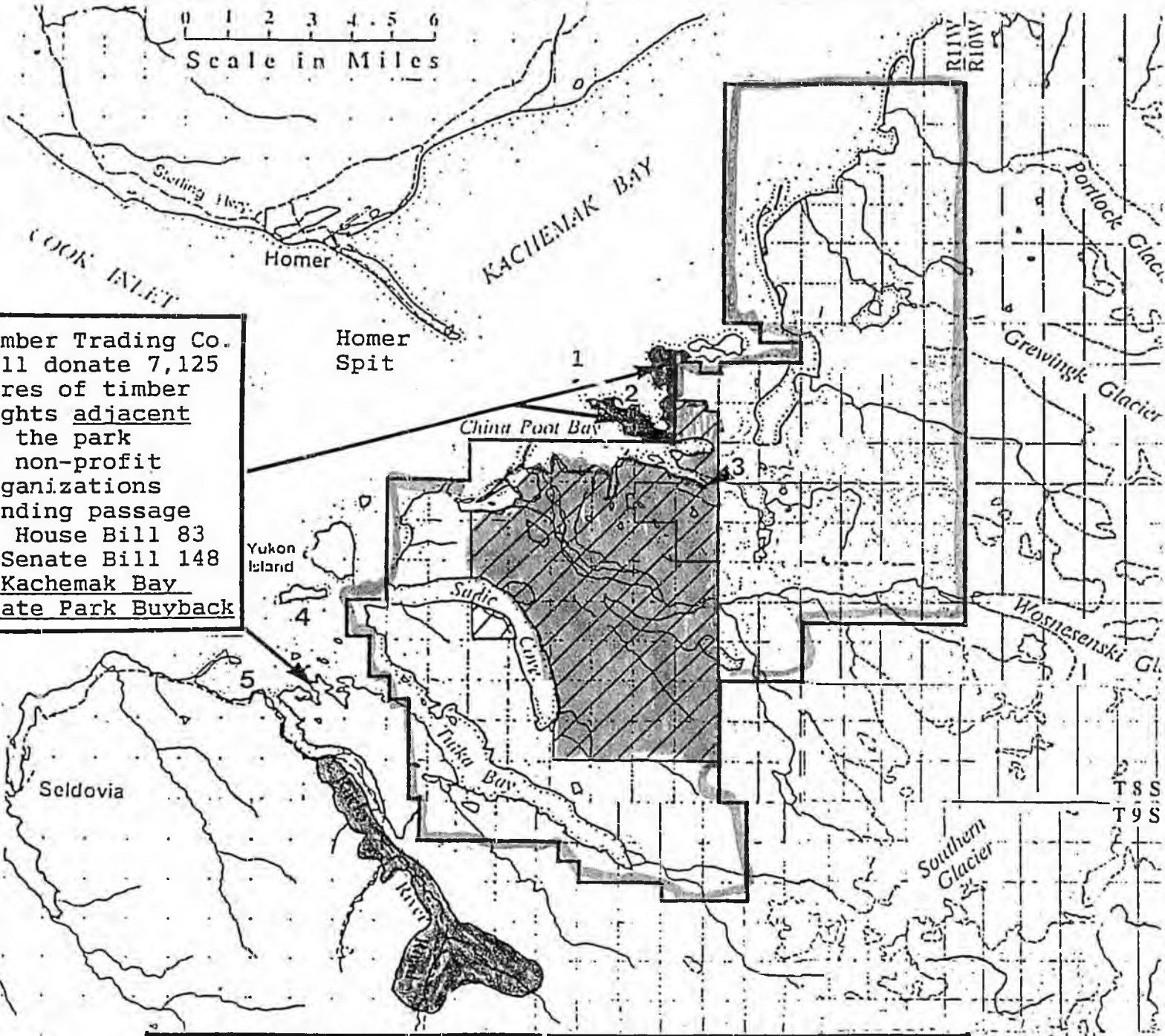


Edward Stewart




HOUSE BILL 83 AND SENATE BILL 148:

LAND AND TIMBER PURCHASE

INSIDE KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK



Timber Trading Co. will donate 7,125 acres of timber rights adjacent to the park to non-profit organizations pending passage of House Bill 83 & Senate Bill 148 Kachemak Bay State Park Buyback

-  Kachemak Bay State Park
-  Seldovia Native Assoc. inholdings
-  Timber Trading Co. timber rights outside the Park

- 1-Gull Is. seabird rookery
- 2-Center for Ak. Coastal Studies facility
- 3-ADFG personal use dipnet fishery
- 4-sea otter habitat
- 5-Univ. Ak. Fairbanks marine station

Timber Trading Company

For Immediate Release
March 20, 1991

Timber Trading Company
AGREES TO GIFT 7.125 ACRES
OF TIMBER RIGHTS

In 1988, Timber Trading Company (TTC) was approached by The Kachemak Heritage Land Trust (KHLT) concerning timber rights held by TTC outside Kachemak Bay State Park boundaries that would remain unresolved by State Park Buyback legislation. In 1990, KHLT was joined by The Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies (CACs) in their efforts.

After two years of negotiations, TTC has agreed, through Conservation Agreements, to gift 7,125 acres of timber rights to KHLT and CACS pending passage of House Bill 83 and Senate Bill 148.

"We believe that open communication is an effective way to solve environmental issues," says John L. Sturgeon, President of Timber Trading Company. "Cooperative efforts, when attempting to solve difficult issues, offer the best possible ways to reach a solution all parties can agree with."

Main Office: 3501 Denali, Suite 202
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 562-3335
FAX (907) 562-0599

Marketing Div.: Transpacific Trade Center, Suite 418
3700 Pacific Highway East
Tacoma, Washington 98424
(206) 922-5510 FAX (206) 922-3044

Logging concessions hinge on park buyback

by Liz Ruskin
Staff Writer

If the Legislature agrees to pay \$20 million to buy back privately held land and timber in Kachemak Bay State Park, the timber owner will sweeten the deal by giving up its rights to timber on 7,000 acres outside the park boundary, according to an agreement signed recently by the logging company and two local conservation groups.

