

HB

261

HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Roll Call and Members' Bill Votes

* (indicates first public hearing)

Room 124, Capitol Bldg.

Mon.. (Wed.), Fri.

Date: 4-26-95

Topic: 95-510, 95-57 Joint _____

Time: 8:10 (am) pm Time Adjourned: 9:50 (am) pm

ROLL CALL:	PRES	ABS	TIME	AR	_____	_____	_____
Rep. Joe Green	✓	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Rep. Bill Williams	✓	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Rep. Scott Ogan	✓	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Rep. Alan Austerman	✓	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Rep. Ramona Barnes	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Rep. John Davies	✓	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Rep. Pete Kott	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Rep. Eileen MacLean	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Rep. Irene Nicholia	_____	_____	<u>8:20</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____

Other Legislators Present _____

AGENDA:

Bill No.	Short Title	Action Taken
<u>HB 212</u>	<u>Timber Management</u>	<u>Held</u>
<u>HB 261</u>	<u>State/Private/Trust Timber Operation Sale</u>	<u>Held</u>
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Mary Pagenkopf

House Resources
4-26-95 8:10 am
Tape #95-56, 95-57
HB 261

04/26/95 08:07:15 LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK SYSTEM LTN1120
MESSAGE FROM: LIOCJEN IN ANCHORAGE JNU

RE TCN: 50628 SCHEDULED FOR:04/26/95 08:00 TO 10:00
SPONSOR: HOUSE RESOURCES PURPOSE: PUBLIC HEARING

MESSAGE TEXT: DOUG BOWERS ON LINE TO T ON BOTH BILLS

04/26/95 08:07:35 LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK SYSTEM LTN1120
MESSAGE FROM: LIOCJEN IN ANCHORAGE JNU

RE TCN: 50628 SCHEDULED FOR:04/26/95 08:00 TO 10:00
SPONSOR: HOUSE RESOURCES PURPOSE: PUBLIC HEARING

MESSAGE TEXT: JOHNY GONZALES ON LINE TO T ON BOTH BILL

04/26/95 LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK SYSTEM LTN1150

08:09:25 PARTICIPANT LIST (ALL PARTICIPANTS) BY:VAL

TCN:50628 SCHEDULED FOR:04/26/95 08:00 TO 10:00 FOR:VAL

PUBLIC HEARING HOUSE RESOURCES

LOCATION:VALDEZ

HB 212 MR. ED DAVIS AWRTA TESTIFY

PR-ICPSMSG54I - OUTPUT Number 0076 has printed at destination NET L305

04/26/95 LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK LTN1403

08:22:01 N CONFERENCE DISPLAY PAGE 03 - PARTICIPATING LIOs L300

TCN 50628 (C) T/C DATE: 04/26/95 TIME: 08:00 to 10:00 STATUS: 5 IN-PROG

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✓	ANC ANCHORAGE	716 W 4TH, #200	ZZZ	ZZZ LOCATION STAFF
	COR CORDOVA	705 2ND STREET	ZZZ	ZZZ LOCATION STAFF
✓	DJT DELTA JCT.	JARVIS CTR. #210	ZZZ	ZZZ LOCATION STAFF
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✓	KTN KETCHIKAN	352 FRONT STREET	ZZZ	ZZZ LOCATION STAFF
	MAT MATSU	165 E PARKS HWY.	ZZZ	ZZZ LOCATION STAFF
✓	SEW SEWARD	2001 SEWARD HWY	ZZZ	ZZZ LOCATION STAFF
	SOL KEN/SOL	34824 KALIFONSKY	ZZZ	ZZZ LOCATION STAFF
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04/26/95

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HOUSE RESOURCES

LOCATION:FAIRBANKS

ALL ITEMS	MR.	BIRCH	PAVELSKY ✓	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MR.	EDMOND	PACKEE ✓	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MR.	PETER	SHEPHERD ✓	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MR.	JOSH	MOORE ✓	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MS.	BONNIE	WILLIAMS ✓	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MR.	JAMES	DREW ✓	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MR.	BOB	ZACHEL ✓	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MR.	ART	GRISWOLD ✓	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MR.	BILL	ROBERTSON ✓	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MR.	WILLIAM	WOOD ✓	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MS.	SYLVIA	WARD	TESTIFY

04/26/95

LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK SYSTEM

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08:49:39

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PUBLIC HEARING

HOUSE RESOURCES

LOCATION:FAIRBANKS

ALL ITEMS	MR.	BIRCH	PAVELSKY	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MR.	EDMOND	PACKEE	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MR.	PETER	SHEPHERD	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MR.	JOSH	MOORE	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MS.	BONNIE	WILLIAMS	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MR.	JAMES	DREW	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MR.	BOB	ZACHEL	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MR.	ART	GRISWOLD	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MR.	BILL	ROBERTSON	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MR.	WILLIAM	WOOD	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MS.	SYLVIA	WARD	TESTIFY
ALL ITEMS	MR.	LYNN	LEVENGOOD	TESTIFY

House Bill 212
House Bill 261
First Public Hearing

Testimony in support:

✓ Bonnie Williams Fairbanks - 1335 Sunny Slope 99709 455-0652
 ✓ Tyler Conkle Fairbanks Delta Junction HC 60 Box 4,90 99737 895-4768
 ✓ Dean Jim Drew Fairbanks - 4725 Villanova Dr., 99709 479-2212
 ✓ Mayor John Gonzales off net, Denali Borough
 Danny Adams Fairbanks
 John Reeves Fairbanks
 ✓ Dr. William Wood Fairbanks - 665 10th Ave, 99701 456-1984
 ✓ Bob Zachel Fairbanks - Box 83244 99708 455-6164
 ✓ Pete Sheppard Fairbanks - 1012 Galena St, 99709 474-4685
 ✓ Art Griswold Fairbanks - 873 Runa Wack North Pole 99705 488-7805
 Glenn Hackney Fairbanks -
 ✓ Ed Packee Fairbanks - 1977 Melanic Lane, 99709 479-0929
 Joe Young Fairbanks
 ✓ Bill Robertson Fairbanks - 709 2nd Ave 99701 452-1105
 ✓ Lyn Levengood Fairbanks ?
 Bud Burris Fairbanks -
 ✓ Josh Moore Fairbanks - P.O. Box 82524 99708 474-2080

Testimony opposing:

- Sylviz Ward Fairbanks ✓ - 218 Riverway St 99701 452-5021
 Dan Ritzman Fairbanks ✓
 VNL - Ed Davis Valdez ✓ Box 3332 99686 835-6123
 Birch Pavelsky Fairbanks ✓ Box 84530 99788 479 8343
 - Doug Bowers off net, Nenana ✓ - 832-5369
 - Sara Hannon Juneau ✓
 Dick Hofmann Juneau ✓

Johnny Gonzalez Healy 582-2346

Arch., Coriova, Delta Pt., Fos, Glennallen, Homer, Ketchikan, Matfen ; ...
Seward, Ken-Sol, Tok, Valdez, Neale, Tkanan

Alaska State Legislature



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Representative Al Vezey

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 261 was introduced to address the problems facing the timber industry in Alaska. The current network of statutes mandates that we allow more timber to rot or burn than we harvest for human consumption. This system of anti-development policies has continued in spite of the loss of millions of acres of valuable timber through summer fires and infestations of pests such as the spruce bark beetle. Thousands of jobs have been lost. Those few hardy people that make their living in the timber industry, have suffered undue economic hardship due to uncertain supplies of timber.

For a number of years now, the Fairbanks Industrial Development Corporation has worked with and recruited timber companies to come to the Fairbanks area and set up shop. So far, they have not been successful because of the over-restrictive policies that have been mandated by Title 38. Without the ability to be guaranteed a supply of timber over the long term, no one will make the capital investment necessary to develop this industry.

This long standing hindrance has deprived the Fairbanks community and other communities across the state from developing the basic timber industries necessary for jobs and a healthy economic environment.

This bill addresses the minimum changes necessary to ensure the survival of the timber industry in Alaska.

DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
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MEMORANDUM

March 20, 1995

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary HB 261 (Work Order No. 9-LS0281\U)

TO: Representative Al Vezey
Attn: Joe Ryan

FROM: Gerald P. Luckhaupt *JPL*
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill. As a preliminary matter, please note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill - the bill itself is the best statement of its contents.

Section 1 of the bill repeals and reenacts AS 38.05.115(a) relating to terms of sale of timber and other materials.

Section 2 of the bill provides definitions for use in AS 38.05.115.

Section 3 of the bill amends AS 38.05.120 relating to the procedures for sale of timber.

Section 4 of the bill amends AS 38.05.127(f) relating to rights-of-way and easements to waterways.

Section 5 of the bill amends AS 41.17.210(a) relating to the establishment of state forests.

Section 6 of the bill amends AS 41.17.220 by requiring DNR to periodically solicit bids for the management of the state forests.

Section 7 of the bill amends AS 41.17.230(a) by providing that the commissioner of natural resources must permit and allow the uses mentioned in section 8 of the bill in state forest management plans and provides procedures for the commissioner to follow if it is found that a permitted use is incompatible with other uses.

Section 8 of the bill provides a listing of uses a forest management plan must consider.

Representative Al Vezey

March 20, 1995

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Section 9 of the bill provides that the commissioner of DNR may establish transportation corridors in the Tanana Valley State Forest.

Section 10 of the bill provides repealers.

GPL:klb

95-174.klb

People, Trees, and Grizzly Bears

Recently five tiny towns, two counties, a family-owned timber mill, and a grass-roots organization filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service. In the Kootenai National Forest in Northwestern Montana and Northern Idaho, the Forest Service decided to cut back the allowable timber harvest by 43 percent so as to achieve a one percent increase in grizzly bear habitat. In these timber-dependent communities—communities in which more than 60 percent of the county land is federally owned—such a cutback will have devastating economic consequences.

It will also have catastrophic environmental consequences, since, at the same time, the Forest Service has decided to leave standing millions of board feet of timber devastated by the Mountain Pine Beetle. These diseased trees not only serve as a source of infection for a healthy forest; it is these trees that will serve as the tinder for the next cataclysmic fire to sweep through the region.

122 THIS LAND IS OUR LAND

When it does—not if, but when—it will destroy not just the dead trees but also the healthy forest and homes; not just the homes of people, but the habitat of the grizzly bear that the government is trying to help!⁷

This lawsuit is unique because the plaintiffs are not timber companies but the people of a community banding together to fight for their own survival—not just for the economic viability of their communities but for the health of the forest that surrounds them and that they love.

Government Ownership of Land and Forests

How Much Is Enough?

WHATEVER may have been the forestry practices of the past and whatever claims are made about logging today, there is considerably more forested land in America now than there was even a few decades ago. This has resulted from vigorous reforestation programs, and because marginal agricultural land has been abandoned and returned to wood lot and forest. The increase is estimated to be at least 450 million more acres of wooded land and 23 percent more standing forest trees than 40 years ago. The present, average annual wood growth is three-and-a-half times more than in 1920, and the annual increase in the size of forests exceeds logging by 37 percent per year. In 1989 alone, approximately 2.1 billion seedlings covering more than 3 million acres were planted in the U.S. In 1991 alone six new trees were planted for every American.¹

When faced with such facts about the extent and growth of America's forests, opponents of managed logging and reforestation argue that a second growth forest or a tree farm is different—not to be compared with the “natural” stands they have replaced. Further, the Greens persist in calling tree farms “monoculture.”

They are not. Many species invade planted areas to establish a varied undergrowth, and shade-tolerant trees associated with old growth forests soon return.²

Old growth forests, that is, forests that contain trees 200 years old and older, are claimed to have unique and irreplaceable virtues. It's also asserted that what remains of old growth is in imminent danger of total destruction. Is there evidence to support these claims? There are in the U.S. today 13.2 million acres of old growth, of which 8 million acres are totally protected in national parks and wilderness areas. These trees can never be cut. If we took this 8 million acres of protected old growth and imagined it to form a band five miles wide, it would extend from the Pacific Coast all across the country to the Atlantic Ocean.³

Where old growth is being logged—outside of national parks and wilderness, as for example in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska—it is cut at a rate of only 1 percent per year. The forest management plan for the Tongass dictates that no more than 10 percent of the trees will ever be harvested. And, of course, the seedlings already planted will one day become “old growth.”

The current public debate about old growth forests and trees on public lands is really about what purpose the forest serves. A combination of recreation and preservation with the least possible human intervention is the underlying philosophy of the national parks: visit, look, enjoy, but don't take anything away. National forests, on the other hand, were meant to serve society's needs. They were established for multiple use. Their purpose has traditionally been to provide for recreation and resource uses. The national forests were intended to be used for a sustained supply of timber in a perpetual cycle of cutting and reforestation. But now, and increasingly in recent years, the trend of public opinion seems to be swinging away from all uses other than recreation, and even what kind of recreation is more and more rigidly controlled.

Many of the national forests have stands of quite old trees, some approaching one or two centuries in age. Sometimes these parcels of forest are misleadingly called “ancient forests,” which seems to imply no impact by humans. But “original” forests do not really exist; nature takes care of that at intervals of from 200 to 450 years in cycles of forest fires and/or blowdown from fierce windstorms. A

forest is a dynamic system going through a life cycle of growth, maturity, old age, and death. These cycles occur whether humans are present or not.⁴

Despite the biological fact that every tree will eventually age and die, the extent to which trees on public lands should be used continues to be unresolved. Unfortunately, government uncertainty, environmentalist-lobby pressure, and conflicting agency approaches to forest management have led to "management by neglect." This has brought our national forests to a condition where vast areas are being destroyed by bugs and disease, and large numbers of people and their communities that are dependent on the forest products industry are facing economic ruin.

While it might seem reasonable to believe that the two systems, National Parks and National Forests, could provide the framework to resolve the differences between preservation and use, it has not worked out that way. Instead, there is a long history of polarization and acrimony; it shows no sign of abating. There is also a lengthy trail of legislation, none of it really addressing the central problem: Should America's natural resources, including timber, be government-owned, government-managed, and government-controlled? Incidentally, isn't that what socialism and communism are all about?

The reality is that after 200 years of supporting individual freedom and the right to own private property, our country appears to be succumbing to an assault on both. How is it that, as we have moved from an agrarian nation of small independent farmers to a largely industrial nation, the central government has become by far the largest landowner and has taken over the dangerous, freedom-destroying role of central planning for the future of all of us?

History reveals that a consensus about what should be done with vast land holdings in the U.S. has never been reached.⁵ By the year 1784, 220,000 square miles of real property had been acquired by the federal government. Who should administer them was a critical question. Several states laid claim to territory west of the Appalachian Mountains, but, one by one, beginning with New York and followed by Virginia, all the original states relinquished their claims to the U.S. government by 1802 and lands in the "public domain" were established.

This "public domain" was expanded by the Louisiana Purchase from France in 1803. In 1819, the U.S. bought Florida from Spain. In 1845, we annexed Texas and in 1846 acquired the Northwest Territory, now including Oregon, Washington, and Idaho by treaty with Great Britain. In 1848, following war with Mexico, we absorbed all the Southwest, including parts of New Mexico and Colorado, all of Nevada, Utah, California, and most of Arizona. The final act of U.S. expansion on the North American continent was the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867. This amounted to a lot of "public land."

What to do with it? Sentiment was divided between the Jeffersonian belief that the future of the republic rested in the hands of a large number of individual, independent land owners and the convictions of Alexander Hamilton, who placed his faith in transferring land to investors and stock companies. And so we got a bit of both.

The Homestead Act of 1862 provided title to blocks of 160 acres of land to individuals who settled on the land. Less well known were the Timber Culture Act of 1873 (the U.S. government was an early supporter of reforestation), the Desert Land Law of 1877, and the Timber and Stone Act of 1878. All of these congressional actions were clearly supportive of private property rights and of placing responsibility for natural resource development in the private sector.

Federal land grants also went to various industries—for example, railroads and timber companies. Between 1812 and 1934, 62 percent of the original 1.8 billion acres of public land owned by the federal government was disposed of, mostly through land sales and outright grants.

Meanwhile, some sentiment for retaining a large measure of federal ownership persisted, and in 1871 the American Association for the Advancement of Science petitioned Congress to pass legislation that would protect and provide management of America's forests.⁶ This occurred at the height of the irresponsible, "cut and run" way in which logging was practiced at that time. Public outrage against the timber companies' practices grew, and the result was creation of the Forest Reserve Act of 1891, which authorized the President to establish forest reserves by procla-

mation. Thus, the National Forest system was born. Presidents Harrison and Cleveland set aside 33 million acres for National Forests and President Theodore Roosevelt added 132 million acres by 1908.

Then, in 1911, Congress passed the Weeks Act, which further authorized expansion of the National Forest system through acquisition of private forestlands. It was under this law that most of the national forests in the eastern half of the U.S. were established. While it is beyond the scope of this book to recount the full history of legislation governing land and natural resource ownership, it amounts to a tangled web of private-public rights. There have always been claims as to who does the better job of managing land—government bureaucrats or private owners.

This muddled situation persists to the present, with new laws and agency-promulgated regulations that are growing at an accelerating rate. The ultimate goal of the environmental movement appears to be to move as much land as possible into the public domain. As Warren Brookes said, cogently, "Even as the [nations of the former] Soviet Union moves to grant property rights to its citizens, Congress and the Greens are leading an assault on U.S. property rights."⁷ No agency is more active in this assault than the National Park Service, and this merits careful scrutiny.

The important thing to remember about National Parks is that they are *preserves*, but where previously existing homes or other private enterprises were present within the parks' boundaries, these were frequently "grandfathered." Even so, this guarantee of private property rights of "inholders" has not always been honored.

Perhaps the most outlandish and incredible example of bureaucratic arrogance and duplicity on the part of the National Park Service was reported in a July 1991, issue of the *Land Rights Letter*.⁸ A newly appointed and controversial superintendent of the Olympic National Park decided that a modest wilderness camp for disadvantaged young people that had operated with great success at Washington's Lake Quinault had to go because it was on federal land—despite the fact that the joint Kiwanis Club-YMCA operators had received approval years earlier by previous National Park administrators. So the main lodge of Kamp Kiwanis, which

provided ideal wilderness experience for 300 youths each year, including disadvantaged and Native American children, was ordered burned to the ground!

In a classic case of government intimidation, government inspectors first issued a series of trumped up health and safety charges against the rustic camp, then put the "fix up" cost so high the camp's operators couldn't afford it. Then, in a final charade, the Olympic National Park characterized the burning of the lodge as a necessary "fire drill." It was arson, pure and simple, and at the behest of your government and mine.

When the incident was publicly reported, families and communities unleashed a barrage of protests against the Olympic National Park superintendent. Congress eventually reacted, over the protest of the National Park Service, to the citizen complaints and directed the superintendent of the ONP to issue a ten-year permit for continued operation of Kamp Kiwanis.

But who will pay to rebuild the camp? In all fairness, the funds for a new Kamp Kiwanis should come out of the superintendent's paycheck! But even more important is this question: If Congress can see the folly in the case of the ONP superintendent, why can't it address the even greater issue of rapid increase in the government's "takings" of private property all across the U.S.?

Again, history can tell us a lot about the origin of attitudes. It is revealing to read the point of view of Park Service officials, as set down in the Service's own publication, *The National Parks*:

In the national parks, there is no harvesting of timber, no hunting of wild animals, no extraction of minerals, and no grazing of domestic livestock. Trees are apt to be consumed by disease. Or by wildfire, left to run its course. Or blown down in a windstorm. By whatever cause, trees are left where they fall. This is nature's way. The dead or dying tree provides a home for insects, and these, in turn, draw birds to feed upon them. In time, the tree will decompose to enrich the earth from whence it sprang. The burned-over area will become the source of a new forest destined to fulfill its cycle in time.⁹

OK. That is the operational philosophy of the National Park Service. But should it govern the National Forests and *all* public lands?

