BRIEFING:

TIMBER INDUSTRY

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Official Business

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

AGENDA
2:00 TO 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 18, 1997

TIMBER INDUSTRY BRIEFING: Joint with House Resources - Room #124

Jack Phelps, Executive Director, Alaska Forest Association
Keaton Gildersleeve, President Gildersleeve Logging Company & A.F.A.
Errol Champion, Silver Bay Logging Company
Bob Loescher, Vice-President, Sealaska Corporation
John Sturgeon, President, Koncor Forest Products
Terry Nininger, Vice-President, Circle DE Pacific
Dan Benson, Ketchikan Pulp Company Sawmill
Dick Leary, Controller, Ketchikan Pulp Company

I. Introduction - Forest Resource Development in the Interior
Jack Phelps

II. Timber Industry in the Southeast
Keaton Gildersleeve

III. Governor's Souteast Regional Timber Task Force
Independant Sales Program
Errol Champion

IV. State Forest Practices Act
John Sturgeon

V. Beetle Kill and State Timber
Terry Nininger

VI. Value-Added Processing in Alaska
Ketchikan Saw Mill
Dan Benson, Dick Leary

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 19

HJR 12 Leases in National Petroleum Reserve
SB 22 Board of Game Qualifications

ADJOURN

PRIMER

Timber Industry

PROFILE

• The Alaska forest products industry directly employed an average of 2600 people in 1995, and indirectly employed approximately three times that number in industry-induced jobs. This is down from 4,400 people directly employed by the industry in 1990, and several thousand indirect-employment jobs.

• Employment in Southeast Alaska's timber industry, including timber harvests from private land and from the Tongass National Forest, is at its lowest point in ten years. The Southeast economy has lost $60 million in forest products payroll since 1990.

• Of the eight forest products manufacturing facilities operating in 1990, only four are still in operation, and the Ketchikan Pulp Company pulpmill is slated for closure in the spring of 1997. This will mean the loss of 500 more industry jobs.

• Alaska's total timber harvest in 1995 was 696 million board feet. The total timber harvest in 1990 was over one billion board feet. The total Southeast Alaska harvest in 1995 was 461 million board feet, the lowest since 1985. Timber harvested includes Sitka spruce, hemlock, western red cedar, Alaska (yellow) cedar, white spruce, cottonwood, black spruce and lutz spruce.

• Alaska's timber regions are managed by four landholders: the Federal government, 51%; state, university and local governments, 25%; Native Corporations, 24%; and other private landowners, .4%.

• The two largest national forests in the United States are in Alaska; the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska, and the Chugach National Forest in Southcentral Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is larger than all of the other national forests combined.

EXPORTS

• The total value of forest products exported from Alaska in 1995 was $548 million. The total value of exports in 1990 (in 1995 dollars) was $733 million.

• Japan is the key export market for forest products, accounting for 62% of total 1995 export value. In terms of dollar value, Japan received 100% of Alaska's 1995 chip exports, 96% of softwood lumber and cant, 74% of softwood logs and 14% of total pulp exports. South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand and Canada are also important export markets.

ISSUES

• Through federal management of the Tongass National Forest, the land base available for the commercial timber program has been reduced to the extent that timber dependent communities of Southeast Alaska are at the near subsistence level.

• The spruce beetle epidemic in the forests of Southcentral and Interior Alaska infested over a million acres of spruce in 1996. Since first notice of the spruce beetle in Alaska's forests in 1989, dead and dying spruce now extend to nearly three million acres. Beetle kill renders the wood unusable within three years, and spruce forests killed by beetles rarely reproduce spruce again. In addition to the economic impact, beetle kill increases fire hazard and produces negative consequences to wildlife, tourism, recreation, fisheries, watersheds, and other values.

FORECAST

• With over three-fourths of Alaska's timber lands in federal and state government control, development of public policy in support of harvesting a reliable supply of timber is the key to the industry's future.

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Alaska's Untapped Hardwood Resources

By Jack E. Phelps

The gigantic Sitka spruce of Alaska's coastal forests are legendary. Loggers have been harvesting spruce, cedar and hemlock from southeast Alaska for more than a century, although only in the mid-1950s did industrial scale logging begin. In 1954, the first dissolving pulp mill began operations at Ward Cove near Ketchikan, and in 1959, Alaska Pulp Company opened a similar mill in Sitka. Small softwood sawmills, cutting mostly spruce, have dotted Alaska's landscape for many years. What has gone largely untapped, however, are huge resources of hardwoods in the boreal forest of Southcentral and Interior Alaska.

The boreal forest varies greatly in composition from site to site, but may be generally characterized as a mixed spruce and hardwood forest. Both white and black spruce abound, but only the white spruce has significant commercial value. Principal hardwood species are aspen and paper birch. The state of Alaska owns more than five million acres of hardwood forests, including mixed stands, and calculates a sustained yield of 60 million board feet (mmbf). Native village corporations in the region own more than 820,000 acres of hardwood and mixed spruce and hardwood forests, according to Chris Maisch, chief forester for the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

Currently, local industry is utilizing less than one million board feet of hardwoods. Some is cut for dimensional lumber and cabin logs, and at least two companies are commercially producing bowls from high grade birch logs. A significant opportunity for expansion of a hardwood industry, especially in the greater Fairbanks area, still awaits an entrepreneur willing to make the necessary investment.

The potential was addressed recently when the legislature rewrote parts of the law governing state timber sales. In a bill sponsored by the governor, supported by the forest products industry and by virtually all members of the legislature on both sides of the aisle, the Department of Natural Resources was given authority to enter into negotiated sales for the purpose of fostering new investment in processing facilities. While much of the public debate on the bill centered on increasing the harvest of white spruce, lawmakers and industry leaders were primarily interested in the new law's potential for opening opportunities to develop the state's hardwood resources.

Ron Ricketts of the Fairbanks Industrial Development Corporation says that one company has shown an interest in utilizing Alaska birch, along with other species, to make oriented strand board. Using birch peelers to make core stock for plywood is another possibility for industrial development using Alaska hardwoods. A veneer plant would provide local jobs and improve the economies of scale needed to enable smaller companies to expand their operations and begin new ones. One scheme that has been seriously suggested is for a consortium of companies to develop a joint sort yard serving various users of both hardwoods and spruce. Ricketts is working with several companies to explore these possibilities.

The major hurdle is getting the assurance of a sufficient and stable supply to enable the companies to make the initial investment. The new law signed by Governor Knowles last summer is a good first step in that direction, according to Ricketts. The law allows negotiated sales to provide up to 10 mmbf per year for a maximum of 10 years. Since at least one of the proposals under consideration would require 15 to 20 mmbf per year, some combination of sales from different ownerships may be necessary. Ricketts is looking to develop an agreement that includes one or more Native corporations selling timber in conjunction with state sales.

Both Ricketts and Maisch are optimistic that an agreement can be reached if the right proposal is put on the table. "Whether these companies will ultimately decide to proceed remains to be seen," says Ricketts. "What is certain is that the new law has created an opportunity for an expanded forest products industry in the Interior."

Jack E. Phelps is an SAF member and is executive director of the Alaska Forest Association in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Send chapter news and pictures to the Western Forester.

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Alaska Forest Practices Act Issues
AFA Position Statement
October 18, 1996

1. Department Priorities — The consensus reached by the 1989 Forest Practices Review Steering Committee resulted in a balanced agreement between various interests. For example, private landowners agreed to donate a large portion of their lands and timber for stream buffers and agreed to substantially increase their logging costs by following more stringent "best management practices." On the other hand, the state agreed to adequately enforce the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FPA) with qualified people. The state is still taking our trees and our costs are still higher. However, the state is now backing out of its commitment to adequately enforce the FPA with qualified people. The state must decide what its budget priorities are. If the enforcement of the FPA is a priority, then the state budget should reflect that. The timber industry already pays more than its fair share in the form of taxes, increased production costs and donated trees in mandatory riparian buffers.

The private landowners understand that the state budget must be reduced. We also believe that the state must determine priorities. We request that the State of Alaska, in preparation of upcoming budgets, honor its commitment to adequate enforcement of the FPA by making it a priority budget item. We specifically request that the Division of Forestry remain the lead agency for the enforcement of the Forest Practices Act and that the function be adequately funded.

Commissioner Shively's letter to Jack Phelps, dated September 12, 1996, and the accompanying DOF issue paper suggest that the state consider timber severance taxes, user fees or industry funding of consultants as alternatives to meet the state's Forest Resources and Practices Act obligations. At the outset, the industry is opposed to severance or other taxes and user fees, for the reasons described above. Similar to the state, the industry is discussing the use of consultants or contractual services to meet most forest practices obligations. Instead of different parties independently evaluating this alternative, we recommend that there be an integrated, collaborative effort to determine the practicality and appropriateness of this concept.

2. **Accountability of ADF&G Policy Positions** – While acknowledging that the ADF&G has some very dedicated and professional people, it is also generally acknowledged that some of their positions are not accepted as valid by many private landowners and others. They have taken positions, both as a department and as individual employees, that are not based on sound science and have not gone through any peer review outside the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Often these positions are in disagreement with other official positions. The state needs a formal process to ensure ADF&G's positions are fairly reached and based on sound, well accepted science. ADF&G must be made accountable for any positions it takes as public policy and when the positions are not substantiated, a public correction must be made.

3. **Alaska Department of Fish & Game Active Participation in Stream Monitoring Studies** – The timber industry, in cooperation with DNR, DEC and several Federal agencies, strongly supports stream monitoring projects to determine the effectiveness of the FPA in adequately protecting salmon habitat and water quality. Private landowners have shown this support the past five years by conducting several monitoring projects at great expense. The studies have been offered for peer review through the Cooperative Forestry/Fisheries Working Group. We request that the ADF&G cooperate with the timber industry by actively participating in the Cooperative Forestry/Fisheries Working Group, by working cooperatively in the monitoring program and by contributing a fair and timely assessment of the data produced by the studies.

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Testimony of Jack E. Phelps, Executive Director
Concerning work of the Science & Technical Committee

Offered to the Alaska Board of Forestry
January 21, 1997

The Alaska Forest Association has closely observed the work of the Science and Technical Committee formed last year to examine allegations set forth in the report from the Department of Fish and Game, Habitat Division regarding the state's Forest Resources and Practices Act. Among other claims, the report stated that "ADF&G staff are uniformly of the belief that the implementation of the FPA remains seriously deficient." The Science & Technical Committee was formed to investigate those allegations and to determine the extent to which the aforementioned belief could be substantiated by facts.

In short, the question was whether substantial harm was being done to fish and wildlife habitat as a direct result of timber harvests, particularly on private land. A closely related question which was not directly raised by the report but that begged an answer in the process, was whether any reduction in theoretical carrying capacity of any habitat was disproportionate to the benefit derived by the private landowners from managing their timber resources for their shareholders. This question is raised by the fairness doctrine and the "no big hit" doctrine of the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act.

Simply put, these doctrines declare that a balance must be struck between the values at stake when private land interests come in contact with public resource interests, in this case fisheries. The fairness doctrine insists that there be shared risks and incentives for both timber owners and the public, represented by the regulatory agencies. The "no big hit" doctrine requires that private landowners should not carry an inordinate economic burden for minimal losses to fish habitat. The law envisions a balance of interests between forestry and fisheries when it comes to timber harvests on private land.

After a year of meetings and careful examination of the evidence, the Science & Technical Committee's work suggests that the existing law protecting fish habitat is working very well. Many of the issues discussed by the committee had to do with technical definitions and minutia, not evidence of actual harm. The deliberations tended to verify that logging is having a very minor impact on fish habitat. Timber harvest on private lands, at the rate and under the regulatory conditions that now exist, is taking place without significant harm to Alaska's important fisheries resources.

To those of us in the industry who have worked to comply with the Forest Resources and Practices Act, and have made a sizable investment in fish habitat research over the past several years, this comes as no surprise. It is compatible with the tentative findings of our own ongoing scientific studies and of the research being done by others. A recent paper published in the journal of the American Fisheries Society shows that fewer than 5 percent of the anadromous fish spawning aggregates in Southeast Alaska are in decline — and some of those are in unlogged areas. Private landowners have willingly left millions of dollars worth of trees in riparian buffers over the past half decade, and those contributions are augmenting the health of Alaska's fisheries.

AFA commends the participants in the Science and Technical Committee for ensuring that the process of addressing the Habitat Division's report was conducted in a professional and scientific manner. On balance, the leadership of the committee was fair and diligent. Various participating parties were consistently given a fair hearing, and the committee was able to arrive at a satisfactory level of consensus. The Science and Technical Committee has done a good job of identifying and clarifying technical problems with monitoring and enforcement of the Act, and most of the recommended changes have the industry's support.

It was a good process, but it was an expensive one. It was costly for the state, and it was costly for industry. AFA member companies, one in particular, invested more than $100,000 over the past year to enable professional and research staff to attend the meetings and study the ADF&G allegations. On the state side, the process demanded huge blocks of time from Division of Forestry and Department of Fish and Game personnel, taking staff away from field work. This is unfortunate and ironic, given the frequently stated complaint from Fish and Game that they lack the financial resources to do adequate field work.

The Alaska Forest Association is committed to supporting reasonable enforcement procedures for the Forest Resources and Practices Act. Industry has shown its willingness to work through the process, even at great expense, to ensure that other resources are not harmed by harvest activities. We hope that the exercise forced upon industry, the Board of Forestry and the other agencies last year by ADF&G's approach will not be repeated in the future. If one agency or another has questions or wishes to raise concerns about scientific or technical issues, those issues should be raised using established interagency procedures, and the discussion should take place in the context of scientific investigation before unnecessary alarm bells are rung with the press and the general public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Tongass Land Management Plan Revision
Its effect on the forest products industry in Alaska

I. **Best estimate of the numbers** (these are tentative, and we have information leading us to conclude that there is pressure to further reduce the numbers)

A. Commercial land base available for timber harvest — 700,000 acres

B. Proposed Allowable Sales Quantity (ASQ) — 270 mmbf, 220 mmbf economic

>> Under the Supervisor's Preferred Alternative:
Timber harvest land base = 1.2 million acres
ASQ = 357 mmbf, 297 mmbf economic

C. Projected annual harvest — 154 mmbf sawlog plus utility (based on historic falldown of 30%); or 126 mmbf net sawlog. Compare this to the 10 year average from 1984 - 1993: 346 mmbf.

D. Keep in mind the new calculations are "sawlog plus utility;" whereas, under the current and traditional system, calculations are "net sawlog." This represents an additional falldown of about 18%. In other words, the ASQ under the new revision is really 220 mmbf total, and 180 mmbf economic. Also keep in mind that under the law, this is maximum allowable harvest over a ten year average; not deliverable volumes, despite the rhetoric.

E. Finally, please note that with only 700,000 acres in the land base and the various other harvest restrictions built into the plan, it is going to be very difficult for the Forest Service to produce the volume the plan calls for. In other words, we believe even the reduced the ASQ is unrealistic, given other aspects of the plan.

II. **Needs of the industry**

A. Existing sawmills need more than 200 million board feet of sawlogs to operate at capacity, as shown in the attached chart. This means a harvest in the 400 mmbf range. The gap could be tightened a little depending on the ability of some of the mills to cut #3 sawlogs and to make some lumber from pulpwood, but these would be marginal cuts and likely would have a negative effect on the operations' bottom lines.

B. Due to market and other economic concerns, the industry considers chip exports an unsatisfactory long-term component of a sustained timber industry in Southeast Alaska. The region needs a facility to utilize low grade wood and residual chips. The minimum pulpwood harvest needed to sustain such an operation (e.g., a medium density fiberboard plant) is estimated to be 87 mmbf. To operate at capacity, the plant would also have to receive a portion of the residual wood chips from sawmills. The attached chart shows that more than enough would be available if the existing sawmills were operating at capacity.

C. Aside from the known capacity of existing mills, the industry's best effort to estimate potential employment from harvest and milling activity in Southeast Alaska was set forth in the recent paper, "Four Visions of the Timber Industry on the Tongass National Forest." This paper showed that if harvest from the national forest were consistently at 300 mmbf, economies of scale would come into play that would truly sustain a viable, integrated timber industry. At 200 mmbf, those economies evaporate, and it is likely that only one or two mills and a handful of "mom and pop" operations would be viable.

III. Other issues

A. Implementation of the Anadromous Fish Habitat Assessment (AFHA) standards, using small Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs) to connect all large and medium HCAs, implementation of the various components of "Natural Setting" Land Use Designations (LUDs), and other harvest restrictions in the proposed plan will cause a significant reduction in the availability of second growth for future harvest. This is particularly disturbing because the justification for implementing these new "protections" is scientifically weak. For example, the AFHA standards have been found to be unnecessary by the Forest Service in the past, and the top federal expert on these matters, Dr. Michael Murphy of the Auke Bay lab, has shown that the existing buffer system is more than adequate to protect anadromous fish habitat.

B. Requiring the retention of half the productive old growth in the timber harvest LUDs has not been shown to be necessary to protect animal species, and is simply another impairment to the Forest Service's ability to meet the market demand for timber as mandated in the Tongass Timber Reform Act. There are sufficient set asides in the forested areas of the Tongass already to meet the needs of wildlife; no genuine viability studies have demonstrated the need for this additional restriction.

C. The science represented in the recently released wildlife assessments is dated and inadequate to justify the proposed radical changes in the plan. It also appears that the data used was selected to achieve a predetermined result. For example, the goshawk assessment does not adequately consider the paucity of information on these birds, nor does it seem to consider the implications of telemetered data from goshawks living in the urban interface zone of east Douglas Island. Those data would tend to undermine the conclusion that goshawks need old growth habitat. Mature conifers (80 year old second growth) are probably adequate. Interestingly, this was the tentative conclusion reached by an ADF&G study in the early '90s.

IV. Conclusion

For the federal government to devastate the remaining timber industry without adequate environmental justification should be unacceptable to the State of Alaska. We have no ability to intervene in what is obviously an on-going process. The state legislature and the administration should stand as an advocate for the Alaska timber industry vis-a-vis the White House. The industry needs the state's best effort at intervention.