Under the agreement, Timber Trading Co. agreed to give timber it owns along Rocky River and Peterson and Jakolof bays to the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, said land trust president Jan Schofield. Timber Trading has also agreed to give the timber on Island Peninsula to the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies if the park buyback passes the Legislature, she said.

In another conservation agreement, the Seldovia Native Association agreed to sell the coastal studies center the land on Island Peninsula, where the center is located. A price has not been reached, Schofield said, and this agreement also hinges on legislative approval of the park buyback.

If the Legislature fails to pass the bill, though, Timber Trading will proceed with plans to log the area, said John Sturgeon, president of the logging company. Timber Trading is applying for the necessary permits, he said, and logging could begin as early as this summer.

The Native corporation and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources have been negotiating for more than a decade an agreement to restore to the park the 24,000 acres the association owns. The negotiations became more complicated in 1987, when Seldovia sold timber — some of it inside the park and some of it outside — to Timber Trading. The parties at the negotiating table eventually agreed on a price of \$15.5 million for the land and \$4.5 million for the timber. The Legislature balked at the price tag and the appropriation failed last

Some of the most visible of Timber Trading's holdings on the south side of Kachemak Bay, however, are outside of the park boundaries, so a buyback bill alone would not have saved them.

Island Peninsula in particular has been a sensitive spot. Home of the Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge as well as the coastal studies center, it lies directly across the bay from the Homer Spit.

The land trust formed two years ago to try to prevent logging in the valuable ecological areas that lie outside the park, Schofield said.

Whether the new incentive will have much effect on the legislature is uncertain.

"The people on the House side that I spoke to were fairly supportive of the idea but had concerns about where the money might come from," said Mary Pearsall of the Kachemak Bay Citizens Coalition, who recently returned from a lobbying mission to Juneau. Legislators are particularly wary of spending General Fund money on the plan, she said.

A proposal by Rep. Mike Navarre, D-Kenai, to use money left over from the Bradley Lake Dam construction is still a possibility, she said, though some railbelt legislators say that money should be reserved for energy projects.

A postcard campaign sponsored by the coalition, the land trust and coastal studies center has at least made legislators aware of the issue, Pearsall said.

Last month, the groups sent 4,000 packets of information, pre-printed postcards and donation slips to people around the state and around the country. So far, Schofield said, the mailing has brought in \$4,500 to the Save-the-Park fund.

"We're getting a 5 percent return," she said. A 1.5 percent return is considered good for direct mail fundraisers, she said.

Though Gov. Walter Hickel has not included the \$20 million park bill in his proposed budget, he recently announced his support of the buyback.

GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT RALLIES SUPPORT FOR STATE PARK BUYBACK

The Kachemak Bay Park Buyback has mobilized citizens both state and nationwide. Grassroots activities of the past two years include:

- *weekly Coalition meetings on the State Park buyback

- *KBCC and KHLT participation in Department of Natural Resources negotiations with SNA and TTC

- *conservation agreement meetings between SNA, TTC, KHLT, CACS, KBCC, and the Nature Conservancy regarding protection of park adjacent lands

- *meeting with TTC Board of Directors regarding transfer of timber rights outside State Park Boundaries to KHLT

- *fundraising- Over \$55,000 has been raised by concerned citizens (since fall 1988) in support of the Kachemak Bay State Park Buyback:

 - KBCC has raised over \$30,000 -- funding mailings and petition drives, as well as lobbyist Mary Pearsall.

 - KHLT received \$4000 in grants for the State Park education campaign.

The Save-the Park campaign (sponsored by KBCC, CACS, and KHLT) features direct mail of educational packets, and promotion of a Save-the-Park fund for sponsoring ads and continued mailings. In the past month, over \$4500 has been raised from state, national, and international donations.

Additional donations to the project include pledges of permanent fund checks and gifts, totalling over \$17,000.

- *press coverage includes statewide newspapers, television, Alaska Geographic, and Wall Street Journal

- *networking with Kachemak Bay State Park Advisory Board and statewide organizations

- *resolutions by local government and statewide associations

- *petition drives supporting the State Park Buyback, garnering over 2000 signature state and nationwide

KBCC: Kachemak Bay Citizens Coalition KHLT: Kachemak Heritage Land Trust
CACS: Center For Alaskan Coastal Studies SNA: Seldovia Native Association
TTC: Timber Trading Co. subsidiary of Weyerhaeuser Forest Products

Land trust may solve trade woes

by Joel Gay
Managing Editor

The complicated three-way Kachemak Bay State Park land trade has just gotten an additional player, but one that may add a measure of stability to the negotiations.

A group of local residents is forming a Kachemak Bay land trust that would, with the help of national organizations and local donors, purchase land or timber rights or make long-term leases outside the park's boundaries.

Janice Schofield, who stumbled onto the See "Land," Back Page

... Land trust idea seen as trade aid

Cont. from Page 1

land trust idea through her work with the Kachemak Bay Citizens Coalition, said she will meet next week with the three main trading partners and hopes to make them an offer they can't refuse.

The land trade was complicated enough when it included just the state and Seldovia Native Association. The state has agreed to give Seldovia state assets worth no more and no less than the association's 23,000 acres within Kachemak Bay State Park. The state thinks it's possible, and last Friday Seldovia's board of directors approved continued negotiations.

The deal starts getting tangled when Koncor Forest Products comes in. They have purchased the right to cut 125 million board-feet of lumber out of Seldovia's holdings in China Poot Bay and other nearby lands.

So not only does the state have to trade Seldovia for the raw land, it must trade Koncor for the timber rights.

What makes the trade difficult, according to all sides, is that not all of Koncor's timber is within the park boundaries. The state does not want to trade for trees outside the park, while Koncor has said their timber holdings are worth less if the good trees in China Poot Bay are removed from their original purchase package.

