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ALASKA STATE SENATE



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Senator_Ralph_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us

Senator Ralph Seekins
District D

Senate Bill 88 Sponsor Statement

This Bill revises the riparian management standards of the Forest Resources Practices Act (FRPA) for Region III by strengthening protection for fish habitat and water quality in a manner that continues to support both the timber and fishing industries.

The current standards for Region III were adopted as an interim measure in the 1990 revision of the Act. Under these standards, harvesting can occur up to the bank of anadromous waters on both public and private land under some conditions. With the proposed Bill, all anadromous and high-value resident fish waters are classified and riparian standards are established for each classification.

The requirements are tailored to the characteristics and fish habitat needs of each stream type. A no-harvest buffer will be required on most anadromous and high-value resident fish waters. However, along glacial rivers where some of the most valuable timber occurs, the standards allow harvest of up to half the large white spruce in the landward half of the buffer. This allows landowners to capture some of the economic value within the riparian areas while keeping enough large trees to provide woody debris.

This bill is not a wholesale revision of the Act. It has substantive changes for riparian management standards applying to Region III only. Other technical revisions include changes to the statewide nomenclature for waterbody classes to prevent confusion between waterbody types in different regions. The bill also moves definitions of regional boundaries from the regulations to the Act and makes a minor change to the regional boundary on the Kenai Peninsula to better match the difference between forest types. Most forestland in the affected area is in federal ownership, so there will be minimal impact on other landowners.

SB 88 helps ensure that the FRPA continues to be certified for compliance with federal Clean Water Act and coastal zone management requirements. This means that the Act continues to provide "one-stop shopping" for the timber industry with respect to state and federal non-point source pollution and coastal management standards.

This bill is founded on the best science available including an extensive review of existing research and recommendations of an interdisciplinary Science & Technical Committee. The committee included experienced field staff from the state resource agencies and private sector as well as University of Alaska and federal scientists.

An Implementation Group that included representatives of the timber and fishing industries, Native corporations and environmental groups drafted language to implement the scientists' recommendations in a practical manner that works in the field. This bill is unanimously endorsed by the Board of Forestry and has support from a broad array of interest groups.

HB 131



FRPA Region III Riparian Management
Standards



January 2003

- ◆ Briefing paper
- ◆ Bill text
- ◆ Map of FRPA regions
- ◆ List of supporters



Briefing:

Region III Forest Practices amendments

January 2003

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Overview. A bill to amend the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) for Interior Alaska (Region III) was introduced in 2001 as HB 131/SB 98. The bill sets standards for forestry activities in riparian areas. The bill ensures that Region III standards

- protect fish habitat and water quality,
- support healthy timber and fishing industries, and
- incorporate the best available science.

The bill is the product of two years of work by a broad array of interests. There is broad support for the consensus in the bill.

Applicability. In Region III, the FRPA applies to commercial forestry operations on all land ownerships where the operation borders surface waters or a riparian area, or where the operation is more than 40 acres and the landowner owns more than 160 acres in total.

Background. This bill is based on work by an interdisciplinary Science & Technical Committee and an Implementation Group that represented affected interests. The Science & Technical Committee reviewed relevant research and published an annotated bibliography of the results, drafted a stream classification system, and recommended changes to current riparian management standards. Committee members had expertise in fisheries, forestry, hydrology, and soils. Members included scientists and experienced field staff from the resource agencies, the University of Alaska, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the private sector.

The Implementation Group discussed how to implement the recommendations of the Science and Technical Committee in a manner that works on the ground, and drafted language for changes to the FRPA and regulations. The group included representatives from the departments of Natural Resources, Fish and Game, and Environmental Conservation; private forest owners, the timber and fishing industries, and environmental groups.

The Board of Forestry reviewed and concurred with the recommendations from the Implementation Group. The recommendations were incorporated into draft legislation, which the Board endorsed. The legislation was introduced as HB 131/SB 98. In 2001-2002, this bill was heard in the House Special Committee on Fisheries, House Resources Committee, Senate Resources Committee, and Senate Finance Committee, and passed out of all committees without opposition. The House also passed the bill without opposition. The bill was not scheduled for vote on the Senate floor, and must be reintroduced. There is interest from legislators in reintroducing the bill in 2003.

Summary of key provisions. The bill defines three types of water bodies, and sets riparian standards for each type as follows:

- On large non-glacial waters and glacial backwater sloughs (Type III-A): a no-cut buffer of 66' on private land, and 100' on public land. Harvesting can occur in the landward 33' of the buffer on public land with the concurrence of ADF&G.

- On other glacial waters (Type III-B): a 66' riparian area on private land and a 100' riparian area on public land. The half closest to the waterbody is a no-cut buffer. In the landward half, up to 50% of the large white spruce may be harvested.
- On small non-glacial waters (Type III-C, <3' wide): a 100' special management area in which harvesting may occur, but must be consistent with maintenance of important habitat. ADF&G and DNR will do more research on this stream type to determine the extent of occurrence within commercial forests and to assess needed management measures.

The bill also

- Changes the statewide nomenclature for waterbody classes, to prevent confusion between waterbody types in different regions.
- Moves definitions of regional boundaries from the regulations to the Act.
- Makes a minor change to the regional boundary on the Kenai Peninsula to better match the difference between forest types. Most forest land in the affected area is in federal ownership, so there will be little impact on landowners.

For more information, contact:

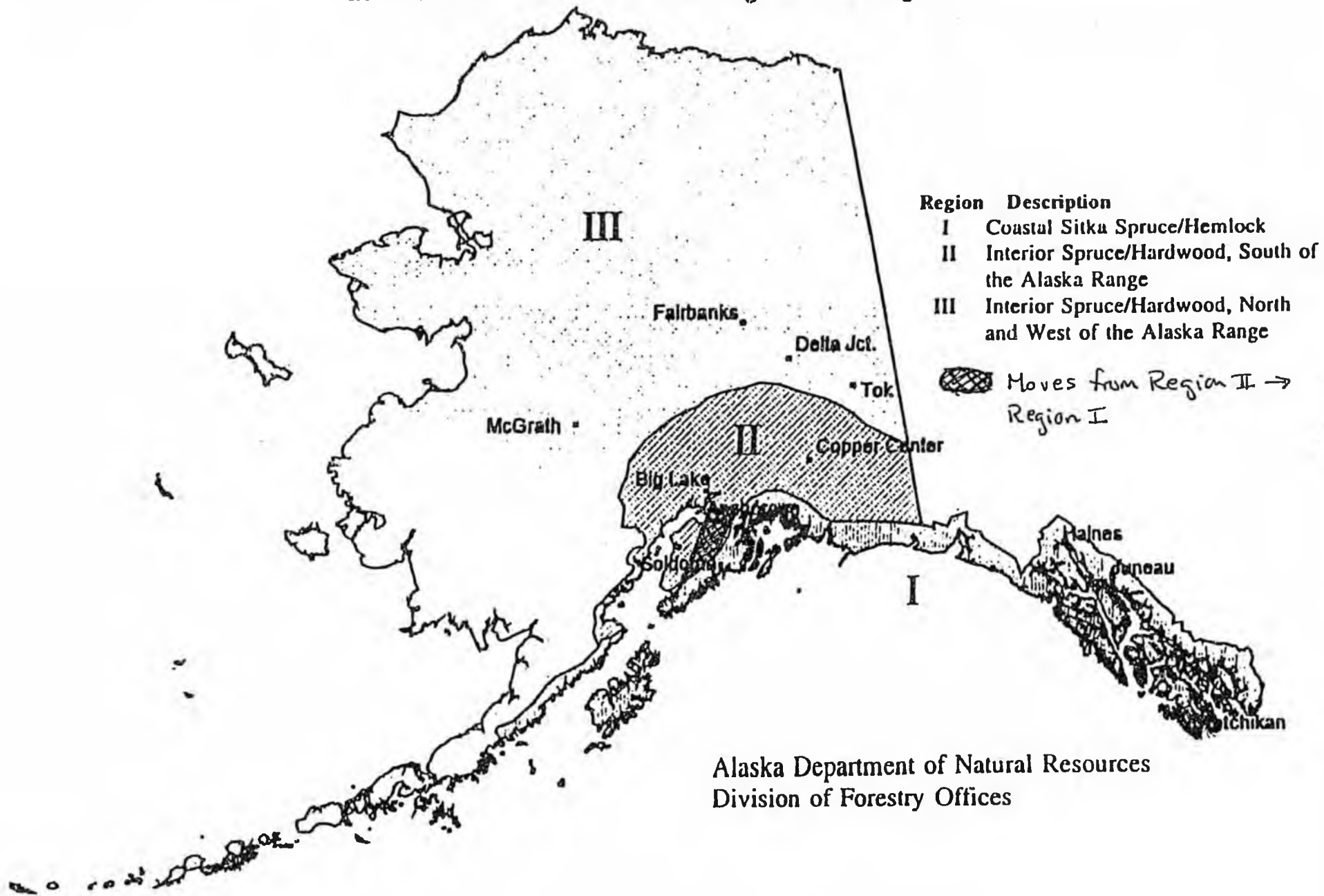
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THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