Summary of Remaining Sawmill Capacity in Southeast Alaska*

Prepared by AFA for Governor Knowles'
Southeast Regional Timber Task Force
Revised January 10, 1997

Sawmill	Sawlog Volume	Total Volume
Viking	30	60
[Seaborne Lumber	30	60]
MITE	10	20
Pacific Rim Cedar	7	14
Icy Straits	5	10
The Mill (Petersburg)	5	10
Herring Bay	9.5	19
Various POW	10	20
KFC Ward Cove	50	100
Annette Hemlock	45	90
	201.5	403
Less 12% cedar:		<48.4>
Less sawlog component:		<201.5>
Pulpwood available:		153.1 mmbf

Residual chips from sawmills (waste from the sawmill process) which, added to the available pulp logs, will make raw material for a primary manufacturing facility designed to use low value wood: 151 bone dry units

*In considering this summary, the reader should keep several points in mind. 1) the list is not exhaustive in that other small mills exist, particularly north of Frederick Sound; 2) Seaborne Lumber is currently closed, although the owner has plans to reopen in a new location; 3) volumes listed reflect capacity, not necessarily recently attained operating levels; 4) unanimity does not exist on the cedar component — 12 percent is used across the forest because it is the figure used in the TLMP revision. Some consider it conservative; 5) all volumes are given in million board feet (mmbf) Scribner, except residual chips which are given in Bone Dry Units (BDUs), the industry standard measurement.

On December 20, Governor Knowles' Southeast Regional Timber Task Force passed this resolution urging the Federal government to finalize the plan for timber harvest from the Tongass National Forest.

Task Force members, including mayors of Southeast Alaska cities, understand the needs of the people and communities of the Tongass. They know that timber harvest is compatible with sport fishing and hunting, commercial fishing and tourism. They believe in a balanced, multiple use of the forest that allows for a significant industry as well as supporting other uses of the Tongass. They understand the need for sufficient timber supply to keep both the forest and the economy healthy.

They want the government to quit stalling and to finalize the forest plan so Alaskans can get back to work.

A Managed Forest is a Healthy Forest for Today and Tomorrow.

Alaska Forest Association

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL TIMBER TASK FORCE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

WHEREAS the mission statement for the Governor's Southeast Regional Timber Task Force calls on the Task Force to "develop a vision and a plan to achieve a balanced industry . . . that is economically viable," and further calls on the Task Force to "identify immediate steps necessary to allow (remaining) businesses to remain viable;" and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Regional Timber Task Force has held five meetings over the last four months to discuss the future of the timber industry in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS employment and economic prosperity in Southeast Alaska are inextricably linked to the resources of the Tongass National Forest and are dependent on their management; and

WHEREAS, jobs in the forest products industry are an important element of the economic diversity and opportunity in the region allowing communities to maintain healthy economies; and

WHEREAS industry members of the Task Force have advanced an outline of a business plan which shows that an annual harvest of 300 mmbf is the minimum level the industry believes is necessary to sustain an integrated timber industry in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the industry model indicates the potential for maximizing employment in the forest products industry by developing additional secondary manufacture of wood products within the state; and

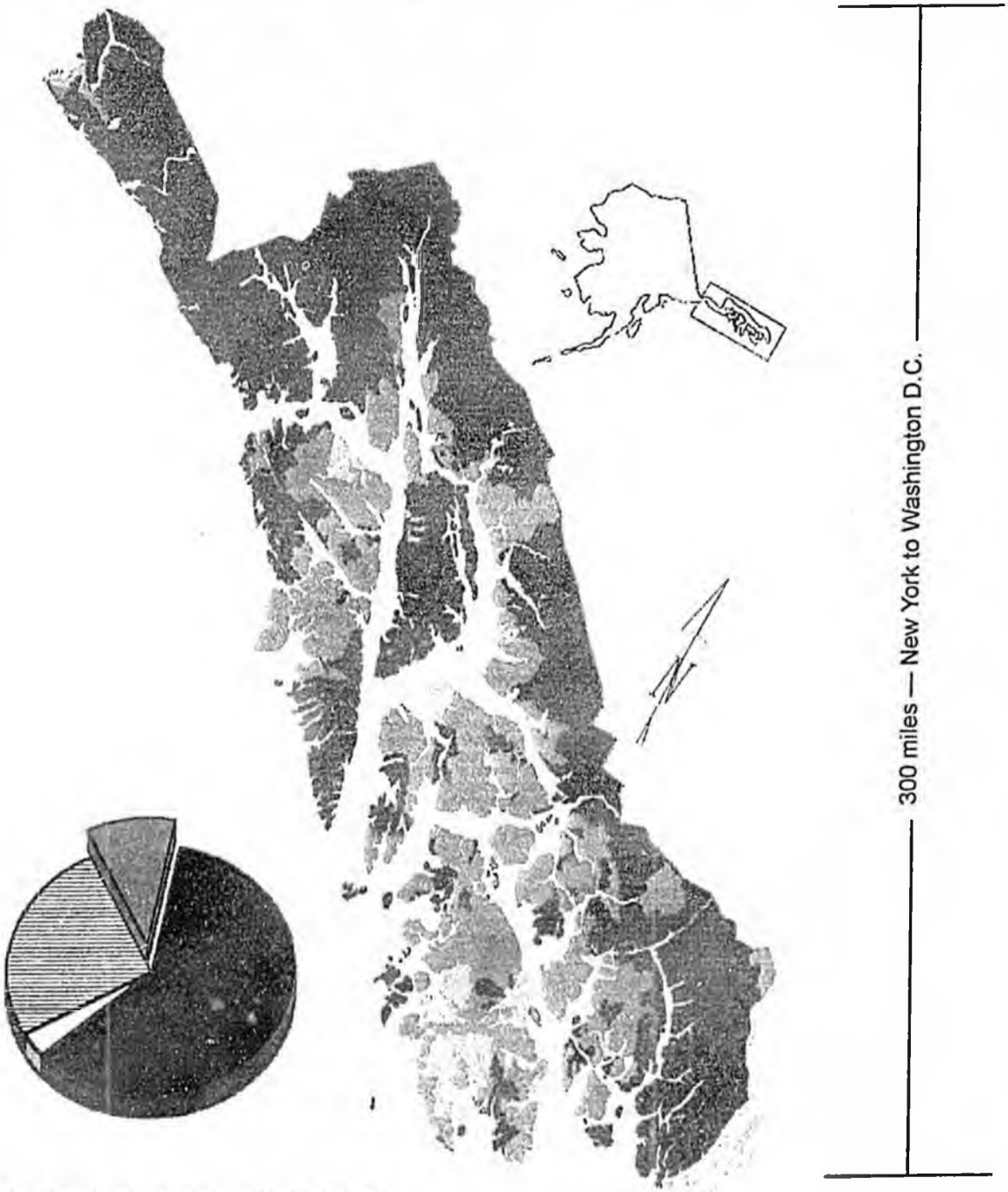
WHEREAS, coupled with the need for a stable fiber supply, the success of secondary manufacturing in Southeast Alaska depends on a healthy primary manufacturing component, including a facility to process low end wood; and

WHEREAS the industry model suggests including the application of new technology, enhanced productivity and expanded marketing efforts in the new Tongass timber industry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that at a minimum the preferred alternative of the Tongass Land Management Plan announced by the forest supervisors be maintained because any decision to further reduce the harvest level in the Tongass below that volume will devastate the existing timber industry infrastructure throughout Southeast Alaska; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska strongly objects to any reduction in the volume of the preferred alternative and to any further delay in the issuance of the Record of Decision for the Tongass Land Management Plan revision.

Tongass National Forest
16,997,000 acres



WILDERNESS, PARKS, ROADLESS, etc.
Land set aside including non-forested lands, muskegs, wetlands, municipalities, etc.

MULTIPLE USE AREA
Only 1/3 can be developed for timber harvest

NATIVE LANDS
Lands set aside under ANCSA

Nearly 90% can never be developed for timber harvest.

THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

Total acreage	16.9 million	
Non-forested acres (ice, rocks, muskeg, etc.)	6.9 million	
Wilderness, parks, monuments, etc.		2.5 million
Forested acres	10.0 million	
Municipalities (boroughs and cities)		0.1 million
Wilderness, parks, monuments, etc.		2.9 million
Unsuitable or unavailable for timber harvest		3.7 million
Available for harvest (100-year rotation)		1.7 million
Other multiple use (no harvest)		1.4 million

Native corporations control approximately 600,000 acres, formerly National Forest lands, granted to them in 1971 under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Less than 300,000 of those acres are available or suitable for logging.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

8.6 million acres (51% of the Tongass, 86% of the forested land) are in old growth conditions.
5 million acres are productive old growth (suitable for commercial timber production).
4 million acres of productive old growth are off limits to logging. 1.5 million acres (30%) are protected in wilderness areas, National Monuments and research natural areas. Another 2.5 million acres (50%) are in areas designated for other purposes which exclude timber harvest, including beach fringes and stream buffers.
Since 1954 (when industrial timber harvests began on the Tongass), roughly 400,000 acres (3.9% of the forested acres) have been harvested.
93% of the productive old growth present in 1954 is still untouched.
Annual regrowth was 2¾ times the rate of harvest in 1990, when the Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA) was passed. With reduced logging, the ratio is currently much higher.
There are no threatened or endangered species on the Tongass. There is no evidence that wildlife has been harmed by 40 years of industrial logging.

Wolves—following an ESA listing attempt in 1993, research done by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska Division of Wildlife Conservation indicates a healthy population in Southeast Alaska.

Deer—abundant throughout the Tongass, both the subsistence and sports take is supported by the deer population. Currently the sports bag limit, set by ADF&G, is 4 per hunter.

Salmon—escapement is high, stream productions are healthy, runs have set records over the last decade. Salmon runs are presently at 101% of their 1954 levels.

Marten—introduced to the islands of Southeast Alaska, this fur bearer has adapted well and now supports a trapping harvest throughout the region.

Summary

Federal legislation in 1971 (ANCSA), 1980 (ANILCA) and 1990 (TTRA) has gradually reduced the Tongass land base available for the commercial timber program. Of the 16.9 million acres in the Tongass, now only 1.7 million are subject to timber harvest on a 100 year rotation cycle. This is only 17% of the total forested lands; the remainder is managed for other purposes. This puts the timber-dependent communities of Southeast Alaska at or near the subsistence level. Further reductions, such as those proposed in the 1996 Tongass Land Management Plan Preferred Alternative, will be catastrophic for Alaskans and are not necessary to protect other uses of the forest, such as fish and wildlife.

John Sturgeon

ALASKA FOREST PRACTICES ACT REVIEW

Final Report

June, 1989

Land & Resource Section, P.O. Box 107005, Anchorage, AK. 99510
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Alaska Department of NATURAL RESOURCES

Department of Fish and Game

Department of Environmental Conservation

Chapter 1. Riparian Management

A. Private Land

1. Background & Riparian Standards for Region I

Introduction and General Summary

The riparian or streamside areas within Alaska's forest lands and the management of those areas was perhaps the most difficult of all the issues dealt with by the Alaska Forest Practices Act Review Committee. These areas are critical for the protection of water quality, and fisheries and wildlife habitat, and they are also some of the most productive areas for timber production. Therefore these areas are of high interest to all parties involved in this forest practices review. In order to develop Riparian Management Standards, a working group made up of Steering Committee members was formed to deal specifically with streamside issues. They quickly learned that while there was scientific information available to guide their decisions, it was incomplete. Some decisions would have to be based on assumptions.

A technical committee was convened to complete the following:

Frame the issues.

Develop a stream channel typing system.

Resolve the scientific questions to the extent possible.

Identify areas where appropriate scientific information was unavailable and where further research needed.

Examine the effects of various streamside leave tree requirments and the attendant risks to fish habitat, water quality, and the economic impacts to timber owners and operators.

Provide the steering-committee working group with recommendations if the technical committee could not agree on standards.

The steering-committee working group used the technical committee's report for reference during negotiations. They also agreed that because of lack of scientific certainty, four principles were necessary components of any system that would balance the needs of all the resources at stake. Those principles were

1. Fairness

   Any successful system must be based on shared risk and incentives for both timber owners and regulators to make it work.

2. No "Big Hit"

   Neither fish nor timber should bear an inordinate share of the burden; that a balance must be found. No private landowner should have to bear an unusually large burden.

3. Enforceable

   Standards and regulations should be understandable and measurable for ease in implementation.

4. Professional Management

   To provide optimum utilization of manpower and some system flexibility for fish and water quality protection, and timber management, the new system would require careful planning and targeted field effort.

The interim riparian standards described later in this section resulted from negotiations based on these principles and information developed by the technical committee. They are intended to protect fish and water quality within the streamside zone while providing some opportunity for timber harvest. Other forestry related upland activities, such as roading and timber harvest, will be covered in standards to be developed as a result of this agreement.

The agreement-in-principle and the recommended legislation are intended to be reviewed within three years. This three year time is intended to allow for further research and to gain experience implementing the act's regulatory and administrative standards -- especially the riparian standards and enhanced notification system. It is presumed that a representative group will be convened for the review, or that the review will be conducted by the restructured Board of Forestry. In either event, this review will be done with full public input and participation. In addition, DNR, DF&G, and DEC will each present an annual report, independently, to the Board of Forestry and the legislature on the resources for which they have statutory expertise and make recommendations for any improvements to rectify procedural or substantive problems. For more information concerning review of the act, see page 64.

Technical Committee Work Summary

Stream Channel Typing System

The first task of the riparian-technical committee was to develop a stream channel typing system. The committee examined a U.S. Forest Service classification system and consolidated over 50 categories into a nine channel types. A description of these channel types is included in the chart on the next page.

These nine stream channel types are used as a framework for forest practices regulations. Each channel type applies to a segment of either flowing (i.e., streams) or standing (i.e., lakes and ponds) waters that have specific physical characteristics. Physical characteristics used to define channel types are channel gradient expressed as percentage slope, presence or absence of channel incision greater than 2 meters, perennial or intermittent stream flow, size of the dominant substrate, and stream width at the ordinary high-water mark. In addition to these five physical characteristics a functional group name has been listed, which describes each channel type.

Channel types are determined by comparing the physical characteristics of the water segment in question with the channel typing criteria listed in the chart on the following page. The category with criteria most similar to the physical characteristics of the segment in question is defined as the channel type.

Science for Solutions

NOAA COASTAL OCEAN PROGRAM
Decision Analysis Series No. 7

FORESTRY IMPACTS ON FRESHWATER HABITAT OF ANADROMOUS SALMONIDS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND ALASKA--REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

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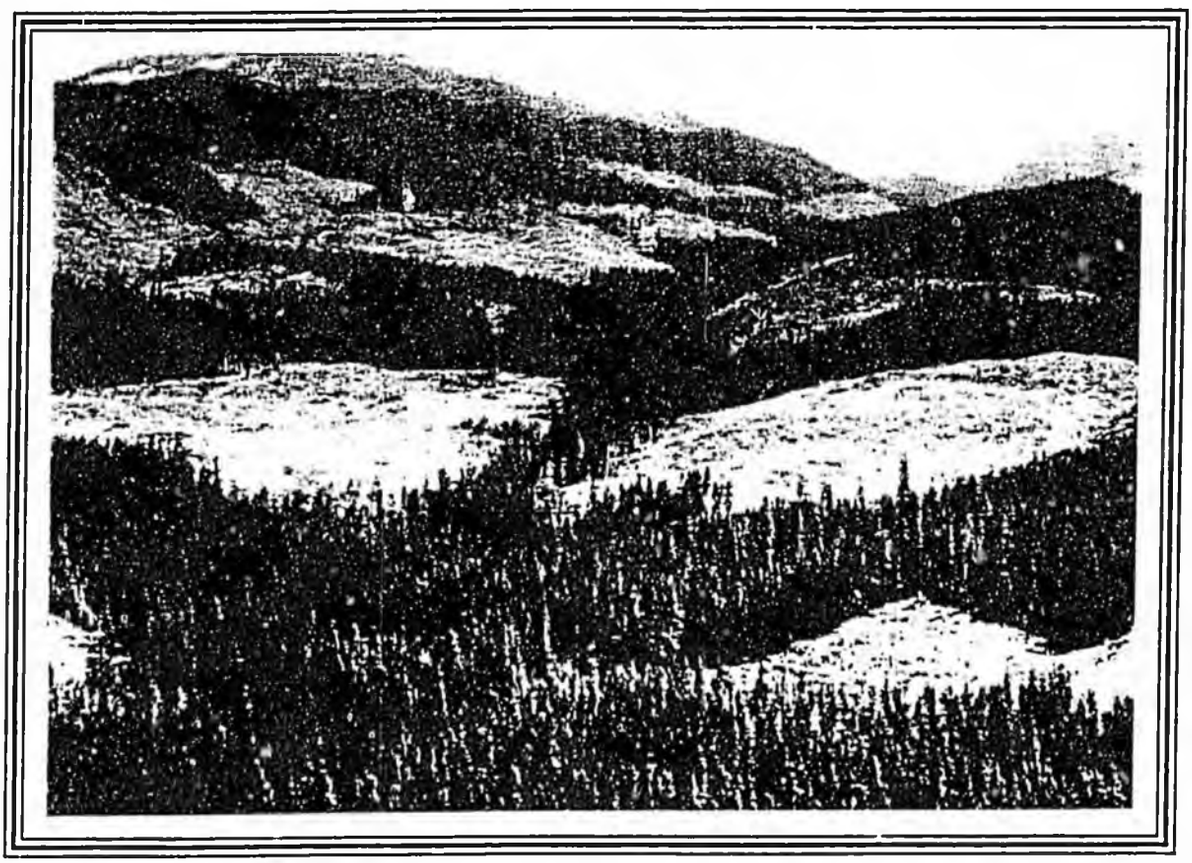


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Coastal Ocean Office

Changes in stream temperature are considered harmful to salmonids because stocks are adapted to their stream's natural regime, and any change can alter development, growth, survival, and timing of life-history events (Beschta et al. 1987). Increased temperature beyond the preferred range can cause juveniles to leave or grow slower. High temperature can inhibit upstream migrations of adults and increase disease. Increased temperature can exacerbate die-offs of adult pink and chum salmon during temporary summer droughts in small coastal streams (Murphy 1985).