Seldovia's board last Friday said their number one concern is that the state and

Koncor work out their differences.

Enter Ms. Schofield and the land trust. If a private, non-profit group could purchase those timber holdings outside the park, it would free everyone up for the important work — trading the park lands.

"Koncor sees it as a wonderful possibility," Ms. Schofield said. "They're excited about participating in it."

She said the land trust's articles of incorporation are already being drafted, and she has talked to several national organizations about ways to fund such a deal.

Although she would not divulge details, Ms. Schofield said a key element is the idea of "bridge funding" — in which a national organization might loan the local trust enough money to purchase the timber rights and expect to be paid off within a few years.

The larger organizations might also help the Kachemak Bay group find grants and fund-raisers, she said.

Selling its lands to a non-profit such as the land trust could also give Seldovia and Koncor excellent tax benefits, she said.

However, the Seldovia trade would not be the land trust's sole function, Ms. Schofield said. "This is only the first of any number of projects," she said. It could acquire greenbelt areas around Homer and address other land issues that have high environmental value but no agency or entity to

The land trust is "the brightest ray of sunshine I've seen in this whole trade deal."

Fred Elvsaa

protect them.

Charlie Nash, general manager of Koncor's Timber Trading Co., said he is optimistic about the formation of a land trust and its participation in the trade process.

"We think it's a good idea. We don't know much about it, but to the extent it might provide another vehicle to compensate us for our timber and move the trade along, we think it's worthwhile exercise at this point. We'll help them all we can."

Mr. Elvsaa called the idea "the brightest ray of sunshine I've seen in this whole trade deal."

There are numerous details yet to be worked out, he said, and so he will withhold his full approval until then. But the basic idea is good, he said.

"The concept sounds real good to me. I think it may alleviate some of the problems the state has with trading for land outside the park."



Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies

P.O. Box 2225 Homer, Alaska 99603 907/235-6667

The goal of the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, a non-profit organization, is to increase knowledge and understanding of the coastal and marine environments of Alaska by providing educational programs and encouraging research. Supported by approximately 500 paid memberships and numerous volunteers, the Center now delivers educational programs to approximately 1600 students and visitors every year.

The nucleus of the Center's programs is a marine field station on what is called locally the "Island Peninsula," a point of land between Peterson Bay and China Poot Bay, on the south side of Kachemak Bay. Covering this peninsula is a sub-arctic rain forest which is nearly surrounded by rich intertidal areas.

Approximately one half of those served by the Center's programs are children, grades one through twelve, locally and from as far as 500 miles away. In the spring and fall, school groups visit the field station accompanied by trained volunteer naturalists. During the summer months, visitors from all over Alaska, the rest of the United States and other countries visit the Center under the guidance of volunteer naturalist/guide teams.

The forest of the Island Peninsula, explored by hundreds of Alaskan school children every year, along with inholdings within Kachemak Bay State Park, is slated for clear-cutting if the Park buy-back (House Bill 83) does not pass. Within site and sound of the richest intertidal study pools will be a log transfer station.

However, if House Bill 83 succeeds, the timber owner (Timber Trading Company) has agreed to give the timber on the Island Peninsula to the Center, and the owner of the land (Seldovia Native Association) has agreed to sell it to the Center. Thus, in addition to restoring the private inholdings in Kachemak Bay State Park to the public in perpetuity, passage of House Bill 83 will enable the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies to continue to provide its award-winning educational programs to the children of Alaska and other students of nature, while protecting the unique and beautiful Island Peninsula for the study and enjoyment of future generations.

CENTER FOR ALASKAN COASTAL STUDIES

WINTER 1991

Vol. IX No. 1



Visitors to the Center check out the new 'Rainbow Connection' which is now under contract for the 1991 season.

Photo by R. W. Tyler

Board Signs Land Purchase Agreement with SNA

A major item of Center news, one which has caused the later-than-hoped release of this newsletter, concerns the on-going efforts to stave off the timber harvest across the bay from Homer through purchase by the state of 24,000 acres originally part of Kachemak Bay State Park. Efforts are now underway involving the Kache-

See Land Agreement, page 2

Coastline Poem

*Driftwood, stirred together
lengthens and transforms,
to become a twisting, curling ribbon,
running far down the horizon
where foamy crests
roll and swell upon the shore,
adorning the sea like a necklace
of gleaming pearls.*

*Rocks,
little round elephants
of every size,
peaceful, gray Buddhas,
meditating, half-buried
in the warm sand
and the beach-birth.*

*Something urges,
tugs at my feet,
tugs at my mind,
compelling them both
to wander where ever they may choose,
through the tide-lines,
along the beach's rocky spine,
near to the forgetful waves
that sweep away my footprints,
cleansing, nature's own baptism.*

*The sand is accepting, yielding,
and amused at my pausings,
to contemplate the beauty
of a lone sea shell,
glossy and warm as lantern-light
and astray from
its ever changing pastures.*



By Morgan McBride, Age 15
Born and raised on Kachemak Bay, Alaska

Our office Has Moved!

We are in the upstairs corner of the Bay Realty Building at 331 East Pioneer Avenue in the middle of Homer. Our phone number and postal box remain the same.

Land Purchase Agreement with SNA . . .

Continued from Page 1

mak Bay Citizen's Coalition, Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, and ourselves.

For our part, the Center board of directors under the capable and untiring leadership of president Steve Yoshida, has gone through long and involved negotiations with the Seldovia Native Association to gain legal right to purchase the remaining SNA land holdings on the so-called Island Peninsula, location of the Center building.

This area of some 275 acres already contains the bulk of our educational trail system, a nearly pristine segment of one of this continent's most northerly coastal rain forests. It was never included in the Park because of its many private cabins sites, mostly on the Peterson Bay shore. After months of special meetings, personal contacts, fax to fax encounters, offers and counter offers, the Board of Directors and the head of the SNA, Fred Elvaas, have finally signed an agreement satisfactory to both parties. Now CACS has a contract to purchase the Island Peninsula!