Alaska Forest Resources & Practices Regions

as defined in 11 AAC 95.800 Designation of Regions



Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry Offices

**Organizations and Individuals Testifying in Support of HB 131
During 2001-2002 sessions**

- Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (Jill Klein, Bill Fliris, Chris Stark)
- Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (Chris Stark)
- United Fishermen of Alaska (Jerry McCune)
- Northern Alaska Environmental Center (Nancy Fresco)
- Board of Forestry members (Larry Hartig, Bill Jeffress, Rick Smeriglio)
- Larry Smith, individual

Written support for HB 131 during 2001-2002 sessions

- Alaska Forest Association (Jack Phelps, executive director)
- Society of American Foresters, Alaska Chapter (John Fox, chair)
- White Spruce Enterprises (Leslie and Jerry Gustafson)
- Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee (Trish Wurtz, chair)
- Alaska Conservation Alliance (Danielle Brown)
- Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (Jill Klein, executive director)
- Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce (John Burns, chair)
- Individuals
 - Frederick Dean, Fairbanks
 - Tom Paragi, Fairbanks
 - Jim Reynolds, UAA Emeritus Professor of Fisheries, Fairbanks

HOUSE BILL NO. 131 February 26, 2001

"An Act relating to standards for forest resources and practices; and providing for an effective date."

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

Section 1. AS 41.17.087(b) is amended to read:

(b) The commissioner shall adopt regulations that specify the standards under which a variation will be granted for harvesting timber within the riparian area of

(1) a low gradient Type I-A [TYPE A] water body with a width of five feet or less; and

(2) other appropriate water body types.

Sec. 2. AS 41.17.116 is repealed and reenacted to read:

Sec. 41.17.116. Riparian standards for private land. (a) Private forest land adjacent to the following types of waters and located in Region I is subject to the riparian protection standards established in this subsection:

(1) along a Type I-A water body,

(A) operations within 100 feet of the water body or to the break of the slope, whichever area is smaller, shall be conducted in compliance with slope stability standards established in regulations adopted under this chapter; and

(B) harvest of timber may not be undertaken within 66 feet of the water body;

(2) along a Type I-B water body,

(A) operations within 100 feet of the water body or to the break of the slope, whichever area is smaller, shall be conducted in compliance with slope stability standards established in regulations adopted under this chapter; and

(B) harvest of timber may not be undertaken within 66 feet of the water body or to the break of the slope, whichever area is smaller;

(3) along a Type I-C water body,

(A) operations within 100 feet of the water body or to the break of the slope, whichever area is smaller, shall be conducted in compliance with slope stability standards established in regulations adopted under this chapter; and

(B) the operator shall, where prudent, retain low value timber within 25 feet of the water body or to the limit of the area described in (A) of this paragraph, whichever area is greater, where the width of the water body is

(i) greater than 13 feet at the ordinary high water mark; or

(ii) greater than eight feet at the ordinary high water mark if the channel is incised;

(4) along a Type I-D water body,

(A) operations within 50 feet of the water body or to the break of the slope, whichever area is smaller, shall be conducted in compliance with slope stability standards established in regulations adopted under this chapter; and

(B) the operator shall, where prudent, retain low value timber within 25 feet of the water body or to the limit of the area described in (A) of this paragraph, whichever area is greater, where the width of the water body is

(i) greater than 13 feet at the ordinary high water mark; or

(ii) greater than eight feet at the ordinary high water mark if the channel is incised.

(b) Private forest land adjacent to the following types of waters and located in Region III is subject to the riparian protection standards established in this subsection:

(1) along a Type III-A water body, harvest of timber may not be undertaken within 66 feet of the water body;

(2) along a Type III-B water body, harvest of timber may not be undertaken within 33 feet of the water body; between 33 feet and 66 feet from the water body, up to 50 percent of standing white spruce trees having at least a nine-inch diameter at breast height may be harvested without requiring a variation;

(3) along a Type III-C water body, harvest of timber within 100 feet of the water body must be located and designed primarily to protect fish habitat and surface water quality as determined by the department with due deference to the Department of Fish and Game.

(c) The commissioner shall adopt regulations for private land in Region II that designate the areas that are subject to riparian protection standards, and the restrictions on timber harvesting operations within those areas that are necessary for their protection under the management goals established in AS 41.17.115.

(d) In this section,

(1) "low value timber" means timber that the owner or operator determines, at the time of harvest, to be uneconomic to harvest and market;

(2) "prudent" means that the requirement can be met using reasonably available means or technology, that complying with the requirement is not likely to create significant impairment of the productivity of the land and water, and that the cost of achieving the requirement is not out of proportion to the benefits that can reasonably be expected to be achieved in the particular situation.

Sec. 3. AS 41.17.118(a) is repealed and reenacted to read:

(a) The riparian standards for state land are as follows:

(1) on state forest land managed by the department that is located in Region III,

(A) along a Type III-A water body, harvest of timber may not be undertaken within 100 feet of the water body, except that between 66 feet and 100 feet from the water body harvest of timber may be undertaken where consistent with the maintenance of important fish and wildlife habitat as determined by the department with the concurrence of the Department of Fish and Game;

(B) along a Type III-B water body, harvest of timber may not be undertaken within 50 feet of the water body; between 50 feet and 100 feet from the water body, up to 50 percent of standing white spruce trees having at least a nine-inch diameter at breast height may be harvested;

(C) along a Type III-C water body, harvest of timber within 100 feet of the water body must be consistent with the maintenance of important fish and wildlife habitat as determined by the department with due deference to the Department of Fish and Game.

(2) on state forest land managed by the department that is in Region I or Region II,

(A) harvest of timber may not be undertaken within 100 feet immediately adjacent to an anadromous or high value resident fish water body;

(B) between 100 and 300 feet from the water body, harvest of timber may occur but must be consistent with the maintenance of important fish and wildlife habitat as determined by the department with due deference to the Department of Fish and Game.

Sec. 4. AS 41.17.119 is repealed and reenacted to read:

body," means a water body that, under normal conditions, does not receive significant surface flow from a glacier;

(26) "ordinary high water mark" or "OHWM" means the mark along the bank or shore up to which the presence and action of the tidal or nontidal water are so common and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to leave a natural line impressed on the bank or shore and indicated by erosion, shelving, changes in soil characteristics, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or other distinctive physical characteristics;

(27) "Region I" means all land in Southeast Alaska, plus all land that is south of the crest of the Chugach and St. Elias Mountains and east of a line running from the crest of the Chugach Mountains to O'Malley Peak, then southerly to Gull Rock, then southwesterly to the eastern junction of Skilak Lake Road and the Sterling Highway, then southwesterly to the mouth of the Fox River, then southwesterly through Kachemak Bay to Mt. Douglas, plus all land on the Alaska Peninsula between Mt. Douglas and Cape Kumliun that is east of the crest of the Aleutian Range, plus all islands in the Gulf of Alaska north of 56° 23' North latitude;

(28) "Region II" means all land in the state south of the Nutzotin and Mentasta Mountains, south of the Alaska Range, and east of the Aleutian Range, except for the area within Region I and peninsular and island land south of Cape Kumliun;

(29) "Region III" means all land in the state outside of Regions I and II;

(30) "Type III-A water body" means in Region III, a
(A) non-glacial high value resident fish water body greater than three feet in width at the ordinary high water mark;
(B) non-glacial anadromous water body; or
(C) backwater slough;

(31) "Type III-B water body" means in Region III, a glacial high value resident fish water body or a glacial anadromous water body; "Type III-B water body" does not include glacial backwater sloughs;

(32) "Type III-C water body" means in Region III, a non-glacial high value resident fish water body that is less than or equal to three feet in width at the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) and that does not contain anadromous fish.