Although increased temperature is a major concern, field studies have generally failed to demonstrate significant temperature impacts on salmonids after clearcut logging (Beschta et al. 1987). On the contrary, streams in clearcuts can have large populations of juvenile salmonids (Murphy and Meehan 1991). The reason for this may be that tolerance limits determined in the laboratory may not apply to the complex thermal environments in streams. Local cool-water sources (e.g., upwelling groundwater) can provide refuge from periodic high temperature (Bilby 1984a). Daily stream temperature in clearcuts fluctuates widely and can briefly exceed the reported lethal threshold. Salmonids apparently can withstand these short-term exposures without detrimental impact (Beschta et al. 1987). These field studies, however, have generally examined streams in small clearcuts where the temperature increase was moderated by upstream forest. Cumulative increases in temperature from numerous small clearcuts could have major impacts on downstream habitat.

Another reason for lack of reported temperature impacts is that most studies have been conducted in regions with moderate temperature regimes in the center of the salmonid distribution (e.g., coastal Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska; Hicks et al. 1991a). In other regions with higher ambient temperature, on the margins of their distribution, streams may become too warm for salmonids because of excessive exposure to sunlight (Bjornn and Reiser 1991). In these regions, larger streams, which are naturally more open to sunlight, often become uninhabitable for salmonids in summer. Canopy reductions along these streams or in their headwaters can extend the time and area that temperature is unsuitable.

Long-term warming of streams can cause increased competition and predation. Salmonids may be replaced because of competition from warmwater species (Reeves et al. 1987). Elevated water temperature in the Columbia River Basin allowed introduced smallmouth bass, major predators on juvenile chinook salmon, to expand their range into salmon rearing areas where cold water might have excluded them in the past (Li et al. 1987).

Although timber harvest can change stream temperature in summer, it does not greatly affect stream temperature in winter. Canopy removal can raise winter temperature in low-elevation, coastal drainages; but it can lower it in northern areas and higher elevations because of lost insulating cover and increased radiative cooling (Beschta et al. 1987). Where winter temperature decreases, ice forms more readily and salmonids may die from freezing and icing hazards. Although effects on winter temperature may be slight, caution is warranted because even a small change can affect fish when water temperature is low.

Increased winter temperature can have mixed effects on salmonids. Elevated temperature during egg incubation can speed development and cause fry to emerge early. Early emergence can be

beneficial by prolonging the growing season, leading to larger size in fall and winter, which helps overwinter survival (Holtby 1988; Thedinga et al. 1989). Early emergence, however, also exposes fry to late-winter freshets, and fry and smolts may migrate to sea before the spring plankton bloom in the estuary, leading to poor ocean survival (Holtby et al. 1989).

Because of the extensive geographic range of salmonids, potential temperature impacts should be viewed with a regional perspective. In some regions of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, concern over increased summer temperature may be unwarranted (Beschta et al. 1987). In southeast Alaska, for example, stream temperature in clearcuts rarely exceeds 26°C, except in exposed, intermittent pools (Sheridan and Bloom 1975). Even in southeast Alaska, however, high temperature may be a problem for salmonids in some "temperature-sensitive" streams that are wide, shallow, low gradient, and have lake or muskeg sources (Gibbons et al. 1987). In other regions with comparatively high ambient temperature, such as southern Oregon, California, and the interior Columbia River Basin, increased temperature may have profound negative effects on salmonid populations.

SEDIMENT

The term "sediment" commonly refers to fine particles the size of clay and silt, but in the strict sense, sediment includes all particles from colloids to boulders. Generally, however, it is the fine sediments that are of concern because of possible detrimental effects on salmonid habitat, whereas the coarser gravels, cobbles, and boulders help shape channel morphology and provide substrate for cover and spawning. Logging activities can have major effects on the amount of sediments delivered to streams and their subsequent routing downstream.

In mountainous terrain, sediments of all sizes are delivered to streams primarily by landslides (Swanston 1991). These occur as slow-moving slumps and earthflows or as episodic debris torrents and avalanches which happen during heavy rainfall when saturated soils trigger slope failures. Undisturbed forest soils normally resist surface erosion because their coarse texture and thick surface layer of duff and moss prevent overland flow.

Surface erosion in forested sites usually occurs only after the soil is bared by landslides, fire, overgrazing, or logging (Swanston 1991). Compaction of soils by logging equipment increases surface erosion by reducing soil infiltration and causing overland flow. Surface erosion is greatly increased where disturbed or compacted soils are exposed to rainfall. Road surfaces, landings, skid trails, ditches, and disturbed clearcut areas can contribute large quantities of fine sediments to streams (Chamberlin et al. 1991). Nearly all forest operations disturb soil to some degree. Road construction and maintenance, log hauling, tree felling, yarding, slash disposal, and site preparation for replanting are all potential nonpoint sources of fine sediment pollution.

Construction of roads in steep terrain can substantially increase all types of soil erosion (Furniss et al. 1991). Landsliding associated with roads can be more than 300 times more frequent than in undisturbed forest, and because the landslides are relatively large, the amount of sediment produced from roads greatly exceeds the sediment from forests and clearcuts (Fig. 5.3; Furniss et al. 1991). The increase in landslides caused by roads depends on soil and bedrock type,

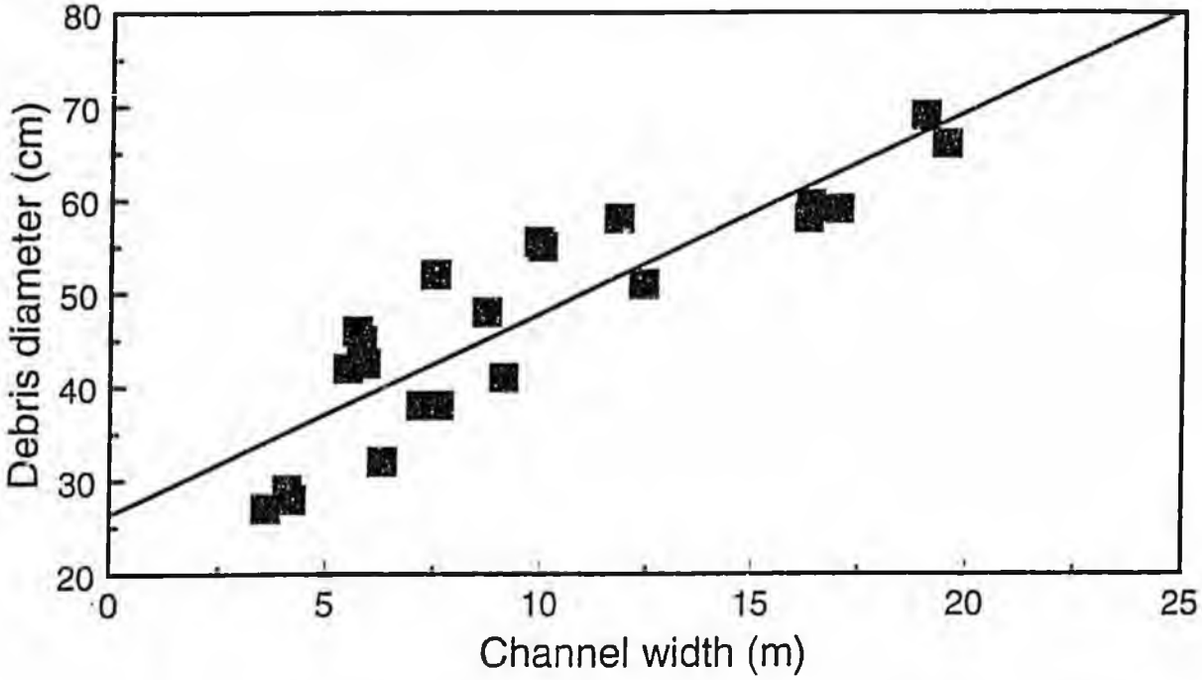


Figure 6.6. The diameter of stable large woody debris as a function of channel width. (After Bisson et al. 1987.)

beneficial functions of LWD in the stream (Heimann 1988). Once the key pieces are gone, the smaller LWD will not remain in place for long.

Selective harvest within buffers offers an opportunity to restore degraded riparian vegetation in second-growth areas (Bilby and Bisson 1991). Degraded riparian areas can be improved by appropriate silviculture if rules allow entry into buffer zones during timber harvest (T. O'Dell, Simpson Timber Company, Korbel, CA, pers. comm. 1994). By using silvicultural treatments, such as patch cutting, thinning, and conifer planting, alder-dominated riparian areas can be treated to restore vegetative diversity and provide LWD for recovery of productive stream habitat (Bilby and Bisson 1991). Active management of riparian areas may be necessary to meet the long-term needs of fish habitat (Sedell et al. 1989). Reestablishing conifers in riparian areas offers potential long-term benefits for both fisheries and timber managers.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF BUFFER ZONES

Evaluating the overall effectiveness of riparian buffer zones is difficult because of the long time periods involved for impacts to occur and for ecosystems to recover. Full impacts on LWD, for example, may take 100 years to occur, and habitat may take centuries to recover (Murphy and Koski 1989). Evaluation of the long-term effectiveness of riparian buffers relies heavily on modeling and extrapolation of data into the future.

Although one of the major functions of riparian buffer zones is to provide LWD for the stream, blowdown of trees in buffers sometimes results in a more abrupt loading of debris than intended. Blowdown is more likely in areas of poorly drained soil, where buffers are perpendicular to prevailing wind, and where the trees are conifers (C. Andrus, ODF, Salem, OR, unpublished manuscript; DeWalle 1983; Steinblums et al. 1984). Blowdown is not highly correlated with buffer width; however, wider buffers may still provide greater protection for the stream because blowdown is often concentrated at the buffer edge. Blanket prescriptions for buffer width and feathering edges may be ineffective in reducing blowdown (Boughton 1993). The risk of blowdown, however, can be reduced by adjusting the buffer layout so that boundaries take advantage of local windbreaks, such as mature forest, ridge lines, and rock outcrops (Gregory and Ashkenas 1990; Boughton 1993).

Blowdown in buffer zones is not considered a management failure nor a major problem for the stream (Murphy et al. 1986; C. Andrus, ODF, Salem, OR, unpublished). Blowdown accelerates LWD recruitment faster than in natural stands, but it is not an ecological disaster (Gregory et al. 1990). In southeast Alaska, where wind is a major ecological factor, only 10–15% of trees in buffers blow down (S. Paustian, FS, Sitka, AK, pers. comm. 1995). Upturning of roots can contribute sediment, but this not usually a problem (C. Andrus, ODF, Salem, OR, unpublished manuscript). Blowdown can also eliminate undercut banks, but this loss is offset by added cover from LWD (Heifetz et al. 1986). In specific cases where blowdown creates a problem, such as a barrier to fish migration, debris accumulations can be modified, but as little as possible to achieve desired results.

Physical exposure of the riparian community to increased light and wind could cause the buffer to deteriorate. When timber is harvested to the outer limit of the riparian zone, an edge is created that affects the interior microclimate of the riparian forest (Fig. 6.3). Relative humidity within the buffer declines, air temperature varies more, and windthrow and tree breakage increase. Increased side light accelerates shrub development which reduces herbaceous cover and tree regeneration (Hibbs et al. 1991). These factors may accelerate senescence of overstory trees and succession to shrub-dominated communities. Thus, wider riparian buffer zones may be needed to not only protect the stream but to ensure the long-term viability of riparian functions (Cederholm 1994).

Natural disturbance regimes that operate over long cycles could be important in the long-term effectiveness of buffer zones for maintaining habitat quality and diversity. The size of buffer zones generally does not account for natural disturbances that involve larger landscape scales (Everett et al. 1993). Attempts to maintain stable buffer zones against the natural tendency for disturbances in dynamic forest ecosystems may be ineffective or even counterproductive because stream productivity, unique habitats, or sensitive species often require disturbance events for long-term sustainability (Everett et al. 1993).

Over the long term, habitat formation in streams may depend on infrequent catastrophic disturbance events, such as major floods and landslides occurring after wildfire (Reeves et al., in press). The most significant outcome of natural disturbances was the episodic delivery of large quantities of mixed sediment and LWD into fish-bearing streams from hillslope failures and debris torrents triggered along headwater stream channels (Swanson et al. 1987; Hogan and

California where side slopes exceed 30% (100–150-ft buffers); large streams (mean discharge >10 cfs) in Oregon (100-ft buffers); and certain large streams in Washington where buffer zones are extended to include the wetland plant community (up to 100-ft buffers). All other fish-bearing streams have narrower buffers with reduced potential sources of LWD, and all buffers on private lands have some allowable timber harvest.

Based on buffer width, the buffers for representative fish-bearing streams on private lands in the five states could provide approximately 90% of LWD sources present in mature conifer stands if the buffers were unharvested and if they contained mature conifer forest or were restored to that condition (Table 8.4). Timber harvest within the buffers, however, reduces LWD sources to the minimum requirements for leave trees and other vegetation. These requirements are lowest in California, where only 25% of the conifer overstory including two large conifers per acre must be left, and is highest in Alaska, where a variance must be approved to remove individual trees. The resulting overall protection of conifer LWD sources on private lands ranges from only 23% in California to 82% in Alaska (Table 8.4).

Growth of trees during the timber rotation increases the trees for potential LWD. In Oregon, for example, targets for conifer basal area for leave trees are set so that trees will achieve desired future conditions halfway through a 50-year rotation. Oregon's rules are based on the expectation that basal area will grow 59% within 25 years, thereby achieving the level of LWD sources in a mature Douglas-fir streamside forest (T. Lorensen, ODF, Salem, OR, pers. comm. 1994). Assuming a similar growth rate (59% per 0.5 rotation period) in the other states, the resulting LWD sources at mid-rotation would exceed 90% of the level in mature forest in Alaska and Oregon, but would still be far below that level in California and Washington (Fig. 8.1).

These comparisons of LWD recruitment depend on estimates of average or normal mature forest. The value for Washington, in particular, depends on how many trees occur in an average mature streamside stand. Basal area and density of trees varies widely, and a single value for the percentage leave trees in Table 8.4 fails to portray the large variation that occurs in the field. Nevertheless, the values give a perspective of the relative level of protection for LWD sources under similar hypothetical conditions.

For comparison purposes, this evaluation of buffer effectiveness for LWD recruitment assumed that streamside areas contained mature forest. Many riparian areas in the Pacific Northwest, however, have second-growth vegetation consisting of hardwoods and brush (Gregory et al. 1990). In such cases, leaving a higher percentage of existing trees may not increase conifer LWD for the stream nor help reestablish conifers in the riparian area (Bilby and Bisson 1991). In these cases, regulations should encourage activities that modify riparian vegetation leading to desired future conditions of appropriate mature native forest species.

Oregon's approach provides a prototype model for managing second-growth riparian areas to achieve desired future conditions for both fish and timber. If the buffer lacks enough conifers to meet targets, no harvest is allowed. Monitoring data in Oregon indicate that because of the current condition of riparian forests, minimal tree harvest occurs in buffers on private lands (T. Lorensen, ODF, Salem, OR, pers. comm. 1995). To reestablish conifer stands along streams,

Table 8.4. Comparison of minimum level of protection for conifer LWD sources for representative anadromous fish streams in federal (NFP) and private lands in five states. For comparisons, preharvest buffers are assumed to have mature conifer forest.

	Federal NFP Class 1	AK Type A	CA Class I 40% slopes	ID Class I 15 ft wide	OR Type F >10 cfs[1]	WA Type 2 <75 ft wide
Buffer width (ft)	300	66	100	75	100	25–75
% LWD source trees in unharvested buffer[2]	100%	96%	92%	85%	92%	40–85%
% Prescribed leave trees	100%	85%[3]	25%[4]	58%[5]	63%[6]	38%[7]
% LWD sources after timber harvest[8]	**100%**	**82%**	**23%**	**49%**	**58%**	**32%**

[1]Mean annual streamflow in cubic ft per second.

[2]Values obtained from graphs in Murphy and Koski (1989) for Alaska and in McDade et al.(1990; model for mature conifers) for the other states. Buffers are assumed to have mature conifer forest.

[3]Value based on 15% harvest rate (R. Harris, Sealaska Corp., Juneau, AK, pers. comm. 1993).

[4]Value based on 25% retention of overstory conifers.

[5]Value obtained by comparing estimated basal area of prescribed leave trees (87 sq. ft per 1,000 ft) to estimated basal area in mature streamside stands on private lands in eastern Oregon (150 sq. ft/1,000 ft; T. Lorensen, ODF, pers. comm. 1994).

[6]Example for Coast Range. Value obtained by comparing standard basal area target to the normal yield of mature Douglas-fir forest adjusted for incomplete stocking and tree mortality (T. Lorensen, ODF, Salem, OR, pers. comm. 1994).

[7]Example for western Washington. Value obtained by comparing the 100-leave-tree requirement to the mean number of trees in mature streamside forest in the Western Cascades, corresponding to the maximum 75-ft buffer (263 trees/1,000 ft; T. Lorensen, ODF, Salem, OR, pers. comm. 1994).

[8]Value calculated by multiplying the % source trees in an unharvested, mature-conifer buffer times the % prescribed leave trees.

