

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

1348

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 1995-1996

FISCAL NOTE CONTINUATION PAGE
STATE OF ALASKA BILL NO. CSHB212
1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis: (continued)

HB212 would change the way state forests and sale offerings of state timber are managed. The purpose of the bill appears to be to increase availability of small state timber sales for smaller logging/saw mill operators.

If HB212 is adopted, we believe that over the next five years, that there would be an increase in the availability of small timber sales and would increase the annual cut in the areas of the state where they occur. This means more fish and wildlife habitat will be affected and more Title 16 reviews and forest practices inspections will be required if impacts to fish and wildlife habitat and production are to be minimized. Because pre-sale planning opportunities and pre-contract reviews may be minimized or eliminated under HB212, many impacts which would have formerly been addressed in the pre-sale planning process, will have to be addressed in the field. This will necessitate increased reliance on field monitoring and enforcement to protect anadromous fish habitat and wildlife habitat. Resolution of resource conflicts with small operators is expected to be much more difficult because of the relatively high economic costs. This would require increased field presence by ADF&G field staff to meet ADF&G statutory responsibilities under Title 16 and Title 41. Because of the expected increased number of small timber sales and likely accelerated harvest, increased Habitat Biologist and clerical support would be required as these new areas come on line.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB212 (RES)

Revision Date: 16-Jan-96 Dept Affected Natural Resources
 Title: An Act relating to the management and sale of BRU: Resource Development
state timber, administration of forest land and classification Component: Forest Management & Development
 Sponsor: House State Affairs
 Requestor: _____ Component Serial No. 435

Expenditures/Revenues	(Thousands of Dollars)					
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02
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						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY96) cost: \$ none anticipated

POSITIONS	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02
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)

There is no anticipated fiscal impact associated with this legislation.

Prepared by: Torn Boutin, Director Phone: 465-2400
 Division: Forestry Date: 16-Jan-96
 Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: 16-Jan-96
 Agency: Natural Resources

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Attachment #1

2/1/96

HB 212

adopted N/D

February 1, 1996

AMENDMENT |

OFFERED IN HOUSE FINANCE

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE NAVARRE

TO: CSHB 212 (RES)

Page 1, lines 14-15, after "describing the" reinsert original language to read as follows:

immediate and long-term effects of individual and collective forest activities...

NO action

February 1, 1996

AMENDMENT

2

OFFERED IN HOUSE FINANCE

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE NAVARRE
As Recommended by the Board. of Forestry

TO: CSHB 212 (RES)

Page 3, lines 20-22, section c, add the underlined language:

(c) Sales of 160 acres or less and emergency sales must be included in at least one of the five-year schedules preceding the sale.

NO action

February 1, 1996

AMENDMENT

2a

OFFERED IN HOUSE FINANCE

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE NAVARRE

TO: CSHB 212 (RES)

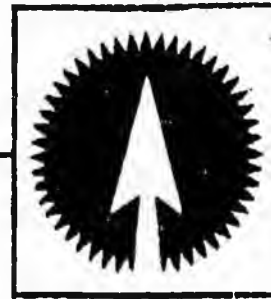
Page 3, section (c), delete and replace with:

(c) The requirements of this section do not apply to

(1) emergency sales; or

(2) Sales of less than 160 acres, provided the total of sales each year under this paragraph in each region established by the commissioner under AS 41.17.080(c) does not exceed the greater of 10 percent of the timber sold in the region, or 320 acres.

Alaska Forest Association, Inc.



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**Testimony of Jack E. Phelps, Executive Director
In Support of CSHB 212(RES)
Offered to the House Finance Committee
February 1, 1996**

The Alaska Forest Association supports immediate passage of House Bill 212. This bill is important to the forest products industry in Alaska, particularly for that segment of the industry that depends upon the state timber sale program for a significant percentage of its wood supply. The bill also provides important support for the state Division of Forestry in its effort to make the state timber sale program effective in meeting the needs of Alaska's smaller timber operators, particularly in the Interior.

Exempting very small sales (those under 10 acres) from the requirement of a Forest Land Use Plan, and sales of 160 acres or less from the required listing in two consecutive five-year schedules of timber sales are important changes from the current law. This added flexibility in the state timber sale program will make it possible for the Division of Forestry to make timber available to small operators who may need it to respond to particular market windows, or simply to finish out a season. Since the 160 acre exemption was agreed upon in a consensus process by the 1990 Forest Practices Act working group as recorded on pages 43 and 44 of the "Green Book," the Alaska Forest Association strongly urges the House Finance Committee to retain this important provision in the bill.

Section 5 of the bill is also important, both to the industry and to the state's timber sale program. It ensures that the Division has the authority to re-offer sales that are not harvested by the original purchaser or are offered on schedule and not purchased without having to take those sales back through an expensive and time-consuming process again. As with much of the bill, the current form of Section 5 is a compromise from what the industry originally asked for, but we are satisfied that it improves the flexibility of the timber sale program while still protecting important public process.

The AFA especially supports Section 8 of the bill. We believe that use of a state forest, and access to its resources must not be restricted unless a best interest finding demonstrates the restriction is needed to protect the overall goal of the state in maintaining a state forest. This goal is multiple use, including commercial timber production. Full access to the resources of the state is critical to sound economic use of those resources. The AFA strongly supports such access.

Finally, the Alaska Forest Association supports Section 11 of the bill. While it does not directly affect the timber industry, we strongly believe that the state's interests in maintaining a state forest are best served when all the potential users needs are considered, including those who desire to harvest forest-dwelling wildlife, either through hunting, fishing or trapping. We therefore support the establishment of a wildlife management objective for the Tanana Valley State Forest.

mary shields
testimony
2/1/96

Good Morning. To those of you visiting from other parts of the state, welcome to our beautiful boreal forest. These precious weeks of September are an essential time to absorb the golden warmth of the forest before winter's snow sets in to remain here for the next 7 1/2 months. You are fortunate to visit at this near Equinox time, when the changing forest clearly forces to accept the earth's swing of seasons and the tilt away from the sun.