Sec. 11. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. (a) To the extent that the regulations are not inconsistent with the language and purposes of this Act, regulations relating to forest resources and practices adopted by the Department of Natural Resources under AS 41.17 and in effect before the effective date of secs. 1 - 10 of this Act remain in effect and may be administered and enforced by the Department of Natural Resources.

(b) Notwithstanding sec. 13 of this Act, the Department of Natural Resources may proceed to adopt regulations to implement this Act. The regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the effective date of the statutory change.

Sec. 12. Section 11(b) of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

Sec. 13. Except as provided in sec. 12 of this Act, this Act takes effect September 1, 2001.

Sec. 41.17.119. Minimum riparian standards for other public land.

The riparian standards for other public land are as follows:

(1) in Regions I and II, harvest of timber may not be undertaken within 100 feet of an anadromous or high value resident fish water body;

(2) in Region III, the standards are the same as for state land under AS 41.17.118 and regulations adopted under this chapter.

Sec. 5. AS 41.17.950(13) is amended to read:

(13) "riparian area" means

(A) the areas subject to riparian protection standards SPECIFIED in AS 41.17.116(a) and (b) on private land in Regions I and III [THE COASTAL FOREST OF SPRUCE OR HEMLOCK];

(B) the areas subject to riparian protection standards [SPECIFIED] in regulations adopted by the commissioner under AS 41.17.116(c) [AS 41.17.116(b)] on private land in Region II [OUTSIDE THE COASTAL FOREST OF SPRUCE OR HEMLOCK];

(C) the area 100 feet from the shore or bank of [OR] an anadromous or high value resident fish water body on state land managed by the department and on other public land;

Sec. 6. AS 41.17.950(19) is amended to read:

(19) "Type I-A [TYPE A] water body" means in Region I, an anadromous water body that is

(A) a stream or river of any size having an average gradient of eight percent or less, with banks held in place by vegetation, channels that are not incised, and a substrate composed of rubble, gravel, sand, or silt;

(B) wetlands and lakes, including their outlets; [AND]

(C) an estuarine area delimited by the presence of salt-tolerant vegetation;

Sec. 7. AS 41.17.950(20) is amended to read:

(20) "Type I-B [TYPE B] water body" means in Region I, an anadromous water body that does not meet the definition of a Type I-A [TYPE A] water body; [AND]

Sec. 8. AS 41.17.950(21) is amended to read:

(21) "Type I-C [TYPE C] water body" means in Region I, a water body that is not anadromous, that is a tributary to a Type I-A [TYPE A] or Type I-B [TYPE B] water body, and that has a gradient of 12 percent or less;

Sec. 9. AS 41.17.950(22) is amended to read:

(22) "Type I-D [TYPE D] water body" means in Region I, a water body that is not anadromous, that is tributary to a Type I-A [TYPE A] or Type I-B [TYPE B] water body, and that has a gradient greater than 12 percent.

Sec. 10. AS 41.17.950 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

(23) "backwater slough" means a water body that

(A) has sluggish flow, is warm in summer, and is typically only connected to the main stem or a side channel at one end of the water body;

(B) carries river current only under high water conditions; and

(C) may have only a seasonal connection to the main stem or side channel;

(24) "glacial water body," as used in the phrases "glacial high value resident fish water body" and "glacial anadromous water body," means a water body that, under normal conditions, receives significant surface flow from a glacier; "glacial water body" includes water bodies that receive a mix of glacial water and water from other sources;

(25) "non-glacial water body," as used in the phrases "non-glacial high value resident fish water body" and "non-glacial anadromous water

Journal Text

02-16-2001

House Journal

0346

HB 131

HOUSE BILL NO. 131 by the House Rules Committee by request of the Governor, entitled:

"An Act relating to standards for forest resources and practices; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the House Special Committee on Fisheries and the Resources Committee.

The following fiscal note(s) apply:

1. Zero, Dept. of Natural Resources

The Governor's transmittal letter dated February 15, 2001, appears below:

"Dear Speaker Porter:

Alaska is recognized as a world leader in protecting the habitat and spawning capacity of anadromous and resident fish in our streams and rivers. Our Forest Resources and Practices Act establishes high standards of protection while promoting timber development.

Two years ago, the Legislature amended Alaska's Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) as it applies to the Southeast region of our state. That legislation reflected consensus between the timber and fishing industries and state land management agencies. This bill I transmit today continues to improve the FRPA and its ability to protect fish habitat and water quality in a manner that supports both the timber and fishing industries. This current phase of the FRPA revision addresses management standards in interior Alaska (Region III) and, once again, represents a consensus of interested constituents.

This bill is the result of hard work by many people over the last two years. It is founded on the best science available, including an extensive review of existing research, and recommendations of an interdisciplinary science and technical committee. The committee included experienced field staff from the state resource agencies, and University of Alaska, private, and federal scientists. Their recommendations were passed on to a group that included representatives of the timber and fishing industries, Native corporations, and environmental groups. Together, they crafted language to implement the scientists' recommendations in a practical manner that will work in the field. Finally, the Board of Forestry unanimously endorsed this legislation. The result of this public effort is an amended FRPA that has support from a broad array of interest groups.

The current interim standards for Region III were adopted in 1990. Under these standards, harvesting can occur up to the bank of anadromous waters on both public and private land under certain conditions. Under this bill, all anadromous and high-value resident

fish waters are classified and riparian standards are established for each water body type. The requirements are tailored to the characteristics and fish habitat needs of each stream type. On most anadromous and high-value resident fish waters, a no-harvest buffer will be required. However, along glacial rivers where some of the most valuable timber occurs, the standards allow harvest of up to half the large white spruce in the landward half of the buffer. This lets landowners capture some of the economic value within the riparian areas while keeping enough large trees to provide appropriate habitat for fish and wildlife.

This bill has substantive changes only for riparian management standards in Region III. Other revisions are technical in nature, such as changes to the statewide nomenclature for waterbody classes to prevent confusion between waterbody types in different regions. The bill also moves definitions of regional boundaries from the regulations to the Act, and makes a minor change to the regional boundary on the Kenai Peninsula to better match the difference between forest types. Most forest land in the affected area is in federal ownership, so the change will have little impact on private landowners.

This bill helps ensure that the FRPA continues to be certified for compliance with federal Clean Water Act and coastal zone management requirements. This means that the Act keeps providing "one-stop shopping" for the timber industry with respect to state, federal and coastal management standards.

I look forward to working with you on the passage and implementation of this bill.