Oregon allows alternative prescriptions. as increased harvest followed by conifer planting in "conversion blocks" alternating wit ention blocks" with lesser harvest (Newton et al. 1995). Oregon further ensures some mediate LWD recruitment by providing basal area credits when operators add trees to strea

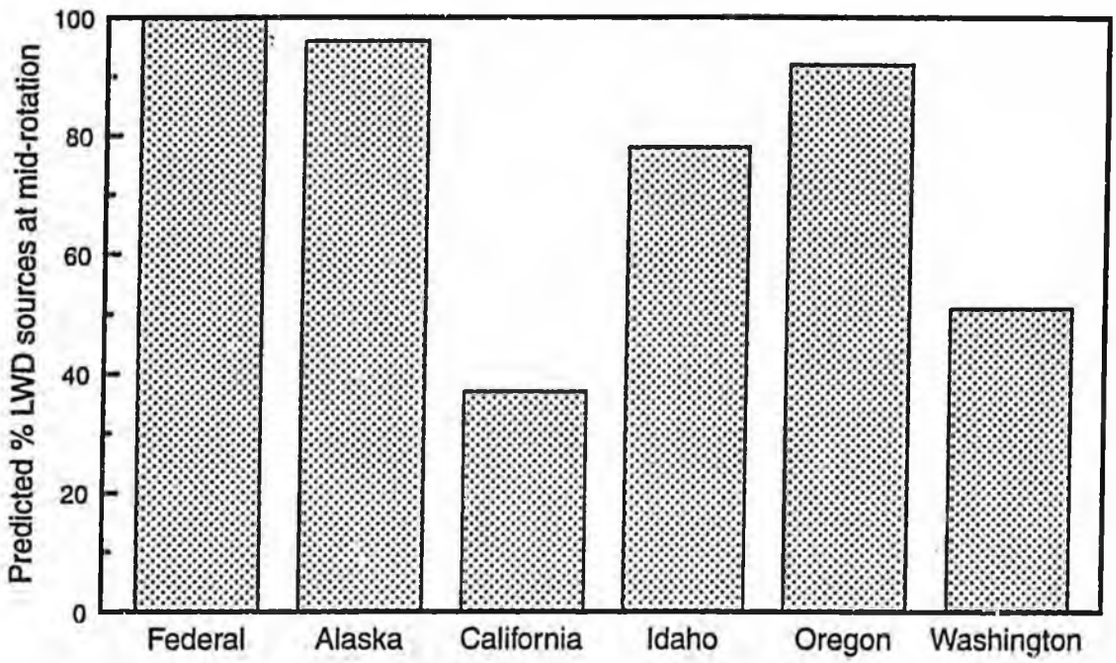


Figure 8.1. Predicted sources of conifer LWD in buffer zones at mid-rotation for representative fish-bearing streams as a percentage of LWD sources present in mature conifer stands. Values are based on federal and state requirements for buffer width and leave trees and assumes mature conifer forest in preharvest buffers and a 59% increase in LWD sources during the first one-half of a timber rotation (see text for explanation).

Prescriptions for buffers in other states, such as Washington's requirement for leave trees that are representative of the existing stand, do not encourage the desired result of improving riparian stands. Oregon's and California's rules also directly address the need for conifer LWD by specifying that leave trees consist of conifers, whereas Idaho and Washington allow both conifers and hardwoods to qualify as leave trees.

A no-harvest buffer zone is most appropriate along fish-bearing streams where streamside areas consist of mature native forest. Where riparian forests are degraded by past logging, a no-harvest prescription limits options for silvicultural treatments for restoring riparian functions for fish habitat (Bilby and Bisson 1991). A no-harvest prescription, unless it provides for "variations," also does not allow landowners to harvest valuable timber from the stand in site-specific cases as long as habitat is protected.

Alaska's approach illustrates the use of no-harvest buffers in mature forest, with "variations" allowing selective harvest. A 66-ft, no-harvest buffer zone is used along unconstrained anadromous fish streams to leave over 90% of LWD source trees present before harvest. Variations can be granted to landowners to harvest additional specific trees whose removal is

unlikely to adversely affect fish habitat. State habitat biologists and landowners debate the harvest of individual trees, and about 80% of variation requests are approved. The variation process results in about 15% of trees >12 inch (>30 cm) dbh within the buffer zone being harvested (R. Harris, Sealaska Corporation, Juneau, AK, pers. comm. 1993; Resource Development Council 1994). The state resource commissioners have found that the process generally works satisfactorily (ADFG 1994 Memorandum), but effectiveness of resulting buffers has not been evaluated.

Specifying a number of leave trees in buffers is a common way to set a minimum level of protection for LWD recruitment. Four of the five states require leave trees for fish-bearing streams, and three states require leave trees for perennial non-fish streams. Usually leave trees include many small trees [e.g., down to 3 inch (8 cm) dbh in Idaho] and only a few large trees. The size of these largest trees [>11 inch (28–50 cm) dbh] is generally appropriate to provide stable LWD in streams, but the smaller trees are probably ineffective for LWD (Bilby and Wasserman 1989). Current requirements in the four states are to leave only an estimated 23% to 58% of potential LWD compared to the sources present in mature conifer forest (Table 8.4). To provide optimal fish habitat, the number and size of leave trees need to be increased where additional large conifers are available.

Buffers on small non-fish streams, except for federal lands managed under NFP and PACFISH, are generally not adequate to provide LWD for the stream. All states except Alaska require leave trees along some non-fish perennial streams, but not enough to fully maintain LWD. Only Idaho routinely requires leave trees along intermittent channels (Table 8.3).

Longer term, the lack of LWD sources along small headwater streams can adversely affect downstream habitat in several ways. Reduced sources of LWD can reduce sediment storage in small headwater streams, resulting in more rapid sediment delivery to downstream reaches (Sullivan et al. 1987). Headwalls of small headwater streams can be important sources of LWD to downstream reaches via debris torrents (Swanson et al. 1987); lack of a buffer zone in these areas eliminates this function.

Sediment Control

Controlling sediment delivery is most important along small non-fish streams and intermittent channels because of their dense distribution [accounting for more than 50% of the total length of stream channels in a watershed (Reid and Ziemer 1994a)] and their capacity to transport sediment to downstream reaches. These streams, however, except on federal lands managed under NFP and PACFISH, generally have minimal buffers (Table 8.2). Perennial non-fish streams do have buffers in Idaho and California, and they sometimes have buffers in Washington if deemed needed by site-specific conditions. Perennial non-fish streams do not have buffers on federal lands managed under TLMP, nor along small Type N streams in western Oregon. Where buffers are left on perennial non-fish streams, they are usually heavily harvested (Table 8.3). Intermittent non-fish streams (with definite bed and banks) consistently have a buffer zone only on NFP/PACFISH lands and in Idaho; California and Washington sometimes provide a buffer for site-specific conditions.

The buffers for small non-fish streams appear to be minimal or inadequate for sediment control. The recommended buffer width for sediment filtering ranges from about 26 to 150 ft (8–46 m), depending on hillslope (Johnson and Ryba 1992), whereas the average buffer width on private lands is 40 ft (12 m) for perennial non-fish streams and usually 0 ft for intermittent non-fish streams (Table 8.2). California is closest to the recommended width by requiring 50–100-ft buffers on perennial non-fish streams. A high level of timber harvest within the buffers, however, probably compromises their effectiveness as sediment filters. Because of the narrow buffers and high level of harvest allowed along small non-fish streams, preventing sediment pollution relies heavily on BMPs that restrict felling and yarding practices along streambanks.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The BMPs used in the five states are generally similar in that their principal objective is to prevent sediment pollution. Each state has a suite of BMPs for felling, yarding, slash disposal, site preparation, road construction and maintenance, and other activities designed to prevent disturbances to stream channels, riparian areas, and unstable soils, and minimize sediment runoff from roads and skid trails. Each state monitors effectiveness of its BMPs, but monitoring programs are only recently being developed, and current BMPs have not yet been fully evaluated.

Three BMPs pertaining to buffer zones are particularly important in protecting streams from disturbance and preventing downstream sediment impacts from timber harvest along small non-fish streams. These BMPs determine 1) whether trees can be felled into and limbed within stream channels, 2) whether cable yarding can cross streams with full or partial log suspension, and 3) whether tractors and other ground-based yarders can operate within streams or their buffer zones.

The states' BMPs for these activities carefully protect fish-bearing streams, but small non-fish streams are not as carefully protected. All states require that trees be felled away from and not bucked and limbed in fish-bearing streams; however, several states allow felling, bucking, and limbing in small non-fish streams. Washington and Idaho, for example, allow felling, bucking, and limbing in perennial non-fish streams as long as care is taken to minimize accumulation of slash. Cable yarding across fish-bearing streams must have full suspension and prior approval in Oregon and Washington, except for small non-fish streams. Tractor yarding is generally not allowed across fish-bearing streams and not allowed in most perennial non-fish streams except at constructed temporary crossings; however, all the states allow some log skidding across intermittent non-fish channels. For example, Oregon allows log skidding across dry streambeds where the disturbance is less than it would be to construct temporary crossings. Washington and California allow log skidding across intermittent non-fish stream channels unless a buffer zone is deemed necessary by on-site inspection.

Because small non-fish streams are particularly important for controlling sediment delivery and because buffer zones along them are usually narrow and heavily harvested, BMPs for felling and yarding must be closely monitored to ensure that they are effective. Effective BMPs are

Chapter 10
Conclusions and Recommendations

A comprehensive watershed-level approach is essential for maintaining and restoring salmonid habitat because the watershed is a fundamental unit for both ecological processes and land management. The failure of past piecework forest management to prevent habitat degradation or to accomplish restoration of stream reaches shows the need for an ecosystem-based, watershed-level management strategy.

The main technical elements of the watershed approach are buffer zones, BMPs, watershed analysis, and restoration. Because any conservation strategy will probably fail without community support, watershed management also includes outreach programs to recruit support from local citizens and enlist cooperation from private landowners.

BUFFER ZONES

Buffer zones are probably the most important tool for protecting critical riparian and aquatic processes. Buffer zones along streams, however, can not maintain fish habitat unless sensitive watershed areas and hydrologic processes are also protected by effective watershed management.

Buffer zones do not need to be "lock-out" zones if management activities within them maintain or restore critical riparian processes. The appropriate design for buffer zones depends on management objectives. The widest buffers with greatest restrictions on activities are used along fish-bearing streams to meet the full range of objectives for fish habitat, as well as for other wildlife (e.g., owls and amphibians). Narrower buffers with fewer restrictions can be used along non-fish streams to protect water quality and downstream fish habitat.

To fully protect fish-bearing streams, buffers need to provide all processes that create and maintain fish habitat, particularly shade, streambank integrity, and recruitment of large woody debris. Buffer zones need to be wide enough to fully protect the stream and floodplain and to ensure the long-term viability of the buffer itself. Buffers wider than one site-potential tree height (average maximum height given site conditions) may be needed to protect the floodplain and riparian vegetation where exposure to light and wind could cause succession to shrub communities. Blowdown in buffer zones, however, is usually not a problem for fish habitat, and where it does cause a problem, such as a stream blockage, it can be minimally altered to restore fish passage while leaving most fallen trees in place.

Current requirements for buffer width and leave trees on private lands do not fully protect LWD sources for fish-bearing streams. Four of the five states require leaving only an estimated 23% to 58% of potential LWD sources compared to the sources present in mature conifer forest. More and larger leave trees are needed to provide optimal fish habitat over the long term.

Many areas in the Pacific Northwest, however, have degraded riparian vegetation dominated by hardwood and shrubs, and lack additional large conifers for leave trees. In these degraded areas, buffer zones can be actively managed to improve degraded riparian functions. Reestablishing conifers offers potential long-term benefits for both fisheries and timber managers. In riparian areas restored to mature conifers, buffers could be selectively harvested if monitoring shows it would not harm fish habitat.

Buffer zones are also needed along non-fish streams to protect water quality and provide LWD for downstream fish habitat. Except for federal lands under NFP and PACFISH, buffers on small non-fish streams (both perennial and intermittent) are often inadequate or lacking. Reliance on BMPs alone may be inadequate to protect these headwater areas, and monitoring studies have not yet shown that BMPs are effective in preventing downstream impacts. The width and harvest activities within these buffers can be designed specifically to protect headwater sources of temperature control, sediment, and woody debris.

Management regimes are needed that will put timber harvest in the context of natural disturbance regimes. Disturbance to streams and flood plains is not necessarily negative, and may be needed for productive fish habitat over the long term. Unnatural disturbances, however, should be minimized, and patterns of land use should mimic the natural disturbance process and leave the necessary legacy for the long-term development of required habitat. Specifically, more large wood is needed in buffers along headwater channels with the greatest potential for delivery to fish-bearing streams.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Generally, BMPs can be effective at controlling nonpoint source pollution but need to be closely monitored for implementation and effectiveness to identify needed improvements. All the Pacific Northwest states and Alaska have a regulatory BMP program and monitor for implementation and effectiveness. Monitoring programs are mostly new, however, and BMPs have not been fully evaluated.

Many current forestry-related problems with water quality result from inadequate BMP implementation, which is generally worse on small private parcels than on public or large industrial holdings. On-site inspections are needed to identify sensitive areas and to design harvest and transportation plans to suit local conditions. Having well-qualified field personnel available to provide site-specific BMP recommendations, particularly for small private landowners, is probably the best way to improve BMP implementation.

Because small non-fish streams are particularly important for preventing sediment pollution and because buffer zones along them are usually narrow and heavily harvested, BMPs for activities

near them need to be closely monitored to ensure that they are effective. State BMPs do not fully protect small non-fish streams, intermittent channels, and unstable slopes from logging disturbance. The BMPs pertaining to felling and yarding that apply to fish-bearing streams generally do not apply to small non-fish streams (particularly intermittent channels) and unstable slopes. Monitoring with feedback for adaptive management is needed to develop, evaluate, and improve BMPs for these areas.

WATERSHED ANALYSIS

A watershed program must have some process for analysis and planning at the watershed level. Watershed analysis is the most thorough method for understanding potential effects of land uses at the watershed scale. Watershed analysis can be used to describe current conditions, identify sensitive areas and risks, determine factors limiting salmonid production, and develop prescriptions to prevent cumulative effects.

Watershed analysis should be instituted wherever possible to provide information for watershed planning. State agencies can organize and lead working groups of concerned landowners in cooperative watershed analysis in watersheds with mixed ownerships. The watershed analysis efforts in Washington and Idaho provide good prototype models for developing prescriptive watershed analysis for private lands.

RESTORATION

Restoration is an integral part of comprehensive watershed management and is used to stabilize deteriorating conditions and speed recovery in key watersheds. Effective restoration has a watershed-level approach and includes upland, riparian, and instream components. The upland component is used to control erosion, stabilize roads, upgrade culverts for fish passage, and manage watershed uses. The riparian component restores functions of riparian vegetation by reestablishing mature conifers or other appropriate vegetation. The instream component, using woody debris and other structures to retain spawning gravel and create pools or other features, should be conducted only after watershed problems have been addressed and limiting factors identified.

Effectiveness evaluations are a critical part of restoration because they help improve technology and demonstrate the benefits of restoration. A representative sample of projects needs to be evaluated over a range of watershed and stream classes for each type of restoration technique.

Although restoration projects should undergo rigorous planning and evaluation, a streamlined process is needed to take advantage of opportunities arising during timber harvest on private lands when equipment, materials, and labor are on site. Trained agency personnel are needed to advise willing companies on obtaining permits and designing projects so that the work can be done without delay. Monitoring can be used to develop and evaluate standard techniques for such cases, and incentives can be incorporated in forest practices rules to encourage such

projects. Prototype models for this are the Oregon incentives for riparian and instream restoration.

Priorities for restoration are key watersheds with the best remaining habitat, rather than the most degraded areas. The goal is to secure, expand, and link key watersheds in a system of refugia connected by intact migration corridors. Restoration activities for the best watersheds should focus on reducing risks to these habitats by obliterating unneeded roads and revegetating upland and riparian areas. The expectation is that all watersheds, not just key watersheds, will improve over time, but key watersheds will recover fastest because of their high level of habitat protection and priority for restoration. Other watersheds are expected to recover as a result of improved land management.

The best form of restoration is habitat protection. There is no guarantee that restoration efforts will succeed, and the cost of restoration is much greater than the cost of habitat protection. The most prudent approach is to minimize the risk to habitat by ensuring adequate habitat protection.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Comprehensive watershed management involves more than improved scientific understanding; it also encompasses economic, social, and political concerns. In the ideal situation, all stakeholders, including landowners, industries, and citizen groups, are partners in planning and implementing watershed management. Working groups of government agencies, industry, and citizen groups can provide the necessary consensus on forest practices and watershed management issues.

Habitat protection and restoration on a watershed basis will require integrating federal land management with other regulatory programs that affect aquatic habitats, particularly the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act. Habitat Conservation Plans developed under the ESA have an important role in watershed planning on private lands. Ultimately, basin-wide planning efforts are needed that include all public and private land managers.

Economic incentives can be provided for local communities and landowners to support habitat protection and restoration. On public lands, contracts awarded by competitive bidding can provide effective habitat protection and restoration while providing local employment. Tax credits and cost-sharing programs can be expanded to compensate private landowners for measures taken to protect public aquatic resources, such as expanded buffer zones or retention of additional leave trees along streams.

Although scientific information will always be incomplete and possibly wrong, current knowledge is adequate to design comprehensive watershed management to reduce risks to salmonid habitat and to restore degraded habitat. Scientific information can provide the basis for evaluating trade-offs between timber harvest and habitat protection, but whether society should take actions needed to recover anadromous salmonids is a political decision.

Alaska Timber Times

October 1996

Forestry Experts call Beetle Kill "Environmental Emergency"

Two Canadian forestry experts told a joint meeting of the House and Senate Resources Committees last month that the state should be prepared to spend more than $15 million per year, and as much as $100 million total, to properly restore state forested land devastated by spruce bark beetles. Calling the situation an "environmental emergency," the Canadians advised state lawmakers to launch an aggressive reforestation effort. They said that state timber sales should be an important part of the effort to restore the badly damaged forests.

"The forest industry did not cause this problem; therefore they shouldn't be required to foot the entire bill of restoring the forest," said Canadian consultant Les Reed, who was brought to the state by the Society of American Foresters, along with Patrick Moore, a director of the Forest Alliance of British Columbia and a one time director of Greenpeace Canada. They were backed by Ed Holsten, an Alaska based entomologist with the U.S. Forest Service, who said tall grass will prevent regeneration of spruce on the Kenai Peninsula if no replanting is done.