This is a major commitment for our small organization and will mean several years of major grant writing and fund raising. It is, however, first and foremost contingent upon a favorable settlement of the park lands issue by the state. Therefore, CACS is more than ever committed to a strong lobbying effort and publicity campaign to bring about the Park restoration through the appropriation of \$20 million by the 1991 legislature. We feel strongly the need to protect the shores of Kachemak Bay as they are a legacy that we of this generation must leave to our descendants. We will be soliciting your help!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

March 13 - April 17, 1991

SPRING INTENSIVE VOLUNTEER TRAINING

April 12 - 14, 1991

FIRST WEEKEND TRAINING SESSION

at Center in Peterson Bay

April 27, 1991

COASTWALK KICKOFF DINNER

April 27 - May 5, 1991

COASTWALK

May 24 - 27, 1991

SECOND WEEKEND TRAINING SESSION

at Center in Peterson Bay



Photo by Mike McBride

Last fall Daisy Lee Bitter was filmed for an episode of "Jay Hammond's Alaska". At her insistence, the bulk of the segment was filmed over and around the beaches at the Center.

"Eight Stars of Gold" for Daisy

In November we learned that Daisy Lee Bitter had again been honored when it was announced that she had been chosen to receive Governor Cowper's "Eight Stars of Gold" award. The award was created to single out eight exemplary Alaskans who have contributed to the state in non-political ways.

Being very familiar with her many faceted work for the Center, we were hardly surprised by the choice except that among the primary attributes ascribed to the selectees were "improvement of health, safety, resource stewardship or the economy, or help (to) foster a better understanding of Alaska and Alaskans."

'Health and safety'? Daisy Lee is a regular volunteer at the long term care unit at South Peninsula Hospital and has given talks and counseling on diabetes, as she is an insulin-dependent diabetic herself.

'The economy'? Daisy and Connie for years have been regular feeders of the soon-to-be-released fingerlings out at Homer's popular Fighting Lagoon on the spit.

'Understanding'? She has been an officer in Pioneers of Alaska, judged science fairs, made presentations to museums, and received the state award in Human Rights for her efforts to help native peoples.

Daisy is doing it all- and we love her for it and applaud this latest recognition of her unique contributions! Thank you Daisy Lee.

FALL 1990 CALENDAR

September 7, 1990

Garage sale, nets over \$750 in spite of torrential rain

September 15, 1990

Annual Volunteer Potluck at Barb Hill's

September 20, 1990

Elderhostel group visits center in rain

September 22, 1990

Fund-raising adventure trip to the Barren Islands. Made it to Dog Fish Bay from which the Barrens were visible through the clouds and squalls. We enjoyed the sheltered waters of Sadie Cove on the return trip. \$830 was raised

October 1 - 14, 1990

Archaeological sites survey, including Island Peninsula, by Janet Klein and Karen Workman

October 6, 1990

Formal Dinner and Fashion Show fundraiser brought in another \$700. Many thanks Donna and Kevin at Fresh Sourdough Express Bakery and to all the volunteers who served, modeled, or organized this professionally produced show, including Corrine Jones who was the narrator. It was extraordinary.



Photo by David Flower

Jostie Bills and Barbara Hill d'ish up tasty gumbo at October's 'Taste of Homer'. Patrons were able to buy one of our mugs and get it filled for free, such a deal!

October 18 - 20, 1990

One of the last school groups to the Center; marine biology students from Dimond High

October 20, 1990

CACS again has a booth at 'Taste of Homer'

October 21, 1990

Annual membership meetings and volunteer appreciation potluck with Craig Matkin speaking on the killer whales of Prince William Sound. Volunteer of the year was Marie Doyle, with honorable mention to Joe Lawlor and Mike Klemann. Congratulations!

November

Second annual Night on the Tide Pools, a well timed minus tide draws a large crowd of interested Homer families out onto the dark sands

November 3, 1990

Work party and wood cutting sortie closes up the Center for the winter and stores our platform over on the gravel flats

November 17, 1990

Christmas Bazaar booth kicks off sale of raffle tickets for Alaska Airlines round trip tickets for two to Seattle. Drawing will be February 8th at the CACS Monte Carlo Night which will kick-off the 1991 Winter Carnival



Volunteers at the potluck at Barb Hill's enjoy the September sun. Left to right: Chaz Ingham, Kathy Herrnsteen, Bill Kitzmiller, Christa Collier, Jostie Bills, Delores Butler, and John Ireland.

Archaeological Survey

By Janet R. Klein

The Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies housed participants in an Archaeological Sites survey for two weeks in October. Sponsored by the Pratt Museum of Homer, the survey was conducted by Janet Klein, Curator of Collections, and Karen Workman, Anchorage archaeologist. The facility provided not only comfortable housing but the opportunity to spend two full weeks devoted solely to field research. Researchers systematically surveyed much of Peterson and China Poot Bays.

Much remains unknown about human use and settlement in Kachemak Bay. Setting the Bay apart from the rest of Alaska is the fact that more recent periods are less well known archaeologically. The last 1500 or 1000 years are very poorly represented in the present archaeological record. Also, earlier occupation of the bay was just documented in 1989 and may extend the occupation back five or six thousand years.

The settlement of Kachemak Bay has occurred and continues to occur, primarily along the coast. In light of increasing recreational use of these lands, increased cabin construction, proposed clearcut logging, concern about future oil spills, and natural erosion and land subsidence, the survey was timely. All signs of human settlement and use were documented, whether prehistoric or historic. Much of the time, neither a cultural affinity nor an age could be assigned to a feature.