Sincerely,
/s/
Tony Knowles
Governor"

Bill Root:

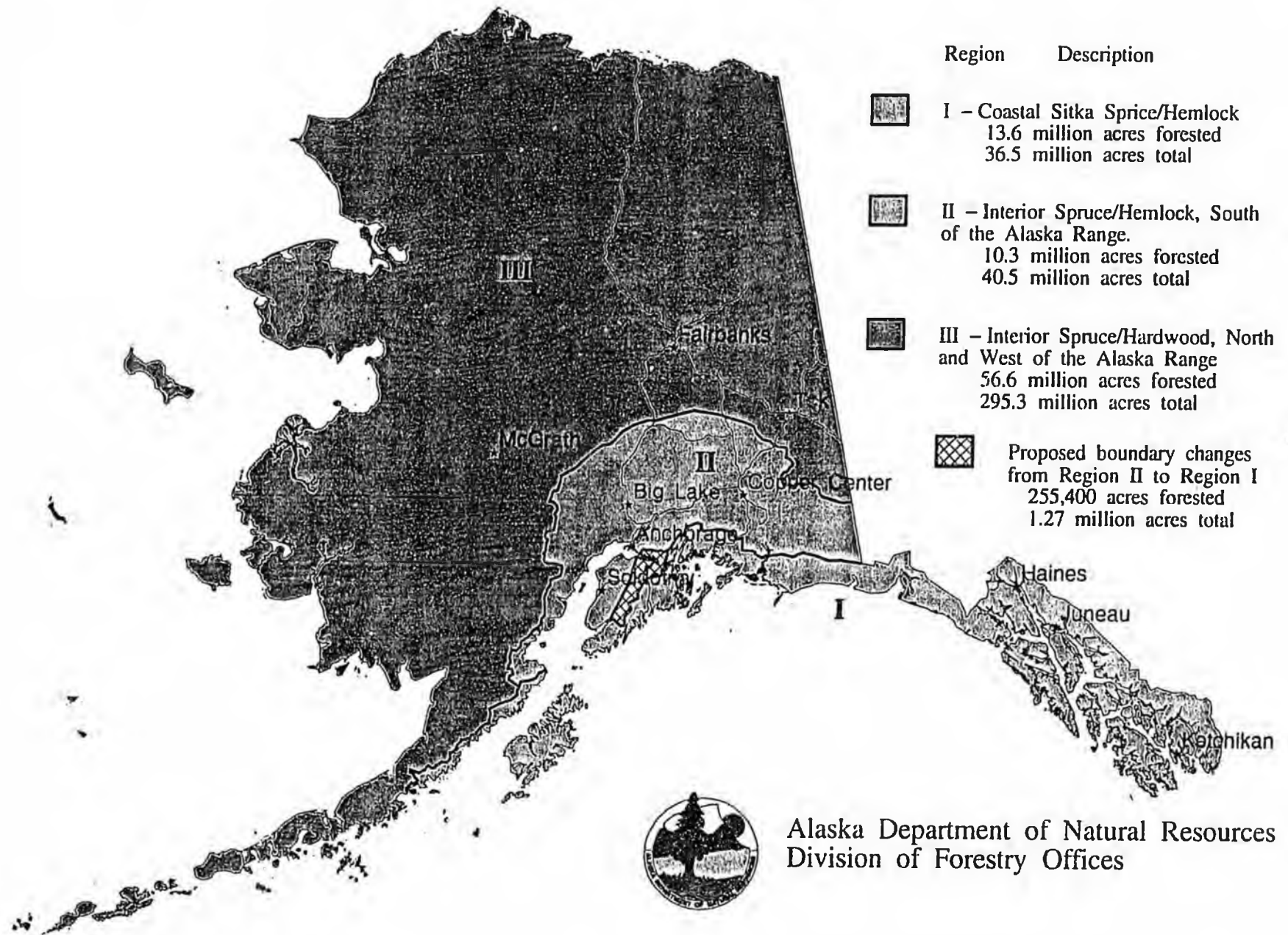
Display Bill Root



TO REPORT PROBLEMS WITH BASIS INQUIRY

Alaska Forest Resources & Practices Regions

Proposed Boundary changes - Spring 2003



Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry Offices

ALASKA STATE SENATE



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State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
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Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 456-8161
Senator_Ralph_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us

Senator Ralph Seekins
District D

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 6, 2003

To: Office of Representative Hugh Fate

From: Senator Ralph Seekins

Re: Request for Hearing of SB 88

Attached please find Senate Bill 88 along with a corresponding Sponsor Statement and supporting documentation.

This Bill revises the riparian management standards of the Forest Resources Practices Act for Region III by strengthening protection for fish habitat and water quality in a manner that continues to support both the timber and fishing industries.

It is important to note that SB 88 is identical to HB 131 introduced in the 22nd Legislature. While HB 131 enjoyed broad support across the political spectrum it was a victim of the end of session rush last year.

I respectfully request a hearing before your committee on this Bill at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

AMENDMENT

(to conform to Executive Order 107)

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE RESOURCES

BY _____

COMMITTEE

TO: SB 88

1 Page 1, line 5:

2 Delete "commissioner"

3 Insert "state forester"

4

5 Page 3, line 17:

6 Delete "department"

7 Insert "state forester"

8

9 Page 3, line 18:

10 Delete "Department of Fish and Game"

11 Insert "deputy commissioner"

12

13 Page 3, line 19:

14 Delete "commissioner"

15 Insert "state forester"

16

17 Page 4, line 8:

18 Delete "department"

19 Insert "state forester"

- 1 Page 4, lines 8 - 9:
- 2 Delete "Department of Fish and Game"
- 3 Insert "deputy commissioner"
- 4
- 5 Page 4, line 16:
- 6 Delete "department"
- 7 Insert "state forester"
- 8
- 9 Page 4, line 17:
- 10 Delete "Department of Fish and Game"
- 11 Insert "deputy commissioner"
- 12
- 13 Page 4, line 24:
- 14 Delete "department"
- 15 Insert "state forester"
- 16
- 17 Page 4, line 25:
- 18 Delete "Department of Fish and Game"
- 19 Insert "deputy commissioner"
- 20
- 21 Page 5, line 8:
- 22 Delete "commissioner"
- 23 Insert "state forester [COMMISSIONER]"

Amendment to SB 88
Explanation

Senate Bill 88 was drafted prior to the introduction of Executive Order 107, which transferred the permitting functions of ADF&G's former Division of Habitat and Restoration to the Department of Natural Resources. Therefore, the language in the bill referring to ADF&G functions is no longer appropriate. This amendment is needed to ensure that SB 88 conforms to E.O. 107.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SB 88
 (S) Publish Date: 4/29/03

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
 Title: Forest Resources & Practices Standards BRU: Forest Management & Development
 Component: Forest Management & Development
 Sponsor: Sen. Seekins
 Requester: (S) RES Component No. 435

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | FY 2004 | FY 2005 | FY 2006 | FY 2007 | FY 2008 | FY 2009 |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Personal Services | | | | | | |
| Travel | | | | | | |
| Contractual | | | | | | |
| Supplies | | | | | | |
| Equipment | | | | | | |
| Land & Structures | | | | | | |
| Grants & Claims | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| CHANGE IN REVENUES () | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

| | | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts | | | | | | |
| 1003 GF Match | | | | | | |
| 1004 GF | | | | | | |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts | | | | | | |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health | | | | | | |
| Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate) | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Full-time | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Part-time | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Temporary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Based on current levels of harvesting on non-state land, and current funding levels, DNR will not need additional operating funds to implement the changes in this bill. If the amount of harvesting on non-state land increases substantially, or if FRPA funding, including federal Section 319 funding declines significantly, additional funds would be needed for field inspections of riparian buffers. On state land, the revised riparian standards can be incorporated into the existing sale design and sale administration process.

Prepared by: Jeff Jahnke, Director Phone 907-269-8474
 Division: Forestry Date/Time 4/22/2003
 Approved by: Tom Irwin, Commissioner Date 4/22/2003
 Agency: Natural Resources

**Organizations and Individuals Testifying in Support of HB 131
During 2001-2002 sessions**

- Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (Jill Klein, Bill Fliris, Chris Stark)
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- Individuals
 - Frederick Dean, Fairbanks
 - Tom Paragi, Fairbanks
 - Jim Reynolds, UAA Emeritus Professor of Fisheries, Fairbanks

Additional support in 2003

- Tanana Valley State Forest Unit 2 Planning Team

Comments

**Tanana Valley State Forest
Unit 2 Planning Team**
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709

February 10, 2003

Jeff Jahnke, State Forester
Alaska Division of Forestry
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1450
Anchorage, AK 99501-3566

Dear Mr. Jahnke:

The members of the Unit 2 Tanana Valley State Forest Planning Team are working to determine how to manage the lands and resources in Unit 2. We understand the efforts of the many scientists and natural resource professionals that worked together to revise the riparian standards and stream classification system for Region III (Interior Alaska) of the Forest Resources and Practices Act. During our meeting on December 16th, the Planning Team unanimously resolved to support the Region III riparian standards agreement by passing the following:

The Tanana Valley State Forest Unit 2 Planning Team commends the interdisciplinary Science and Technical Committee and the Implementation Group for their work in developing the Region III riparian standards and stream classification system. These agreements are the result of effective consensus building among diverse user groups and are based on the best available scientific information. The Unit 2 Planning Team recommends prompt passage of legislation containing these agreements as written.