State foresters estimate as much as 3 million acres statewide have been infested by bark beetles since 1989, including much of the Kenai Peninsula and Copper River Valley, and say the epidemic has progressed far beyond the point where it could be stopped by logging. Bark beetles incubate for one or two years in dying trees before going on to new trees.

Forestry division director Tom Boutin, testified that the state has sold 8,800 acres of timber on the Kenai Peninsula in the past three years and plans to sell another 19,000 in the next five years. Most of the recent logging of beetle-infested woods on the Kenai Peninsula has been on Native corporation lands.

Boutin said it was hard to justify more aggressive salvage logging when state foresters could find no state or federal wildlife biologists to say that the extensive beetle-kill would be a detriment to moose, bear or salmon, as the Canadians claimed.

"They are reluctant to say logging, even if done well, will have less impact than if the beetle epidemic is allowed to take its course," Boutin said.

Patrick Moore, the Canadian expert, responded to Boutin's comments by saying he was "flabbergasted" to hear that the Department of Fish and Game expressed concern about moose but not about species that depend on tall spruce trees, such as songbirds and the marbled murrelet.

Alaska Forest Association director, Jack Phelps said, "The problem on Federal lands is complicated by the fact that much of the spruce beetle infestation on federal land occurs on lands which are not managed for timber resources at all (park lands, wildlife refuges, and other BLM lands). One action I think Alaska should take is for the Legislature to work with Governor Knowles to press the federal government to take action on its lands that will aid in restoration of forest health while creating some economic opportunities for Alaskans. It is time for Alaskans to speak up with a loud and consolidated voice. My association stands ready to assist you, even as we are working with the governor to get a better recognition by the national administration of the needs of Alaska's forests and her people. Recent actions by the White House have been less than encouraging, but we are not yet ready to give up."

House and Senate leaders listened sympathetically to testimony during the special hearing. House Speaker Gail Phillips, R-Homer said "We must declare a state of emergency and take action." She called the state's failure to check the advance of spruce bark beetles "shameful".

Reed and Moore spoke at several meetings throughout the state aside from the House Resources meeting.

Reed, in deposition for a pending lawsuit against the state's logging policy, has blamed the spread of beetles for last summer's Miller's Reach fire near Big Lake. State fire officials say beetle-killed timber was not a factor in that fire.

Moore is scheduled to speak at Alaska Forest Association's upcoming annual convention.

Statewide News

October 1996

Southeast Conference - Strength Through Unity

Jack Phelps and Elizabeth West represented the Alaska Forest Association at the Southeast Conference held in Juneau September 24 - 26. Governor Knowles addressed the assembly and spoke of his desire to "Alaskanize the Tongass." He also announced the formation of the Tongass Regional Timber Business Plan Task Force. The Task Force consists of mayors, industry representatives and representatives of the enviromental community. the purpose is to recommend a plan for the future of Southeast Alaska's timber industry.

Two timber related resolutions were unanimously passed: 1) support for the Governor's task force, and 2) support for the development of public and private partnerships that further the forest products industry. Jack got important amendments put into each resolution. To the resolution on the governor's task force, he added a provision urging the governor to have the task force address the need for a statewide timber strategy. To the development of partnerships he added that special consideration should be given to those communities that have suffered job loss since 1990 (thinking of Sitka, Wrangell and possibly Ketchikan).

Other work completed at the session were four committee meetings: local government, transportation, environment, and regional development. These committees passed resolutions on to the Board for approval and recommendations to the membership. AFA presented four repeat resolutions in support of the timber industry, reestablishment of industry in Sitka and Wrangell, KPC's contract extension, and the concept of the transfer of the Tongass. The first two were put into SE Conference's new "Regional Development Strategy and Area Plan." They are part of their overall Economic Resource Development Plan. Regarding support for KPC's contract, they felt that current events made this issue mute. They still struggle with the "concept" part of transferring the Tongass, getting caught up in the discussion that Alaska is not equipped to take on that responsibility. To that point, the amendment to the Governor's task force resolution was an important step.

James Calvin of theMcDowell Group made a presentation on economic impacts felt throughout Southeast in all resource industries. He made an important point that most researchers look at Southeast as a region. But when you separate Juneau, the rest of the region has not faired so well, being much more resource dependent.

From the State Forester's Office...

Haines Timber Sale Negotiated: The Haines Area negotiated a 45,000 board foot timber sale with Alaska Timber and Mining Company (ATM) of Haines. This spruce beetle killed salvage sale in the Haines State Forest will provide needed road maintenance on the Kelsall logging road prior to freeze-up. ATM, a relatively new operator in Haines, has hired four local small sawmill operators to cut the logs into lumber, which is then shipped to the Lower 48 for further manufacture and sale.

Wrangell Timber Sales: Forestry has completed negotiations with Frank Age for the first two Wrangell timber sales. The U.S. Forest Service may make available small amounts of federal timber adjacent to these first two state timber sales.

PLT Training: The Project Learning Tree coordinator and state fire training manager facilitated a workshop for 28 individuals at the recently opened Campbell Creek Science Center at BLM district headquarters in Anchorage. Volunteer facilitator Rena MacFarlane lead the group in a tree macarena to learn the names of tree parts and then in "building a tree." The surrounding forest contributed spectacular fall colors. Although most of the group members were undergraduate teachers-in-training, several were natural resource interpreters, public information officers, or scout leaders. The center was built on a former smoke jumpers' pad to minimize clearing additional forest.

Ketchikan Chamber named 1996 Outstanding Chamber

The Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce was named the 1996 Oustanding Chamber of Commerce at an annual awards presentation held in Sitka on October 3, 1996.

The Ketchikan chamber was cited for their work on the Yellow Ribbon Campaign and for demonstrating community support for the area's natural resource based industries.

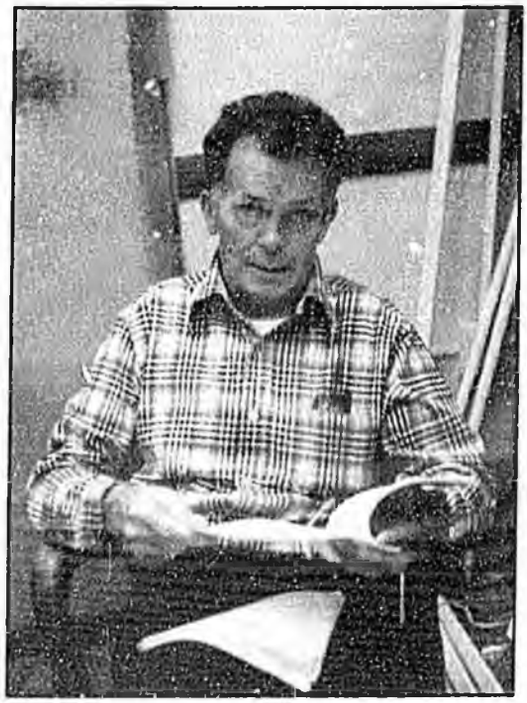
The award is presented to a local Alaskan Chamber of Commerce that is notable for consistent community involvement and excellence of programs, according to the state Chamber.

Association News

October 1996

The Alaska Forest Association Bids Farewell

The Alaska Forest Association mourns the loss of three longtime friends who recently passed away; Alex Reid, Newt Cutler and Letha Campbell. We send our deepest sympathy to their families and dedicate this page in their memory.



Alex Reid

Alexander Reid, one of the charter members of the Alaska Loggers Association, died Sept. 18, 1996.

Alex was born on Oct. 2, 1923, and grew up in Montana. He moved to Petersburg in 1940 and married Mary Hungerford in 1944. Together they raised five sons and two daughters.

Alex and his brother, Glenn, owned and operated a family business, Reid Brothers Logging. In the early 50's the brothers formed an association for Southeast loggers called the Timber Operators Association.

In 1956, a group of loggers met in Ketchikan, among those present were Alex and Glenn Reid. At this meeting it was voted to establish an association for Alaska loggers and affiliate with the Timber Operators Association. The group withdrew from the Timber Operators Association on July 21, 1957 and formed their own association: Alaska Loggers Association.

In 1968, the Reid family business was divided and Alex and Mary moved to Ketchikan where they continued logging under the name Reid Timber, Inc. In 1988, Alex turned the business over to his sons and they formed a corporation, Reid Bros. Logging & Construction and merged with Reid Timber.

Alex is survived by his wife, Mary and numerous relatives. He will be missed by many friends and associates.

Newton Cutler died September 27, 1996 in Juneau.

Newt was born Jan. 5, 1926, in Montana.

He married Thelma Wetherbee in 1949.

In 1963, the Cutlers moved to Juneau. Newt first worked for the insurance firm D.K. McDonald then opened his own company, Newt Cutler Insurance. He served on the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce board of directors and executive board and was president of Citizens for Management of Alaskan Lands, lobbying Congress on the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

Newt Cutler

Newt was an active industry supporter and was instrumental in forming the Alaska Loggers Workman's Compensation Program, that was put into effect during ALA's first year of operation. Many remember Newt from the association's early days.

Letha Campbell

Letha Campbell died August 13, 1996, after a brief illness.

She was born on October 5, 1916 to John and Carrie Slattery in Beloit, WI. She grew up and attended school in Sedro Woolley, WA.

On June 26, 1937 she married Jim Campbell. Jim was the first Alaska Loggers Association president. He served as president in the years; 1957, 1964, 1965, 1974 and 1975. They lived in Ketchikan for 30 years where together they owned and operated a logging and road building business, Campbell Logging and Construction. They set up camp in different areas on Prince of Wales Island at; Twelve Mile Arm, Hollis and Thorne Arm.

Letha is survived by her husband, Jim and numerous other relatives.

Member Spotlight

Samson Tug and Barge

by Judy Auger

George Baggen of Samson Tug & Barge Company is an employer that believes employees are a valuable component in building a successful business. George is like many employers in Alaska that have employees working anywhere from the northern part of the State to the Seattle area. So, having an employee that understands the logistics of a widespread operation and the coordination needed between each site is an asset that can be costly if they have to be replaced.

In May of 1995, George was faced with this prospect when employee Justin Scott was in a serious motorcycle accident that fractured his back and left him paralyzed from the waist down. Justin had been a welder and maintenance person at Samson's Seattle location working alongside his brother Eric.

Because the company did not want to lose the knowledge that Justin had gained during his time with them, an analysis of how to utilize his talents was done. Even before Justin's accident the company had grown to the extent that it needed to track when it was time for overhauls on trailers and containers. What was needed was a maintenance record keeper. With the hands on experience Justin already had in this area, it seemed only natural for him to take over these duties. Justin's brother Eric and the yard crew built a ramp to the yard office so Justin is able to be close to the maintenance area and keep track of the equipment as it is repaired. Once the maintenance is completed Justin enters the required data into the computer for future reference. Keeping track of the crew and the equipment is not a matter of looking out the window of the office, so Justin is often seen on the four wheeler, cruising from the docks to the yard making sure all is kept in order.

Justin is not one to stay still for long. When I visited with him last spring he told me he was thinking of taking up wheelchair racing.

from left: Judy Auger and Justin Scott

Judy Auger, is the Benefits Administrator for Tongass Timber Trust.

Samson Tug & Barge was founded in 1937, by owner George Baggen's grandfather, also named George. It started as a small family operation with one tug. The tug was an old fish packer named Samson that the company was later named for. In the early days they hauled logging camp supplies and towed log rafts.

Slowly the company grew. In the late 1970's they enlarged to include container cargo. Expanding their service from Seattle to the the Aleutian chain. A decade later they added freezer containers to their inventory.

Today, Samson has approximately 100 employees, with their corporate office located in Sitka with branches in Seattle, Kodiak, Cordova, Valdez and Adak. They offer barge service all along the Alaskan coast, with connections to interior Alaska, the Lower 48, Europe and the Orient.

Samson Tug & Barge has been a member of the Alaska Forest Association since 1970.

From the Director

October 1996

Extremist Views of Logging Threaten the Environment

By Jack E. Phelps

Extremism, which Webster defines as "advocacy of extreme political measures" frightens most reasonable people today. Webster connects it with the state of being radical which is a sharp departure "from the usual or traditional." While every sane person recognizes the inevitability, even the importance, of change, most people understand the need for balancing competing interests as society moves forward.

Not so the extremist. He demands change immediately regardless of the consequences to those who don't share his vision of the past or the future. It's "damn the torpedoes, full speed to the left." This drove Maximilian Robes Pierre and his Committee of Public Safety to take control of the French Revolution and institute the Reign of Terror, in which thousands of ordinary and innocent French peasants literally lost their heads.

Extremists today, at least in this country, do not haul people off to the guillotine. But, like their political cousins the Jacobins, they act without regard to facts and without regard to the human cost of their policies. An article in the July, 1996, issue of *Outdoor Life* illustrates this perfectly. The headline reads: "Two Visions of the Tongass, Game-rich habitat, or a stricken moonscape? Those are the choices."

Granted, headlines are meant to grab the reader's attention, and are often sensational even if the content of the article is not. Unfortunately, this does not hold in the current example. The article trots out all the myths associated with the extremist environmental agenda so familiar to those of us trying to make an honest living from the forest while maintaining the rich fish and wildlife values we share with other Alaskans.

The litany includes the notion that logging is destroying fisheries and deer habitat, and that logging companies gobble up trees and ravage the landscape with no regard for the natural environment. The writer describes the result of timber harvesting as "sterile, fishless rivers and ....fragmented, lifeless forest habitat." This would be tragic if accurate, but it bears no resemblance to the truth .

In fact, the fish and wildlife protections on the Tongass and on state and private land in Alaska are among the strictest in the nation. Fish producing streams and beach fronts are protected by mandatory buffer zones where no timber harvest is allowed to occur. A recent study produced by a top expert on fish habitat, and published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration indicates that Alaska's stream buffers are working very well to protect fish habitat. Yet the extremists, if they mention them at all, give buffers only passing mention, as if they are unimportant.

Another fact rarely mentioned by environmental extremists is that 4 million of the 5 million acres of productive of old growth on the Tongass are protected by non-harvest designations such as parks, monuments and wilderness. Only 1.7 million acres are open for any forest development. The industry is content to harvest within this relatively small area over a 100 year cycle, provided timber sales are consistently available.

Contrary to the extremists' rhetoric, the choice really is between responsible development and poverty. It is between responsible timber harvest here and ecologically damaging harvest in places like Russia and third world countries where environmental consciousness is not at the level enjoyed by Alaska's forests. The demand for wood in this country and around the world is not going to decline soon. We can maintain the economic health of our own timber industry while protecting the environment, or we can force more harvest overseas at the cost of our jobs and at the expense of the environment. That is the real choice.

This article was written by Jack Phelps for the *Alaska Business Monthly*.

Member Highlights

October 1996

AFA's Woodsman Coat of Arms

This Woodsman Coat of Arms *(at left)* hangs in the stairwell leading up to the Alaska Forest Association office.

The Coat of Arms was designed by Bill Bailey of Bailey's in an effort to give the logger, (landowner, lumberman, forester, etc.) a unifying symbol, while enhancing the credibility of the logging profession in the eyes of the general public. "If our industry is going to continue to prosper in the near and distant futures, we must communicate to the citizenry of our great country that through harvesting and reforesting via professionalism, we loggers truly become people in unison with nature." said Skip Newell of Baileys, when he presented the work of art to the Alaska Loggers Association during the 1989 safety conference.

The two crossed axes, an historic symbol of the woodsman, is the focal point of the Coat of Arms The axes were special made by Eddie Fawcett of New Zealand. Fawcett's famous racing axes, and throwing axes have been used to dominate the competition at logging shows in numerous countries for years. The ax heads in our Coat of Arms are plated in 24 carat gold.

A frequently asked question is, "Where can I buy one of those Coat of Arms?" Smaller versions are available through Bailey's mail order catalog. For more information call Bailey's at: 1-800-322-4539.

Shuham receives Award

Walt Shuham

Long time AFA associate member, Walt Shuham of Shuham, Milner, Schafer & Howard PC, was presented with the William A. Egan Outstanding Alaskan award by the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.

Walt has been a accountant in Ketchikan since 1947 and has taught accounting at the University of Alaska Southeast, since 1954.

In a letter of nomination, according to the state Chamber, "Quietly, behind the scenes, with few words, Shuham has supported, encouraged and simply been kind to hundreds of students, employees, colleagues and neighbors. Those whom he has encouraged describe his support as a stepping stone in their own lives. In honoring him, we extol loyalty, persistence, generosity and patience."

The William A. Egan award, presented annually since 1964, has been the state Chamber's most prestigious, given to individuals who have made substantial and continuing contributions of statewide significance.

Chamber President, Ernesta Ballard said before presenting the award "He's given so much and expected so little in return. We should study this man's life admirably."

New Members

AFA welcomes new regular member: Evergreen Timber, LIC

The Alaska Forest Association welcomes Evergreen Timber, LIC. Evergreen Timber, is under the management of Rick Ludwigsen, Glen Snow and Mike Meske. The new company employes about 20 people. They are currently logging at Long Island for Alaska Pacific Trading. For more information contact Rick Ludwigsen at: 907-247-4900.

AFA welcomes new associate member: Alaska Diving Service, Inc.

Welcome back, long time industry supporter, Del Hansen owner and operator of Alaska Diving Service, Inc. They specializes in marine services ranging from diving, salvage to install logging stage areas, and anchor work. For more information call: 907-225-3667.

Calendar of Events

Pacific Logging Conference
November 13 -16
Maui, HI

****

Western States Coalition Summit VII
November 14-16
Salt Lake City, UT

****

Resource Development Council Annual Meeting
November 21-23
Anchorage, AK

****

Alaska Miners Association Convention & Trade Show
November 4-8
Sheration Hotel
Anchorage, AK

****

Russian Forest Product Export Conference
Vladivostok, Russia
May 13 & 14, 1997

Point of View

October 1996

Forest Health Problem Exists, Depends on Management Objectives

by Logan A. Norris

Forest health is a popular term, but a slippery one because it lacks precise meaning. Actually, it has many meanings and as with beauty, the health of the forest is in the eyes of the beholder. A healthy forest to one individual is a highly decadent one to another.