A STUDY REPORT
of the
DETERIORATING FOREST HEALTH
OF SOUTH-CENTRAL AND INTERIOR ALASKA

Alaska State Society of American Foresters
July, 1993

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1. BACKGROUND

The largest spruce bark beetle epidemic in North America is resulting in substantial and expanding impacts to wildlife, fisheries, recreation, and timber resources, as well as loss of critical mature forest ecosystems, in white, Sitka, and Lutz spruce forests of south-central and interior Alaska. Increased spruce beetle activity is also occurring in the maritime Sitka spruce stands of Prince William Sound and southeast Alaska, although of lesser magnitude than infestations further north. This epidemic constitutes one of the most significant forest health declines currently impacting Alaska forests.

Historical descriptions from miners, fur traders and settlers (Lutz 1960, Johnson 1975) indicate common and extensive fires in these Alaska forest types in the mid-to late 1800's. Fire was a major natural change agent that helped maintain species and age class diversity on the landscape. Stand development following these early fires, and effective fire suppression since the 1950's, has created hundreds of thousands of acres of white, Sitka, and Lutz spruce forest types that are simultaneously becoming mature, decadent and highly susceptible to spruce beetle damage today.

In a 1987 timber inventory, the Kenai Peninsula was estimated to have 364,000 acres of white/Lutz spruce type, of which 220,500 acres was considered commercial timberland, -- that is producing over 20 cubic feet of wood per acre per year (Van Hees and Larson, 1991). This inventory estimated that on the Chugach National Forest portion of the Kenai Peninsula, mortality exceeds annual growth and that 57% of this mortality is estimated to have been caused by the spruce bark beetle. Van Hees (1992) noted dramatic increases in spruce bark beetle populations on the Kenai Peninsula since the 1987 inventory.

Systematic monitoring of insect conditions by the U.S. Forest Service has been in effect since the 1950's. Entomologists monitoring the spruce beetle infestations have been predicting substantial population increases for a number of years (Holsten 1990). Rapid beetle population increases to epidemic levels have become a reality in the last 4 years. Statewide, acreages of active spruce beetle infestation from the U.S. Forest Service annual forest insect and disease aerial surveys (USDA Insect Conditions Reports: 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992) are:

1989 - 177,000 acres
1990 - 232,000 acres
1991 - 375,000 acres
1992 - 600,000 acres

The current infestation of 600,000 acres is located in three principal geographic locations. These are the Kenai peninsula, the Copper River basin, and the Yukon River basin. This infestation is the largest area of active spruce beetle infestation ever mapped in Alaska and constitutes the largest existing spruce bark beetle infestation in North America.

This epidemic spans a variety of private as well as state and federal land ownerships. Addressing this situation will require coordinated land management actions. Significant ownerships of infested forest types include: the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. National Park Service, the State of Alaska, the U.S. Forest Service, several boroughs, and privately owned forest lands. Some of these ownerships have few or no forest management specialists to address this problem. (ie. The State Division of Forestry currently has less than 2 full time forestry people dedicated to planning and implementing forest health treatments on the Kenai Peninsula.)

Efforts to address this problem to date include:

..During 1991 and 1992, the U.S. Forest Service coordinated a comprehensive forest health protection and restoration effort for the Cooper Landing area of the Kenai Peninsula. The majority of that project has been implemented.

..As part of a State Forest Health Initiative, the State Division of Forestry completed a general Forest Health plan for the Western Kenai Peninsula and Kalgin Island in 1992. Seven project areas were identified in that plan to receive management actions. The first of the seven areas (Falls Creek) is planned for project implementation, but is receiving criticism from the environmental community. Also as part of this initiative, the Division of Forestry has established a citizen working group to consider management actions in the Copper River basin.

..The U.S. Forest Service has begun a planning effort for the Seward Scenic By-Way and Hope portions of the Kenai Peninsula. These actions constitute the extent of coordinated planning and implementation efforts to date in spruce beetle impacted areas.

These actions have thus far resulted in approximately 3,000 of the current 600,000 acres (0.5%) receiving actual ground treatments.

2. DISCUSSION

Concern for maintenance of healthy forest ecosystems has become a national issue in recent years. A national strategic plan has been developed by the U.S. Forest Service to address concerns of forest health (USDA, 1993). The current national forest health monitoring programs by the U.S. Forest Service and the Environmental Protection Agency give strong emphasis to maintaining forest health along with forest biodiversity, all within the context of sound ecosystem management. Many existing silvicultural practices have strong application within this context.

Public perception regarding the spruce bark beetle problem in Alaska has been documented (Daniels 1991, Kruse 1991). Study respondents overwhelmingly were in favor of prevention of spruce beetle outbreaks, mitigation of associated impacts as well as providing management actions that would restore the health of the impacted forests. Surveyed publics expressed a willingness to subsidize reforestation actions if necessary.

The Society of American Foresters has recently published a National Task Force report "Sustaining Long-Term Forest Health and Productivity" (Society of American Foresters, 1993). This report describes the need to address the sustainability of healthy forests by considering social or human forces as well as considering the scientific and economic forces. This Task Force Report includes 26 recommendations on ecologically sound approaches to maintaining or improving forest health. These fall in four broad areas of action:

- Advocate ecosystem management.
- Integrate ecosystem management into educational programs.
- Promote ecosystem management research.
- Coordinate between land owners and the public.

A coordinated effort applying assertive management actions to deal with this Alaskan forest health crisis would be consistent with the recommendations of this report to sustain long-term forest health

and productivity in our ecosystems. Lack of action allowing continuation of increasing forest health decline would be inconsistent with sustained ecosystem productivity and biodiversity.

Not all resource disciplines are actively furthering the ecological significance of these forest alterations. Changes in forested wildlife habitat and/or old-growth habitat has not been raised as an issue in south-central or Interior Alaska. The limited and naturally fragmented landscape patterns of south-central and Interior Alaska make this loss of forest habitat a much more critical issue to sustained ecosystems than loss of habitat in southeast Alaska where the forested landscape is broader and more contiguous. Yet, habitat loss has been raised as a major issue in southeast and virtually not acknowledged in south-central or Interior Alaska.

Lack of fully recognizing the ecological impacts coupled with lack of a viable forest industry to provide cost effective management options has resulted in little direct action to address this declining forest health problem. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of acres of Alaska forests are being subject to ever-increasing negative impacts, losing future resource potential, and rapidly losing economic value that could fund positive management actions.

Forest economic development is often billed as the rationale for "logging". While economics should not be the major driver for addressing Alaska forest health problems, clearly, economics should also not be ignored. Implementation of forest management to address forest health can not only assist to pay for the needed forest health treatments, but contribute to other state goals such as rural economic development and economic diversification. Particularly with wood product values rising rapidly, the potential for significant economic returns from implementing forest health treatments, and consequent loss of these values through inaction, should not be ignored. The U.S. imports nearly thirty (30%) percent of its wood fiber, much of which comes from countries with less stringent environmental guidelines than our own (Salwasser, MacCleery, and Snellgrove). Non-use of the large and growing inventory of beetle killed spruce, while supporting the harvest of green trees from foreign sources, may be considered environmentally irresponsible.

The previous lack of viable timber markets in South-central and Interior Alaska have prevented development of a forest industry to utilize industrial wood recovered in silvicultural management activities. Without an industry to provide a reasonably cost effective vehicle to support forest management actions, few silvicultural management actions have been taken to assist ecosystem manipulations. The recent national rise in industrial wood product values has set the stage for ecosystem and silvicultural management that could subsidize assertive forest health enhancements. Markets are rapidly developing for a variety of forest products from Alaskan forest types including house logs, veneer, dimension lumber, and chips. All indications are that market values will increase in the future.

3. STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

Forest health in South-central and Interior Alaska is rapidly deteriorating. However, the greatest forest impact is potential long-term change in forest cover from spruce bark beetle induced tree mortality over extensive portions of the white, Sitka, and Lutz spruce forest types.

Spruce beetle populations have shifted from endemic to epidemic levels in many areas of Alaska. Spruce beetles have and always will be a feature of these ecosystems, however, the notion that this infestation is or should be managed as a totally "natural" event is erroneous. While several environmental factors such as annual weather conditions, host susceptibility, changes in predator and parasite populations, etc., continue to influence beetle population changes, past and future human intervention (such as fire suppression, cleaning activities, or simply increased habitation) has re-

moved this situation from a 'natural' setting. Even if this event was natural, impacts are occurring which could be either positive or negative depending on the affected resource and the desired future condition. Consideration of human needs and influences to establish an appropriate desired future condition for these impacted forest types is ecologically appropriate.

Spruce beetle induced mortality is currently occurring on over 600,000 acres in these forest types (USDA, Insect Conditions Report-1993). In many instances this mortality is eliminating all live forest cover (main canopy) in major portions of large drainages. Impacts associated with forest tree canopy losses are occurring to all resources that require a forested landscape (ie. wildlife, fisheries, watersheds, scenic vistas, etc.).

Many of these spruce beetle impacted forest stands will not meet current definitions of 'ecologically functional' old-growth (USDA, Ecological Old-Growth Definitions-1992) following beetle infestation. This long-term loss of old-growth habitat will have a significant impact on maintaining current biological diversity in South-central and Interior Alaska.

Natural regeneration of spruce in these impacted stands is spotty at best. Without assertive reforestation actions, long-term forest conversion from spruce to hardwood stands or grass dominated areas could occur on many sites. This conversion will drastically alter current landscape patterns, substantially reducing forested wildlife habitat for the long term. Cover and large organic material input to anadromous streams will be significantly altered over time. From a human ecology standpoint, fire risk and hazard are increasing and causing substantial concern in rural communities as well as in the larger urban forest interface areas such as the Anchorage bowl.

Research on impacts of the bark beetle on the timber resource and control methods exists (Werner and Holsten, 1983; Werner, Hard, Holsten, 1988; Holsten and Werner, 1990; Hard, 1989), but more emphasis is needed in this area. There is currently a lack of research documenting impacts to non-timber resources associated with the spruce bark beetle infestation. Impacts to wildlife and stream side stability are observable, but documentation of these through research studies or long-term monitoring are limited. The emergency nature of this beetle epidemic dictates use of an adaptive management approach based upon known research.

Lack of action and continued forest health decline will result in:

- Increasing loss of wildlife habitat for mature forest species.
- Continued riparian area degradation.
- Substantial long-term conversion from forest to grass or hardwoods (lack of spruce regeneration).
- Increased community fire hazard & associated increased fire suppression costs.
- Degradation of aesthetic quality of forested landscapes.
- Degradation of developed recreation areas and increased trail maintenance costs for removal of hazard and down trees.

Continued focus of habitat loss in southeast Alaska (primarily the Tongass National Forest) with little expressed concern for habitat loss in south-central or interior Alaska is a serious wildlife management oversight. Applying fundamental habitat relations and fragmentation concepts, it is clear that hundreds of thousands of acres of tree mortality (with little natural regeneration) to forested habitat in a naturally fragmented environment (south-central and interior situation) has tremendously more impact than one-thirtieth of those acres being converted to young forest conditions a less fragmented environment (southeast situation). Wildlife species only respond to habitat changes, regardless if those changes are human induced (timber harvesting) or from another change agent (spruce

beetles). Ecologically sound resource management philosophy must be founded upon biological and ecological reasoning rather than development versus non-development opinion. Strong focus needs to be directed to maintaining the biological diversity through sound ecological management (including silvicultural) procedures.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Lack of forest management, non-recognition of the biological/ecological impacts, and lack of expressed professional concern have all contributed to this forest health problem.

Halting the infestation in the near-term is unlikely; however, concerted efforts by all landowners and resource managers can significantly slow the buildup, restore already impacted areas, and minimize future resource impacts from this insect.

Once forests are dead, options for the type and size of ecosystem management are limited. If, however, silvicultural treatments are considered not only for restoration of damaged areas, but also for damage prevention of currently uninfested areas, a variety of silvicultural options are available to meet various resource objectives. Maximum ecosystem values can be maintained using coordinated restoration and assertive silvicultural treatment planning.

Coordinated ecosystem enhancement and restoration planning has the capability to provide:

- Restoring damaged wildlife habitat (forage and cover).
- Restoring damaged riparian area integrity (cover and stream bank stability).
- Providing immediate reforestation.
- Reducing potential fire hazard to communities.
- Preventing additional uncontrolled impacts (reduced mortality).
- Providing rural community development (jobs).

The most generally accepted treatment to reduce hazard and risk of spruce beetle induced resource damage at the landscape scale is to maintain a mosaic of species and age types. Considering public habitation and use of the forests, eliminating fire suppression now and allowing this change agent to create future mosaics through unrestricted burning is not a viable option. Active ecosystem management, applying appropriate silvicultural techniques to create a future desired mosaic is the most plausible solution.

An aggressive forest restoration and forest health maintenance program involving federal, state, local and private forest managers is necessary to fully address the severity and extent of impacts to forest resources and to develop coordinated forest management actions to restore damaged ecosystems and prevent unnecessary additional ecological impacts. This conclusion is consistent with the recommended option of the Kenai Peninsula Borough report (Hall 1992) addressing forest health management needs for the Kenai Peninsula.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Alaska Society of American Foresters fully supports:

- 1) Coordinated multi-interest forest health planning at the landscape scale.
- 2) Research to identify spruce beetle induced impacts to all forest resources.
- 3) Development of a forest industry as the funding mechanism to subsidize implementing planned forest health actions.

Following the lead of the National SAF Task Force report on Sustaining Long-Term Forest Health and Productivity, it is recommended that the 26 specific recommendations from that Task Force Report be implemented in Alaska using ecologically sound approaches to maintaining or improving forest health. These recommendations will be applied through the following four broad areas of action:

- Advocate ecosystem management.
- Integrate ecosystem management into educational programs.
- Promote ecosystem management research.
- Coordinate between land owners and the public.

The Alaska Society of American Foresters should actively highlight the need for assertive management actions to address declining forest health in south-central and interior Alaska to local, state, and federal officials. This implies implementation of ecologically and silviculturally sound management approaches that will assure maintenance of the health of the forest as well as its biodiversity.

The Alaska Society recommends that agencies charged with a mandate to manage sustainable forest resources establish adequate organizations with appropriate expertise to develop site specific silvicultural treatments to accomplish those goals.

The Alaska Society recommends that the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station prepare a white paper evaluating the significance of the loss of old-growth habitat in south-central Alaska resulting from continued forest health decline.

The Alaska Society recommends using the 1994 National Convention to highlight the National significance of this extensive forest health problem and promote understanding and support for assertive ecological management applications within the American Forestry profession.

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Alaska Society of American Foresters

Cook Inlet Chapter
Juneau Chapter
Ketchikan Chapter
Yukon Chapter
Sitka Chapter
Sukine River Chapter

A POSITION STATEMENT ON SOUTH-CENTRAL AND INTERIOR ALASKA'S DETERIORATING FOREST HEALTH

I. Summary

The largest spruce bark beetle epidemic in North America is resulting in substantial and expanding impacts to wildlife, fisheries, recreation, and timber resources, as well as loss of critical old-growth habitat, in the white and Lutz spruce forests of Southcentral and Interior Alaska. Continued extensive tree mortality and associated resource impacts constitutes the greatest ecological crisis facing Alaska forests today.

An aggressive forest restoration and forest health maintenance program involving federal, State, local and private forest managers is necessary to fully recognize the severity and extent of impacts to forest resources and to develop coordinated forest management actions to restore damaged ecosystems and prevent unnecessary additional ecological impacts.

The Society of American Foresters fully supports coordinated multi-ownership forest health planning at the landscape scale, research to identify spruce beetle induced impacts to all forest resources, and development of a forest industry as the funding mechanism to subsidize implementing planned forest health actions.

II. Definition of Issue

Forest health in Southcentral and Interior Alaska is rapidly deteriorating. The spruce beetle epidemic is manifesting unprecedented rapid forest change within the white, Lutz and Sitka spruce forest types. Spruce beetle induced mortality is in many instances eliminating all live forest cover (main canopy) in major portions of large drainages. Impacts associated with forest tree canopy losses are occurring to all resources that require a forested landscape [ie. wildlife, fisheries, watersheds, scenic vistas, etc.]. Many of these infested forest stands do not meet current definitions of "ecologically functional" old-growth and lack of regeneration following infestation has potential to convert these stands to

other than conifer forest cover for an extended period of time. Loss of old-growth habitat from spruce beetle infestation in the white Lutz and Sitka spruce forests of Alaska (Southeast included) is occurring at a rate of 6-8 times the combined rate of all other forest change agents (fire, timber harvest, urban sprawl, etc.). This long-term beetle induced loss of old-growth habitat will have a significant impact on maintaining current biological diversity in Southcentral and interior Alaska.

Lack of fully recognizing ecological impacts coupled with lack of a viable forest industry to provide cost effective management options has resulted in little direct action to address this declining forest health problem to date. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of acres of Alaska forests are being subject to ever-increasing negative impacts, losing future resource potential, and rapidly losing economic value that could fund positive management actions.

Long-term loss of old-growth habitat, substantial forest conversion, and associated resource impacts in the naturally fragmented landscape patterns of Southcentral and Interior Alaska, coupled with little direct action to contain the epidemic or rehabilitate previously impacted areas, make this situation the most ecologically critical issue to sustained ecosystems facing Alaska's forests today.

III. Background

Southcentral and Interior Alaska have hundreds of thousands of acres of white and Lutz spruce forest types that are simultaneously entering a mature, decadent condition and consequently becoming highly productive spruce beetle habitat. This, coupled with recent favorable weather conditions has increased spruce beetle population growths to epidemic proportions.

Systematic monitoring of insect conditions by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service has documented that the area of active spruce beetle infestation is growing at an exponential rate and will likely exceed 1 million acres by the summer of 1994.

There is currently a lack of research documenting specific resource impacts from this forest health crisis. Impacts to wildlife and streamside stability are observable, but documentation of these through research studies or published monitoring is limited.

IV. Discussion

Spruce beetle populations have shifted from endemic to epidemic levels. Halting the infestation in the near term is unlikely. However, concerted efforts by all landowners and resource managers can significantly slow the buildup, restore already impacted areas, and minimize future resource impacts from this insect.

The only recognized effective treatment to reduce hazard and risk of spruce beetle induced resource damage at the landscape scale is to maintain a mosaic of species and age types. Maximum resource values can be maintained using coordinated restoration and prevention silvicultural treatments. While economics should not be the major driver for addressing Alaska forest health problems, clearly, economics should not be ignored. The fact that implementation of forest management to address forest health will not only assist to pay for the needed forest health treatments, but meet other state goals such as rural economic development is significant. Particularly with wood product values anticipated to rise, the potential for significant economic returns from implementing forest health treatments, and consequent loss of these values through inaction, should not be ignored.

The Society of American Foresters has recently published a National Task Force report "Sustaining Long-Term Forest Health and Productivity". This report describes the need to address the sustainability of healthy forests by considering social or human forces as well as considering scientific and economic forces. A coordinated effort applying positive management actions to deal with this Alaskan forest health crisis would be consistent with the recommendations of this report to sustain long-term forest health and productivity in our ecosystems. Lack of action allowing continuation of increasing forest health decline would be inconsistent with sustained ecosystem productivity.

V. Recommendations

The Alaska Society of American Foresters recommends and fully supports:

- (a) Coordinated multi-interest forest health planning at the landscape scale.
- (b) Research to identify spruce beetle induced impacts to all forest resources.
- (c) Development of a forest industry as the funding mechanism to subsidize planned forest health actions.

The Alaska Society of American Foresters should actively highlight the need for assertive management actions to address declining forest health in south-central and interior Alaska to local, state, and federal officials. This implies implementation of ecologically and silviculturally sound management approaches that will assure maintenance of the health of the forest as well as its biodiversity.

The Alaska Society recommends using the 1994 National Convention to highlight the National significance of this extensive forest health problem and promote understanding and support for assertive ecological management applications within the American Forestry profession.