Our stakeholder planning team has been convened to advise the Division of Forestry on how Unit 2 should be managed. We represent the diverse interests of the people who use the State Forest. We hope that you will endorse our recommendation by forwarding this letter to the various heads of legislative committees who will consider legislation on these agreements.

Sincerely,

Members of the Tanana Valley State Forest Unit 2 Planning Team

Doug Bowers (Tolovana Lodge)
Tom Bucceri (DNR Division of Oil and Gas)
Jim Durst (Department of Fish and Game)
Chris Foley (Department of Environmental Conservation)
Nancy Fresco (Northern Alaska Environmental Center)
Victor Joseph (Tanana Chiefs Conference)
Edna Hancock (Toghotthele Corporation)
Paul Maki (DNR Division of Forestry)
Steve McGroarty (DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water)
Tom Paragi (Department of Fish and Game)
Eric Pyne (timber industry)
Ron Silas (Minto resident, member of the Fish and Game Advisory Council)
Roselynn Ressa Smith (DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water)

Paul Maki

Tom Paragi

Tom Bucceri

Roselynn Ressa Smith

James W Durst

Eric Pyne

Nancy Fresco

Doug Bowers

Steve McGroarty

From: John D. Fox, Jr. [mailto:sjfox@gci.net]
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2002 5:43 AM
To: Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us;
Senator_Gary_Wilken@legis.state.ak.us;
Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us;
Senator_Robin_Taylor@legis.state.ak.us;
Senator_Ben_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us;
Senator_Kim_Elton@legis.state.ak.us;
Senator_Georgianna_Lincoln@legis.state.ak.us; jjahnke@dnr.state.ak.us
Subject: HB 131 Support

March 18, 2002

Members of the Alaskan State Legislature
Senate Resources Committee

RE: HB 131

Dear Alaskan Legislator:

The Alaska Society of American Foresters represents nearly 200 professional foresters in Alaska. We appreciate the work that you and your staff have done to be informed, fair and balanced representatives of the people of Alaska. This letter is to give our statewide support for passage of HB 131 dealing with modifications to the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act riparian regulations for Region III.

Many of our members were among those who worked hard on the Science and Technology committee to provide a sound scientific base for these recommendations. Subsequently, there was wide representation in negotiations among stakeholders to work out a viable approach to riparian zone management in Region III. We think it is in the best interest of Alaska and its people to pass this broadly supported legislation during the current legislative session.

As members of the national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States, our mission is to advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry; to enhance the competency of our members; to establish professional excellence; and, to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society.

Again, we thank you for your service and continue to offer ours as needed and consistent with our mission and code of ethics.

Sincerely,

John D. Fox, Jr., Chair
Alaska Society of American Foresters
(907) 479-6533
sjfox@gci.net

cc/ Jeff Jahnke, Alaska State Forester



Alaska Society of American Foresters

Cook Inlet Chapter
Dixon Entrance Chapter
Juneau Chapter
Sitka Chapter
Stikine River Chapter
Yukon River Chapter

December 05, 2001

1520 Scenic Loop
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Tony Knowles
Governor of the State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Rick Halford
President of the Senate, The Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box 190
Chugiak, AK 99567-0190

Brian Porter
Speaker of the House, The Alaska State Legislature
716 W 4th Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

2001 DEC 7 PM 1 44
RECEIVED
DIVISION OF FORESTRY
CENTRAL OFFICE

Dear Governor Knowles and Legislative Leaders:

The Alaska Society of American Foresters (AKSAF) would like to thank this Administration and Legislature for their support of responsible forest management on state, federal and private lands. Many Alaskan and other US communities rely on a multiple-use policy and appropriate access to public resources to provide the much needed diversity to their economies in both good times and in bad.

We also wish to reiterate our support for the proposed changes to the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act as put forth last year in the Legislature. Many of our members were involved on the science and technology advisory panel that worked diligently to summarize the state of our knowledge on riparian practices and stream classification. Others were involved in the subsequent administrative and political

negotiations and some local SAF chapters have written letters of support for the proposed changes. This is consistent with our view that professional managers need to respond to new knowledge, changing conditions, and community values.

It is from this background of support and within the context of the challenge to continually improve our decision-making process, that the AKSAF passed a motion at our 2001 annual meeting in May. The motion was to recommend to Alaskan officials that the professional forester seat on the Alaska Board of Forestry (BOF) be officially designated to be filled by a member of the Society of American Foresters. We recognize that the Governor appoints individuals to the Board of Forestry. However, we feel that specifying that the appointee be a member of and represent the Society of American Foresters, makes it clear that he or she is representing the professional perspective and not that of the individual's current employer or other affiliation.

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States. Founded in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot, it is the largest professional society for foresters in the world. The mission of the Society of American Foresters is to advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry; to enhance the competency of its members; to establish professional excellence; and, to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society. SAF is a nonprofit organization meeting the requirements of 501 (c) (3). SAF members include natural resource professionals in public and private settings, researchers, CEOs, administrators, educators, and students. The SAF is not a lobbying organization. It is the sole academic accrediting body for forestry degree programs in the United States and like all true professional bodies, the SAF has a detailed Code of Ethics. It is subscription to the aforementioned mission and code of ethics, supported with SAF's continuing education and certification programs, that separates its members from non-members.

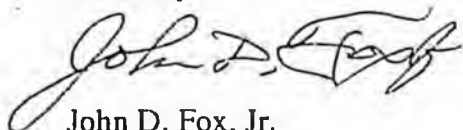
The AKSAF wishes to be very clear that this recommendation does not reflect any complaints or dissatisfaction with current members of the BOF. This recommendation is solely a feeling on our part, that it would be most appropriate and beneficial in a long-range sense, to identify the "professional forester" seat as an "SAF seat", thereby explicitly invoking the mission and code of ethics and making it clear to the individual, the board, and the public, that he or she is representing professional forestry in an institutional sense, not in an employment sense. Accordingly, we also recommend that the employment restrictions on the person filling this seat be dropped with the exception of the restriction that the individual not be a current, non-university,

employee of the State of Alaska. The latter is to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest or any opportunity for, or threat of, retribution.

The SAF charter does not allow political lobbying. Yet, we have a mission to inform the public and decision-makers on the scientific and technical aspects of managing our forest resources. Accordingly, we do not presume to recommend a mechanism whereby our recommendation should be implemented. We also do not wish to jeopardize any existing legislation such as the proposed changes to the Forest Resources and Practices Act. However, we hope that this recommendation is seriously considered. The Alaska SAF and its chapters and members remain willing and able to provide information and expertise with the full backing and resources of the national SAF organization. It is in this spirit that we put forth this recommendation. While many BOF members may be, or may have been SAF members, it has not been explicit that the mission, code of ethics and professional perspective be the mandate of their appointments. We think our recommendation will make the mandate of the professional forester seat very clear.

The Alaska Society of American Foresters offers its services to the Governor, legislators and the Board of Forestry to assist in this process from a professional perspective. We appreciate your favorable consideration of this recommendation and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

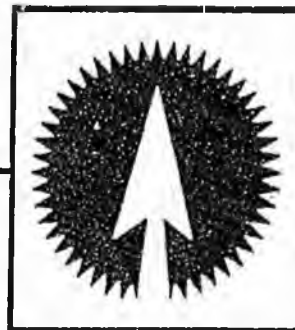


John D. Fox, Jr.

Chair, Alaska Society of American Foresters
(907) 479-6522 <sjfox@gci.net>

cc/ ✓ Jeff Jahnke, State Forester, State of Alaska
Lawrence L. Hartig, Board of Forestry
William R. Jeffress, Board of Forestry
Adrian LeCornu, Board of Forestry
Craig Lindh, Board of Forestry
Richard Smeriglio, Board of Forestry
Chris Stark, Board of Forestry
Gayle Ramey Stevens, Board of Forestry
John Sturgeon, Board of Forestry
Cindy Smith, Coordinator, Boards & Commissions, State of Alaska

Alaska Forest Association, Inc.