Because the sites were on private property, permission to survey was obtained in advance of the field work. A listing of some of the features identified and documented includes:

house pits	rock shelters
midden outcrops	tree throws
historic cabins	fox farms
CMTs (culturally modified trees)	

Several visiting school groups from Anchorage were able to meet with Janet and Karen and discuss the diverse resources of the area and their use by prehistoric and historic cultures.

Give Something Back to the Bay

by Steve K. Yoshida
President

Kachemak Bay is a source of constant wonder. The waters team with life. The beauty of the mountains, oceans and wildlife inspires and refreshes my soul. It is more than just enjoying the scenery or tasting the riches from the sea. There is a spiritual or mystical side to my feelings about the Bay.

Professor Joseph Cambell has written about how early cultures expressed this type of feeling. Many engaged in rituals before killing or eating an animal. These rituals elevated an otherwise mundane event into a spiritual one. The ritual was communication with the "almighty one" or the spiritual force that supplied the animal for human needs. The ritual expressed gratitude for the hunter's good fortune and hope that the spiritual force would continue to bless.

I feel the same need to express my gratitude for the joy that I get from the Bay. Nothing in our present day culture will give me the satisfaction that the rituals gave the early peoples. But there is something that gives me a great deal of satisfaction: I contribute my time and money to the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies. Doing so is my way of giving something back to the Bay that gives me such joy.

The Center is dedicated to educating the public about the wildlife and natural history of the Bay. To the extent that my efforts contribute to the understanding and respect of the Bay, I satisfy my spiritual need to thank the provider of my good fortune. This same feeling must be the motivation behind the countless volunteers and the tireless dedication of the Center staff. Give to the Center, give something back to the Bay.

A REMINDER . . .

When you make your travel reservations, please patronize Homer Travel or Sanctuary Travel in Anchorage. A portion of the proceeds from your ticket sale will be donated to the Center if you request it. Be sure to let them know. Thanks!

Homer Travel 235-7751 Sanctuary Travel 561-1212 or 1-800-247-3149

Center Receives Land for Nature Center

By Daisy Lee Blitter

(Part one of a two part series)

The dream of an educational center on the Homer side of Kachemak Bay is going to be realized. This fall the Wynn Foundation donated the Northwynn property on Skyline Drive to the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies. This educational facility will be called the Carl E. Wynn Nature Center and will be managed as closely to Carl Wynn's wishes as possible. We appreciate the generosity of the Wynn Foundation and their confidence in us.

The significance and importance of the Nature Center is multifold;

1) The rich diversity of natural habitats can support an outstanding educational, research, and interpretive program. The



'Doc' Frennier, Roberta Highland, and Steve Yoshida at the edge of a stand of Lutz spruce.



Photos by Daisy Lee Blitter

Carl Wynn, Virginia and Burt Hume, and Conrad Blitter relax at the 'Peep Hole' with its scenic view above Bear Canyon. Note the deeply incised big game trail in the foreground.

Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies has already established a record for excellence in its programs.

2) Research opportunities to investigate and document the sub-Alpine Lutz Spruce forest and meadows within it.

3) Perpetual tribute to Carl Wynn who loved the natural world and all the creatures in it. His dream will not die. It will be carried into future generations by the thousands of children and adults who will experience this inspiring area and develop awareness, knowledge, and an appreciation of the natural world and, thus, become careful stewards of the land in the process.

In part two in the next newsletter, we will print the bulk of this discussion by Daisy Lee on the Carl Wynn Foundation's land donation in which she talks about her good friend Carl and his ideas for a nature center. She will describe the character of the land as shown in pictures taken in late September when the board was being shown some of the unique characteristics of the property.

"For centuries the meeting of land and sea has cured us, restoring our spirits and inducing peace of mind."

Anonymous

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

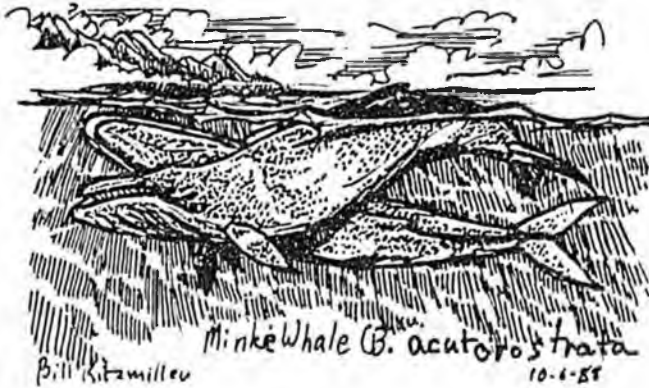
Steve Yoshida President
 Mike McBride Vice President
 Richard Tyler Secretary
 Dr. Boyd Walker Treasurer
 'Doc' Frenier
 Daisy Lee Bitter
 Jack Lentfer
 Molly Brann
 Will Files

STAFF

Christa Collier Executive Director
 Susan Alexander Administrative Assistant
 Lisa Ellington Bookkeeper

Will Files is New Member of Board

At the annual meeting in late October, 1990 our membership voted for incumbent board members Molly Brann and Mike McBride. Will Files, a local businessman, will replace Roberta Highland. Roberta will remain active as a volunteer and most of us see her regularly as a member of the Kachemak Citizens Coalition and also on the Boards of KHLT and the Homer Conservation Society, so it is thank you, but not good bye to Roberta! It should also be noted that Dr. Glenn Olds, one of our eminent Board of Advisors has recently been appointed by Governor Hickel to be Commissioner of Commerce and Economic Development.



CENTER FOR ALASKAN COASTAL STUDIES

P.O. Box 2225
 Homer, Alaska 99603
 (907) 235-6667

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 BULK RATE
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT NO. 40
 HOMER, ALASKA 99603



Dimond High (Anchorage) marine biology students on the beach at low tide. This active group visited the Center in October, 1990.