This position was approved by the Alaska Society of American Foresters Executive Committee on November 7, 1993 and will expire November 7, 1996.

or wind-thrown timber reduces stocking levels below the acceptable limit.

g) Trees left for future harvest must be adequately protected from damage resulting from harvest operations to assure their survival and growth. ES. 2/15/81. Register 77)

Authority: AS 41.17.020
AS 41.17.080

11 AAC 95.130. INSECT AND DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL a) Silvicultural systems employed on state and municipally owned forest land must be designed to prevent or control insect infestations and disease infection.

b) When the commissioner finds forest land or timber that is infested by forest insect pests, infected by forest tree disease, or threatened by insect pests or forest tree disease, he will determine whether measures of control are necessary and available and to which areas the control measures should be applied. Thereafter, the commissioner will, in his discretion, designate a disease or insect control area with definite boundaries. The area may include threatened forest land or timber as well as forest land or timber already affected.

(c) The commissioner will immediately notify in writing all owners of forest land or timber within the designated control areas. The notice will be served by delivery of a copy of the notice to the owner, or by mail addressed to the owners' last known place of address. In addition, the commissioner will publish a legal description of the designated control area at least once a week for two consecutive weeks in one or more newspapers of general circulation in or near the designated control area.

(d) The commissioner will assist, upon request of the owners of forest land or timber within the designated control area, with the control and salvage measures necessary, to the extent that there is available funding for undertaking the assistance.

(e) When the commissioner determines that forest insect pest or forest tree disease control work within the designated control area is no longer necessary or feasible, the commissioner will terminate the designation.

(f) When trees on state and municipally owned forest land contain insects or disease which pose a significant threat to surrounding healthy trees, they must be salvaged as rapidly as is practicable, dependent upon access and marketability, to prevent spread of the forest pests or disease. Trees must also be salvaged where environmental catastrophes such as wind or flooding cause them to be highly susceptible to bark-beetle infestation.

(g) Where salvage of trees killed by insects or disease is conducted for the sole purpose of using wood fiber and is consistent with the

management objectives for state and municipal forest land, salvage should occur before wood deterioration results, if a significant loss of merchantability is to be avoided. Eff. 2/15/81, Register 77

Authority: AS 41.17.020
AS 41.17.080

Article 3. Forest Fire Protection

Section	Section
400. Purpose	450. Emergency closure
410. Permit	460. Public notice
420. Content of permit	470. Environmental control
430. Denial, suspension, or revocation of permit	480. Additional equipment for operations
440. Place of burning	490. Other governmental laws

11 AAC 95.400. PURPOSE. It is the purpose of 11 AAC 95.400 — 11 AAC 95.490 to provide for the protection of forested land from fire. Eff. 2/15/81, Register 77

Authority: AS 41.15.020
AS 41.17.020
AS 41.17.080

11 AAC 95.410. PERMIT. (a) A burning permit is required during the fire season for the burning of any material in areas designated by the commissioner. A burning permit is not required when the burning is contained within an approved device, or for cooking, warming, or signaling fires.

(b) A burning permit may be obtained by applying to the commissioner. The applicant shall provide the commissioner with information as to the type, location, and person in charge of the burning, the area and material to be burned, and the number of persons controlling the burn.

(c) An applicant issued a burning permit may not burn any material covered by the permit unless he has the permit in his possession. The permit must be displayed to a designee of the commissioner upon request.

(d) Before issuing a permit, the commissioner will, in his discretion, require that he inspect the area and material to be burned. (Eff. 2/15/81, Register 77)

Authority: AS 41.15.020 AS 41.17.020
AS 41.15.060 AS 41.17.080

11 AAC 95.420. CONTENT OF PERMIT. (a) Each permit must be on a form provided by the department and must contain
(1) the name and address of permittee;

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 1995

Contact: Dan Brown (907) 349-3430

Homer— Circle DE corporation of Homer, Alaska dropped plans to bid on a harvest of beetle killed timber located on Kalgin Island in Cook Inlet after reading threats of potential litigation by Patrick Lavin of the Trustees for Alaska, an Anchorage Environmental law office.

Recently encouraged by Judge Milton Souter's decision to block a request for an emergency stay, Circle DE owner Dan Brown decided that his company could not risk scarce venture capital in the face of possible litigation.

A Trustees representative recently told the Associated Press that "...there was still time for court sale."

"We will not jeopardize our stockholders capital if these types of groups file more and more harassment lawsuits," Brown said.

"The Trustees for Alaska are doing the people of Alaska a great injustice," Brown said. "Their delay strategy leaves time for beetle kill to take all the value from the wood. When we started looking at Kalgin for beetle kill salvage into our Homer chipping plant there was enough value in the resource to justify the expense of careful harvest and over a half million dollars of reforestation to the island. Delays imposed by these groups can quickly erode any possibility of a profitable operation. It's a shame that the trees will just probably burn without reforestation, inflicting greater long term impacts to fish and wildlife than if we are allowed to reforest the island."

Brown points to miles of beetle killed trees along Kenai roads and suggests that had proper forest management taken place visitors would not be seeing such an ugly mass of dead and dying trees and communities like Cooper Landing would not be facing a tremendous risk of fire. All the negatives could have been avoided had industry simply been allowed quick access to the dead trees while they still had value. Such is not the case due to groups like the Alaska Center for the Environment and the Trustees for Alaska which keep operations delayed.

Circle DE operation in Homer is responsible for over 90 direct jobs, the majority of which provide year round employment. "We could put more people to work salvaging these dead and dying trees if we were just allowed access to the forest. It's a shame that these groups have to hurt the Kenai's potential for creating jobs, restoring the land and protecting long term wildlife values," Brown reflected.

ALASKA FOREST HEALTH

3/94

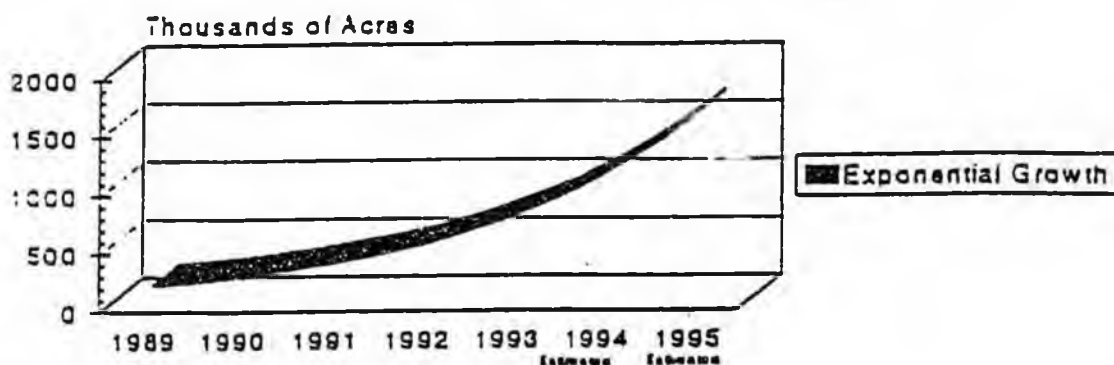
Southcentral and Interior Alaska

The major ecosystem here is boreal. This landscape is fire disturbance driven and supports mixed hardwood/spruce forests on about 1/3 of the area, mostly along river drainages. While man has influenced this system, development has been minimal and the most readily evident change agents on the landscape are insects.

Several defoliating insects (spruce budworm, Aspen Tortx, Willow Miner, etc.) are having substantial effect (these three were mapped at 1,376,300 acres last year). While crown damage from these insects is growing and would demand active treatment in most states, due to access, this damage is going relatively untreated in Alaska.

However, the extensive mortality from spruce beetle cannot be ignored. Spruce beetle populations are on an exponential increase with active infestation mapped at 725,000 acres last year. It is projected that extensive mortality will be occurring on over 1.1 million acres by next summer.

Spruce Beetle Infestation Trends



This is the largest spruce beetle infestation in North America and is substantially reducing several of Alaska's forest resource values. Mortality is often extensive with large portions of entire drainages having essentially all conifer forest cover killed. Substantial impacts to wildlife, water quality, and esthetics are becoming recognized, however, research to quantify these impacts is needed.

- Extensive loss of old-growth habitat, increased fragmentation, and lack of natural regeneration constitutes the largest ecological crisis facing Alaska's forests today.
- Potential for catastrophic fires from increased fuel loadings poses a growing social problem.
- Loss of economic forest values (tourism, wildlife/fish, and timber) will hinder Alaska's ability to diversify its economy and reduce the state's economic dependency on oil.

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Editorial Opinion and Comment of



Daily News - Miner

"Independent in All Things . . . Neutral in None"

Other opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of the Daily News-Miner.

Living with a state forest

Interior Alaska will be living with a new land classification now that Gov. Bill Sheffield has signed into law a bill creating the Tanana Valley State Forest.

Under the bill, 1.6 million acres of land will be off-limits to private ownership, but open to commercial timber development, home wood cutting, mining, recreation, hunting and fishing, and other uses under a multiple use management plan.

Even though creation of this state forest was controversial, we can live with and benefit from it if common sense is used in drawing up the regulations under which it will be managed.

Because Alaskans already have seen much of the state set aside for special uses, through the Alaska Native Land Claims Act and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, placing more land in a special category proved controversial. The next step in creating a forest products industry and determining the nature of the state forest is the writing of the regulations under which it will be managed. That's where Alaskans should turn our attention now that the bill has become law.

The bill guarantees that commercial timber harvesting be provided, as well as a dozen other uses. We need to assure that the regulations reflect those guarantees.

We also need to be sure that the process through which some land can be backed out of the forest is working as it should. In one draft of the bill, one of the borough's proposed industrial sites was included within the forest. A mechanism was included to back out land such as that, and it will need to work smoothly. On some specific parcels, private ownership and development of the land would be a better use than including that land in the forest.

The Tanana Valley State Forest can be a major asset to Interior Alaska if we manage it with common sense. Public scrutiny of the regulations under which it will be managed can assure the job is getting done right.

The best kind of fun

Golden Days is behind us. The days are shortening a bit. The garden produce is coming in. Not much summer

Who uses

It should come as no surprise to anyone connected with the mining industry to reflect that any individual in an industrialized society will have "used" a dozen different metals before breakfast.

Bed springs, for a start, normally contain iron, manganese, chromium and vanadium. The simple action of switching on an electric light involves a whole system of metals: the tungsten lamp filament, copper wiring, copper, mercury and zinc in the switch, tin and lead in the solder and fuses. In the distribution grid, there may be aluminum in the power lines and uranium in the generating stations. Turning on the water for a wash involves several metals yet again, and a look in the mirror "silvered" with tin-mercury amalgam brings the list to 12.

As the day passes, so the list in which metals are essential grows: Farm tractors and equipment, boats,



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forests

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

deleted in 1990

deleted in - > 1990

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

Article 4. State Land Reforestation.

Section
 300. State land reforestation fund
 310. Appropriations to state land reforestation fund

Section
 320. Report to the legislature



ALASKA VISITORS ASSOCIATION

3201 C Street, Suite 403 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Tel: (907) 561-5733 • Fax: (907) 561-5727

1993-94

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#94-7

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE COMPATIBILITY OF ALASKA FOREST PRODUCTS AND VISITOR INDUSTRIES

WHEREAS, the tourism industry and management of Alaska's renewable forest resources are both important to the good of Alaska's economy; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's tourism industry and forest products industry are compatible; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's tourism industry and forest products industry face increased regulations and laws which challenge Alaska's sustainable economic growth; and

WHEREAS, in many communities the forest products industry provides the basic infrastructure (power, roads, utilities) which allows for the development of visitor services; and--

WHEREAS, both the forest products industry and the visitor industry in Alaska are renewable, sustainable, regulated and compatible with protection of the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Visitors Association supports a strong forest products industry in Alaska and supports the management of forests on a sustainable and renewable basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AVA supports finding and developing increased interaction with Alaska's forest product industry.

Adopted by the AVA Membership
September 30, 1994

RESOLUTION- BY TANANA VALLEY SPORTSMENS' ASSOCIATION

SUPPORTING REESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE TANANA VALLEY STATE FOREST AS A TIMBER BASE, REMOVING OVERLY BURDENSOME LAWS ON THE FOREST INDUSTRY, GUARANTEEING ACCESS TO STATE FOREST RESOURCES BY HUNTERS, LOGGERS, AND OTHER FOREST USERS, AND ESTABLISHING GAME PRODUCTION AS THE PRIMARY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE IN THE STATE FOREST.

WHEREAS, not unlike hunters, local loggers in Interior Alaska are under fire from a barrage of preservationists and anti-human use attacks, and;

WHEREAS, harvesting trees for firewood, cabin logs and lumber is a customary and traditional use of Interior forests, and;

WHEREAS, the forest industry is important in diversifying and contributing to the local economy by creating jobs from a renewable resource, and;

WHEREAS, the Tanana Valley State Forest was originally established with community consensus to provide a sustainable timber base, and;

WHEREAS, the Tanana Valley State Forest comprises a mere 5% of the Tanana drainage, and;

WHEREAS, some 75% of the Tanana drainage is already locked-up and dedicated to wilderness and nonconsumptive uses, and;

WHEREAS, silvicultural practices such as use of wildfire and logging that begin anew the cycle of forest succession actually enhance the habitat of many wildlife species important to hunters, particularly for personal consumptive use (food), and;

WHEREAS, access developed as a result of timber operations provides recreational opportunities not commonly found in the Tanana valley and is useful in dispersing hunting pressure, and;

WHEREAS, access to forest resources is under attack, and;

WHEREAS, intensive management of habitat and game for human consumptive use is mandated in state law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Tanana Valley Sportsmens' Association supports legislative efforts to reestablish the primary purpose of the Tanana Valley State Forest as providing a timber base, removing overly burdensome laws on the forest industry, guaranteeing access to state forest resources by hunters, loggers, and other forest users, and establishing game production as the primary wildlife management objective in the state forest.

RESOLUTION - BY ALASKA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

SUPPORTING REESTABLISHMENT OF PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE TANANA VALLEY STATE FOREST

WHEREAS, like trappers, local loggers in Interior Alaska are under fire from a barrage of preservationist attacks, and;

WHEREAS, sustainably harvesting trees for firewood, cabin logs and lumber is a customary and traditional use of Interior forests, and;

WHEREAS, the Tanana Valley State Forest was originally established with community consensus to provide a sustainable timber base, and;

WHEREAS, the Tanana Valley State Forest comprises a mere 5% of the Tanana drainage, and;

WHEREAS, some 75% of the Tanana drainage is already locked-up and dedicated to wilderness and nonconsumptive uses, and;

WHEREAS, silvicultural practices such as use of wildfire and logging that begin anew the cycle of forest succession actually enhance the habitat of many important furbearers and their prey;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Alaska Trappers Association supports legislative efforts to reestablish the primary purpose of the Tanana Valley State Forest as providing a multiple use timber base.

Passed 2/6/95
ATTA Board of Directors

RESOLUTION #94-3
Upper Tanana Subregional Advisory Board

Timber Development For the Upper Tanana Subregion

WHEREAS, the Upper Tanana Subregional Advisory Board met in a quorum on October 26 & 27, 1994 Tanacross, and

WHEREAS, the Upper Tanana villages were supportive of a timber development project last year, and

WHEREAS, the Upper Tanana villages continue to support such a project, and

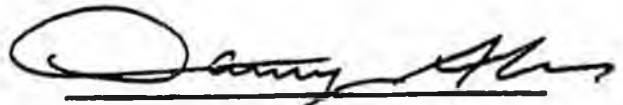
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Upper Tanana Subregional Advisory Board requests that the administration of Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. direct staff to assist the Upper Tanana villages in drafting legislation to:

- 1) Have a timber demonstration project specifically for the Upper Tanana area, and
- 2) Language will include a provision for Forest Management Agreement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that a committee of the Upper Tanana villages be appointed to assist in drafting of the proposed legislation.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Upper Tanana Subregional Advisory Board on October 27, 1994.



Danny Adams
Chairman

FINAL REPORT

INCREASED
TIMBER HARVESTING
IN THE
TANANA VALLEY:

WHAT DOES THE PUBLIC THINK?

A Public Opinion Survey

Andreas P. Anger
John R. Boyce
Laura M. Milner

School of Management
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-6080

Prepared for:

Fairbanks Industrial Development Corporation
515 Seventh Avenue, Suite 320
Fairbanks, Alaska, 99701

March 1995

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY-LONG VERSION
INCREASED TIMBER HARVESTING IN THE TANANA VALLEY
WHAT DOES THE PUBLIC THINK?**

Prepared for the Fairbanks Industrial Development Corporation
by

Andreas P. Anger, John R. Boyce, and Laura M. Milner
University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Management
March, 1995

Introduction

During the fall, 1994, a public opinion survey was conducted regarding proposals for increased timber development in the Tanana Valley by University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Management undergraduate and graduate marketing students as part of a course assignment. The survey was designed in general to assess several major topics: How do people feel about increased timber harvesting through long-term contracts with timber companies; how people use the forest and how those uses impact their support of increased timber harvesting; how respondents' attitudes impact their support of increased timber harvesting; and how support for increased timber harvesting would change given different logging proposal scenarios.

Methodology

Sample. The sampling frame for the survey was determined to be registered voters living in the Tanana Valley in Alaska. This sampling frame was selected for a number of reasons. First, registered voters were selected because any decision to open the Tanana Valley for increased timber harvesting had to be made by the state legislature. The non-voting population would not affect that decision. Second, we restricted ourselves to registered voters living in the area possibly affected. In part this decision was based on a desire to know what people who actually live in the areas possibly affected think rather than how voters elsewhere in the state or even elsewhere in the US or world think. As the impact of increased timber harvesting would be most directly felt by local residents, this group was deemed to be the most important group to survey. However, our decision was also based in part on budgetary reasons. We wanted to make sure that our sample of respondents within the affected regions would be adequate for statistical accuracy, and this entirely exhausted our budget.

Having selected the sampling frame as registered voters in the affected area, our next decision was how to sample from this population. We chose to do a simple random sample from this entire population. As our sample size was fairly large (1584 respondents received a survey in the first mailing), we felt that such a sample would be sure to include respondents from each area roughly in proportion to the size of the different communities being sampled.

The September 1994 registered voter list was purchased for \$165.00 in electronic form from the Alaska Elections Commission, Division of Voter Registration. We selected all registered voters in the Tanana Valley from the tape and then randomly selected from that list. There were 37,705 registered voters identified as living in the possibly affected area.¹ The survey was mailed to 1584 registered voters living in the Tanana Valley; 362 respondents could not be

reached at the address in the registered voter's file, leaving a total of 1222 possible respondents. The large percentage of non-deliverables is due to the transient population (especially military personnel) and to the length of time (two years) before an inactive registered voter is removed from the list.

We initially considered doing three mailings to our sample. However, after the second mailing we checked to see if the sample of respondents in the first mailing was different from the sample in the second mailing in our main question regarding supporting increased timber harvesting. Our statistical test suggested that there was not a statistically significant difference between respondents who replied during the first mailing and those who replied during the second mailing.

The sample contains 253 respondents who replied in the first mailing and 264 respondents who replied in the second mailing for a total of 517 surveys or a 42.3% response rate on the deliverable surveys. The larger number in the second mailing is due to the fact that we used a one dollar gift incentive in the second mailing which we did not use in the first mailing. The overall response rate is similar to comparable studies.²

Surveys Designed and Pretesting. A draft of the survey was completed by the first of October, 1994. We then began circulating the survey to various interest groups in the area to solicit their comments.³ The result was that a number of substantial changes were made to the survey over the following month. By the first of November, we had a survey instrument which was in an advanced enough state that we began testing it on various classes at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.⁴ These pretests allowed us to find several areas of confusion as well as to obtain estimates of length, difficulty, and expected response rates.