111 STEDMAN STREET, SUITE 200
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901-6599
Phone 907-225-6114
FAX 907-225-5920
Web Site www.akforest.org

March 6, 2001

The Honorable Drue Pearce
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Room 119
Juneau, AK 99801

DIVISION of Forestry
Central Office

Dear Senator Pearce,

Thank you for introducing Senate Bill 98 in the Senate Rules Committee. SB 98 proposes changing the state's Forest Resources and Practices Act (AS 41.17). This measure is a top legislative priority for AFA in 2001.

SB 98 is a direct result of a proposal presented to the Alaska Board of Forestry last year, after a collaborative process involving the timber industry, the fishing industry and the resource agencies of the state. Both the process and the substance of this effort were based upon sound science and a balancing of interests commensurate with the Forest Resources and Practices Act of 1990.

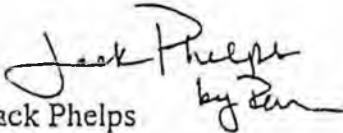
Alaska's current forest practices law is based on good science and is very effective in protecting important fish habitat while recognizing the unique relationship between private land rights and related public resources. The law, which was developed through a cooperative process in 1989 and 1990, involves the Division of Forestry, the Division of Habitat and Restoration, and the Division of Air and Water Quality in monitoring and enforcing standards governing forestry practices. In 1999, as you may recall, changes to the laws' riparian standards for Alaska's coastal forests were approved by the legislature. The Forest Resources and Practices Act enables timber operators in Alaska who conduct their harvest activities according to best management practices to have the assurance that they are operating in compliance with a variety of laws under which they would otherwise be individually scrutinized. That alternative would cost both the industry and the state more time and money than is necessary under the present system.

Current law also provides for ongoing examination of the effectiveness of Alaska's forest practices standards, so that the law and regulations can be adjusted to reflect new scientific knowledge as it is developed. Throughout 2000, the timber industry participated in a thorough review of the science related to logging near anadromous fish rivers, streams, and tributaries in Alaska's Interior forests. The review was conducted under the rubric of the Science and Technical Committee appointed by the Board of Forestry with the support of Governor Knowles. The proposed changes will mandate forested buffers along Alaska's Interior fish streams after harvest. The Committee's report and the

subsequent stakeholders' meeting led to the introduction of SB 98. Your willingness to introduce SB 98 through the Rules Committee is greatly appreciated and enjoys broad support.

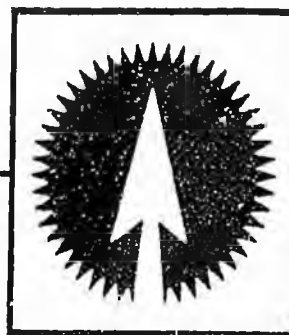
In summary, SB 98 addresses a real need and represents a balanced approach to resolving an important issue affecting Alaska's forest products sector. This is a bill that can and should enjoy full, bi-partisan support. Thank you again for allowing SB 98 to be introduced in the Senate Rules Committee.

Sincerely,


Jack Phelps
Executive Director

cc: Governor Knowles

Alaska Forest Association, Inc.



111 STEDMAN STREET, SUITE 200
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901-6599
Phone 907-225-6114
FAX 907-225-5920
Web Site www.akforest.org

March 6, 2001

The Honorable Pete Kott
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 204
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Kott,

Thank you for introducing House Bill 131 in the House Rules Committee. HB 131 proposes changing the state's Forest Resources and Practices Act (AS 41.17). This measure is a top legislative priority for AFA in 2001.

HB 131 is a direct result of a proposal presented to the Alaska Board of Forestry last year, after a collaborative process involving the timber industry, the fishing industry and the resource agencies of the state. Both the process and the substance of this effort were based upon sound science and a balancing of interests commensurate with the Forest Resources and Practices Act of 1990.

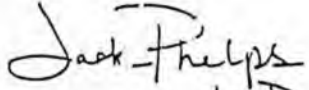
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subsequent stakeholders' meeting led to the introduction of HB 131. Your willingness to introduce HB 131 through the Rules Committee is greatly appreciated and enjoys broad support.

In summary, HB 131 addresses a real need and represents a balanced approach to resolving an important issue affecting Alaska's forest products sector. This is a bill that can and should enjoy full, bi-partisan support. Thank you again for allowing HB 131 to be introduced in the House Rules Committee.

Sincerely,


Jack Phelps *by Ben*
Executive Director

cc: Governor Knowles

WHITE SPRUCE ENTERPRISES, INC.

10293 Old Valdez Trail - Salcha, AK 99714

Telephone 907-488-3004

Fax 907-488-2551

whitespruce@mosquitonet.com

March 20, 2002

Senator Gary Wiken
State Capitol, Room 514
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Fax: 907-485-4714

Dear Gary,

RE: HB 131

We would like to request your support for HB 131 (the bill establishing a stream classification system and stream protection measure in Interior Alaska). This is a bill that many groups can live with—loggers, environmental interests, and personal land holders. It was an interdisciplinary effort of scientists and technical experts and members of many user groups who came to a consensus solution (not an easy task!).

We would appreciate your support to move this bill forward. We have been to many meetings to work this to an acceptable ruling for the timber industry.

Sincerely,



Jerry and Leslie Gustafson
White Spruce Enterprises, Inc.

WHITE SPRUCE ENTERPRISES, INC.

10293 Old Valdez Trail - Saloha, AK 99714

Telephone 907-488-3034

Fax 907-488-2551

whitespruce@mosquitonet.com

March 20, 2002

Senator John Torgerson
State Capitol, Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Fax: 907-456-4779

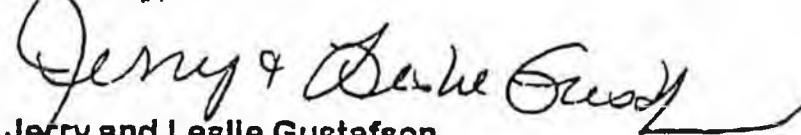
Dear Senator Torgerson,

RE: HB 131

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We would appreciate your support to move this bill forward. We have been to many meetings to work this to an acceptable ruling for the timber industry.

Sincerely,



Jerry and Leslie Gustafson
White Spruce Enterprises, Inc.

Tanana Valley State Forest
Citizens' Advisory Committee

3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709

March 18, 2002

Senator John Torgerson, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Fax: (907) 465-4779

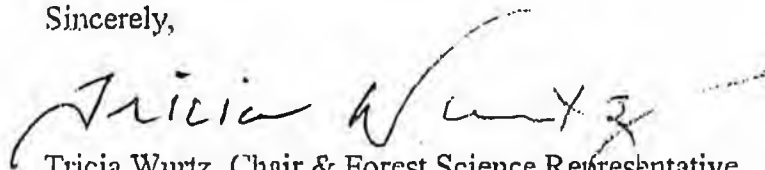
Dear Senator Torgerson,:

As you know, the Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee advises the State Forester on matters regarding the management of the Tanana Valley State Forest. We have been tracking the efforts of the many scientists and natural resource professionals working to revise the riparian standards and stream classification system for Region III (Interior Alaska) of the Forest Resources and Practices Act. On March 19, 2001, the Citizens' Advisory Committee unanimously resolved to support the language of HB131 by passing the following:

The TVSF CAC commends the interdisciplinary Science & Technical Committee and the Implementation Group for their work in developing the provisions of HB13. This bill is the result of effective consensus-building among diverse user groups and is based on the best available scientific information. The TVSF CAC recommends prompt passage of this bill as written.

During our meeting on December 5, 2001, we voted to re-issue this letter. We still support prompt passage of these bills as written.

Sincerely,



Tricia Wurtz, Chair & Forest Science Representative
Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee

CC: Marty Welbourn Freeman

Tanana Valley State Forest
Citizens' Advisory Committee

3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709

December 6, 2001

Jeff Jahnke, State Forester
Alaska Division of Forestry
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1450
Anchorage, AK 99501-3566

Dear Mr. Jahnke:

As you know, the members of the Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee have been tracking the efforts of the many scientists and natural resource professionals working to revise the riparian standards and stream classification system for Region III (Interior Alaska) of the Forest Resources and Practices Act. During our regular meeting on March 19, 2001, the Citizens' Advisory Committee unanimously resolved to support the language of HB131 and SB98 by passing the following:

The TVSF CAC commends the interdisciplinary Science & Technical Committee and the Implementation Group for their work in developing the provisions of HB131 and SB98. These bills are the result of effective consensus building among diverse user groups and are based on the best available scientific information. The TVSF CAC recommends prompt passage of these bills as written.