The public readily makes the analogy between forest health and human health. Being a healthy person means our body functions well, producing a desirable outcome. It is a good analogy when we use it to reflect how well a forest ecosystem works. But the analogy has limitations. I am not aware of anything good that comes from having tuberculoses. But heart rot in a tree might or might not reflect a desirable ecological condition in a forest.

What constitutes good forest health depends on the management objective. Across the landscape, these vary widely, and not all are achievable on every acre every minute, Thus, there is no one forest condition or set of ecological processes that we can logically call "healthy" for all forests.

What constitutes good forest health depends on the management objective. Across the landscape, these vary widely, and not all are achievable on every acre every minute, Thus, there is no one forest condition or set of ecological processes that we can logically call "healthy" for all forests.

In my view, a healthy forest is one in which the operation of ecological processes is consistent with policy and the objectives of management. Because there are forest conditions that are reducing our ability to reach these objectives, I feel we have forest health problems. They are not restricted to insects and disease, but include other aspects of forest condition, such as stand vigor.

Foresters know how to solve problems for individual trees or stands. Forest health problems (such as spruce budworm, oak wilt, or white pine blister) that occur at the landscape level can have far greater impact and are enormously more difficult to deal with, especially when multiple ownerships are involved. Organizations differ widely in their internal policies and management objectives and in their ability to contribute resources to a common effort. Coordination is hard to achieve.

What is described by some as a forest health crises in parts of the Interior West is a case in point. Nearly a century of fire exclusion and preferential harvest have left large areas where stand vigor is poor, fuel density is high, and the potential for catastrophic fire is great. The problem is complicated by an ownership pattern that includes public, industrial, and nonindustrial private lands, and is confounded by the dramatic changes occurring in the thrust of federal forest management. Although progress is being made in some areas, most "owners" proceed independently, as if their part of the landscape was in isolation from the rest of the system in which this forest health problem exists. This isolationism is counter to the interests of the individual organizations, and to the public. It flies in the face of the very tenets or the ecosystem management advocated by some of these organizations.

Unfortunately, the current policy framework provides no incentives and it inhibits the coordinated effort required among owners to solve landscape-level forest health problems. Making it more attractive for forest owners to voluntarily coordinate their efforts will go a long way to helping solve the forest health problem, but it will test our professional leadership.

This article was reprinted from the July issue of *The Forestry Source*.

Logan A. Norris is professor and head of the Department of Forest Science, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331

Let The Chips Fall...

October 1996

Look who stopped by the office this month: **Emmett McKillop (Ben's Truck Parts Inc.), Wes Davidson (Texas Refinery Corp.), Ron Baldwin (North Star Explosives), Pete Amundson (C.A.R.E.), Rick Ludwigsen (Evergreen Timber), Keaton Gildersleeve (Gildersleeve Logging), J.C. Conley (Service Auto Parts), Jeannie Fleenor (Herring Bay Lumber), Kathy Miller (AWIT), Ralph Bache (Cape Fox Corp.), Georgia Brown (Gildersleeve Logging), Mike Gates (North Star Explosives), Nancy Watt (Diversified Investments), Ron Wolfe (Klukwan Forest Products), Tom Winter (Six Robblees), Don Thornlow (Communications Unlimited), Phyllis Yetka** and **Ernesta Ballard (Ballard & Associates).**

Ron Strunk (Service Auto Parts Inc.) We appreciate all your help with the Red Suspender Party.

(I apologize for missing the "R"!)

The rumor is true! Our friend, **Troy Reinhart** *(who was once pictured in Alaska Men Magazine)*, will not be single for long. Congratulations, Troy and Adrienne, on your engagement!

From left: Barb Milner, Debbie Phelps, Otto Phelps and Jennifer Painter.

Young Otto kept the ladies entertained while they were busy designing arrangements for the convention banquet tables.

The arrangements were created with wood shavings donated by **The Great Alaskan Bowl Company** and cedar boughs from the Phelps' backyard.

Terms of the Trade: **Bald-headed**; Buttrigging sent back to the woods without chokers.

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Alaska Timber Times

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Inside this Issue

Recent Events in the Alaska Timber Industry

by George Woodbury

Over the past few weeks, AFA has been working with the Governor's "Southeast Regional Timber Task Force." The result of this effort is an AFA paper presenting four visions of the industry based on several different projected harvest levels. The report (available from the AFA office) includes charts and graphs showing projected employment at harvest levels of 100, 200, 300, and 420 million board feet (mmbf). These charts and graphs were presented to a subcommittee of the Task Force on December 12. The purpose of the presentation was to provide the material for the Task Force to complete a report for Governor Knowles to use in establishing the state's position on the future of the timber industry. At the same meeting, environmental interests submitted their vision of the industry. Their presentation focused on "value added" jobs and a small harvest of 50 to 150 mmbf.

The ideas presented by representatives of the environmentalist community were all worthy of consideration and study, but the presentation did not include information on minimum volumes to operate value added facilities and how much they could pay for raw material. The next step in the process will be to develop this information so that the feasibility of these ideas can be evaluated.

In the meantime, the revision of the Tongass Land Management Plan was being influenced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The FWS agenda could reduce the harvest to levels below 100 mmbf. Given this information, it was apparent to industry leaders that the Task Force needed information offered supporting the minimum volume necessary to sustain a viable, integrated industry. Various resolutions were showing the minimum volume necessary to support a viable, integrated industry. The resolutions were floated and debated in a series of subcommittee and Task Force meetings held by telephone conference during the closing weeks of 1996. Finally, Mayor Jack Shay of Ketchikan put forward a resolution stating the need for a minimum timber harvest of 300 mmbf to allow an integrated industry that can economically utilize the low end and high end wood from the Tongass. Shay's resolution passed on a 10-4 vote.

Now AFA and others should go back to work on the visions paper to determine what is feasible for SE Alaska. No matter what comes out of the process, however, SE Alaska needs a transition period that allows the remaining saw

(Continued on page 4 - Events)

A "New National Forest Management Act"

Idaho Senator Larry Craig has released a draft bill that would comprehensively rewrite national forest policy. This may be the single-most refreshing step forward in the "forest wars" of the '90's. Senator Craig's bill, titled **'Public Land Management Responsibility and Accountability Restoration Act,'** is the product of two years of exhaustive congressional committee hearings and preparation. As the title suggests, its purpose is to provide greater responsibility and accountability to the Forest Service and BLM for both planning and active management of federal lands. The wholesale breakdown in national forest timber and other programs has had a devastating impact on western communities dependent on federal land outputs. This bill is critical to the future existence of the Forest Service and BLM, and the forest industry will aggressively pursue its passage over the coming months - and years if necessary.

This bill intends to "right the sinking ship", so that the Forest Service is empowered to professionally manage federal forests without the paralyzing barriers of legal gridlock, endless planning, authority usurped by other agencies, lacking expectation for results, contradictory hierarchy of laws, and administrative interference. The bill was released last month to allow for public comment, prior to workshops scheduled for January in Washington, D.C. Input will be gathered and incorporated into the draft prior to introducing the bill in February. Senator Craig expects the bill to evolve through a public process which allows both sides of the aisle to negotiate their desired language. Craig's aides began discussing content of the bill a year ago, making repeated requests to Agriculture Secretary Glickman for his participation. The Secretary stonewalled all attempts for involvement, offering only a terse letter last August, suggesting that no legislation was necessary because the Forest Service was taking administrative actions to resolve the problems Craig raised. The White House and extreme environmentalists will oppose any forest reform bill.

Key elements of Senator Craig's draft land law reform bill are: providing additional guidance to streamline plan development and implementation; make the appeals process more rigorous; harmonizing the relationship between other laws including NFMA, FLMPA, NEPA, ESA, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and FACA; eliminate ESA consultation by FWS and NMFS; providing oversight of eco-region plans like Option 9; eleven innovative administrative changes important to effective agency function; repeal the RPA; an evolutionary approach to consider transferring management only of some federal lands to the states; and miscellaneous measures, including a 10 year sunset for all Forest Service and BLM authorizations.

reprinted from "The AOL Mainline"

Knowles Administration Fires State Forester

The Knowles Administration has fired State Forester Tom Boutin, citing an Alaska State Employees Association (the government workers labor union) survey which showed low employee morale at the Division of Forestry. As the only nonunion employee at the division, Tom brought a work ethic to the job that is seldom seen in government. While his commitment to long hours and hard work more closely mirrored a private sector manager, it contrasted sharply with the state's 37 1/2 hour standard week.

During his 4 years as State Forester, Tom has been responsible for increasing state timber offerings to record levels even as division staffing has been reduced. Tom has been a champion of private property rights and an effective lobbyist for the Department of Natural Resources. He was the last remaining Hickel Administration appointee at the division director level or higher in the Knowles Administration.

The Administration must choose a new State Forester from candidates selected by the Board of Forestry. The board is scheduled to meet in Juneau on January 21 and 22.

From the State Forester's Office...

Delta Area Timber Sale: The Delta Area timber sale on December 11 resulted in three of the five sales being sold. The three sales had 1,362 thousand board feet (MBF) of white spruce saw logs, 23,000 cubic feet of spruce pulp logs, and 75,200 cubic feet of birch, selling for a total of $37,991.26. The sales require $25,901.92 in improvements, primarily road construction and scarification.

The two remaining sales have also attracted interest. The division has received minimum bid deposits and expects the sales to be sold on December 18. The two sales have a minimum purchase price of $75,405 for 1,980 MBF of spruce saw logs.

Kuskokwim Corp. and Koncor Plan Timber Harvest: The Southwest Area Forester met with the CEO of MTNT, Ltd. and Craig Savidge, a consultant working for Koncor Forest Products, Inc., to discuss their plans for timber harvest along the Kuskokwim River next summer. There was also an evening meeting in McGrath with the local loggers and mill operators. Koncor, MTNT, and the Kuskokwim Corp. plan to begin harvest from their lands along the Kuskokwim next summer. According to information provided at the two meetings, they intend to produce lumber for use in HUD, and other construction projects in the Kuskokwim Basin. Eventually, they would like to expand their market to the western Alaska coastal villages as far north as Nome. They intend to use local loggers and mill owners to produce this material under contract. This is likely to impact the demand for timber from state lands, since the Native-owned timber is much closer to most villages than the state timber.

Copper River Forest Products Increases Production: Copper River Forest Products (CRFP) currently has eight subcontractors harvesting timber near Chitina. There are also 46 truck drivers hauling as many as 70 loads of timber per day to Valdez. Productivity is at its highest during the winter when road building costs are minimal and access to "winter ground" is possible. CRFP hopes to increase its production to 90 loads per day. The subcontractors are responsible for harvesting, yarding, and loading the timber, and CRFP is responsible for road building. There are about 130 people employed in the logging operations occurring on Chitina Native Corporation and Ahtna, Inc. lands.

Ketchikan Forest Practices: The Ketchikan area forestry office gave 50 copies of the Forest Resources and Practices Act regulations to Sealaska Timber Corporation (STC) for distribution to its contractors and their foremen. STC will meet with the contractors later this winter to review aspects of forest practices regulations pertinent to Region I private landowners.

State Bills BLM for 1995 Fire Season: Forestry has completed the billing process for the 1995 fire season with the BLM Alaska Fire Service. The preliminary 1995 billing, completed in February 1996, recovered $330,607.19 in reimbursable suppression costs to the state. The final billing, which resulted from the technical field audit, will recover an additional $20,935.18 for the state. The final billing documents are ready to be signed.

New Forest Service Chief Named

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced the appointment of Mike Dombeck as Chief of the Forest Service at a news conference late last month. Dombeck is currently acting director of the Bureau of Land Management. His academic background is in fisheries biology and zoology. His career included a stint as a biologist for the Forest Service.

"Once again, the Clinton Administration has appointed a biologist to run the Forest Service," said AFA executive director Jack Phelps. "This makes as much sense as appointing a forester to head the Fish and Wildlife Service. Would the Clinton Corps ever consider doing that? No, because in the eastern fairytale land that these people live in, killing fish to eat is in vogue, but cutting trees to build homes is not."

One of the new chief's first actions was to appoint a chief of staff to help him with the controversial and complex issues facing the agency. His choice for that slot was former Times Mirror head, Francis Pandolfi. Another decision announced by Dombeck was to appoint a Forest Service liaison officer with the White House. "That was unprecedented," Phelps said. "The Secretary stands in the chain of command between the Forest Service Chief and the White House. What does this action really mean in terms of the Secretary's authority? Is the White House intending to make the Forest Service a defacto department? Is the Chief going to be a quasi cabinet member? This will be interesting to watch."

Dombeck, like his successor Jack Ward Thomas, was involved in formulating Clinton's forest strategy in the Pacific Northwest. "That strategy has been a disaster for the forest products industry in Washington and Oregon," Phelps said. "So that piece of his resume doesn't really excite us." On the other hand, Phelps said, "we need to work with the Regional Forester's office to get Dombeck and Pandolfi to Alaska to talk with us and see the Tongass for themselves." He recently sent a letter to the Forest Service proposing such a visit, Phelps said.

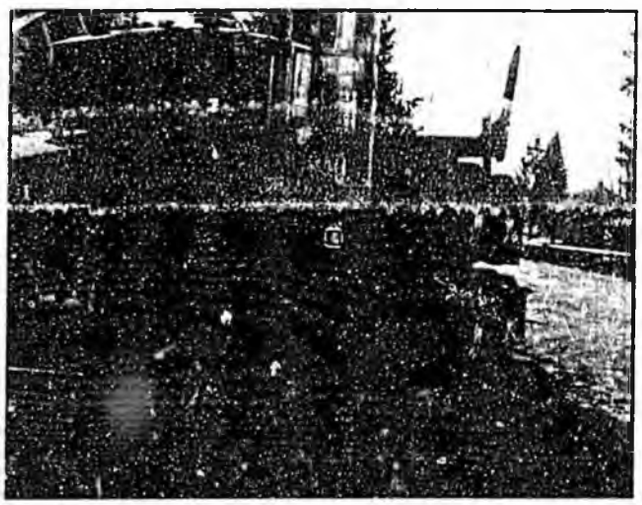
26th Annual Alaska Forest Products Industry Safety Conference

The Alaska Timber Insurance Exchange and Alaska Forest Association will host the 26th Annual Alaska Forest Products Industry Safety Conference on Friday, March 7, 1997 at the Westmark Cape Fox Lodge. The theme for this year's conference is *Back to Basics*.

As in prior years, a seminar conducted by the Helicopter Safety Committee of the Helicopter Association International and sponsored by NIOSH will be held at the Westmark Cape Fox Lodge Thursday, March 6th.

The safety conference is an excellent opportunity for you and your employees to join with other companies to learn about the latest in safety regulations, technologies and how others look at safety. Door prizes will be given away throughout the day.

Registration for the safety conference will be 8:00-8:30 Friday morning. If you haven't received a preregistration form please notify the AFA office.



Ryno Trucking

Frank Ryno of Ryno Trucking *(pictured at left)* stepping into his Kenworth T-800.

Frank has been hauling for Mel Masterson from Delta Junction to Valdez.

Ryno Trucking has been a member of the Alaska Forest Association since 1992.

Timber Tidbits

Four Visions

Four Visions of the Timber Industry on the Tongass National Forest, is a report (cover story) prepared by the Alaska Forest Association's Timber Issues Committee for the Governor's Southeast Regional Timber Task Force. To receive a copy fax your request to the AFA office at: 907-225-5920 or call 907-225-6114.

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Eielson Tree City Award

The Division of Forestry presented the Tree City USA award for 1995 to Eielson Air Force Base at a small ceremony on December 17. This is the third year that Eielson has received this recognition. In 1995, the base planted 693 trees at a cost of just over $59,000. They also performed maintenance activities on 142 trees. The base has increased the number of trees in the community forest by seven fold in the past 21 years.

(Events - Continued from pg 1)

mills to continue operations. Further harvest reductions will severely limit Alaska's ability to retain skilled people and the support facilities so necessary to maintain healthy economies in the timber dependent communities of the region. The value added manufacturing facilities, identified in the vision paper, must be given time to develop. Primary manufacturing facilities will still be necessary to break down logs for use in secondary processing plants, dry kilns, finger joint plants, etc. If there are loggers supplying logs to mills that are producing material for secondary and tertiary manufacturing, the chances are good that such facilities will be built. Without a steady supply of raw material, viable harvest operations and stable primary manufacturing facilities, the chances are not good.

Another basic premise in the industry vision statement was the need for a facility to manufacture products from pulp logs and residual chips. Without the ability to process chips in Alaska, the industry will be at the mercy of the international chip market. This market is very volatile and is likely to remain depressed for some time into the future. With an uncertain chip market, the viability of a SE Alaska regional industry will be threatened.

The Forest Service is expected to release the final Record of Decision on TLMP in February. We can only hope at this point that it will allow a harvest sufficient to maintain the currently operating mills and get some closed sawmills back on line.

George Woodbury is Vice President of Timber Operations for Alaska Pulp Corporation

Southeast Loggers Receive Special Commendations

Each year at the annual State Emergency Medical Services Symposium in Anchorage, awards are given to outstanding EMS providers, EMS administrators and citizens who have performed above and beyond the call of duty.

This past November at the annual EMS Symposium, three Southeast loggers were recognized with awards for their outstanding efforts in a life threatening situation. The three, Travis Hedges, Gary Soderberg and the late Mike Lockman, were nominated in a letter written by Phil McElroy, Safety Supervisor for Ketchikan Pulp Company.

In the letter, McElroy brought to light the events that took place July 10, 1996 at Shelter Cove, a remote logging camp located about 15 air miles south of Ketchikan.