ALASKA MARITIME NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE VISITOR CENTER

Objectives

The purpose of the center would be to increase visitor and student awareness, understanding, and enjoyment of the refuge's resources. The Alaska Maritime Refuge is scattered over the widest geographic area of any refuge in the country. It is difficult for the public to use this refuge. Yet the refuge has resources which the public would find fascinating including spectacular concentrations of marine birds and mammals, unusual species unique to the Alaska coastline, and the most dramatic volcano chain in the country. The refuge also has an important story to tell about the interrelationship of marine wildlife and the marine environment and increasing threats to both. The center would allow us to provide an experience for those visitors and students who could not visit the refuge and information and encouragement to those who could.

Audience

Visitors - In addition to its striking natural beauty, Homer has an advantage as a visitor destination in that it is accessible by road, sea, or air. The Alaska Division of Tourism estimated that in 1985, 76,000 non-Alaskans visited Homer. With an expected growth rate for tourism of four to five percent per year, this figure would increase to about 120,000 by 1995, the earliest possible time the center could open, and to 200,000 by 2005, 10 years after opening.

According to the Alaska Division of Tourism's 1985 study, non-Alaskan visitors are better educated, wealthier, and older than the population at large. Over half have college degrees. This type of audience is particularly amenable to educational programs and environmental messages. They are also highly motivated to see wildlife. Wildlife watching followed by bird watching had the highest rates of participation of the outdoor activities investigated in the 1985 study.

Some non-Alaskans visiting Homer would be repeat visitors, but not many. Almost all visitors stay at least one night. Most visitation would occur from April through October with the majority of visitors coming in June, July, and August. Very few non-Alaskans visit Homer from November to March.

Homer is also a very popular destination for Alaskan residents. Many Anchorage people commonly make several trips a summer to Homer. These numbers are harder to come by although some work was done on Alaskan visitors for the Kenai Borough by the McDowell group. Local industry leaders feel half or two-thirds of all visitors are Alaskans. Addition of the Alaskans would put total visitation to Homer at about 150,000 to 225,000 in 1985, 210,000 to 300,000 when the center opens in 1995, and 300,000 to 400,000 after 10 years of operation. These figures are based on a slow

growth rate for Alaskan visitors of one percent per year. Most Alaskan visitors would be repeat visitors to Homer and most would also stay overnight. Their season of use would be the same as for non-Alaskan visitors.

Local residents - The Kachemak Bay area, including Anchor Point, had about 11,000 permanent residents in 1989 (Bechtol, pers. comm. 1990). The area is growing by about four percent per year and is expected to reach about 18,000 by the year 2000. Half the population of Homer has lived there less than five years. Homer residents have a much higher than usual interest in natural history and conservation issues. There are at least five local conservation/natural history citizen organizations in Homer. Marine issues are particularly important to Homer people because so many of them fish commercially or work in fishing related jobs. Homer area residents would undoubtedly be enthusiastic consumers of visitor center services, particularly if special programs such as film series, family activities, or slide talks were offered on weekends or in the evening. Local use would probably be highest in the winter when people have more time.

Educational groups - Kachemak Bay area schools enrolled 1,974 students in 1989 with a growth rate of close to five percent. Other peninsula schools enrolled an additional 6,712 students. However, Homer is serving as a marine science education center for schools from throughout the state because of the activities of the Pratt Museum and the Alaska Center for Coastal Studies. About 2,700 school children from 30 different schools visited the Pratt last year. Since most visits by out of town schools involve overnight stays, groups have the time and inclination to add additional experiences to their trips. In addition to regular school groups, environmentally oriented camps also visit Homer for their marine field trips. Trailside Discovery Camp and Stewardship Earth brought numerous groups to Homer in 1989. Elderhostel, an educational program for senior citizens which attracts participants from throughout the country, has expanded from one 40 student group in 1987 to three in 1990. Kachemak Bay Branch of the Kenai Peninsula College had an enrollment of 185 full time equivalent students in 1988.

As the refuge has become known, requests from these groups for refuge programs or tours of our limited facility have escalated. The addition of a new facility with its own emphasis would create an even greater draw than currently exists with the Pratt and the Alaska Center for Coastal Studies. The number of students coming to Homer and visiting the refuge center would undoubtedly increase beyond the present situation particularly if the refuge center could offer new types of facilities such as live bird observation labs and a marine discovery lab. The number of students expected to use the refuge center is estimated at about 4,000 per year. Most use would occur in April, May, September, and October with some use occurring throughout the year.

Visitor Center use projections - With the exception of Begich Boggs Visitor Center, all other Kenai Peninsula natural history centers receive about 25,000 to 30,000 visitors per year. Begich Boggs receives about 300,000 because it is within an hour's drive of Anchorage. Kenai Fjords National Park Visitor Center is restricted by its small size and inability to handle groups. Kenai Refuge is plagued by a particularly bad access problem which makes it hard to find. It also has too small an auditorium to handle groups. The Pratt Museum is large enough, but is out of the way and not well signed, relying primarily on word of mouth advertising. Visitors also tend to believe they must have more time and pay a fee to attend museums. The Alaska Maritime Refuge visitor center would attract more visitors than the existing facilities if it were designed to overcome some of their shortcomings. It should be large enough to provide a substantial experience and large enough to handle busloads of 60 to 70 people. It should be located on the main tourist thoroughfare. If these conditions were met, attendance in 1995 could be expected to be about 50,000 which would increase to 100,000 after 10 years of operation.

Conclusion - Upon completion in 1995, visitor center use would be expected to be about 50,000 of which 4,000 would be from organized educational groups. Visitor center use would increase over a 10 year period to the 100,000 range. At least a third of the use would be from repeat visitors. Average peak useage in July would be about 600 per day, but could increase to 1,000 per day within 10 years of opening. The summer season would be the busiest and the dominant users would be visitors. Spring and fall would be the most important time of year for educational groups with several groups in the center every day. Local people and local schools would be the dominant users in the winter.