During our meeting on December 5, 2001, we voted to re-issue this letter. We still support prompt passage of these bills as written.

As an advisory committee to the State Forester on matters regarding the management of the Tanana Valley State Forest, the members of the Citizens' Advisory Committee hope you will endorse our recommendation by forwarding this letter to the various heads of legislative committees that will be considering HB131 and SB98.

Sincerely,



Tricia Wurtz, Chair & Forest Science Representative
Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee

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DIVISION OF FORESTRY
CENTRAL OFFICE

2001 DEC 10 PM 12 59

CC: John C. "Chris" Maisch

*Tanana Valley State Forest
Citizens' Advisory Committee
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709*

RECEIVED
MAY 29 2001

Division of Forestry
Central Office

May 29, 2001

Jeff Jahnke, State Forester
Alaska Division of Forestry
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1450
Anchorage, AK 99501-3566

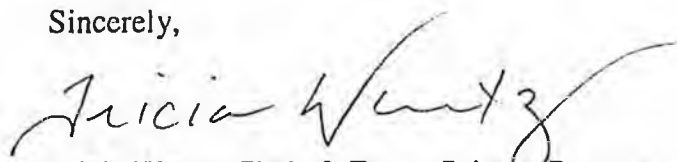
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The TVSF CAC commends the interdisciplinary Science & Technical Committee and the Implementation Group for their work in developing the provisions of HB131 and SB98. These bills are the result of effective consensus building among diverse user groups and are based on the best available scientific information. The TVSF CAC recommends prompt passage of these bills as written.

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Sincerely,



Tricia Wurtz, Chair & Forest Science Representative
Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee

CC: John C. "Chris" Maisch

Subject: RE: HB 131-Forest practices

Date: Wed, 5 Dec 2001 13:22:50 -0900

From: "James B. Reynolds" <ffjbr@uaf.edu>

To: Marty Welbourn <marty_welbourn@dnr.state.ak.us>

Hi Marty,

Thanks for the briefing document on HB 131. I noticed a confusing phrase in the third item under "Summary of key provisions"; it says "...area in which harvesting may occur where harvesting may occur,..." and appears to be a typo. As you request, I'll send some letters to Interior legislators in support.

Best wishes for the holidays,

--jim

Dr. James B. Reynolds
Emeritus Professor of Fisheries
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
University of Alaska Fairbanks
P.O. Box 757220
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775

*Carol - I don't know if
Jim sent letters - I haven't
seen copies - Marty*

Subject: HB 131

Date: Mon, 18 Mar 2002 07:31:49 -0900

From: Frederick Dean <deansfs@alaska.net>

**To: Senator Gary Wilken <Senator_Gary_Wilken@legis.state.ak.us>,
Senator Georgianna Lincoln <Senator_Georgianna_Lincoln@legis.state.ak.us>**

Dear Senators Wilken and Lincoln,

Last December I wrote you expressing my strong personal support for HB131 and the Senate counterpart. Now that the House bill has moved to the Senate for hearings, I want to reiterate this very strong support. I sat in as an observer an unofficial contributor to the meetings of the Science and Technical Committee that developed the basis for this bill. I was an official member of the Implementation Group that tried to put the recommendations of the S&TC into a form that could be used to draft legislation. Consequently, I feel well-acquainted with the issues and the outcome.

I hope that you will work very hard to insure passage of HB131 which addresses changes in the Forest Resources and Practices Act. The most critical part of this for the Interior is the set of stipulations for operations within the riparian zone. These have been carefully designed to reduce negative impacts on fish and fish habitat and to also insure a continued supply of large woody debris (LWD) being added to the rivers. LWD has been shown to be an important habitat component; it provides cover, reduces current velocity, and forms good habitat for many food organisms. While there is still much to learn about LWD and its roles in interior Alaska, we do know enough to realize that it is important in many waters. Standing trees along the bank provide shading and thus thermal buffering, especially in slower waters, and visual cover because of the patchy light patterns.

A great deal of time and effort went into crafting a set of practices that would be clear and easily followed on both public and private lands. Provisions have been made to accommodate small-scale operations in rural villages. The final bill, as it passed the House, represents a striking job of getting representatives of all possible interested parties to participate in collecting the underlying information, crafting the proposed standards, and supporting the proposed revisions to the FRPA. If the rest of our government could function this well, we would be way ahead. Please do all you can to insure the passage of HB131, hopefully without any modification.

Sincerely,
Fred Dean

Frederick C. Dean
810 Ballaine Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

907-479-6607

Subject: HB131 Forest Resources and Practices Act

Date: Mon, 18 Mar 2002 07:30:51 -0900

From: Frederick Dean <deansfs@alaska.net>

To: Senator John Torgerson <Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Senator Torgerson,

I am sending this letter to you as Chair of the Senate Resources Committee. I want to express my strong personal support for HB131 and the Senate counterpart. Now that the House bill has moved to the Senate for hearings, I want to emphasize this very strong support. I sat in as an observer an unofficial contributor to the meetings of the Science and Technical Committee that developed the basis for this bill. I was an official member of the Implementation Group that tried to put the recommendations of the S&TC into a form that could be used to draft legislation. Consequently, I feel well-acquainted with the issues and the outcome.

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Sincerely,
Fred Dean

Frederick C. Dean
810 Ballaine Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

907-479-6607

Subject: Modifications of the Forest Resources and Practices Act

Date: Tue, 18 Dec 2001 13:57:22 -0900

From: Frederick Dean <deansfs@alaska.net>

To: Senator Pete Kelly <Senator_Pete_Kelly@legis.state.ak.us>,
Senator Georgianna Lincoln <Senator_Georgianna_Lincoln@legis.state.ak.us>,
Senator Gene Therriault <Senator_Gene_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>,
Senator Gary Wilken <Senator_Gary_Wilken@legis.state.ak.us>,
Senator John Coghill <Representative_John_Coghill@legis.state.ak.us>,
Representative John Davies <Representative_John_Davies@legis.state.ak.us>,
Representative Hugh Fate <Representative_Hugh_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>,
Joe Hayes <Representative_Joe_Hayes@legis.state.ak.us>,
Representative Jeannette James <Representative_Jeannette_James@legis.state.ak.us>,
Representative Jim Whitaker <Representative_Jim_Whitaker@legis.state.ak.us>

Hello to all,

I want to reiterate my personal support for HB 131 and its companion Senate bill. Last year, when these were introduced, I sent you a note in favor of passage of these bills. Some problems developed that related to SE Alaska. My understanding is that these have been resolved. I hope that the bills can be passed without delay this year.


I have attached a briefing paper prepared by the Division of Forestry regarding HB131 for your use if you wish to refresh yourself on the matter. Salient points are that the changes are needed, particularly in Region III (the Interior), that the proposed changes in riparian practices were developed by a very well composed scientific committee, that that group's work was translated into recommended provisions by a widely-based implementation group, and that all concerned seem to feel that the proposed modifications should be adopted.

If there are any questions you think I may be able to answer, please feel free to contact me.

I hope that you will take this opportunity to join a broad spectrum of those interested in Interior forests and forest industry by actively helping to get these bills passed this year.

Frederick Dean
810 Ballaine Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

907-479-6607
<deansfs@alaska.net>

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Dear Senator Torgerson:

I ask you to support hearings on SB 98, which amends the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act for Interior Alaska (Region III). Several interest groups, including the timber and fishing industries and environmental groups, have worked over the last year with scientific experts in fisheries, forestry, and hydrology to derive riparian standards for timber harvest that make sense for the Interior. The state Board of Forestry reviewed and concurred with the recommendations of this Implementation Group and has endorsed the draft legislation introduced as SB 98. This legislation would clarify standards that allow the timber industry to operate in some of the most productive forest lands north of the Alaska Range while affording the necessary protection to fisheries that provide income and food to many Interior residents year in and year out. Please help our local industries to move forward with sustainable development by supporting this legislation in the current session. Thank you.