On that July day Larry Mott, a logger working as a rigging slinger for Ketchikan Pulp Company, was seriously injured when he was struck by a log that tobogganed down a steep hillside. First on the scene was Travis Hedges, a choker setter on Mott's side. Hedges who witnessed the accident called for help and immediately ran to Mott's side. Mott was laying face down unconscious. Travis quickly dug debris away from and around his mouth to help him breath. The crew brought down the stretcher and they carefully lifted Mott on to it. Mott stopped breathing a couple times and Gary Soderberg, the crews side rod, began encouraging Mott to keep breathing.

Soderberg knew that Silver Bay Logging was doing some helicopter logging in the area and called to see if they would lift Mott from the site.

With the help of Travis Hedges to guide them through the heavy fog, Silver Bay Pilot, Gary Pilgrim and his Co-Pilot Mike Lockman flew into the site. Hedges had had previous experience in helicopter logging so his help was critical.

Gary Soderberg and the rest of the crew got Mott prepped for the long line lift out of the woods. Silver Bay's helicopter crew lifted Mott out of the woods and flew him to camp where they set down. Mike Lockman asked KPC's Robert Rowland to fly with them and assist him in first aid treatment during the flight to Ketchikan. Lockman and Rowland worked to keep Mott's airways clear for breathing.

Travis Hedges (left) and Gary Soderberg at the presentation of their Special Commendations.

In Ketchikan, Pond Reef Ambulance Mediflight team stood by for transport. Mott's condition was critical and doctors at Ketchikan General Hospital, who stabilized Mott for mediflight to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, stated that if Mott had not been brought in as soon as he had, and had he not received the first aid administered by all involved, he would not have survived.

Mott is still recovering in a hospital in Oregon but is making positive progress. The sad thing about this story, wrote McElroy, is that one of the key players in the rescue was killed just three days later. Mike Lockman was killed in a helicopter crash near Shelter Cove.

Hedges and Soderberg both flew to Anchorage to receive Special Commendation for their selfless efforts in saving a life. The same award was later sent to Mike Lockman's widow who now resides out of state.

Wild-eyed Claims Go Wanting, Forest Practices Act is Working

Jack E. Phelps

The Alaska State Board of Forestry is meeting in Juneau on January 21 and 22. During 1996, the board spent much of its time examining allegations made by the Department of Fish and Game in its 1995 annual report on the Forest Resources and Practices Act (FPA). The report included accusations that logging was destroying important wildlife and fish habitat, and that the state's FPA was deficient in protecting non-timber resources. The ADF&G report impugned previous documents submitted by the board to the governor and the legislature which concluded the FPA was working as intended.

Timber industry leaders were bewildered by the ADF&G action. Until the time the report was presented to the board, field resolution of disagreements over specific forest practices problems was commonplace. The number of times an interagency disagreement had to be elevated to the commissioner level for resolution had declined to very few. Also, industry has been paying for scientific monitoring of salmon streams in logging areas to analyze any potential effects of harvest on fish habitat, and the studies have been routinely examined by the Cooperative Working Group on Fisheries/ Forestry Research. ADF&G staff have regularly participated in the Working Group.

The Board of Forestry took the ADF&G allegations quite seriously. If they were true and could be substantiated, the state and the industry would have to carefully examine the effect of timber operations throughout Alaska. A science and technical committee was formed to scrutinize the concerns raised by ADF&G. The committee was jointly chaired by deputy directors from the Division of Forestry and ADF&G's Habitat Division. Industry committed to working with the state to evaluate the charges and arrive at any warranted solutions.

After many days spent in meetings involving staff from ADF&G, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Conservation, representatives from industry and consulting scientists, no serious implementation or effectiveness problems could be identified. ADF&G was simply unable to provide any substantiation for the allegations of harm made in the report.

The process used to examine the ADF&G complaints was a good one. The committee conducted its business professionally and scientifically. Leadership of the committee, particularly that provided by the Division of Forestry, was fair and diligent. But the process was expensive. Industry invested more than $100,000 over the past year to have professional and research staff attend the meetings and investigate the allegations.

It was also costly for the state. It demanded huge blocks of time from Division of Forestry personnel, taking staff time away from field work. The process had a similar effect on the other agencies, especially ADF&G. Herein lies great irony; the Habitat Division has consistently complained that it lacks sufficient funding and personnel to adequately cover forest practices field inspections.

During the work of the committee, not one instance of specific harm was identified, so field work never became part of the process. Due to the complete lack of evidence, the discussions were strictly theoretical and hypothetical.

The Habitat Division of ADF&G has now taken its best shot at discrediting the state's forest practices act and Alaska's timber industry. After careful review in a credible process, only very minor problems have been identified. No evidence for the significant and irreparable harm alleged in the 1995 report was found. The concerns were not supported by the facts.

Now it is time for the state to close the books on this false alarm. The public expects the regulatory agencies to protect the environment and to monitor the effects of industrial activity, and pays them very well to do so. For their part, the agencies should be diligent to stick to the facts. Raising "the sky is falling" alarms with no evidence is not in the public's best interest. Let's hope the Board of Forestry acts expeditiously and finalizes this investigation promptly. And let's hope the Department of Fish and Game exercises better judgment in the future.

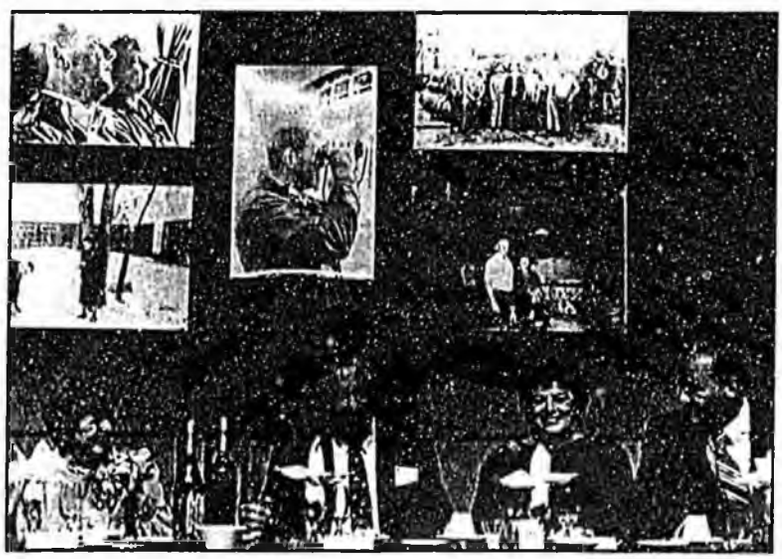
A Tribute to Don Bell

Even though I'm retired now I worry about the timber industry in the Tongass. I've seen it go through so much. Seen loggers and their families come and go. Seen the human side of the industry year after year. I wonder if we're going to survive the environmentalists. We have to . I don't know how, but we have to.

--- Don Bell from *People of the Tongass, 1989*

It is hard not to associate the name Don Bell with the Alaska Loggers Association (now Alaska Forest Association), they have been almost one and the same. Don has been associated with Alaska's timber industry since 1952, when he moved to Ketchikan from Bellingham to work at Ketchikan Pulp Co. as assistant personnel manager and safety supervisor, a position he held for 8 years. In 1965, Don became General Manager of Alaska Loggers Association (formed in 1957), and retired from the Association in 1986, after 21 years of service.

On a brilliant sunny afternoon on January 21, 1997 in Ketchikan, Don Bell, 79, quietly passed away, joining many friends who preceded him. Legends like Charlie McDonald, Art Brooks, Bill Boardman, J.R. Gildersleeve, Newt Cutler, Doug Ross, Clarence Kramer, Memorie Hunter, and Dave Murdy, to name a few. With his passing from this life, we remain with memories of life with Don. We dedicate these pages to the Memory of Don Bell. For you who knew him, and those of you who missed him, the following pages are filled with memories of Don....



October, 1986, was a real special month for me, and I would like to share some of its highlights with you. It started on October 2nd, my 69th birthday, Carolyn and I went to Seattle for a football weekend. We saw the University of Washington beat California and on Monday night the Seattle Seahawks beat San Diego.

Tuesday it was foggy and the flight to Ketchikan was late, at least I thought it was to be a flight to Ketchikan. We boarded Alaska Airlines about 1:30 p.m. and headed north. About the time we should have let down for Ketchikan the pilot announced he had just turned to the direct heading for Anchorage. I turned to Carolyn and said, "we are on the wrong airplane." She advised me we were going to Anchorage to attend the banquet at the Governor's Annual Safety Conference.

We did and I was presented with the Governor's trophy for my contribution to safety during the past thirty years. It is now hanging in the Alaska Timber Insurance Exchange office.

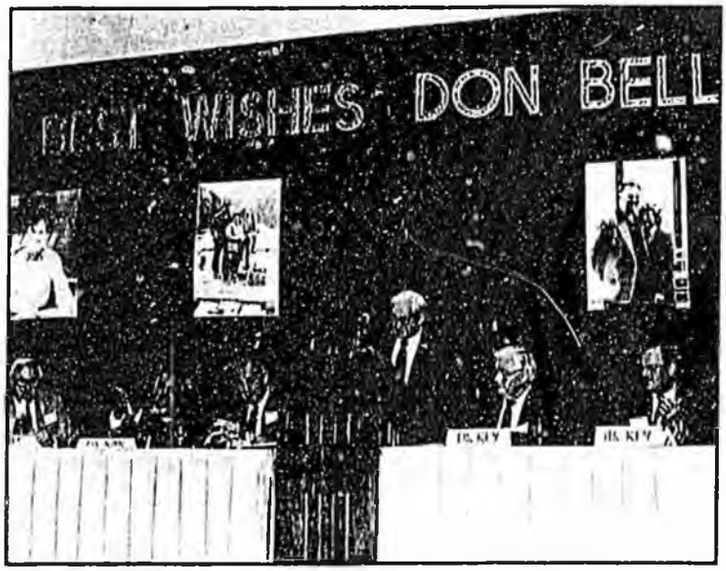
That was the start, and the program put on for me at the ALA Annual Meeting was super. It started when they opened the doors, I still didn't know what was happening. K.A. Gregg/ Swiger and Judy Auger took me by the hands and led me into the banquet room. The walls were decorated with 2' x 4' posters, photos of me and friends taken over the years. They certainly brought back a flood of memories.

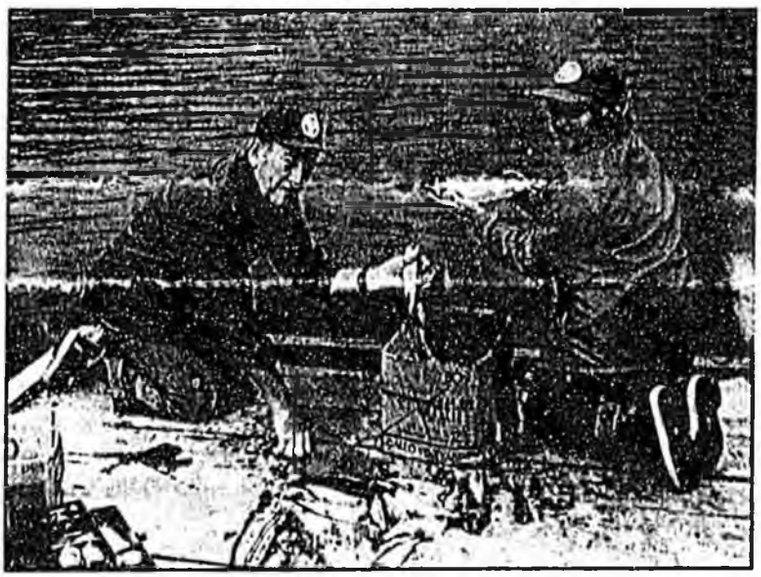
Don Dickey, my friend for the past 20 years was the Emcee. The program went along nicely until after desert when a beautiful young lady grabbed me by the arm and led me to the other end of the banquet hall where there was a real rowdy group seated. I looked around and realized they were all my very good friends: John Schnabel, Cliff Taro, Rich Rasmussen, Porky Bickar, Don Dickey, Jim Hickey, Senator Frank Murkowski, Bill Boardman, and Pat Soderberg. I knew I was in for trouble. **---- Reflections by Don Bell on his retirement.**

Don took great pride in telling me stories about his days as a football player with Western Washington in Bellingham. His coach "Lappy" Lappenbush was my Uncle Charlie.

Don often mentioned that the success of their undefeated season was due to the Coach Lappenbush implementation of the Straight Line Defense system. "Lappy" developed this method of play which many coaches tried to duplicate but never really understood.

Don said that none of his teammates could understand the straight line system either, but were reluctant to admit it to the coach. They figured the best way to please Lappenbush was to tuck their heads down and push for the goal line--not a bad philosophy of life. Don's zest for life showed us he followed this play all through his life, even when it came to weaving his spruce root baskets. I will always treasure the one he gave me and when I look at it I will always see Don with his head tucked in, racing for the goal line. --- **Senator Frank Murkowski**





I can hear Don and Memorie now laughing over one of their many inside jokes, only for the first time , she has "job seniority" over him.

Don will be missed by all who knew him, even those who agreed to disagree with his decisions. He was a force to be reckoned with when convinced of the right or wrong of any situation. He had a passion for moving forward yet understood the necessity of keeping his goals attainable.

Don Bell was a very unique individual, who had a very positive impact on my life, both personally and professionally. A deep sense of sorrow will forever exist in the hearts of all us who were privileged to know him, a sorrow softened by the knowledge he is no longer suffering and he is now in the house of our lord. God Bless. --- **Jim Hunter**

Memorie Hunter, office manager at the ALA office passed away in 1986.

Mr. Bell was my boss, my mentor and most of all my friend. Along with my husband, Jim, we have spent many wonderful hours with Carolyn and Mr. Bell at their cabin in George Inlet. Each day we arise to eat breakfast together and pay strict attention to Mr. Bell while the chores to be accomplished are outlined, before the sun sets and it's toddy time.

In April of 1973, I was hired by Don Bell to be the ALA radio operator. On my first day of work Mr. Bell informed me "The ALA radio is for business use only!!" The camp radio operators, and in many cases the bookkeeper and spouse co-owner of the camp, were to limit calls to ordering supplies, new hires and emergencies. I took this order very seriously until the fall of the year when the football season started. One day a call came in from Ralphie Slattery, the bookkeeper for Campbell Log. He advised me to announce to Mr. Bell that he was placing a $1.00 bet, with some kind of odds, on football team-A and Bell could have football team-B. (You can tell I know a lot about football.) Although this did not fit any of the categories listed as business, the message was delivered. And continued to be delivered each Friday during the football season for the many years Ralphie worked at Naukati.

The telephone intercom was never used during Don Bell's tenure as general manager. His very substantial voice carried to every corner of the office and on one occasion across the street to the offices of the Forest Service when they placed a sign in the parking lot advising the citizens of Ketchikan they could no longer use the lot as a turnaround! The next day the sign was gone.

Mr. Bell took great pride in being the editor of the Logger Letter. It was written entirely by hand each month on recycled stationery and old paper in his large scribbled hand. He then allowed Memorie to type and lay it out in final form before taking it to Lind Printing. The Logger Letter, the People Map and ALA Coloring Book were just a few of the tools Mr. Bell used to keep us in touch with people outside the logging industry. Thousands of coloring books were mailed each year to school children in the lower 48. Anyone walking in off the street could get a copy of our People Map showing the name and location of the logging companies and each month our members grabbed the Logger Letter to scan the back page containing "Let the chips fall" to find out what private joke Mr. Bell was revealing this month.

As the leader of the Alaska Loggers Association Mr. Bell's concern for the loggers, both big and small was always foremost in the decisions he made.

--- **Judy Auger**

Don was always concerned about photos. He preferred photos to text in the Logger Letter (so he'd have less to write). One day, when I was new to the Public Relations Department of ALA, Don took me on a "woods tour". He found a huge tree, and said he wanted to take my picture emphasizing how big it was, so I should put my arms around it, but face the camera. I did as I was told, not thinking how it would look. Don laughed and laughed over that picture, and called me "Chesty". -- **K.A. Gregg/Swiger**

He was one of the hardest working and dedicated individuals I have known. Don was committed to ALA, the industry and very loyal to his friends. I always appreciated and respected his straight forward and honest manner. We have lost a true friend. --- **Les Spickler**

From my viewpoint, it isn't surprising that Don Bell goes down in memory books as the one that opened the way for ladies to take a more visibly active role in the timber industry through the formation of Alaska Women in Timber.

The idea of a support group representing the families of the forest had been lurking around in the back rows for some time when Sandra Nutting, the leader of California Women in Timber, crossed Don's path at an industry meeting.

You didn't have to hit Don with a sledgehammer to get his attention; there was no doubt that the women could add a dimension on the public front that might be helpful, indeed, needed.

So Don returned to Ketchikan with an idea that the time had come, Alaska Women in Timber was formed soon after. I was pretty involved in those days, and I will never forget how supportive Don was to the fledgling group, and how appreciative of our successes.

Working with Don, always made me feel like an important part of the team, and for all the joking around, we had a mutual respect.

This meant all the more because, let's face it, Don came from the *Good Old Boy School of Fine Thought* which was more apt to joke about a women's place as being barefoot, pregnant and chained to the kitchen stove.

Besides the memories of all the high jinks and good times, I treasure especially the beautiful little covered basket that Don wove for me as a memento of my time as leader of AWIT, an opportunity that was possible because Don Bell, for all the hooting and hollering, respected the power of women and helped give us our chance to be involved. --- **Helen Finney**

Bill Boardman had a boat named the BIOYA (Blow It Out Your A---). He and Don went fishing so many times that Boardman used to say, "I know Bell thinks he owns this boat".

Back in 1977, O.J. Williams, my Regional Vice President, and I visited Ketchikan and took part in a fishing excursion with Bell and Boardman on the BIOYA. O.J. was recovering from a hernia operation he had had four weeks earlier. It was his first trip to Alaska, and being from California, he had on sporty attire complete with brand new white tennis shoes. The fish were biting and O.J. had one on. Bell, who wasn't fishing, just giving advice, kept yelling at O.J. to keep the ---- rod tip up!