Relationship to other facilities

All other facilities on the Kenai Peninsula and selected facilities throughout the state were investigated to determine how this center would relate to their programs. The only other centers providing marine interpretation are the Pratt Museum in Homer, the Alaska Center for Coastal Studies in Homer, and the Institute of Marine Science in Seward. These three facilities have been visited. Representatives of the boards of the Pratt Museum and the Alaska Center for Coastal Studies also participated on the refuge visitor center working group and feel the proposed visitor center would complement their programs.

The Marine Science Center in Seward is part of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks and is primarily devoted to research and graduate studies. They have a small, poorly funded visitor center which only recieves about 1,500 visitors a year. They hope to expand including a large aquarium, funding permitting. The focus of their exhibits including the proposed aquarium is fish of the open ocean. They have no intention of developing marine bird exhibits and are unlikely to develop marine mammal

exhibits. They offer tours of their labs to school groups but are not interested in other types of environmental education activities.

The Pratt Museum is an impressive multi-faceted regional museum featuring art exhibits, cultural history exhibits, and natural history exhibits including terrestrial and marine wildlife. The museum has two small aquarium and numerous marine bird mounted specimens accompanied by some interpretive information. The museum hopes to develop a large aquarium which would be devoted to fish and possibly tide pool animals. The museum has no plans to expand their treatment of marine birds. About 27,000 people including 2,700 students visit the Pratt each year.

The Alaska Center for Coastal Studies has a small environmental education center located near an area of outstanding tide pool habitat across Kachemak Bay from Homer. Their education activities include hosting school groups for overnight visits and providing day long naturalist led hikes for tourists. These activities take place across the bay, and are limited by the availability of boats, school policies regarding boat travel, and the time commitment required. This group has no plans to expand their naturalist activities to this side of the bay. About 600 students and 1,000 tourists participate in their activities.

Conclusion:

No other facility is doing the job the refuge center intends to do. The proposed Alaska Maritime Refuge Visitor Center would complement the existing facilities particularly the Pratt Museum and the Alaska Center for Coastal Studies. Representatives of both organizations sat on the working group for the proposed center and expressed their support for it. The three facilities are each distinctly different but taken as a whole would provide the visitor or student with a broad array of learning experiences. The refuge would concentrate on refuge resources, principally marine birds and those marine mammals we manage. The other facilities would continue to concentrate on all the other elements of the region's natural and cultural history. No overlap is anticipated with the Seward facility since they will be devoted to fish.

Public Response

Interest in a refuge visitor center has been evident for some time. Prior to receiving planning funds, the City of Homer passed a resolution asking Senator Stevens to support funding for a refuge visitor center and aquarium. Since receiving the funds, the City Council and the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development Council requested presentations by the Service on the center planning.

The refuge created a visitor center working group to tap the interest expressed in the center. The City Council, Homer public

schools, the Pratt Museum, the Alaska Center for Coastal Studies, the Homer Business Association, the Chamber of Commerce, the charter industry, and the marine extension office were represented on the working group. The group felt the visitor center would be very well received as a project which would economically add to the town without having any negative effects. The group felt most Homer people were interested in seeing the town continue to develop as a marine education center and tourist area. They felt the proposed center would fit well into that vision. They were supportive of the size and complexity of the center proposed in this document. They were particularly interested in large aquariums for all types of marine life not just seabirds. At the last meeting of the working group all members bought off on the refuge's vision of the center and agreed that it would contribute to their own programs or businesses.

Conclusion - Interest and support for a complex refuge visitor center is very high in the Homer community.

Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes and messages will center on the refuge's resources particularly seabirds. The Alaska Maritime Refuge is not a duck refuge among duck refuges but the seabird refuge for the United States. The story must be told here. The goal of the seabird interpretation will be to create an interest in seabirds, an understanding of their dependance on the marine ecosystem, and an understanding of what must be done to insure a continuing resource of seabirds. Possible storylines could include seabird habitats, seabird prey species, seabird colonies, the sheer numbers of seabirds, how to photograph, watch and enjoy them, and threats to their existence.

Marine mammals particularly otters, would be another theme area. Possible story lines could include behavior, habitats, extinction issues (otters at the turn of the century, sea lions now), marine mammal protection act, subsistence uses, threats, relationship to the marine environment, and how to see, photograph and enjoy them.

The refuge itself, its size, geology, geography, and habitats would be another theme area. How to visit the refuge, and the work of the refuge are other important topics. Field work on the Alaska Maritime Refuge is particularly exotic and has a history of significant and sometimes flamboyant biologists such as Sea Otter Jones and Olaus Murie.

The cultural history of the refuge particularly as it relates to wildlife is another potential theme area. Storylines could include Aleut use of marine wildlife, Russian fur traders, fox farmers, World War II, and present day human uses including commercial fishing, the military, and tourism.

Facilities

Facilities recommended for the proposed center are those which would accomplish the objectives of the center and successfully convey the themes discussed above.

Focal exhibit - The live seabird exhibit - The centerpiece of the visitor center from which all other exhibits would flow would be a large tank and adjacent cliff for several species of alcids, the family of seabirds that fly underwater with their wings. The most likely species for exhibit would be horned and tufted puffins, pigeon guillemots, and several species of auklets. The principle purpose of this exhibit is to create interest in seabirds and seabird issues by involving the viewer with real birds. Live animals carry the highest level of intrinsic interest of all exhibitry, because they are dynamic and stimulate active involvement on the part of the viewer (Veerhoken, 1990). Seabirds are a poorly understood resource and do not attract the intrinsic sympathy of larger, fuzzier animals. It is the job of the visitor center to grab the attention of the visitor and stimulate interest in the birds and a desire to learn and see more. A live exhibit would do that better than any other type.