The final survey was mailed to respondents as a sixteen page booklet. The survey was accompanied with a letter of introduction on University letterhead, personally signed by our project director, Mr. Anger. This technique is recommended by survey design experts.⁵ In addition to the cover letter, respondents were given an information sheet with arguments for and against the increased timber harvesting on one side, and a map in three colors on the back showing the areas possibly affected. The information sheet was designed in conjunction with the survey, and the interest groups and pretest groups were given an opportunity to comment on it as well. Finally, each respondent received a business-reply return envelope with our address. Each return envelope contained an identification number on the upper left-hand-side of the envelope. This number was used to determine whether or not the respondent had returned the survey for subsequent mailings. About a half a dozen respondents removed the number physically from the envelope, but in most cases the number was visible on the back side of the envelope where the stamp left an indentation, so we were able to record who it was. For the two respondents who destroyed the marking completely, we discarded the survey to prevent double counting.

Data Collection and Analysis. The data was entered into an Excel spreadsheet as the surveys were returned. The only identifying information we have retained about the respondents is the zip code of the area in which they live. Our primary concern in the data analysis was to determine what factors influenced whether a respondent would vote "yes" or "no" on a referendum which would allow increased timber harvesting in the Tanana Valley. We used a logit statistical model to predict the probability that a respondent would vote "yes" or "no" given demographic characteristics, how they used the forest, and what their attitudes were on a number of related issues.

RESULTS

Referendum Vote. Over sixty-three percent of respondents said they would be willing to vote yes on a referendum which would allow increased timber harvesting in Tanana Valley through long-term contracts with timber companies. This finding can be generalized to the over all voter population of the Tanana Valley within an error margin of plus or minus four percentage points given the current level of information.

Uses of the Forest. We examined how people used the forest and how that affected whether or not they would support increased timber harvesting through long-term contracts with timber companies. Results indicated the following:

- Over ninety percent of respondents indicated that they used the forest for recreation. About thirty percent of the total thought that increased timber harvesting would make them worse off in their recreational use of the forest, and about twenty percent thought their recreational use of the forest would be made better off. Those who thought they would be made worse off supported increased timber harvesting only about twenty-five percent of the time, relative to over eighty percent of the time for those who thought they would be made better off.
- About seventy percent of the respondents used the forest for hunting and gathering, and about forty percent indicated that they used it for trapping. Less than twenty percent of respondents thought they would be made worse off hunting, gathering and trapping, but those who thought they would be made worse off supported the increased timber harvesting much less than those who did not think they would be made worse off.
- Between sixty and seventy percent of respondents used the forest for lumber, firewood, or in their business or employment. Only ten to twenty percent of respondents in these categories thought they would be made worse off with increased timber harvesting. However, those who thought they would be made worse off in these uses were much less likely to support proposals for increased timber harvesting.
- Viewing was a use category indicated by over ninety percent of the respondents. This is also the use category with the most respondents who thought they would be made worse off, with over forty percent saying they would be made worse off in their viewing use of the forest. About sixty percent of those who thought they would be made worse off in viewing opposed increased timber harvesting.
- Respondents were asked how increased timber harvesting would affect their spiritual use of the forest. About seventy-five percent of the population reported using the forest in this way. Those who said they would be made worse off were about three times less likely to support timber harvesting than other respondents.

Respondents Attitudes. There is a very high correspondence between how people voted on the referendum and how they felt about a number of issues relating to development and the environment. In particular, we found the following:

- Over eighty percent of respondents felt that the Tanana Valley needed more economic development. About seventy percent of respondents felt that increased timber harvesting would be good for the economy, and only about twenty-five percent of respondents disagreed that increased timber harvesting was the right type of economic development for the Tanana Valley.

- Most respondents were either neutral or did not know whether the timber industry in the Tanana Valley had been environmentally responsible, and only about fifteen percent disagreed. However, about forty percent of respondents agreed that increased timber harvesting would be harmful to the environment.

- About ten percent of respondents agreed that development should be pursued no matter what the environmental cost. An additional ten percent said they agreed that the environment should be protected no matter what the cost. Thus about twenty percent of respondents were either adamantly opposed to or in favor of increased economic development at the expense of the environment.

- Although about sixty percent of respondents felt the state would ensure that the timber harvesting would be sustainable, about sixty percent also thought the state needed to do more planning before it allows increased timber harvesting.

- About eighty percent of respondents either agreed or were neutral to the idea of keeping any roads built for timber harvesting open to public access.

- About half the respondents agreed that the state might end up subsidizing the industry, although only about twenty percent actually supported doing this.

- About sixty percent of respondents felt that increased timber harvesting should be done only if Alaskan owned and operated. However, those who agreed with this were not much different than the remaining population in how they supported the increased timber harvesting proposal.

Logging Proposal Scenarios. We also tried to determine whether or not changes in the proposals would affect support one way or another. We found that:

- Restricting the increased timber harvesting to particular regions (e.g., Fairbanks region or Delta Junction and Tok region) would encourage less support.

- Putting fifty percent of the forest off-limits to timber harvesting would have no effect.

- A restriction that the industry could only produce high valued-added products would have no net effect on public support. Those who opposed increased timber harvesting without the restriction were more likely to support it with this restriction, but those who supported increased timber harvesting without the restriction were less likely to support it with the restriction.

- However, if the industry were only permitted to produce low value-added products such as wood chips, there would be about a twenty-five percent decline in support. This would mean that almost sixty percent of respondents would oppose increased timber harvesting in this case.

- Setting fifty percent of the land aside for small operators would cause a slight increase in support, but subsidizing them directly would cause support to decline by over twenty -five percent.

- If the cutting were coordinated to maximize habitat for game, support rose to almost three fourths of the population.

Discussion and Conclusions

Our survey found that there is support for increased timber harvesting in the Tanana Valley. However, this support is based on a number of implicit assumptions. In particular, it does not appear that the public would support such a plan if the only use were limited to products such as wood chips or paper pulp. We believe that there are a number of other factors which could affect public support. For example, while most respondents felt they would be adversely affected for viewing, a large percentage still voted "yes" on our main referendum question. Were the visual effects to be worse than expected, this support would likely decline. Our section on respondent attitudes suggest that there are a number of other areas which could affect the support for such a program as well.

Our demographic results indicate that respondents are on average fairly well educated, a common finding for surveys such as this. However, with the exception of this possible response bias, our survey results provide a much different picture than would be obtained by non-random methods such as public meetings or letters to the editor.⁶ In fact, when we asked whether respondents had been involved in the debate over timber harvesting, of the eighty-five percent who said they had not been involved, almost sixty-nine percent voted "yes" of the principle issue. This simply shows that a count of pro-versus-con letters to the editor or of pro-versus-con people at a public meeting is not representative of the population. While we expect that public opinion may change as new information becomes available, we believe that we have an accurate depiction of public opinion at this stage of the game.⁷

Endnotes

1The affected area includes all of legislative district 29 to 34, and parts of legislative district 36 (precincts 533, 536, 542, 547, 550, 597, 605, 613, 615, 620, 627, 645, 683, 685, 687, and 688).

2See Robert Cameron Mitchell and Richard T. Carson, *Using Surveys to Value Public Goods: The Contingent Valuation Method, Resources for the Future*, Washington, D.C., 1989

3Groups and organizations contacted included the Northern Alaska Environmental Center, the Boreal Forest Council, the Alaska Outdoor Council, the Forestry Division of the Department of Natural Resources, and the Forestry Department of the School of Agriculture and Land Resource Management, University of Alaska Fairbanks. None of these groups is responsible for the final survey, although each was given an opportunity to comment at various draft stages.

4Classes and faculty who allowed us to pretest the survey include Dr. John Boyce's Introduction to Natural Resources Economics class, Professor Jim Ranney's Political Economy Course, and Dr. Laura Milner's Principles of Marketing class. The Political Economy courses were our largest and most representative pre-test groups. We tested it on about sixty students in one section and about forty students in the other section. The Political Economy class is a required course for incoming freshmen, and is taken by students from across campus.

5See Don A. Dillman, *Mail and Telephone Surveys: The Total Design Method*, 1978, John Wiley & Sons, New York.

⁶For example, see the publication, *Voices of the Forest: Public Testimony on the Future of the Tanana Valley State Forest*, edited by Janice C. Dawe, Anthony N. Whitworth, Richard J. McCaffrey, and Douglas A. Yates, 1994, Alaska Boreal Forest Council.

⁷Copies of this report, in its entirety, are available from Fairbanks Industrial Development Corporation.

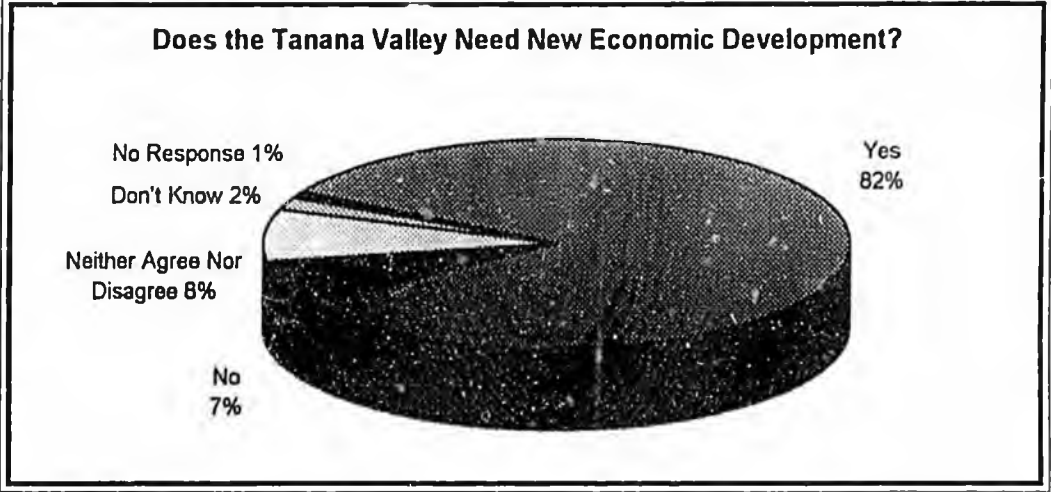
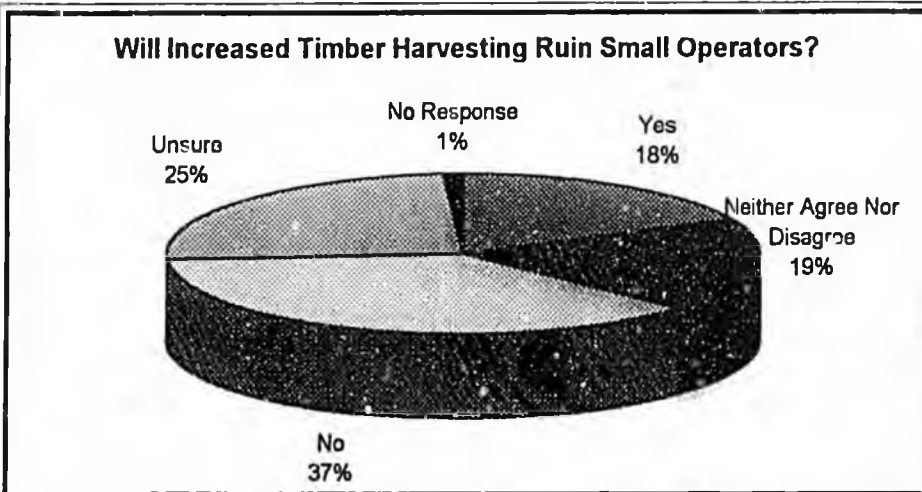
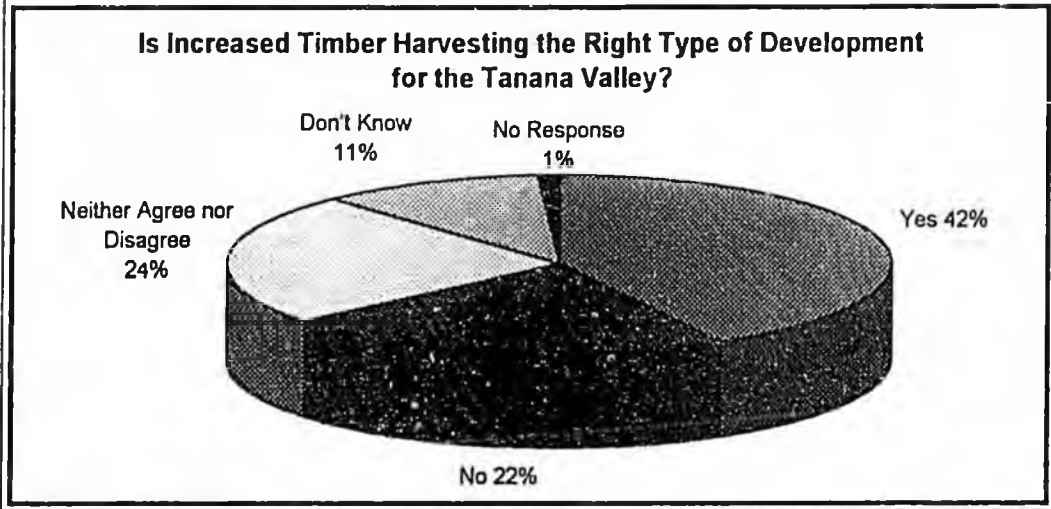
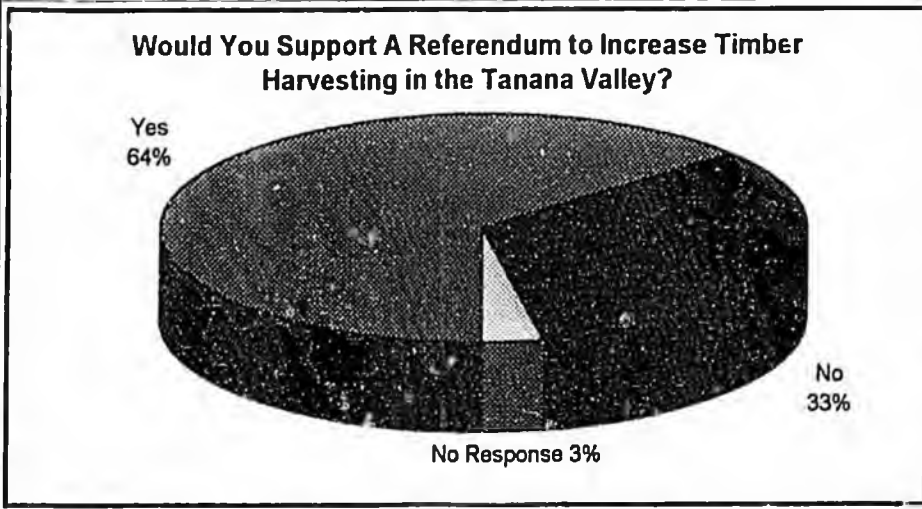
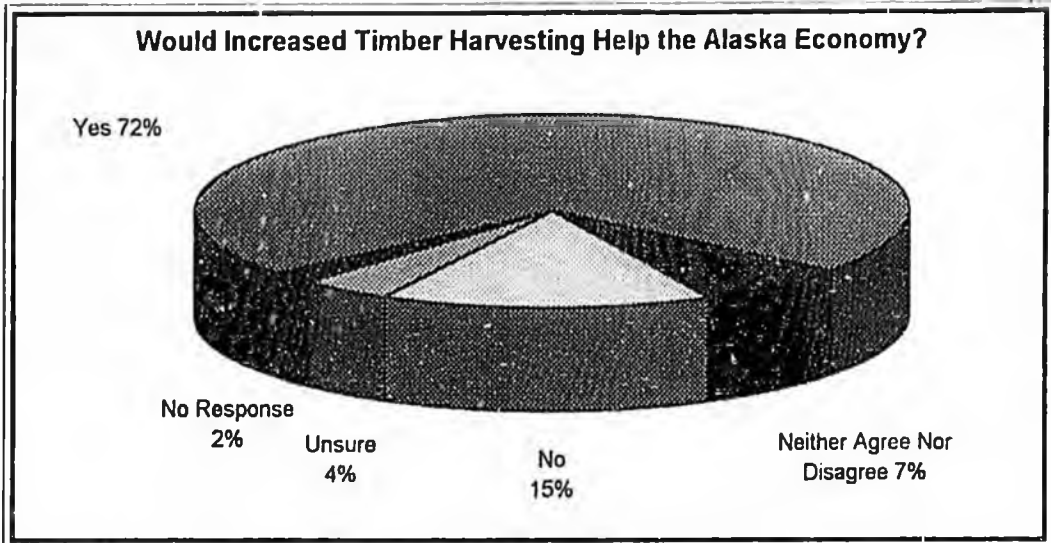
Table 4.1: Percentage of Respondents Agreeing or Disagreeing with Attitude Statements

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW	DID NOT ANSWER
1. Increased timber harvesting would help the Alaskan economy.	26.11	45.84	7.16	10.25	4.26	4.46	1.74
2. Increased timber harvesting would be harmful to the environment.	15.47	24.76	13.15	27.27	13.15	5.03	1.16
3. The state needs to do more planning before it allows increased timber harvesting.	29.01	30.95	11.80	14.70	7.35	5.22	0.97
4. Increased timber harvesting should be opposed no matter how it is done.	5.22	6.00	10.44	39.65	36.75	1.16	0.77
5. Increased timber harvesting is the right type of development for the Tanana Valley.	12.38	29.40	22.05	15.67	8.32	11.22	0.97
6. Increased timber harvesting will improve big game habitat and hunting.	12.19	30.75	13.93	18.96	8.70	14.89	0.58
7. The timber industry has been environmentally responsible in the Tanana Valley.	5.80	21.08	22.82	11.61	4.06	33.08	1.55
8. The state should keep access roads open for the public.	20.12	41.78	13.15	14.70	5.80	3.09	1.35
9. Development should be pursued no matter what the environmental impact.	2.51	6.96	6.58	33.66	47.97	1.35	0.97
10. The environment should be protected no matter what the cost.	14.70	22.44	15.67	31.53	12.38	1.56	1.74

Table 4.1 (continued)

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW	DID NOT ANSWER
11. The Tanana Valley needs new economic development.	31.33	50.29	8.12	5.42	1.55	2.32	0.97
12. Even if increased timber harvesting is bad for the environment, American know-how will fix it.	0.97	10.06	12.19	33.66	36.75	3.68	2.71
13. Increased timber harvesting cannot be environmentally safe.	4.84	9.67	8.90	48.16	21.28	6.38	0.77
14. With long-term timber contracts, the state will end up subsidizing industry.	7.74	22.63	15.67	17.21	8.12	27.66	0.97
15. Increased timber harvesting should be allowed only if Alaskan owned and operated.	25.92	34.82	16.44	16.05	3.68	2.13	0.97
16. We should not produce raw logs for export outside of Alaska.	27.66	23.21	13.15	24.95	5.61	4.64	0.77
17. We can trust the state to ensure that the timber harvesting is sustainable.	3.29	18.38	17.41	28.82	21.66	9.67	0.77
18. Increased timber harvesting will ruin the small operators.	3.48	14.89	18.96	32.50	4.26	24.56	1.35
19. Increased timber harvesting should be allowed if it is used for paper pulp.	2.51	18.38	27.27	25.73	9.48	15.67	0.97
20. The state should not lower the price it charges for timber to create local jobs.	11.80	36.56	16.25	15.86	4.45	13.15	1.93

Questions
Regarding the Economy
and Timber Harvesting
in the Tanana Valley



Graphs based on data from a random survey mailed to 1,584 voters in the Tanana Valley. 517 persons responded. UAF students prepared the study for the Fairbanks Industrial Development Corporation. Numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding.

