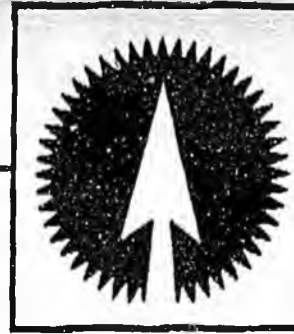


S B

3 7 9

11B 411

Alaska Forest Association, Inc.



MAIN OFFICE:
111 STEDMAN SUITE 200
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901-6699
Phone 907-225-6114
FAX 907-225-5920

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS OFFICE:
217 SECOND, SUITE 208
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
Phone 907-463-3175
FAX 907-463-5515

POSITION PAPER

The following is the Alaska Forest Association position on using oil spill mitigation funds to purchase standing timber:

The Alaska Forest Association is concerned with the premises of legislation which assumes that the purchase of private timber lands will somehow mitigate or prevent further environmental damage which might be caused by the Prince William Sound oil spill. The fact is there is no legitimate connection between timber harvesting and the oil spill. Forest Practices Act regulations insure that timber harvesting does not permanently destroy habitat and does not cause environmental harm.

Timber harvesting does the same thing that nature does through blowdown, disease, insect infestations (i.e., spruce bark beetle), etc. Timber harvesting simply converts an overmature forest into useable products and creates jobs, promotes community stability and additional opportunities for developed recreation.

Much of the upland area in Prince William Sound is within the Chugach National Forest--the second largest national forest in the nation. The majority of the seven million acres of the Chugach are restricted from timber harvest because they have been placed in a Wilderness classification or are reserved for protection of fisheries, game management or recreational uses. The sale quantity for the Chugach for 1992 and 1993 is only proposed to be 500 thousand board feet per year--not enough to supply even one small sawmill if the mill owners were able to purchase all of the timber available.

There is a tremendous amount of timber volume already reserved from harvest in the Prince William Sound area. Further set asides will have no mitigating benefit to any problems which might have been created by the oil spill.

The purchase of private lands for public use should have a legitimate best interest of the public as its objective. It is conceivably legitimate to establish more parks where there are none, or to develop specific recreational opportunities not otherwise available or to gain access to or enhance other uses of state owned lands.

If private land is purchased, it should be based on a willing buyer/seller concept. The seller's motivations are known only to him. In this case, the buyer is the State and the State's motivation should be informed by state policy clearly articulated. The proposed legislation does not logically define or justify the motivation for a timber purchase.

The Alaska Forest Association believes the oil spill money should be utilized to maximize the mitigation to those people and resources actually damaged by the spill.

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

DATE: 1/31/92

FURTHER: Finance

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

DATE TURNED
INTO OFFICE: _____

Resources Committee considered SB 379

"An Act making appropriations for restoration projects relating to the Exxon Valdez oil spill; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

replace with _____ CS _____ (_____)

attaches amendment(s)

adopts _____ Letter of Intent

further referral to the _____

same title
 new title
 technical
title change
(HB only)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

NEW FISCAL NOTES: Dept/Date

zero fiscal notes _____

fiscal notes _____

appropriation--no fiscal note

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES: Dept/Date

Governor's bill with fiscal notes:

zero fiscal notes _____

fiscal notes _____

DO PASS:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Chair: Signature and Recommendation