Allowing the visitor to view species and behaviors not commonly visible would be an additional benefit of the exhibit. None of the alcids can be viewed from shore in any accessible areas of mainland Alaska. Not all people are willing to venture on the water or spend the money to do so, and weather is often uncooperative. Horned puffins, the most sought after species, are rarely seen from tourboats in Kachemak Bay. Other species, such as whiskered auklets, are unique to Alaska and can only be seen in remote areas of the Aleutians. Underwater "flying" in pursuit of food is one of the most unique seabird behaviors and is key to understanding their relationship to prey species. Outside of captivity, this behavior cannot be observed except by a few lucky scuba divers.

Curriculum and interpretive signing would be developed to make the most of the learning opportunities presented by the birds presence. Species identification, feeding behavior and requirements, breeding versus winter plumage, and adaptations of diving birds would all be good topics. The birds would be particularly useful in working with young children with limited attention spans.

The birds would attract repeat visitors. Since nearly two-thirds of all visitors are Alaskans, the potential audience of repeat visitors is high. Once lured into returning by the birds, repeat visitors could be exposed to new, temporary exhibits and special programs which would add to their initial visitor center experience.

Public reaction to the display is expected to be very positive. The visitor center working committee unanimously supported the concept. The Homer City Council had passed a resolution supporting development of a refuge visitor center and aquarium before planning even got underway. The owner of the largest charter boat business in town feels the display would not compete with his business, but would instead increase interest in seeing "the real thing". Confining wild birds does not seem to carry negative connotations outside the Fish and Wildlife Service. To prevent development of such a reaction, the tank and cliff should be of a sufficient size to allow "natural" activities for the birds. Interest in the birds would undoubtedly be high enough to create a pool of volunteers to take care of feeding and light cleaning chores.

Conclusion - A dramatic live seabird display would create interest and sympathy for seabirds thereby setting the stage for the interpretive messages of the other exhibits. Public reaction would be positive and visitor center use would be greater.

Permanent exhibits - About 3,000 square feet of space would be devoted to permanent exhibits on the themes discussed above. The space must be large enough to handle the flow of visitors and provide for a substantial experience. The exhibits should be a mix of interactive and passive activities and should make every effort to relate the information to the visitors personal experience.

Temporary exhibits - At least 500 square feet should be devoted to changeable exhibits. These could be on topics of the moment such as the Exxon Valdez oil spill, new listing for endangered species, or Sea Week or Earth Day. Lesser themes may also be handled by temporary exhibits which could be rotated out on a periodic basis.

Nocturnal room - Nocturnal nesting seabird colonies are a spectacular resource that few have an opportunity to experience. A room large enough to accommodate about 10 could be darkened and the viewer surrounded by the sounds of a colony at night. Interpretive messages on the sound tape could describe the species perhaps with the aid of highlighted specimens.

Video exhibits - Two types of video viewing areas would be useful. One type would allow for viewing of very short tapes (less than five minutes) selected from a menu of topics. For instance choices could be between tapes on the different areas of the refuge or different categories of animals in the marine environment, birds, fish, mammals, etc. Another type of viewing area could allow self-selected screening of longer tapes from a library of tapes. This space might accommodate about 10 people.

Auditorium and refuge film - A top quality movie about the refuge would be the principal mechanism by which most viewers

would "experience" the refuge. Dramatic film footage could convey the feel of these remote island habitats and the seabird cities they support. A film would also probably be the best way to portray field work. A nominal fee could be charged and handled by the Alaska Natural History Association. The auditorium would need to be large enough, 150 seats, to accomodate two buses without excluding family visitors. The auditorium would also be useful for slide talks, lectures, and meetings of large groups.

Discovery lab/environmental education classroom - This facility would allow organized educational groups to do hands on activities above and beyond what could occur in the exhibits. For instance a series of simple experiments could be developed with oil, salt water, and seabird feathers. The classroom would have a source of saltwater run off the seabird system which would allow for temporary holding of marine organisms for study. Curriculum and materials would be available to allow teachers to lead their own classes.

Outside environmental area - An outside area would allow a naturalist to work with a class or an impromptu group in an outdoors setting. A large stepped down deck creating an amphitheater would be ideal for this purpose. Some level open ground nearby would also be useful for leading classes in environmental games. If the visitor center had a view of bird concentration areas such as Beluga Slough, spotting scopes should be installed. The visitor center should have easy walking access to the shore so that naturalist led bird or beach walks could originate at the center.

Information areas - Outside kiosks near the entrance would display panels created by other organizations, such as the Pratt Museum, the Chamber of Commerce, and state parks, offering information on their facilities and services. This would be a public service and would "head-off" many non-refuge visitor questions. An information desk inside the front door would be continuously staffed. Display space could also address informational needs such as "How to see the refuge," "Where to see wildlife in the Homer area."

Alaska Natural History Association sales area - The Association manages the sales areas for all the natural resource agency centers in the state, turning the profits back into educational programs. The refuge opened an outlet in 1989. The principle purpose of the sales area is to offer the visitor the opportunity to purchase and take home interpretive and informational materials. The refuge sales area should offer a comprehensive collection of marine literature and literature relevant to geographical areas of the refuge. The sales area must be large enough to allow adequate flow of visitors.

FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. SB 148

STATE OF ALASKA
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: 12/18/91 Department Affected: Fish and Game

Title: Appropriation for purchase of private lands and BRU: Habitat

timber rights in Kachemak Bay Component: Habitat

Sponsor: Senator Fischer

Requestor: _____ COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

	4	8	6
--	---	---	---

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
---------	---	---	---	---	---	---

REVENUE FUND SOURCE:	0	0	0	0	0	0
----------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE:						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

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

Estimate of current year impact: No impact on current year.

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Purchase of timber rights to Seldovia Native Association lands would not result in any expenditures by ADF&G.

Prepared By: Frank Rue, Director Phone: 465-4105

Division: Division of Habitat Date: 12/19/91

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]

Agency: Department of Fish and Game Date: 12/20/91

Distribution (by preparer): Leg. Fin., Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB/DBR, Gov. Legis. OSC., & Impacted Agency(ies).