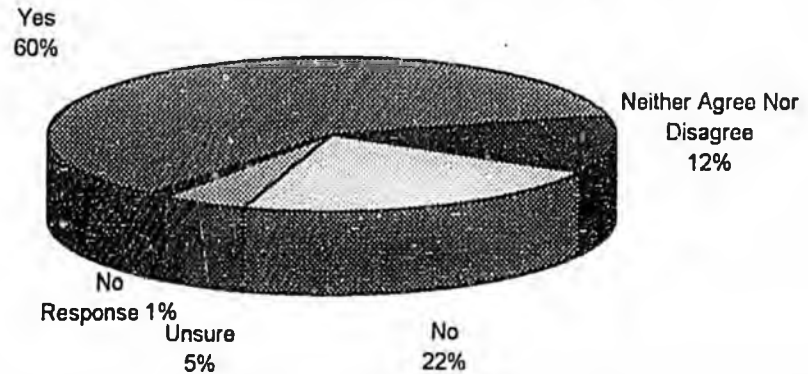
Questions

Regarding the State

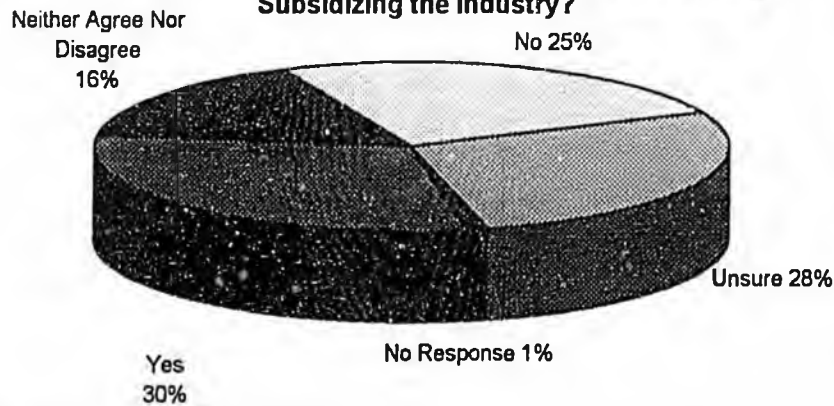
and Timber Harvesting

in the Tanana Valley

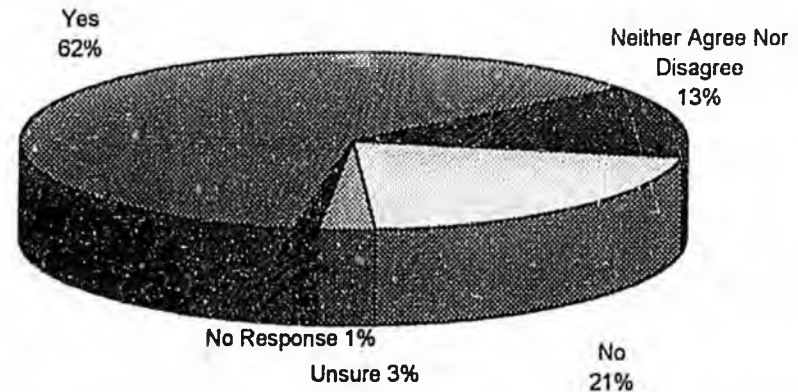
Does the state need to do more planning before it allows increased timber harvesting?



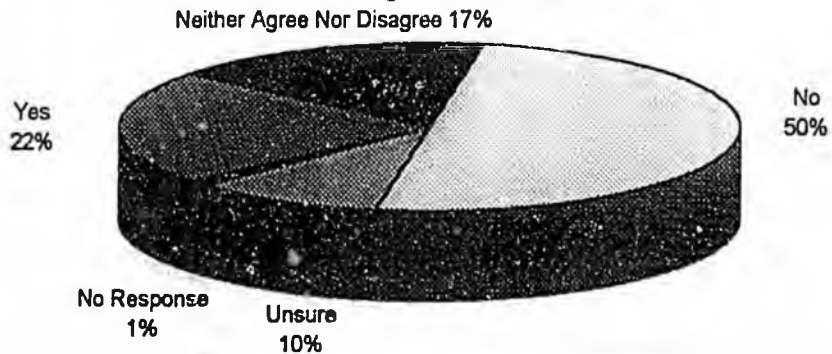
With Long-Term Timber Contracts, Will the State End Up Subsidizing the Industry?



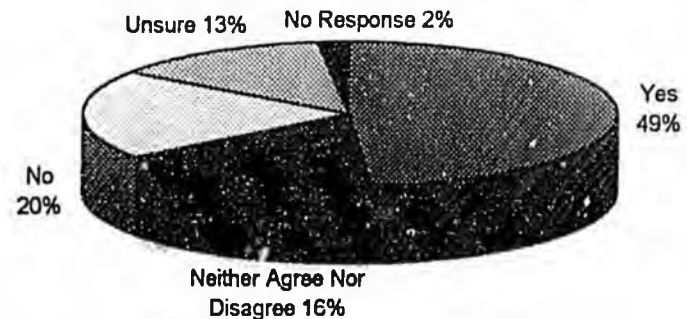
Should the State Keep Access Roads Open for the Public?



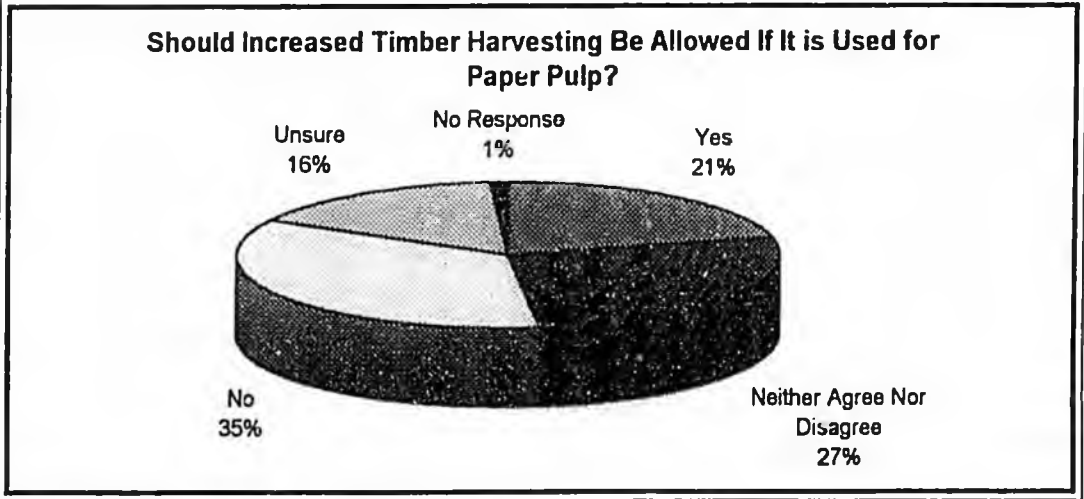
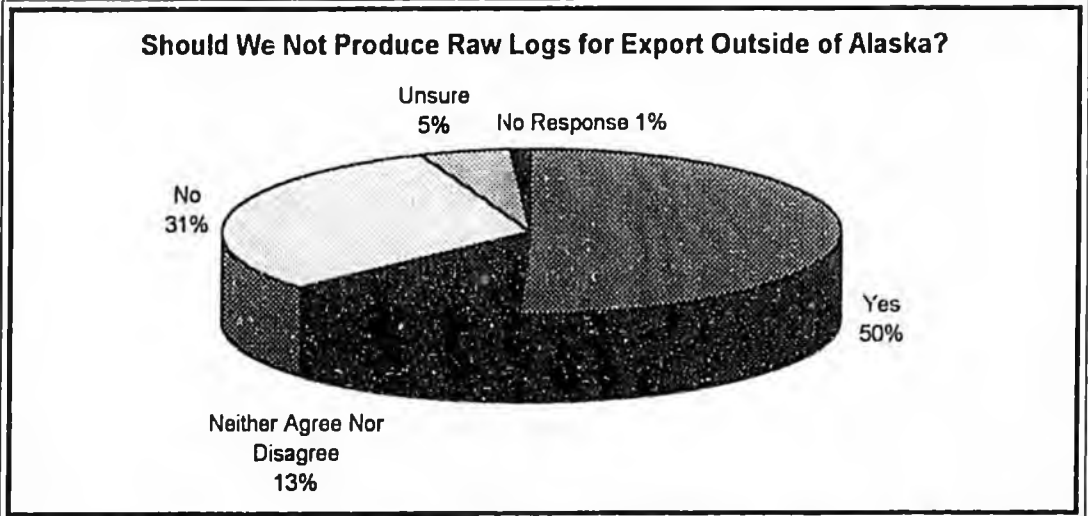
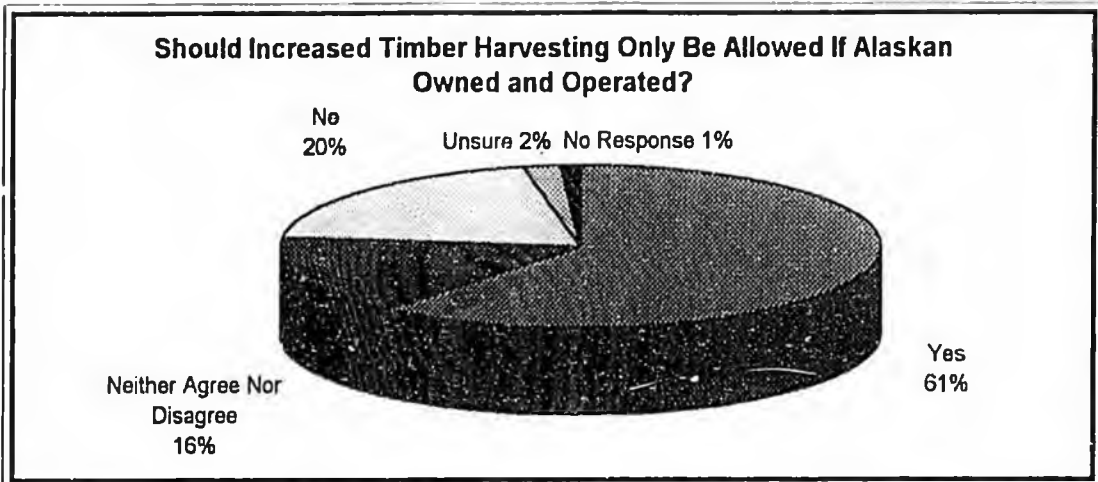
Can We Trust the State to Ensure that the Timber Harvesting is Sustainable?



Should the State Not Lower the Price It Charges for Timber to Create Local Jobs?

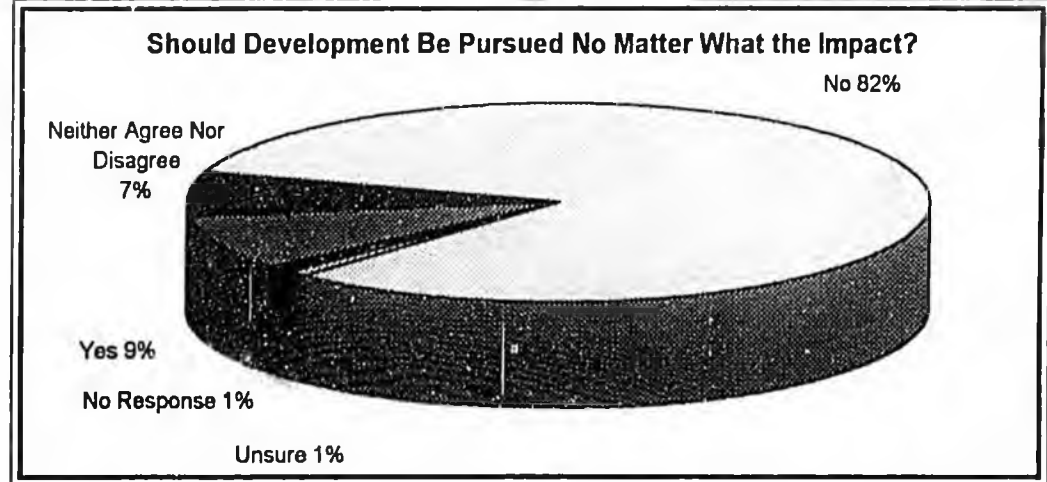
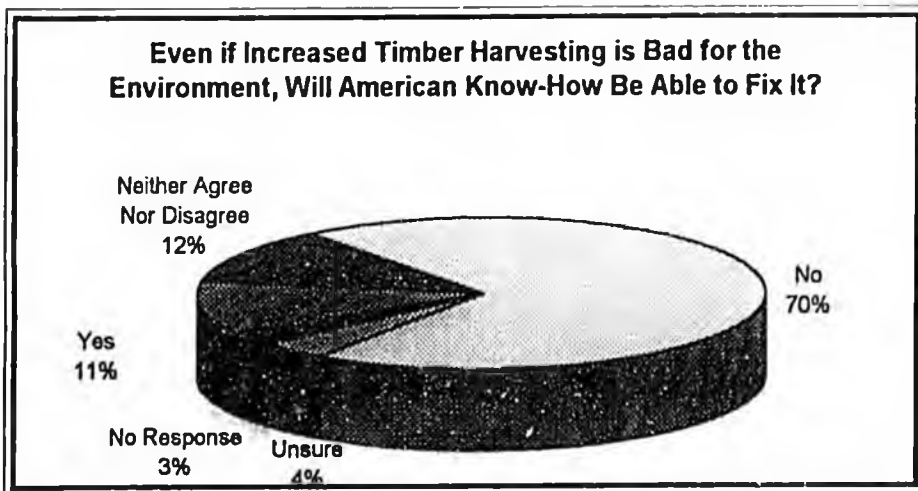
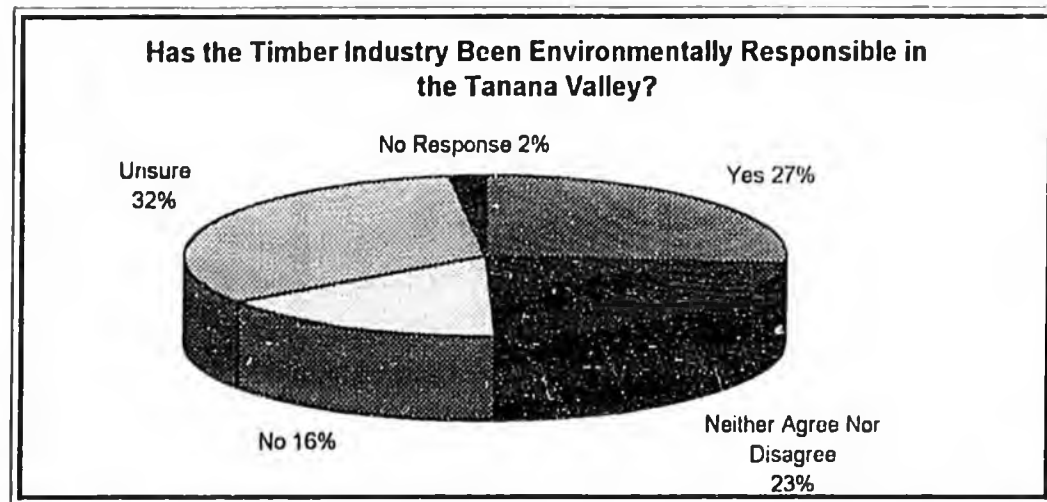
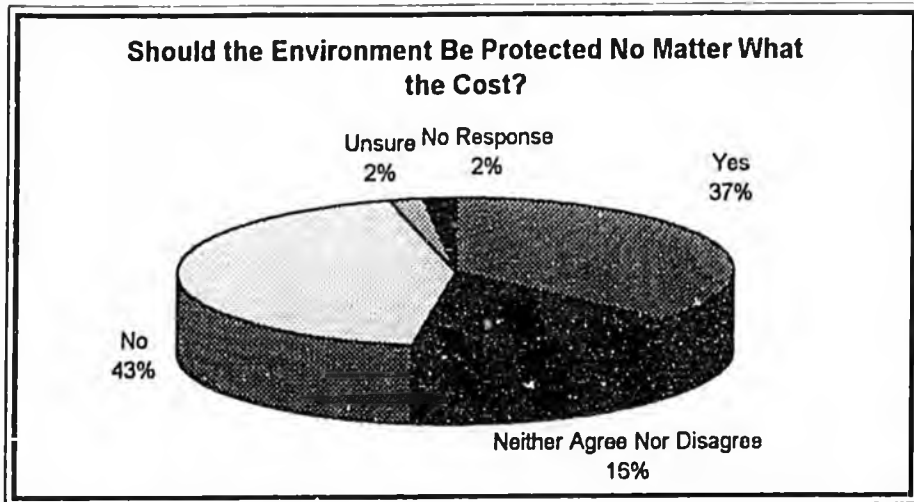
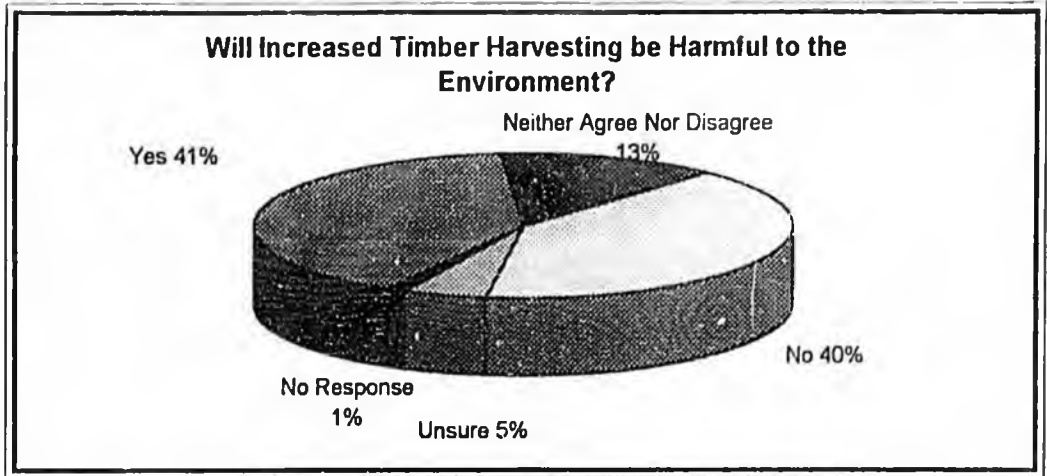