Weak from surgery, O.J. would try to rest the butt of the rod in his groin, but doing so would make him grimace with pain and the rod would go down. Bell would yell at him again, "Keep the tip up, goddammit, whe're you from California?" This went on until O.J. finally landed the fish. Bell grabbed a gaff hook, giving the fish a mighty whack, resulting in blood from the poor fish flying all over the slacks and white tennis shoes of O.J. Bell was ever the gracious host, but for some strange reason whenever I mentioned joining me for a fishing trip in Alaska O.J. always declined.

Don Bell and Bill Boardman influenced me more than anyone on my Alaska success. They taught me about people and respect. However, I still remember telling Bell if he wanted to talk to me, don't use the phone, just open the window. --- **Jim Hickey**

Over the years, I had many memorable experiences with Don, but probably the most memorable I can safely relate was a return trip Don and I made from Juneau to Ketchikan on Alaska Airlines.

Don and I were staying at the Baranof Hotel, and the station manger of Alaska Airlines offered us a ride to the airport, which we were glad to accept because Art Brooks had asked us to take a statue of Michelangelo's David to Dave Murdey in Ketchikan.

This was a plaster statue about three feet high, anatomically correct and...other than a sling over its shoulder,...totally nude.

Obviously we couldn't check the statue, so Don conned the station manager into convincing the flight attendants to put it in one of their compartments. Then, all set to check in, Don realized he had left his ticket in his hotel room. The station agent said that was a real problem, because there was a rule that NO one, not even the President of Alaska Airlines, could board a plane without a ticket.

Somehow Don convinced the agent to go to the hotel and get Don's ticket and turn it in, so we thankfully boarded the plane and headed for Ketchikan.

At this point, our luck ran out. The plane overheaded Ketchikan and we ended up in Seattle.

This was in the days when the airline would put you up if you didn't get to your assigned destination, so we all had to stop at the ticket counter and get a chit to cover expenses. Of course, they wanted to see your ticket receipt.

Not wanting to get our agent friend in trouble for getting him on the plane without a ticket in hand. Don said, "I seem to have lost my receipt somewhere along the way."...and the counterperson said, "Well, I'll give you the chit for your hotel, but you are going to have trouble getting on the plane in the morning unless you find your receipt."

We tried to convince the lady at the counter to let us leave David there for us to pick up in the morning, but she would not allow it as there was no way she was even going to look at it, let alone touch it.

So, off we went to the hotel with David under Don's arm partly covered by a newspaper.

The next morning, Don did an admirable job of talking his way back on the flight to Ketchikan by insisting that they call the agent in Juneau to verify that he did have a ticket for that flight when he left Juneau.

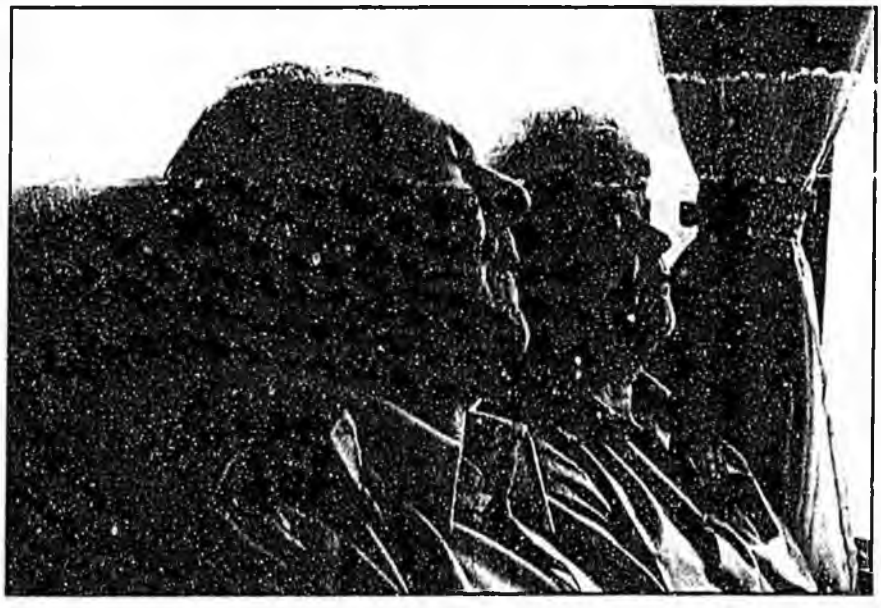
So the counter agent gave Don a boarding pass, but said, "About that statue, you'll have to check it. If they'll let you." Don then convinced the agent that he would convince the flight attendants to put the statue someplace on the plane.

It turned out that they weren't very cooperative, so Don asked some first class passengers if they minded having David under their seat. They reluctantly agreed, and off we went to Ketchikan, and in due time, David was delivered to Dave.

As I remember, Dave eventually gave the statue to ALA where the ladies made him more socially acceptable with the addition of a black velvet jock strap.

Having shared this experience about Don, I am convinced he can con himself any where anytime. I'm sure he's already conned St. Peter into opening the pearly gates. --- **Don Finney**

What does one say about Don Bell? He was a friend, and he was mentor. He was also one of the most blatant and effective con-me known to man. Man of course meaning a species, not a gender specifi term. Who but Don Bell could assign you a task advise you of th assignment by mail say you had three days to decline and if no respons was received he assumed you were in agreement. The letter was alway received after the response date. We all know he was one of a kind Trite but true words. We will miss him. --- **Pat & Les Hook**



Don Bell had presence. When he entered a room, you knew he was there. I often watch Disney's "The Lion King" movie, with my son who is nearly three. Dear to me is the part when the Lion King explains to his young son that the stars in the heavens are Kings of the past watching over you. I will now put Don Bell up there as a King of the past watching over us. -- **K.A. Gregg/Swiger**

Don Bell was instrumental in starting a memorial scholarship fund through the Association. Many students have been recipients of the ALA scholarships over the years, and in recent years the fund was renamed the Don Bell Alaska Loggers Scholarship Fund, in his honor. The family requests memorial donations be made to this fund which was so dear to Don.

Tongass Timber Sales Oral Auction and Sealed Bid Sold Volume in Net + Utility

costs are the appraised delivered log cost

prepared January 13, 1997

1994 FISCAL YEAR

AREA	SALE	MBF	$/MBF	TOT AMT
STIKINE	MIDPOINT	5,328	$345.00	$1,838,160.
	RYNDA	4,546	$311.00	$1,413,806.
	ZAREMBO SLV	371	$263.00	$97,573.
	DEEP BAY NO	14,860	$308.00	$4,576,880.
		25,105		$7,926,419.
CHATHAM	WUKUKLOOK	419	$260.00	$108,940.
	CORNER SLV	379		0
	CORNER HELO	7,984	$268.00	$2,139,712.
	APPLETON	27,665	$267.00	$7,386,555.
	SAOOK	29,833	$300.00	$8,949,900.
		66,280		$18,585,107.
KETCHIKAN	DERUMBA	585	$251.00	$146,835.
	BEAVER CK	4,550	$287.00	$1,305,850.
	KITKUM BAY	4,408	$152.00	$670,016.
	SHOAL COVE	733	$224.00	$164,192.
		10,276		$2,286,893.
TONGASS		101,661		$28,798,419.
CHUGACH	TWENTY-THREE	993	$128.00	$127,104.
	LV RAY SLV	469	$135.00	$63,315.
	JOHNS CK	1,015	$202.00	$205,030.
		2,477		$395,449.

1995 FISCAL YEAR

AREA	SALE	MBF	$/MBF	TOT AMT
STIKINE	SAGINAW	20,575	$248.00	$5,102,600.
	BUSHY SLV	378	$249.00	$94,122.
		20,953		$5,196,722.
KETCHIKAN	SWING	2,119	$216.09	$457,794.
	N. RIDGE	924	$335.00	$309,540.
	TOP OF WORLD	592	$245.00	$145,040.
		3,635		$912,284.
		24,588		$6,109,006.
CHUGACH	FRENCHY CK	2,044	$158.00	$322,952.
	GRANITE	568	$150.00	$85,200.
	W. GRANITE	965	$148.00	$142,820.
	GRAVEL PIT SLV	1,146	$143.00	$163,878.
		4,723		$714,850.

1996 FISCAL YEAR

AREA	SALE	MBF	$/MBF	TOT AMT
STIKINE	BOHEMIA	33,313	$339.00	$11,293,107.
	SHAMROCK	24,280	$403.00	$9,784,840.
	KINDERGARTEN	262	$253.00	$66,286.
	LITTLE HAMILTON	331	$245.00	$81,095.
	CEDAR	500	$423.00	$211,500.
		58,686		$21,436,828.
KETCHIKAN	S.MACKENIE	12,317	$406.00	$5,000,702.
	WHISTLE	579	$337.00	$195,123.
	WARREN CHAN	824	$263.00	$216,712.
	CAPE POLE	1,263		0
	TRIANGLE SLV	348	$248.00	$86,304.
	LIMES PT	2,200	$220.00	$484,000.
		17,531		$5,982,841.
CHATHAM	SPARE	187	$304.00	$56,848.
	LUCY	382	$259.00	$98,938.
	HANUSATC	15,546	$290.00	$4,508,340.
		16,115		$4,664,126.
		92,332		$32,083,795.
CHUGACH	PARLEY VOO	373		

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Alaska Needs an Integrated Forest Industry

by Eric Muench

To maximize economic benefits by fully utilizing the resource, and to minimize impacts on wildlife and other resource uses, Southeast Alaska needs facilities to process all available species and grades of wood.

Much of the recent emphasis on "value added" has focused on producing higher value end products, such as music wood or instruments, furniture, and so on. Such products, however, require the highest grades of wood. Even dimension lumber requires at least #3 grade sawlogs.

Lower quality logs such as #4 and utility grades cannot be made into high value logs or converted into high value products simply by sending them to a sawmill or furniture plant. Defects such as closely spaced knots or large volume losses from frost cracks, wind shake or decay make it impossible to saw a reasonable percentage of the log into usable stock at competitive efficiency. Sawing such logs produces huge quantities of waste.

In order to use them at all, these low value logs must be ground into chips or broken down into pulp and then reconstituted into products such as chipboard, fiberboard, paper, rayon, etc. Historically, 20 percent to 40 percent or more of the logs from commercial timber stands in Southeast have been of this type, commonly known as pulp logs. The pulp mills at Sitka and Ketchikan provided an outlet for most of these pulp logs. These mills contributed significantly to local economies while converting pulp logs into high grade dissolving pulp. In addition to pulp logs, the pulp mills used chips from the waste portions of higher grade logs utilized in local sawmills, thereby improving sawmill economics.

The loss of the two Alaska pulp mills and the shutdown of others in the Puget Sound area has resulted in an oversupply and drastic price drop of chips and pulp quality logs on the West Coast. Even when the amortization of development, engineering and overhead costs of timber harvest operations are shifted to higher quality wood, the unavoidable handling costs of pulp grade logs are 2 to 3 times present market values.

None of the potential logging responses to the situation is attractive. Leaving pulp grade logs unyarded in the woods lowers the yield of the sale while doing nothing to reduce development costs. It is also an ugly waste of resources, sure to raise objections against all logging. Clean clearcuts produce increased deer feed, both in easily digestible succulent green forbs and in huckleberry shoots and buds. This feed, especially the huckleberry, remains available even when snow covers the ground, so long as deer can navigate through the clearcuts. But when many logs are left on the ground, they form obstacles that hinder deer movement and increase the energy deer must expend to feed. Therefore, cluttered clearcuts become a net habitat loss for deer, even during moderate winters.

Selective logging to avoid the poor quality trees will be ineffective since pulp quality is always found in the tops and sometimes in the butts of even very good trees. This would also result in poor residual, "high-graded" timber stands, and would require more expensive helicopter logging.

Forcing timber purchasers to produce pulp quality logs at a heavy financial loss will raise the cost that sawmills have to pay for the better grade logs. This will have a negative effect on sawmill economics and probably prevent the desired higher value added facilities from operating. The net effect of these alternatives, therefore, would be harm to both wildlife and industry economics. Stumpage prices would experience downward pressure, with the possible result of more deficit sales.

The greatest need for forest product industry integration at this time is manufacturing plants that can handle lower quality logs, the very kinds of facilities we are losing in Southeast Alaska. The region also needs a plant able to use the lower grades of cedar. These plants, whatever their product, must deal with low recovery rates, large waste volumes and more complex manufacturing processes. They are likely to require the handling of chemicals, and they should be able to use a high percentage of waste volume to supply some of their own energy needs.

All this indicates the need for heavy investment and economies of scale that are unlikely to be possible for small operators standing alone. Alaska should promote conditions for small, local independent operators to use available timber resources to turn out finished products of the highest possible value. The opportunity for small mills to divert low grade volume to higher value uses, other than "chemical wood," is likewise very important. But to make these processes possible, and for the benefit of the overall economy of the region's industry the need for an economic local use of the lowest quality logs cannot be ignored. Forest health and wildlife will also be beneficiaries.

Eric Muench owns and operates Alaska Woods Service Company, a forestry consulting business.

The opinion presented on this page is the writer's point of view and not necessarily that of the Alaska Forest Association.

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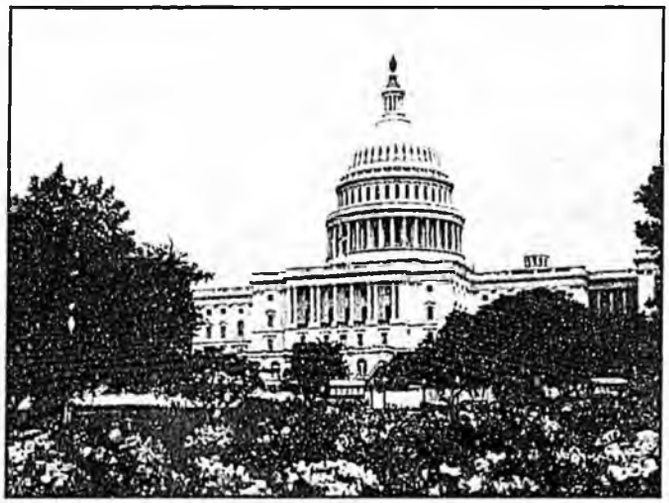

The Alaska Forest Association helped sponsor a trip to Washington D.C. for Mt. Edgecumbe High School Student, Tiffany Newkirk. Tiffany needed sponsors to help with travel expenses to enable her to participate in the Washington D.C. Close Up Program, Nov. 8-16, 1996.

The Close Up Program is a close up experience in our nation's capital. Tiffany was able to attend interactive workshops and seminars, work with peers and educators on a national level, and participate in discussions that bring to life the democratic ideals that our society represents. The trip took place during an exciting time in our country, the presidential elections.

While Tiffany was in D.C., she kept us up to date on her experiences with cards and letters.

Tiffany is the daughter of Frank and Sue Newkirk. Frank is an employee of Whitestone Logging. He has worked in the logging industry 27 years.

Calendar of Events

Alaska Forest Products Industry Safety Conference
March 7, 1997
Westmark Cape Fox
Ketchikan, AK

****

AFA Board of Director's Meeting
March 13 & 14
Westmark Baronof Hotel
Juneau, AK

****

Russian Forest Products Export Conference
May 13 & 14, 1997
Vladivostok, Russia
206-851-3883

****

AFA's 40th Annual Convention
October 22, 23 & 24, 1997
Sitka, AK

Don Bell Alaska Loggers Scholarship Program

Applications for the annual Don Bell Alaska Loggers Scholarship Awards were mailed out early this month.

The scholarship program started by Don Bell in 1971, has awarded over $50,000 in academic scholarships. Assisting more than 50 Alaska students in pursuit of post-secondary educations.

The Alaska Forest Association will award three scholarships in 1997 in the amount of $3,000 each, in memory of deceased AFA members. This is double the dollar amount of the 1996 award.

Previous scholarship recipients who are still attending college are eligible to apply. One of the three scholarships can also go to a graduating senior who is entering a vocational or technical school. At least one of the scholarships will be given to a qualified student from an Alaska high school of fewer than 160 students. The candidate must have a parent who is an employee of an Alaska Forest Association regular member company.

If you have not received an application or a list of program requirements, please call the AFA office.

New Members

AFA welcomes regular member:

Alpine Helicopters

C & I Helicopters, formerly owned by Leo Gellings, was recently purchased by Butch and Jackie DuRette. It is now operating under the new name, Alpine Helicopters, Inc.

Alpine offers helicopter support and resource development services.

Alpine Helicopters is located at 5569 North Tongass Highway in Ketchikan. They can be contacted at: 907-247-6601 or fax: 907-247-6602.

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Kathy and Brad Miller (Miller, Inc.) are new (and first time) grandparents! Kathy called to let us know that their daughter **Wanda** and her husband, **Paul Axelson,** have a daughter, **Kendall Kathrine Axelson**. She was born December 12, at 11:30 p.m. weighing 10 lbs. 12 oz. Grandma says she is cute, cute, cute. Congratulations to all of you!

Forest Wars is a video that documents an American dilemma: can we have our wood products and our forests too? *Forest Wars* takes you to the battlegrounds and introduces you to the warriors on both sides of the issues. This video is available at the AFA office for $25. 907-225-6114.

We have someone new at the AFA office!

Juanita Cannon will be taking **Jo Carol MacMillan's** place as Tongass Timber Trust, Claims Processor. *(Jo Carol plans to retire this spring.)*

Juanita has lived in Ketchikan since 1974, she has 3 children and a 2 month old granddaughter. Her husband **Craig** works for Petro Alaska.

Thank you to all who brought by or sent Christmas goodies: **Laurie Bender (Phoenix Logging), Butch Olmstead (First Bank), K.A. Swiger (D.C. Cusine), Rolf Trautmann & Dennis Maher (Trautmann, Maher & Assoc. Inc.), Dick Buhler (Silver Bay Logging), Helen & Don Finney, Bill Moran & John Clifton (First Bank), Gail Hammer (Ethix Northwest), Bill Wurts (Wurts, Johnson & Co.), Licha Kelley-King (Westmark Cape Fox Lodge),** our friends at **Eldorado Computing and Bob Jernberg.**

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