Tom Paragi
P.O. Box 81288
Fairbanks, AK 99708



Alaska Conservation Alliance

Uniting for Alaska's Future

Alaska Conservation Alliance Alaska Conservation Voters

HB 131 ~ Standards for Forest Resources and Practices

To: House Resources Committee
Date: February 6, 2002

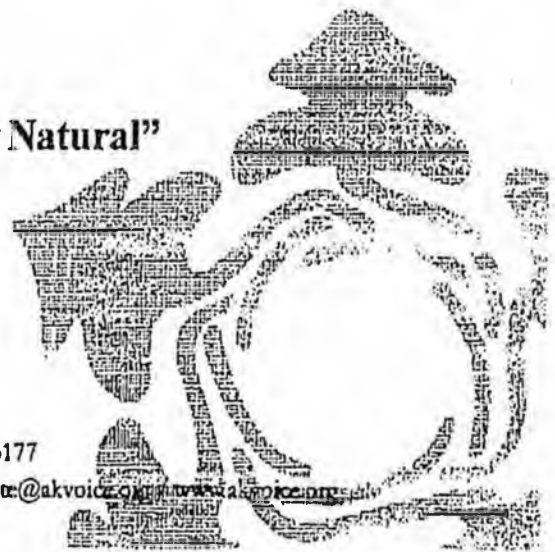
Alaska Conservation Voters is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting Alaska's environment through public education and advocacy. Our 32 member organizations represent over 35,000 registered Alaskan voters. Our members support the conservation of Alaska's forests for the long-term protection of habitat values and the benefits our forests provide humans, wildlife and fish.

House Bill 131, which amends the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) in Region III for Interior Alaska, improves both the clarity and content of current regulations and practices. HB 131 is based upon an extensive review of existing scientific research, field data, and public comment, and is the result of a consensus-based, public process that encompassed a broad group of stakeholders including fisherman, loggers, scientists, and land managers.

HB 131 would implement buffer zones along lakes and streams in Interior Alaska, for logging on both private and public land. These substantive changes would allow logging activities to continue in a more ecological and sustainable manner in our interior forests. This bill has incorporated open public process throughout every step of the way. Alaska Conservation Voters urges you to support this legislation.

Danielle B. Brown

"Conserve Alaska: It's Only Natural"



750 W. 2nd Ave. #109, Anchorage AK 99501 / Ph. 907-258-6171 / Fax 907-258-6177

P.O. Box 22151, Juneau AK 99802 / Ph. 907-463-3366 / Fax 907-463-3312 / unit@akvoice.org / www.akvoice.org

April 1, 2002

Senator John Torgerson
Resources Committee, Chair
State Capitol, Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Room 427

Re: HB 131 an act relating to standards for forest resources and practices
Submission of written testimony

Dear Senator Torgerson:

The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) works with commercial and subsistence salmon fisheries on the Yukon River. We were formed in 1990 when fishermen gathered in Galena to foster communication and cooperation between historically competing fishermen, to promote cooperative management between fishermen and agencies and to increase returns of salmon through habitat restoration and enhancement projects.

YRDFA was invited to join in the implementation group that was created to include various interests when making recommendations to the Forest Resources and Practices Act. Through the participation of Board members and staff, YRDFA was able to be part of the decision-making process and to ensure that the voice of the fishery resource and the fishermen were at the table.

We support the process that took place and the outcome that resulted in recommendations to the classification of stream types and riparian buffers for public and private lands in region III under the Forest Practices and Resources Act. H.B. 131 is good for both fishing and timber because it strengthens protection for interior fish habitat and does it in a manner that is practical for the timber industry to implement.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jill Klein
Executive Director

Introduced By: Natural Resources
Date Introduced: March 19, 2001
Date Passed: March 26, 2001
Date Transmitted: March 27, 2001

RESOLUTION 01-0326a

**A RESOLUTION BY THE GREATER FAIRBANKS CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE TO SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF HOUSE BILL (HB)
131 FOR FOREST PRACTICES AMENDMENTS IN INTERIOR
ALASKA (REGION III)**

WHEREAS Alaska is recognized as a world leader in protecting fish habitat for anadromous and high value resident fish species while promoting timber development; and

WHEREAS HB-131 and it's companion bill SB-98 are the result of a two year process that was initiated by the Board of Forestry and involved an interdisciplinary Science and Technical Committee and an Implementation Group that represented affected interests; and

WHEREAS the Science and Technical Committee had members with expertise in fisheries, forestry, hydrology, and soils and included scientists and experienced field staff from state resource agencies, the University of Alaska, the U.S. Geological Survey, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and Alaska Biological Research; and

WHEREAS the Implementation Group was comprised of private forest owners, the timber and fishing industries, environmental groups, and members from the departments of Natural Resources, Fish and Game and Environmental Conservation; and

WHEREAS this legislation is founded on the best science available and is the result of a public effort that has support from a broad array of interest groups, and the Board of Forestry; and

WHEREAS under this legislation, all anadromous and high value resident fish waters are classified and riparian standards are established for each water body type based on the unique characteristics and habitat needs of fish for each stream type; and

WHEREAS on most anadromous and high value resident fish waters a no-harvest buffer will be required and along glacial rivers where some of the most valuable timber occurs, the standards allow harvest of up to half the large white spruce in the landward half of the buffer, thus capturing some of the economic value within the riparian zone; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors joins Alaska's Governor Tony Knowles, the Board of Forestry, state agencies, the timber and fishing industry, environmental groups and members of the public in supporting the passage of this legislation during the current session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be distributed to:

Alaska State Legislature
Governor Tony Knowles
Board of Forestry
Commissioner of Natural Resources
State Forester

PASSED in Fairbanks, Alaska this 26th day of March, 2001 by the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

John Burns
Board Chair

Howard "Buzz" Otis
Chair Elect

Dear Senator Torgerson:

I ask you to support hearings on SB 98, which amends the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act for Interior Alaska (Region III). Several interest groups, including the timber and fishing industries and environmental groups, have worked over the last year with scientific experts in fisheries, forestry, and hydrology to derive riparian standards for timber harvest that make sense for the Interior. The state Board of Forestry reviewed and concurred with the recommendations of this Implementation Group and has endorsed the draft legislation introduced as SB 98. This legislation would clarify standards that allow the timber industry to operate in some of the most productive forest lands north of the Alaska Range while affording the necessary protection to fisheries that provide income and food to many Interior residents year in and year out. Please help our local industries to move forward with sustainable development by supporting this legislation in the current session. Thank you.

Tom Paragi
P.O. Box 81288
Fairbanks, AK 99708

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SB 88
 (S) Publish Date: 4/29/03

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
 Title: Forest Resources & Practices Standards BRU: Forest Management & Development
 Component: Forest Management & Development
 Sponsor: Sen. Seekins
 Requester: (S) RES Component No. 435

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | FY 2004 | FY 2005 | FY 2006 | FY 2007 | FY 2008 | FY 2009 |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Personal Services | | | | | | |
| Travel | | | | | | |
| Contractual | | | | | | |
| Supplies | | | | | | |
| Equipment | | | | | | |
| Land & Structures | | | | | | |
| Grants & Claims | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| CHANGE IN REVENUES () | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

| | | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts | | | | | | |
| 1003 GF Match | | | | | | |
| 1004 GF | | | | | | |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts | | | | | | |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health | | | | | | |
| Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate) | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Full-time | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Part-time | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Temporary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Based on current levels of harvesting on non-state land, and current funding levels, DNR will not need additional operating funds to implement the changes in this bill. If the amount of harvesting on non-state land increases substantially, or if FRPA funding, including federal Section 319 funding declines significantly, additional funds would be needed for field inspections of riparian buffers. On state land, the revised riparian standards can be incorporated into the existing sale design and sale administration process.

Prepared by: Jeff Jahnke, Director
 Division: Forestry
 Approved by: Tom Irwin, Commissioner
 Agency: Natural Resources

Phone 907-269-8474
 Date/Time 4/22/2003
 Date 4/22/2003