**Questions Regarding
Conditions Under Which
Timber Harvesting in the
Tanana Valley
Should Be Allowed**



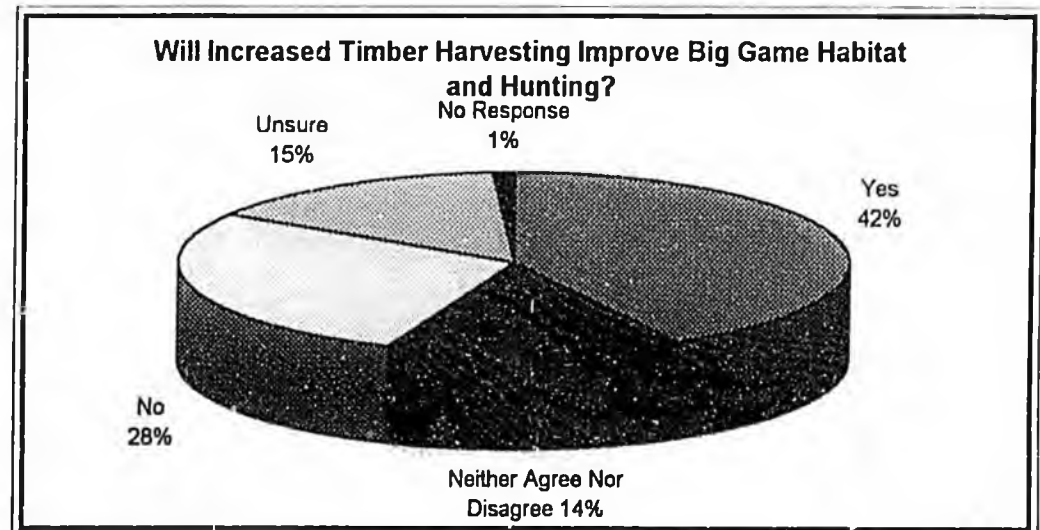
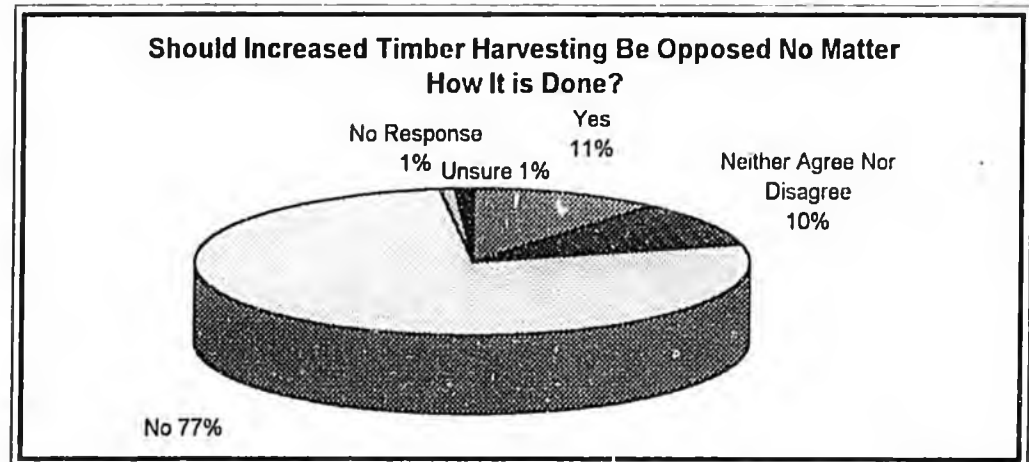
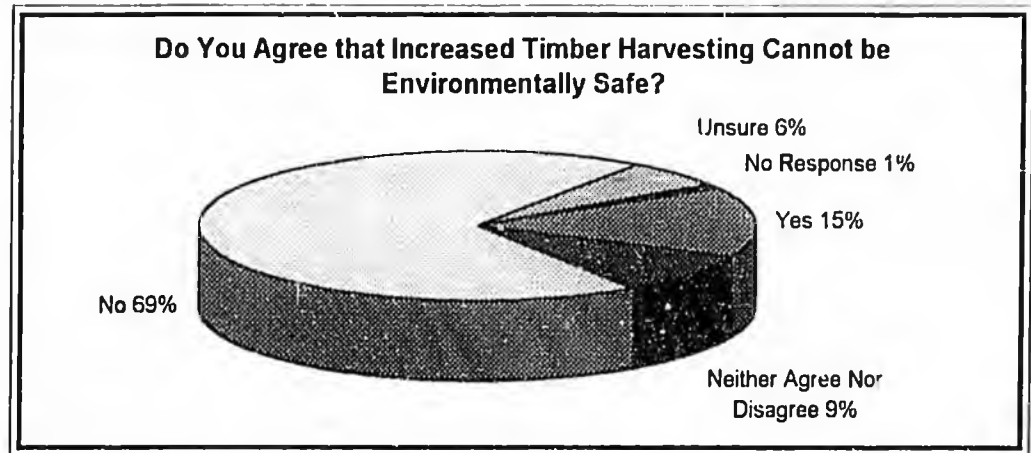
Graphs based on data from a random survey mailed to 1,584 voters in Tanana Valley. 517 persons responded. UAF students prepared the study for the Fairbanks Industrial Development Corporation. Numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Questions
Regarding the Environment
and Timber Harvesting
in the Tanana Valley



Graphs based on data from a random survey mailed to 1,584 voters in the Tanana Valley. UAF students prepared the study for the Fairbanks Industrial Development Corporation. Numbers may not be added to 100% due to rounding.

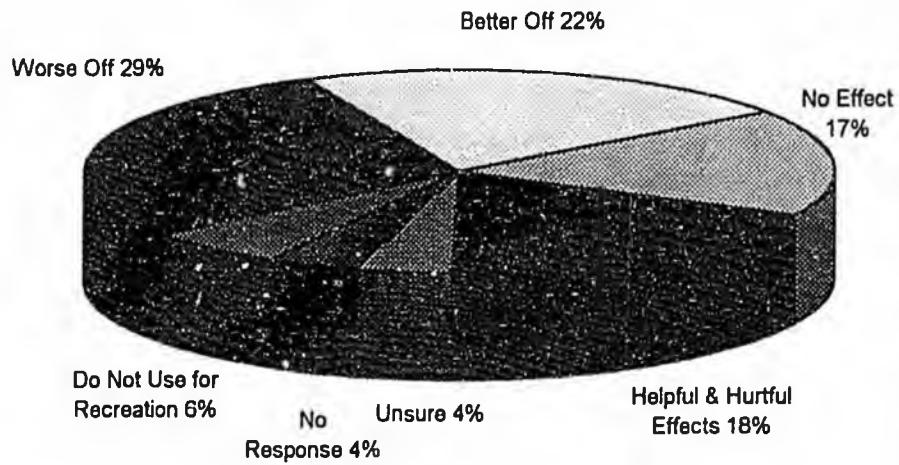
**Questions
Regarding the Environment
Continued**



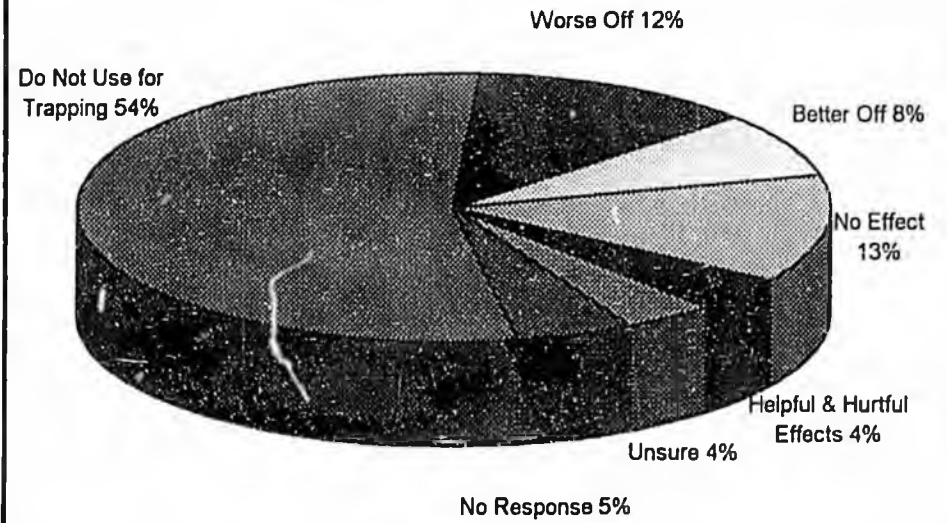
Graphs based on data from a random survey mailed to 1,584 voters in the Tanana Valley UAF students prepared the study for the Fairbanks Industrial Development Corporation Numbers may not be added to 100% due to rounding

Would Increased Timber Harvesting in the Tanana Valley Make You Better or Worse Off?

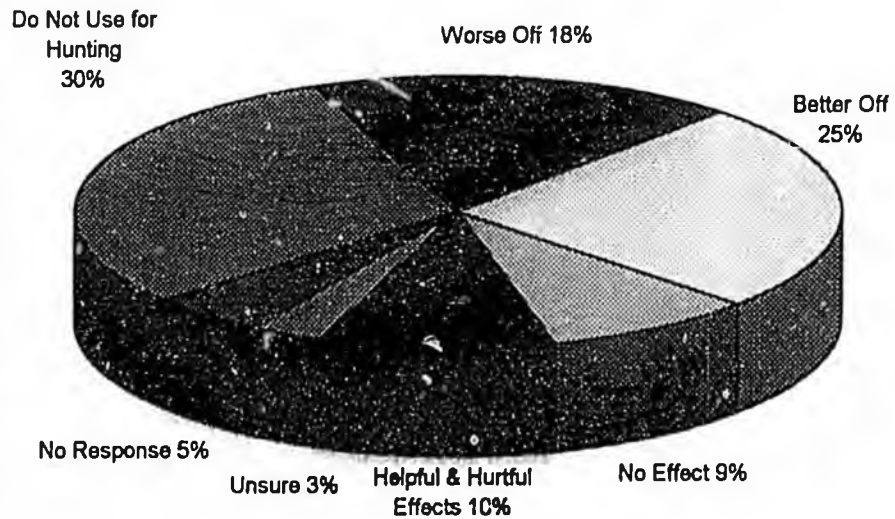
Use Forest for Recreational Activities



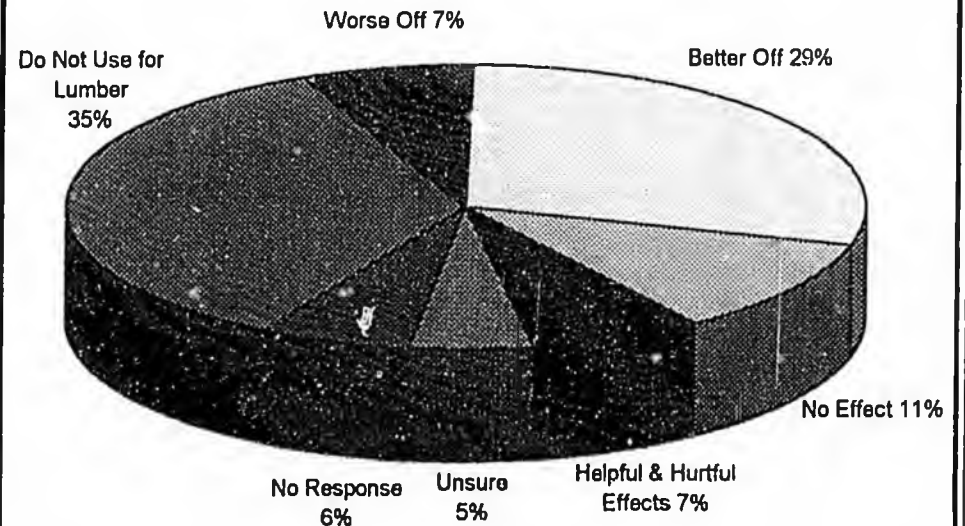
Use Forest for Trapping



Use Forest for Hunting

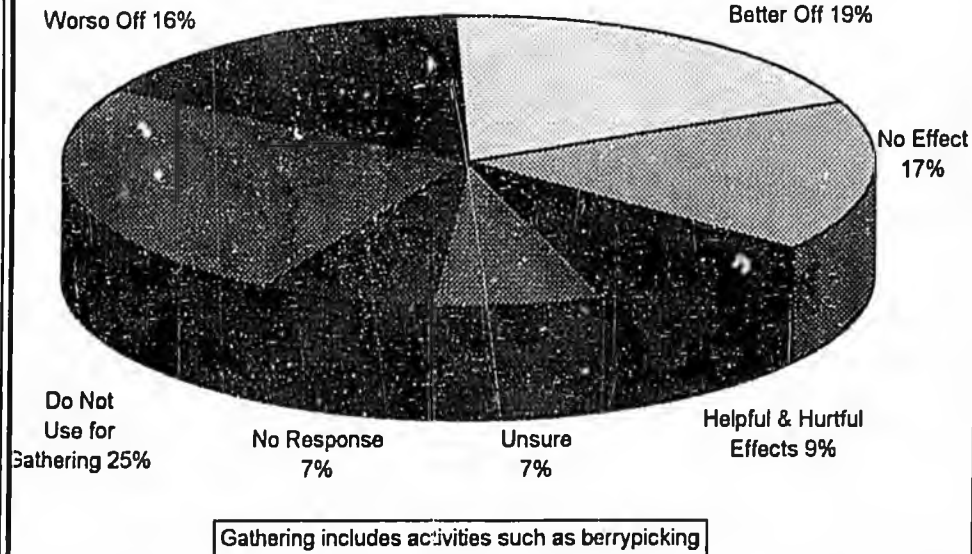


Use Forest for Lumber

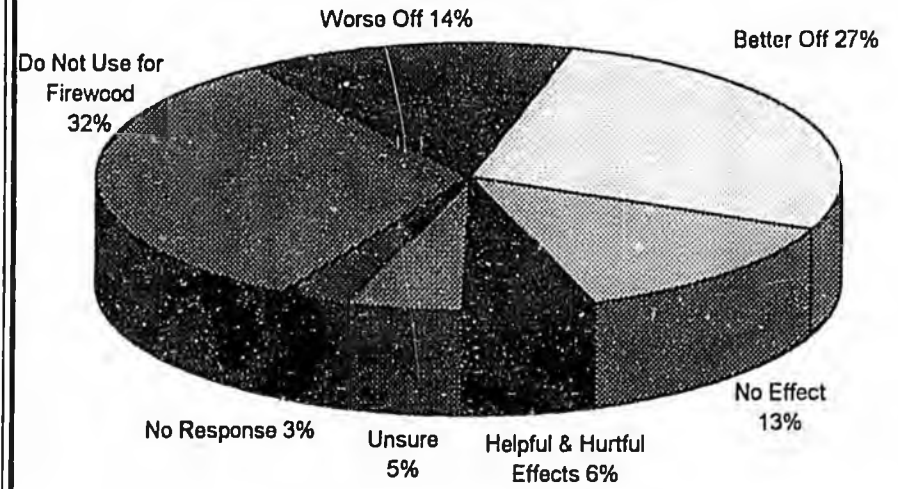


Would Increased Timber Harvesting in the Tanana Valley Make You Better or Worse Off?

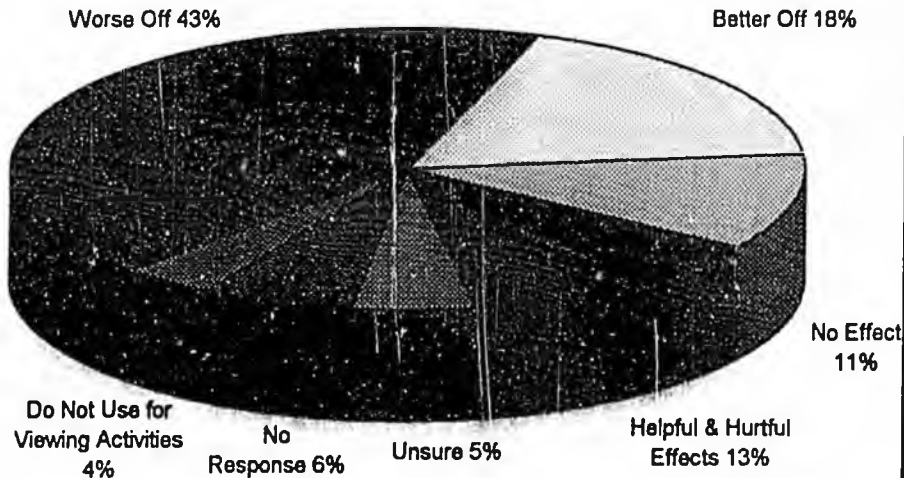
Use Forest for Gathering Activities



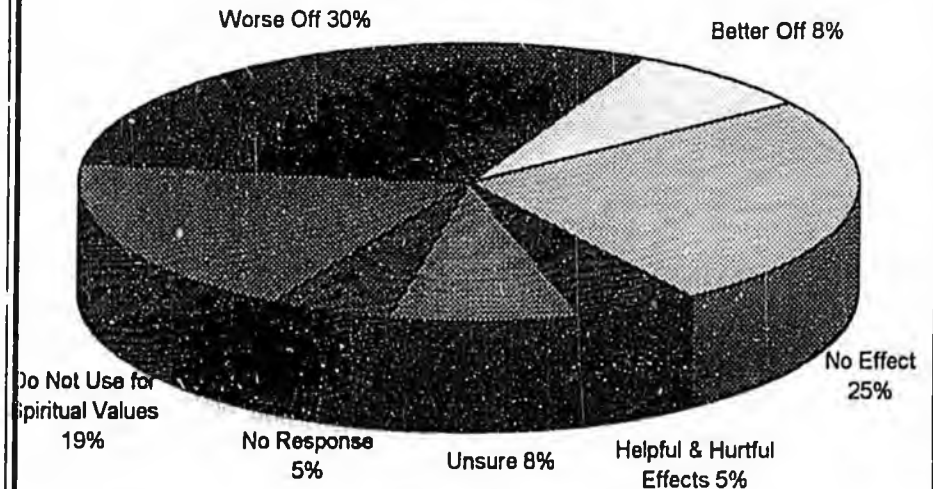
Use Forest for Firewood



Use Forest for Viewing



Use Forest for Spiritual Values





Alaska Environmental Lobby, Inc.

P.O. Box 22151 Juneau, Alaska 99802

Phone: 907-463-3366

Fax: 907-463-3312

MANAGEMENT AND SALE OF STATE TIMBER

Passage of HB 212 or HB 261 is inappropriate, ill-advised, short sighted and detrimental to the enhancement of the forest products industry in Alaska. These bills take the State backwards from the goal of improving our economic future and building strong communities.

SUSTAINED YIELD

Alaskans depend on the resources of this State for our livelihood and our lifestyle. In Article VIII (Natural Resources) the State constitution provides for the development of resources "by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest." Article VIII, Section 4 provides that "Fish, forests, wildlife grasslands and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses."

HB 212 and HB 261 favor commercial timber harvest over all other uses of state forests, and require a high level of scientific proof before DNR may restrict commercial logging on state forest. This is in diametric opposition to the underlying principles of the Constitution that provides for sustained yield of renewable resources.

Changing the purpose of state forests from multiple use to timber production, making commercial logging the chief consideration in land use planning is irresponsible.

ALASKA FOREST PRACTICES ACT

By the mid 80's it was clear that uniform and enforceable minimum standards for protecting fish habitat was essential for the long-term protection of Alaska's fisheries. Then Governor Cowper, seeking to mediate solutions that would protect the collective interests of the State, and retain a viable timber industry, appointed the Alaska Forest Practices Review Steering Committee.

ALASKA CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT • ALASKA CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB • ALASKA FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
ANCHORAGE AUDUBON SOCIETY • ARCTIC AUDUBON SOCIETY • CLEAN AIR COALITION • DENALI CITIZENS' COUNCIL
DENALI GROUP, SIERRA CLUB • JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY • JUNEAU GROUP, SIERRA CLUB
KACHEMAK BAY CONSERVATION SOCIETY • KENAI PENINSULA AUDUBON SOCIETY • KNIK CANOERS AND KAYAKERS
KNIK GROUP, SIERRA CLUB • KODIAK AUDUBON SOCIETY • LYNN CANAL CONSERVATION • NORTHERN ALASKA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND CONSERVATION ALLIANCE • SIKA CONSERVATION SOCIETY • SOUTHEAST ALASKA CONSERVATION COUNCIL • TONGASS CONSERVATION SOCIETY



To achieve an objective and balanced review, the review process included representatives of timber land owners, state agencies, and users of public resources affected by forest practices. The committee included equal representation from timber groups and non-timber groups.

This Committee developed the plan that is now referred to as the Forest Practices Act, and their final report is the "green book agreement".

The steering committee adopted five ground rules to guide their process. The final ground rule was "All parties agree to be an advocate for an agreed upon plan." The parties agreement was to the entire plan -- not to individual parts of it. Thus if the agreement is changed, the parties are not bound to continue their support.

HB 212 and HB 261 propose major changes to the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act, AS 38.05.112-.113 & AS 41.17.010-.950 ("FPA") and the forest land planning provision in Alaska Statutes. These changes are unacceptable!

Changes delete from the law the requirement for the State to consider interdisciplinary data on short, long term, and cumulative impacts of forest harvest activities on all forest resources. **This in essence prevents concerns over timber harvest impacts on salmon habitat, trap line habitat or other uses from being considered prior to a commercial sale of timber.**

OUR SHARED FUTURE

If we are lucky, history may show that Alaska learned from the mistakes of others. Today some of our wild salmon stocks are healthy, our water is clean enough in many parts of the State to meet the national standard, and our air is on most days is clean enough to breathe. It is only through good fortune and vastness that it is so.

- Oppose the devaluation of public resource for private gain without consideration of other users.
- Oppose behind doors negotiated contracts.
- Support Community input and notice.

James V. Drew
4725 Villanova Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3220

TESTIMONY ON HB 212 AND HB 261, April 26, 1995, Fairbanks, Alaska

State forest land is a resource that can provide both economic and societal benefits in Alaska. Currently, however, sales of state-owned timber that create new wealth and jobs in Alaska are bogged down in excessive, time consuming, and costly procedures. HB 212 or HB 261 will remedy this deficiency. I recommend passage of this legislation

Modifications presented in Sec. 2. AS 38.05.112 (b) in HB 212 (page 1) are important because they simplify procedures and reduce the time and cost for preparing site-specific forest land use plans for individual timber sales. At the same time, the preparation of required, regional forest land use plans will provide determinations of immediate and long-term effects of individual and collective activities on the timber base and on other resources and uses that are now designated in AS 38.05.112 (b).

In Sec. 38.05.113 in HB 212, new text is as follows: The timber sale schedule must provide a timeline that identifies timber sales, their amounts, and their locations, and must be sufficient to provide the public and the forest products industry with a basis to comment on future sale offerings. I recommend deletion of the words, and must be sufficient. In the absence of a clear definition of sufficient, endless debate on what is sufficient could lead to continuing delays and increased costs to the state to administer timber sales.

Sec. 7. AS 41.17.200 of HB 212 (page 4) clearly defines the purpose of the state forest in Alaska, i.e., multiple use management. With 11 million acres of state land classified for parks and recreation, it is entirely reasonable to designate less than 2 million acres in the Tanana Valley State Forest for multiple use management emphasizing the production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources while perpetuating personal, commercial, and other beneficial uses of the resources.

In my view, HB 212 could be improved by adding to it Section 1. AS 38.05.115 (a) as prepared for reenactment in HB 261 (page 1). In addition, HB 212 could be further improved by adding Section 6. AS 41.17.200 as amended in HB 261 (page 3). This addition would bring private-sector experience and judgment to forest management. If private-sector businesses are to produce the quantity and quality of wood products necessary to operate in a competitive market, they must have access to sufficient timber to make their enterprises cost effective.

I strongly recommend passage of HB 212 with the modifications suggested, or the passage of HB 261. If renewable timber resources are harvested on a sustained yield basis as proposed in this legislation, then values desired by nonconsumptive users are maintained.

TO: House Resource Committee, Attn. Bill Williams

DATE: April 26, 1995

FROM: Peter Shepherd, 1012 Galena St. Fairbanks, AK 99709

I support the basic intent of HB 212 and HB 261.

In my view these bills contain significant changes in language essential to management of timber resources in the Tanana Valley State Forest. The intent is to elevate the sustainable harvest as the best and most beneficial use, while assuring that other uses are properly prioritized. The reason for these changes are obvious and have arisen from industries and resource managements frustration with cumbersome law.

Interior forests are a product of disturbance. The lack of catastrophic events in past decades, mainly wild fire, has led to increasing decadence in forest stands and other habitats. Consequently, the biotic potential of the TVSF has declined. Professionally managed forest harvests can substitute for the absence of wildfire regimes and would result in earlier successional growth favorable to wildlife diversity and abundance, along with regrowth and replenishment of forests for the future.

My concern as a professional wildlife biologist is that with the current lack of wildfire, Interior forests are losing the capacity to sustain viable populations of many fauna. Forest practices can be utilized to emulate natural successional sequences which provide shelter and food for these species. Sound forest harvest practices should benefit many uses of the Tanana Valley state forest for perpetuity.

Peter E. Shepherd



Northern Alaska Environmental Center

218 DRIVEWAY
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
(907) 452-5021

Sylvia Wzrk

House Resources Committee
April 26, 1995

HB 212 & HB 261

The Northern Alaska Environmental Center opposes HB 212 and HB 261.

Founded in 1971, we represent 1,300 members and remain committed to the sustainable multiple use of forests on state lands and the perpetuation of those uses and values. We support logging as one of the legitimate use of the forest, yet we believe that of the many potential and actual uses of multiple use state lands, large-scale logging remains one of the few which has the potential to utterly destroy other interests, values, and uses. HB 212 and HB 261 will only help Alaska repeat the past mistakes of other communities. Our community is not prepared to suffer from the consequences of ill-considered decisions leading us into the maw of large-scale export logging. We treasure this land and our outdoor lifestyles and intend to raise our families here. For these reasons, we know that you will carefully consider the consequences of allowing HB 212 and HB 261 to be enacted into law.

For our part, the Northern Center has actively monitored logging plans in the Interior since 1990 and have warily listened to proposals for increased logging in the slow-growing boreal forest. Alaska has long been used as a source for raw resources with little heed for the interests of residents. We recognize the faces on the other side of this debate: the robber barons of the 1950s are the timber barons of today. During the last 16 months as the environmental representative on the Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee, we have routinely advocated for other seats/interests which are often poorly represented at the table: subsistence, hunting, trapping, recreation, tourism, and the general public. The Northern Center strongly opposed SB 310 the day it was introduced and opposed it to the end. At the March 25 timber meeting in Fairbanks, we offered an alternative proposal to provide small operators with greater access to state timber without eliminating or circumventing the public notice and planning requirements (see our Community Woodlot Proposal, attached). In short, we have participated, challenged, and cooperated as we felt necessary and appropriate. Due to our



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involvement in and up-close understanding of the public debate over increased logging in the Interior, we feel completely justified in pointing out the dangers of HB 212 and HB 261 and confident in our analysis that these bills are neither necessary nor acceptable.

With its history of placer mining and the construction of the pipeline, the Interior is no stranger to industrial development or economic cycles. Yet, we will not willingly let our community get used. Most of the logs from the relatively small-scale existing logging operations have been directly shipped out of state in an unprocessed form. And if you listen carefully to the large volume logging proposals, you will find they offer nothing in the way of a ~~promise~~ ^{of sustainable benefits for local employment or} value-added in-state processing. The social, economic, and environmental costs of such operations are destructive and unacceptable to the vast majority of residents.

HB 212

HB 212 is touted as a "small loggers bill" by its sponsors, and although we agree that sections of the bill may help small operations, the overall effect of this legislation will be to open up forest land throughout the entire state to destructive large-scale logging.

We object to the provisions in HB 212 (Sec. 7) which change the primary purpose of the state forests from one of multiple use, where all interests have equal consideration in the planning, to timber production, where logging interests will have primary say in the management of our forest.

Additionally, the Northern Center opposes Section 2 and the last sentence of Section 9 of HB 212 which eliminate an important requirement that the state use the best available data to evaluate the cumulative effects of forestry activity on both trees and non-timber resources. These sections prevent concerns over impacts to salmon habitat from being addressed without complete scientific analysis. Without adequate funding for the Habitat Division of FISH AND GAME, and time to complete the research, this information will not be available. It would seem that this Legislature is unwilling to ensure that this necessary funding is available.

170 Our greatest concerns are contained in Sections 4 and 5 which expand the Department of Natural Resources' ability to offer timber sales of any size without the requirement that the sale be listed twice in the annual 5-year schedule of sales, thus reducing awareness of the sale and limiting public participation in the decision process.

If the true intent of HB 212 is to help small logging operations acquire wood to be used in local high value-added products, the Northern Center believes that this can be accomplished, without legislation, under the existing statutes with a few minor changes in the regulations. With this in mind we proposed the Community Woodlot Program at the March 25th meeting in Fairbanks. The purpose of this system of timber sales in the Tanana Valley State Forest. A copy of the proposal is enclosed.

proposal is to explore alternatives to the present system of timber sales in the TVSF.

217

HB 261

HB 261 makes sweeping changes to Titles 38 and 41. The Northern Center strongly opposes this bill.

We object to the language in Section 1 which mandates consumptive use. Non-consumptive uses are equally important to the economy and character of the state of Alaska. Again, language in this section which limits public review and comment on timber sales is unacceptable.

Section 6 adds new language to Title 41 which essentially requires DNR to privatize the management of the state land. State land belongs to each and every individual in the state, and turning over the management to a few individuals, with a profit motive in mind, is not sound, sustainable resource management. Subsistence and sport hunters and fishermen all depend on and appreciate public lands.

We strongly oppose Section 7 which changes the purpose of the state forests from one of multiple use to timber management.

Sections 8, 9 and 10 when taken as a package set state land management back to the dark ages. These Sections gut any public involvement in forest planning and turn our state forests over to a few, who would remove all of the trees for profit with little or no return to the people of Alaska. Tourism and fishing are economically more important to the state, not to mention their importance to the quality of life to the people in this state. To remove any protection provided to these other values in the planning process is nothing short of foolish.

At a bare minimum, we would suggest that the committee ask the Department of Natural Resources and Fish and Game to prepare fiscal notes to reflect the costs of HB 212 and 261. Additionally, the amendments proposed by DNR in the House State Affairs Committee hearing of HB 212 should be carefully considered.

At the present time there is broad opposition to large-scale logging operations in the state's forests, including commercial and subsistence fishers, small logging operators, Native interests, local residents and conservation groups. We must remember that both Titles 38 and 41 were products of a long-term consensus process, and to gut these statutes with special interest legislation is unacceptable to the people of Alaska.

We believe that the answer to any problem with the management of our state forest land does not lie in special interest legislation from Juneau, but in broad-based community planning efforts. We urge you to take a close look at the particulars of this forest debate, support an expanded planning process with meaningful public involvement, and oppose special interest timber legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

Dan Ritzman
Boreal Forest Coordinator



**Alaska
Wilderness
Recreation &
Tourism
Association**

Sustainable recreation and tourism for a quality future

**P.O. Box 1353
Valdez, AK 99686
Phone: 907-835-4300
Fax: 907.835.5679**

AWRTA TESTIMONY ON HB-212 AND HB 261

Testimony by: Ed Davis

Board Member, AWRTA, an industry trade group representing 241 business members

House Resources Committee Hearing

4/26/95

1) RELATIVE SIZES OF FOREST-DEPENDENT INDUSTRIES

The House Resources Committee should take a step back and use "fresh eyes" to re-evaluate the assumptions on which these bills are based. HB-212 and HB-261 both view the timber industry as the only public forest user with the ability to expand Alaska's economy and create economic opportunity. The reality is that the timber industry is neither the only nor the largest forest dependent industry in Alaska.

Alaska's tourism industry is larger than the forest products industry in terms of jobs created (15,200 jobs vs. 3,185 jobs), industry payroll (\$275 million vs. \$140 million) and economic value (\$600 million in-state visitor spending and \$900 million spent on travel to, from, and within Alaska vs. \$565 million in sales of forest product exports) according to "Alaska: Economy Performance Report 1994", State of Alaska, Department of Commerce and Economic Development. The sport/commercial salmon fishing industry also create a forest dependent industry which collectively is larger than timber.

EMPHASIS ON CONSENSUS

2) UNILATERAL REWRITE OF CONSENSUS AGREEMENTS

Both bills propose to unilaterally repeal a consensus agreement that provides a statutory balance between competing users of Alaska's public forests. AWRTA president Nancy Lethcoe participated in a 3 year consensus building effort with five representatives of the forest products industry, five representatives of other forest users including tourism, fishing, recreation, and environmentalists, and five representatives from various government agencies.

Their efforts led to the 1990 amendments to the Forest Practices Act. The amendments articulate their vision for timber harvest on state lands. They wanted to avoid the divisive and bitter disputes that have plagued forest users and managers in the Pacific Northwest. They envisioned a responsible timber industry that would have wide spread support throughout the communities in which they are located. They sought agreement by consensus rather than a endless stream of bitter court decisions. Each group made substantive sacrifices to satisfy everyone affected.

A consensus group must be reconvened if this "consensus statute" is to be rewritten. Otherwise the result will be special interest legislation that will: a) hinder economic growth and diversification in Alaska by hurting the two largest forest dependent industries, and b) create conflict between various forest users.

3) HB-261: AN ATTEMPT TO TOP SB-310?

Given his record as a trickster, I was shocked when Rep. Vezey failed to inform the press that HB-261 was this year's April Fool's joke. My next best guess is that he's setting us up for next year when timber issues really start heating up. Come April, he plans to inform us that we're all a bunch of suckers. He'll scold the environmentalists and tell the timber industry "Sorry, you can't have your cake and eat it too". If all goes according to plan, the comic relief will provide political cover so that the other timber bills slip through. He hopes nobody will notice that the fox is still guarding the henhouse, even though HB-261 is dead.

Since this bill may not be a joke, it needs to be recognized as a misguided attempt to give the timber industry exclusive access to Alaska's public forests. It prohibits managing forests to sustain non-consumptive forest industries such as tourism and fishing, even though: 1) these industries are larger than than the timber industry, 2) they provide Alaska with a more diverse and sustainable economic base, 2) they are every bit as forest dependent as the timber industry, 3) they have equal rights for equal access to Alaska's public forests, and 4) they would be seriously hurt by HB-261.

4) DOES HB-212 BENEFIT SMALL TIMBER OPERATORS OR LARGE SCALE CLEARCUTTERS?

279 Only two provisions in this bill open major roadblocks that inhibit small state timber sales for local timber operators: (i.e., exempting 10 acre sales from the Forest Land Use Plans and the 5 year plan). We concur that the lack of small state timber sales is a problem, and that solutions should be on the table for serious discussion and implementation.

Most of the other major provisions in this bill are unnecessary for expanding small timber sales. Instead they weaken the public planning process and multiple use criteria on which tourism depends:

- a) HB 212 guts the statutory criteria granting all state forest users equal access.
- b) HB 212 requires expensive scientific studies to protect state forests when logging is incompatible with tourism. This is inappropriate, and it places the burden of proof on the wrong forest users:
 - 1) Scientific studies can't identify:
 - a) conflicts between clearcutting and tourism. Logging generates commercial rather than biological/scientific conflicts with tourism.
 - b) conflicts between clearcutting and recreation. Logging generates aesthetic rather than biological/scientific conflicts with recreational forest users.
 - 2) If any group is to be assigned the burden of proof regarding land use compatibility, it should be the consumptive forest users (i.e. the timber industry). Clearcutting consumes forest resources and irreversibly displaces non-consumptive forest users (i.e., tourism) for several generations. By contrast, multiple use can be abandoned at any time in forests managed for tourism, recreation, and habitat to allow logging.

- c) HB 212 eliminates requirements that forest land use plans evaluate the effects of logging on tourism and other forest uses,
- d) HB 212 allows the DNR commissioner to arbitrarily suspend multiple use on state forests,
- e) HB 212 makes timber harvest the primary use of state forests.
- f) HB 212 allows 500,000 BF (typically 100 to 250 acre) clearcuts without following the most informative and important public planning process, the "5 Year Plan". This is a loophole because any volume of timber could be sold by offering multiple sales, and
- g) HB 212 exempts "emergency" timber sales from the most informative and important public planning process, the "5 Year Plan". This also is a loophole since "emergency timber sales" are undefined and could be of any size.

5) MYTHS vs. REALITY

MYTH 1: Interior Alaska's forest products industry was not represented when the 1990 amendments to the Forest Practices Act were written.

REALITY: In some respects, Interior Alaska's forest products industry had more influence over the final language in the 1990 Amendments than did the original consensus team. Sen. Bettye Fahrenkamp presented the amendments which weakened the riparian requirements in forests north of the Alaska Range. According to DNR, these amendments were requested by timber industry representatives from interior Alaska, including a person who now works for Tanana Chiefs' forestry division. These changes were never agreed to by the consensus team which authored the 1990 amendments.

It would be more accurate to say that the timber industry representatives from Interior Alaska who played this role in unilaterally rewriting the 1990 Amendments to the Forest practices act did a very poor job of representing their colleagues, who run small scale timber operations. Because of this oversight, AWRTA feels that the goal of increasing the availability of small timber sales of up to 10 acres should be on the table for serious consideration.

MYTH 2: The original intent of authorizing legislation for the Tanana Valley State Forest was to provide a preference for timber harvest.

REALITY: Randy Rodgers, (a former aide to the late Sen. Bettye Fahrenkamp), and Fairbanks Rep. Niilo Koponen both played key roles in guiding the authorizing legislation for the Tanana Valley State Forest through the legislature. Both stated during last year's debate over SB-310 that the legislative intent was to grant equal access to all forest users.

MYTH 3: The Tanana Valley State Forest is unimportant for tourism and recreation since relatively few commercial backcountry permits are issued.

REALITY: Although backcountry permits provide useful information about commercial activities on state land, they are not a gauge for most of the activities that tourists undertake. Most non-commercial tourist activities do not require permits. The DNR's list of "Generally Allowed Uses on State Land"

AWRTA, P.O. Box 1353, Valdez, AK 99686

p. 4

indicates that permits are not required for sightseeing, flightseeing, hiking, backpacking, skiing, climbing; bicycling, dog sledding, horseback riding, snowmobiling, using A'TV's, flying, boating, hunting, trapping, and fishing. Most road bound tourists are forming their first impressions of Alaska while driving through either the Haines or Tanana Valley State Forests.

In 1985, there were 5.7 million user days on state lands within the Tanana Basin. The average visitor spent 1/3 of their time in the Tanana Basin doing activities associated with state land. Outdoor recreational opportunities are listed as the second most popular reason for residents' decisions to move to and remain in the Tanana Basin. (Source: 1987 Tanana Valley State Forest Resource Analysis)

MYTH 4: The Tanana Valley State Forest (TVSF) has 1.9 million acres of forests with 30 to 40 thousand board feet per acre.

REALITY: The Tanana Valley State Forest Resource Analysis (1984 inventory) shows that 40% of the total land base is either barren, water, scrubland, or black spruce. Only 191,000 acres in the TVSF can produce 20 cubic feet of wood per acre per year. (This is the traditional definition of a "commercial" forest).

Customers Alaska Birch Works
192, 193, 194

of ~~customers~~ Businesses

20

- Superior Hardwoods
- Kenn Pyne
- Custom Woodworking
- Valley Landscaping
- North Pole Middle School
- Aurora Builders
- El Dorado Gold Camp
- Fairbanks Correctional Center
- Kentikna Road House
- Master Touch Manufacturing
- Red Miller

- US Fick + W. Willif
- BLA Glen Allen
- Bront Const.
- Showwater Const.
- Badger Wood Craft
- Weatherford Bowls
- Seim Custom Homes
- Original Alaska Birch Lyr. 2
- Alaska Correctional Industries
- State of AK DOT

105 individuals

- Randy Lewis 1
- Robin Coe
- Jim Smith
- Chuck Calender
- Tom Banattzen
- Larry Folgelson
- Karl Krulickie
- Paul Hommel
- Kerry Irons
- Jr. Boucher
- Henry Gorbouski
- Joe Cornwall
- Myron Tate
- Terrie Field Service
- Robert Drozda
- Peg Schaffhausen
- Goldstream Associates

R Floerchinger
T Kerstein
alex Chadyk
Bob Trent
Tom Ashleman
J Irving
J Hoegberg
Mark Piggry
Lou Chiosi
Larry Mayo
W Larson
P Corty
Robert Ammeritt
Gwen Holdinger
Scott Parcell
Mike Emert
Roger Kemper
Gree Carlo
Bob Nelson
J Lisk
Chuck Blassdell
Cag Lee
Dana Charles
Jim Ross
B Treadwell
Byron Mallett
Bill Coughlin
Von Keltz

James
A. Peterson
Toll Centerpieces
Buck Powellski

75

D Carey
 Tim Adamsjack
 F Sturman
 John Michel
 Elliot Libman
 Jim Keck
 Ira Herman
 Brendan Kelley mill time only (stickus)
 M. Stator
 Walton
 John Gotely
 J Jeffords
 Sam Cox
 Mike Craft
 J Bevers mill time
 P Mayo
 C Franklin
 Andy Reynolds
 Bob Sifter
 Anthony Witworth
 Mike Hansen
 Ben Rogers mill time
 Robert Koenig
 C Crowley
 Kelvin Braddonson
 D. Mc Laron
 Mary Shields
 J. Rogers

Alvay Reed
L Lamond
W Pearson
R Flanders
T Steiner
L List
D Jenkins
J Campbell
L Millington
H Ward
Ruth Falger
Russ Ensign
Roger Weiss
Steve Belmont
Bob Christian
B Wilson
Kobie Productions
Brent Luick
Ingrid
Larry Santoni
Cliff Benshaw
Elian Landon
Dore Sinky
R Saul
L Larson
J Murphy
Roberts Wood Products
Lucy Dell

To all members of House
Resource Cmte & Rep John Davies
HRES TELE. 4/26/95 8am-10am

Testimony on HB 212

April 26, 1995

Birch Pavelsky

6063 Reconstruction Rd.

Fairbanks, Alaska, 99709

My name is Birch Pavelsky, and I'm testifying for the Alaska Boreal Forest Council and myself. I'm a log house builder and carpenter and have made my living in those trades here since 1971.

Pages 1 and 2, Lines 13-2: This deletion closes the eyes of forest management to the damage one forest use may do to the others. Monitoring of forest use cannot be discarded without risking the loss of biological diversity and diversity of forest uses. Please reinstate the deletion.

Page 2, Lines 13-16: There is no proof that commercial timber harvest per se or 'related activities,' whatever they might be, maintain or enhance wildlife habitat. We ask that these lines be deleted.

Page 3, Lines 3-8: We dislike the erosion of economic and environmental analysis here. The local loggers I buy logs and lumber from need to know the Department of Natural Resources' long term plans, and the public needs information on which to base its comment on those plans. We want these lines kept in the statute.

Page 3, Lines 13-15: The terms "emergency" and "salvage" need defining. These lines open a huge loophole for timber sales of

any size to be exempt from Title 38, section 4. This seems unwise, and we ask for reinstatement of the original wording with the added definition of "emergency".

Page 3, Lines 16-23: Again, this erodes the public's opportunity to comment. I told Senator Frank last year that I felt SB 310 was "undemocratic". HB 212 has the same flaw. It cuts the community out of ~~the~~ participating in the management of its forest. Line 25 is more of the same - it reduces information the public needs.

Page 4, Lines 9-12 The assumption in these lines is that the State will gain increased benefits if timber production is emphasized over the many other uses of the forest. This has not been shown here or elsewhere. Perhaps a neutral cost-benefit ^{analysis} would support the assumption, perhaps not. In the meantime, let's keep our equal use forest.

Page 4, Lines 13-23 - We object to "primary purpose" as stated. "Fullest possible access" is not defined and should be so. This section gives the Commissioner the power to lock up the forest for single uses only, and assumes that human consumption should dictate management priorities. Small operators can be assisted without going to these extremes. We ask deletion.

Pages 4-5, Lines 31 and 1-9: These lines also create a favorite, overriding use, - timber production.

Testimony on HB 261

April 26, 1995

Birch Pavelsky

6063 Reconstruction Rd.

Fairbanks, Alaska, 99709

Page 1, Lines 5 to line 1 (of p. 2): This version places far too much power in the office of commissioner. It assumes that human consumption is a priority and will most highly benefit the State. This is not proven for this generation and puts at great risk the needs and desires of future generations. Section 41.17.060 of the Forest Practices Act reads "... forest land shall be administered for the multiple use of the renewable and non-renewable resources... in the manner that best provides for the present needs and preserves the future options of the people of the state."

- This paragraph of HB 261 gives non-consumptive uses, like tourism and recreation a back seat and effectively subsidizes consumptive industries. It may well be foreclosing on the opportunities and benefits of non-consumptive industries and uses.

- The power to negotiate a sale without advertisement should not be granted to the commissioner. This is designed to favor high rollers in the industry and to further remove management from the eye of other agencies and the public.

~~Page 3, Lines 3-8: We request that the original wording of the statute be retained, as it protects the original, multiple-use intent of the State forest.~~

Page 3, Lines 20-28: We want these paragraphs retained, as they protect the multiple use nature of the forest and guarantee the public important inventory and management information.

- Pages 3-4, Lines 29-1: The call for sealed bids again takes power away from the public and puts it in the commissioner's hands. Public oversight is healthy and essential to community forestry. Sealed bidding attracts large corporations. Why has this course of action been chosen?

Where has it been shown preferable to supporting smaller, local operators? What research is there that proves that sealed bids will benefit the State? Seeing none, we ask deletion of these lines.

Page 4, Section 7 - This seems to call for a more general, less detailed management plan. We want the original language and intent retained. The proposed language calling for timber-production as the highest and best use of a management plan wounds the multiple use principle of the Forest Practices Act and should be removed.

Pages 4-5, Lines 31-1: This asserts that commercial timber harvest and "related activities" maintain and enhance wildlife habitat. This has not been proven, and in fact, the opposite may be true. Please delete these lines.

Page 5, Section 10 - We wish the sections mentioned be retained until good reason for their repeal comes forth.

Page 5, Line 15 = This is a killing blow to the principle of multiple use forestry. AS 38.05.112d is there to promote and protect all forest uses, and we want it retained.

In summation, this bill needs a great deal of work. It is based on assumptions, not fact.

SHANNON MCARTY
FAX # 907-465-3519
5 PAGES TOTAL

FROM: DOUG BOWERS
FAX # 907-832-5569

I AM A COMMERCIAL/ SUBSISTENCE FISHERMAN THAT LIVES 4 MILES DOWN RIVER FROM NENANA. WE ALSO OPERATE A MODEST LODGE OPERATION AT TOLOVANA, GUIDING FISHING CLIENTS IN THE SUMMER AND DOGSLED TRIPS IN THE WINTER. MY FAMILY'S ENTIRE EXISTENCE IS PROVIDED BY THE TANANA RIVER BASIN AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY. WE DEPEND HEAVILY ON THE SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES OF THE TANANA VALLEY.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON HOUSE BILLS 212 AND 261

HB212

SEC 1:
HOW MANY "SMALL SALES" IN ONE AREA? ARE THEY PLATTED CONTIGUOUSLY TO MAKE A 5000 ACRE SALE WITHOUT A SITE SPECIFIC LAND USE PLAN?

SEC 2:
HOW CAN YOU REMOVE CONSIDERATION OF "IMMEDIATE AND LONG TERM" EFFECTS FROM FOREST USES INCLUDING TIMBER HARVEST? IT WOULD SEEM THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MANAGEMENT TOOLS YOU HAVE.

SEC 3:
TO INCREASE THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF WILDLIFE HABITAT (I READ THAT AS MOOSE) - MORE HABITAT, MEANS MORE MOOSE. MORE MOOSE MEANS MORE WOLVES, THEN I GUESS THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS SHOOT MORE WOLVES.

SEC 4:
SEEMS TO REMOVE PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE LONG TERM PLANNING PROCESS

SEC 5:
IT WOULD SEEM THAT TIMBER SALES COULD BE INTENTIONALLY BUNCHED TOGETHER AND THEREBY CREATING A LARGER TRACT THAT MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT TO MANAGE OR THAT MAY NOT EVEN BE COMPATIBLE OR ACCEPTABLE WITH A CURRENT LAND USE PLAN

SEC 6:
IT WOULD SEEM THERE IS NO PLAN OF OPERATION REQUIRED ON STATE FOREST LAND. SHOULDN'T THE STATE FOREST LAND BE INCLUDED IN THIS AMENDMENT AS WELL?

SEC 7:
THIS WOULD REMOVE THE MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT CONCEPT, ON WHICH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE STATE FORESTS WERE ESTABLISHED. THERE ARE TOO MANY OTHER USERS OF THE STATE FOREST SYSTEM TO SUDDENLY EXCLUDE THEM FROM THE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

SEO 8:
FOREST CONSUMPTION AT THE HEAD OF THE LINE, WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF US ?

SEO 9:
PUTS TIMBER TO THE HEAD OF THE LINE AGAIN. "UNLESS THE COMMISSIONER CAN FIND SCIENTIFIC DATA" ETC ETC. WHAT ABOUT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DATA? ARE THE REST OF US TAKING A BACK SEAT TO TIMBER HARVEST?

SEC 11:
TIMBER TO THE HEAD OF THE LINE AGAIN, DOESN'T EVEN CONSIDER THE REST OF THE BUSINESSES IN THE STATE.

HB 261

SEC 1:
IT WOULD SEEM HERE THAT THE INTENT OF THIS SECTION IS TO SKIRT ARTICLE VIII OF THE CONSTITUTION WHICH, TO MY UNDERSTANDING, IS TO PROVIDE FOR SUSTAINED USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALL THE RESOURCES OF THE STATE FOR THE BEST INTEREST OF ALL ALASKANS.

SEC 2:
THE TERM "SUSTAINED YIELD" APPLIES TO ALL THE RESOURCE USES, NOT FOR THE MAXIMUM HARVEST OF TIMBER ALONE.

SEC 3:
THIS DOESN'T ALLOW ANY OTHER TWO PARTY SALES FOR OTHER STATE RESOURCES (TIMBER ONLY) AND IT WOULD SEEM TO ALLOW FOR ABUSE BY COLLUSION OF TWO PARTIES TO OBTAIN ADJOINING TIMBER SALES.

SEC 4:
SEEMS TO PROVIDE RIGHTS OF WAY TO THE TIMBER COMPANIES AND ALL OTHER USES DON'T HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED.

SEC 6:
IF THIS ISN'T LETTING THE FOX LOOSE IN THE HEN HOUSE I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS. THIS IS PRIVATIZATION OF STATE LAND AND THE ULTIMATE LAND LOCK UP THAT BENEFIT ONLY A FEW. THESE ARE PUBLIC LANDS NOT TIMBER HARVEST LANDS TO THE EXCLUSION OF ALL OTHERS.

SEC 7:
TO EXCLUDE UNITS OF A STATE FOREST IN THE MANAGEMENT PLAN IS NOT SOUND MANAGEMENT. THE SIZE OF OUR STATE FORESTS ALONE DON'T LEND THEMSELVES TO BE MANAGED ON A LARGE SCALE, GIVEN THE VARYING TERRAIN, WEATHER PATTERNS AND DISTANCES INVOLVED. THE PRIME OBJECT OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN SHOULD BE THE HIGHEST AND BEST USES OF THE FOREST WHICH IS NOT EXCLUSIVELY TIMBER PRODUCTION.

SEC 8:
DOESN'T INCLUDE ANYTHING ABOUT RECREATION OR TOURISM WHICH MAY BE THE SINGLE LARGEST PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYER IN THE TANANA RIVER VALLEY.

SEO 9:
THE COMMISSIONER MAY ESTABLISH TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS IN THE TANANA VALLEY STATE FOREST. WHERE, WHY AND HOW AND FOR WHOSE BENEFIT. (LET ME GUESS)

SEO 10:
THIS SECTION AS I READ IT IS GUTTING THE FOREST PRACTICES ACT. THE FOREST PRACTICES ACT MAY NOT BE PERFECT, IT IS AT LEAST A TOOL THAT WORKS AND WAS ESTABLISHED BY A CONSENSUS OF ALASKAN RESIDENTS, NOT JUST LOGGERS. TO ELIMINATE THE RIPARIAN STANDARDS IS UNCONSCIONABLE.

THE CHUM RUNS OF THE YUKON/TANANA RIVER DRAINAGES HAVE BEEN DECLINING FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS. THE FISHERMEN OF THESE RIVERS, PARTICULARLY THE TANANA, HAVE VOLUNTARILY GIVEN UP SOUTH COASTAL ALASKA IS WELL DOCUMENTED. THERE IS LOTS OF INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED ON THE EFFECTS OF CLEARCUTTING ON SALMON STREAMS IN OTHER AREAS, BUT NOTHING ON THE RIVERS OF THE INTERIOR OF ALASKA. IN FACT THE FOREST PRACTICES OF THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST AREN'T SUFFICIENT TO PROTECT THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA SALMON HABITAT. THIS WAS STATED IN A FOREST SERVICE REPORT THAT WAS PRESENTED TO CONGRESS ON THURSDAY. THE TANANA AND UPPER YUKON RIVERS SYSTEMS ARE THE SPAWNING GROUNDS FOR THE SALMON STOCKS FOR ALL OF WESTERN ALASKA. SOME STOCKS ARE CLOSE TO BEING ENDANGERED - THE TOKLAT RIVER IN PARTICULAR. CAN WE AFFORD ANY DAMAGE AT ALL TO THE SPAWNING AND REARING HABITAT OF THESE STOCKS THAT ARE ALREADY IN TROUBLE?? THE TANANA/YUKON RIVER SYSTEM SUPPORTS 1500 FISHERMEN. MULTIPLY THAT TIMES 3.8 (MULTIPLIER FOR WIFE AND KIDS) AND YOU COME UP WITH 5700 PEOPLE DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO FISHING FROM THE BORDER TO THE COAST; THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE PROCESSORS, THE WAITRESS IN THE CAFE, THE GUY THAT SELLS BOATS, OUTBOARD MOTORS AND GASOLINE AND THE LIST GOES ON AND ON. DO YOU WANT TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR AN IMPACT ON THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE ALL THE WAY TO THE MOUTH OF THE YUKON?? IT SAYS IN THE MANAGEMENT PLAN TO HAVE PUBLIC INPUT TO THE FOREST PLANS "PROXIMATE TO THE SALE AREA". WHAT ABOUT THE NEIGHBORS DOWN RIVER FROM THE SALE AREA?

THE STANDS OF FORESTS SHADE THE WINTER SNOWPACK AND ALLOWS FOR A CONTROLLED RUNOFF IN THE SPRING, AS WELL AS AN ABSORPTIVE CUSHION FOR HEAVY RAINFALL IN THE SUMMER. WHAT WILL BECOME OF OUR HOMES, BUSINESSES AND THE FISH RUNS (SPAWNED EGGS AND FRY) AS THEY ARE WASHED DOWN RIVER BY UNCONTROLLED RUNOFF?? WILL THE LOGGING COMPANIES BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE COSTS? A FRIEND OF OURS LIVES IN COASTAL WASHINGTON NEAR THE THE NOOKSACK RIVER. IN YEARS PAST THE NOOKSACK FLOWED AT A STEADY RATE YEAR ROUND, NOW WITH CLEAR CUT LOGGING GOING ON NEAR THE HEADWATERS IT

Fishing time is an effort to build these stocks

FLOODS WITH EVERY RAINFALL AND THE SALMON THAT USED TO COME THERE TO SPAWN ARE NO MORE.

90% OF THE FOOD CHAIN OF THE RIVER SYSTEM OCCURS WITHIN A COUPLE OF HUNDRED FEET OF THE RIVER AS WELL AS CONTROLLING THE WATER TEMPERATURE FOR EMERGING FISH HATCHLINGS. THE HEAD FORESTER FROM TANANA CHIEFS, CHRIS MAISCH, HAS TOLD ME IN PERSONAL CONVERSATION THAT BUFFER STRIPS MEAN NOTHING ALONG THE RIVER CORRIDORS BECAUSE "THE RIVER WILL TAKE IT ANYWAY". MAISCH SAID THAT THEY HAVE TRIED LEAVING BUFFER STRIPS AND IT SEEMS TO MAKE NO DIFFERENCE. HOW LONG HAVE THEY TRIED THIS? OVER WHAT PERIODS OF TIME? THEY HAVE ONLY BEEN DOCUMENTING THESE EFFECTS ALONG THE RIVER AND NOT IN THE SPAWNING AREAS FOR A SHORT TIME AND ON A VERY SMALL SCALE. WHAT EFFECT WILL IT HAVE ON THE REST OF US 2, 5, 10 YEARS FROM NOW? HOW MANY SALMON CYCLES FROM NOW? WITH ALL THE NEW ROADS AND PREVIOUSLY UNACCESSED LANDS THAT THESE BILLS WOULD PROVIDE FOR, WHO WILL PAY FOR FISH & GAME PROTECTION TO PATROL THE INCREASED HUNTING AND FISHING PRESSURE ON LANDS THAT HAVE BEEN TRADITIONALLY HUNTED BY A FEW LOCAL RESIDENTS? WHAT PRESSURE WILL BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON INDIGENOUS WILDLIFE AND FISH STOCKS? WE HAVE EXAMPLES OF THESE EFFECTS JUST OUTSIDE FAIRBANKS THAT ARE WELL DOCUMENTED. DEPT OF FISH & GAME HABITAT WILL BE REQUIRED TO LOOK AT THE LONG TERM EFFECTS OF LOGGING ON THE HABITAT AND AT A TIME WHEN THEIR BUDGET IS BEING CUT TO THE BONE. THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE SUMMARIZED IN ONE REPORT ONE TIME. IT WILL TAKE YEARS OF MONITORING TO DO A PROPER EVALUATION. I AM TOLD THAT A CHIPPING PLANT REQUIRES GREEN LOGS FOR THEIR OPERATION YEAR ROUND. WILL DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION BE ASKED TO UPGRADE LOGGING ROADS TO YEAR ROUND ACCESS? I HAVE ALSO BEEN TOLD THAT IT TAKES 500 TO 600 TRUCKLOADS PER DAY TO SUPPLY ONE OF THESE PLANTS. REMEMBER THE PIPELINE - AT THE PEAK OF CONSTRUCTION THERE WERE 350 TRUCKS A DAY LEAVING FOR THE SLOPE. REMEMBER THE ROAD DAMAGE WE HAD THEN? WHO WILL PAY FOR THESE SUBSIDIES TO THE TIMBER INDUSTRY? THE DEPT OF CONSERVATION WILL BE REQUIRED TO MONITOR THE WATER RUNOFF (CLEAN WATER ACT?) AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. WILL THE TIMBER COMPANIES BE SUBSIDIZING THIS COST?? THE HIGHLY SKILLED LOGGERS OF TODAY WILL COME FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. LOCAL RESIDENTS WILL BE COMPETING FOR UNSKILLED LABOR IN CHIPBOARD AND PLYWOOD PLANTS. THE SELF ESTEEM OF PEOPLE THAT ONCE PROVIDED FOR THEMSELVES WILL BE REDUCED DRAMATICALLY, REQUIRING INCREASED SOCIAL SERVICES THAT ARE ALREADY STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT. WILL THE TIMBER COMPANIES PICK UP THE TAB FOR THIS?? DO THE LOCAL NATIVE CORPORATIONS WANT TO COMPETE WITH OUTSIDERS FOR JOBS AND RESOURCES? DO WE WANT TO SELL OUR

NATURAL RESOURCES FOR LESS THAN MARKET VALUE? WILL THE LOGGING CORPORATIONS BE REQUIRED TO BE BONDED? I WOULD HOPE SO - EVEN USED CAR SALESMEN AND FISH PROCESSORS IN ALASKA ARE REQUIRED TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY BONDED. MY DAD ALWAYS TOLD ME THAT WHEN A MAN SPEAKS OF HIS HONOR, MAKE HIM PAY CASH. BONDING IS JUST GOOD BUSINESS PRACTICE AND IF THEY'RE SERIOUS AND SINCERE ABOUT DOING BUSINESS IN ALASKA WITH ALASKAN RESOURCES, THEN A BOND WON'T BE A DETERRENT TO THEIR OPERATION.

IT WOULD SEEM THAT WITH THESE BILLS THE LEGISLATURE IS SETTING ITSELF UP FOR MORE SUBSIDIZED INDUSTRY. REMEMBER DELTA BARLEY? POINT MCKENZIE? VALDEZ GRAIN TERMINAL? HOW MANY TIMES DOES IT TAKE FOR THE LEGISLATURE TO REALIZE THAT PRIVATE INDUSTRY WILL INVEST WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT AND KEEP IN MIND THAT THEY NEED TO PLAY BY OUR RULES, AND WILL TOO, IF THEY WANT TO PLAY IN OUR GAME.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Resources-
~~Resources~~
(committee name)

committee on AB 261 + AB 212 dated _____
(bill/subject)

SEWARD Honest products STATE OF AKT
MILL CLOSED DUE TO LACK OF IN-STATE
PRIMARY USE OR ADDED VALUE STATUS.
PENNA PENN. Abundant with LOGS +
LOGGING OPERATION, ALL THIS RAW PRODUCT
BEING EXPORTED TO FOREIGN MARKETS & THE
LOWER 48 MILLS. REASON LOGGING COMPANY
WORKING WITH HOME TOWN LOWER 48 MILL
BY-PASSING IN STATE MILLS - IN SHORT
SUPPORT THE HOME TOWN GOOD-OLD BOYS

Signed: Bob Valdatta
(Testifier)
Representing AB 261 212 + State
(Representing W Optional)
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