W2

I am going to speak from my own experience, but I believe I speak for many Fairbanks people, who were not privileged to be invited to speak to you today. If you doubt this truth, please call a public hearing for next week, and listen to the hundreds of people who would come speak to you.

I first came to Fairbanks 30 years ago. I have hunted in this forest, picked berries and mushrooms, selected Christmas trees and boughs for wreaths, I have camped in this forest, warming my body around many a camp fire, saving my life around several of those fires, I have written poems, and books about living here, I have filmed a TV feature in this forest, aired in 17 countries. I have lived in 4 log cabins, notched of logs from this land, heated 29 winters with firewood from this forest floor. I have hiked, canoed, mushed, driven, and flown over much of this forest, admiring the repeating patterns from all these different views. I have earned my living working with visitors who chose Alaska because of the natural beauty in this state, and for Fairbanks, our beauty is the forest and the rivers that run through it. I have eaten the animals and fish. I have studied the regrowth after wildfire, and after logging. I have carefully counted the rings of an old white spruce. I know it takes 300 years to grow a tree this large.

In short, this is my home. This is where I love to live. I wrote letters of support when Betty Farhenkamp proposed we make a multiple use forest in the Tanana Valley. When I hear you say you want to reverse this fair status it makes me very upset. ~~cheated. I'd gone to the trouble to write a longer statement than~~
ON WHAT GROUNDS DO YOU TRY TO EXCLUDE MY VOICE IN HELPING MAKE DECISIONS THAT WILL DRASTICALLY AFFECT MY LIFE?

IN THE FAST 4 YEARS, PEOPLE IN FAIRBANKS REPEATEDLY STATED THEY WANTED A PLANNING PROCESS THAT INCLUDED THE PEOPLE FROM THE BEGINNING, as is the NATIONAL TREND. The people who live in this forest want to be included. For example, north east of Fairbanks, near Two Rivers, dog mushers were having trouble running their dogs near logging operations, because the logging roads would cross trails and leave high steep burms. Several mushers had dogs inhured and eve killed. DOF

met with the mushers and worked out a multiple use system that allowed both users to co-exist. Under your new balance, the loggers would have to listen to the mushers concerns. But this forest, this land really does belong to all of us. We all have a right to be part of the process.

DOF IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION WITH THE 5 YEAR PLAN REVIEW PROCESS.. HB 212 IS A GIANT STEP BACKWARDS AND WILL ONLY DEEPEN THE CONFLICT IN THE FUTURE. ALL FOREST USES DESERVE FAIR AND EQUAL TREATMENT.

Mary Shields
PO Box 80961
Fairbanks Alaska
99708

Ed Davis

BSS 205 R. 01

2/1/96

HB 212

AWRTA TESTIMONY ON HB-212**Testimony by: Ed Davis****Board Member, Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association****House Resources Committee Hearing****1/16/96**

My name is Ed Davis, and I am a board member for the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association, an industry trade group representing 216 business members.

The tourism industry is comprised of many businesses which depend upon long term and sustained access to Alaska's public forest resources. AWRTA advocates forest management policies that reflect the long term needs of all forest dependent industries, including both the timber and tourism industries.

I would like to thank the House Resources Committee for their work over the past summer on HB-212. The current working draft for this bill reflects thoughtful consideration of many problems that AWRTA and others identified in earlier drafts of this bill. Although several problem areas remain in this bill, I would like to recognize your efforts in correcting a number of provisions in the original bill which could have hurt many in the tourism industry.

My testimony briefly outlines problems remaining in the current work draft of HB-212, and it suggests corrective revisions.

Problem #1: Section 2 of the working draft weakens the need to address the long term and cumulative effects of timber harvest activities in a forest land use plan. As the timber resources of an area are developed, it is the cumulative and long term effects of the harvest activities which will impact the tourism industry.

For example, the scenic viewsheds of Alaska comprise one of the foremost features which allows Alaska to be marketed as a destination for adventure travel. While a single timber sale may not significantly detract from the scenic viewshed of an area, the cumulative impacts of numerous logging programs does have a tremendous impact on the viewshed and likewise on the attractiveness of the region as a tourist destination.

Proposed correction: The statutes need to provide a mechanism for basing forest management policy on the cumulative effects of timber

harvest. Since the "cumulative effects" of timber harvest activities can only be seen by looking at the "big picture", and since forest land use plans are more of a "small picture" type of a planning tool, it may be appropriate to move this requirement to a "big picture" planning document. However, ^{CONSIDERATION OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS} ~~it~~ should not be eliminated _{FROM THE PLANNING PROCESS.}

Problem #2: Section 4 allows an unlimited number of timber sales to be exempted from the Five Year Schedule, provided each sale is less than 160 acres. This is a potential loophole which could lead to severe abuse of the planning process.

Proposed correction: Insert statutory language limiting the number of timber sales between 10 and 160 acres which can be exempted from listing in the Five Year Schedule. Make the statutes clearly state that the "larger" sales exempted from the Five Year Schedule are rare exceptions, and not the norm.

Larry Smith testimony
2/1/96 2/1/96

HB 212, CS version 0

To: House Finance Committee From: Larry Smith, Alaska Forest Practices Act Review Steering Committee

For this legislation to be considered seriously a fiscal note should take into account the unfunded forest practices responsibilities of ADNR, ADEC, and ADFG. Export loggers are already getting a free lunch from the state.

Considering the strong positions taken by the three resource agencies this is no time to create a greater unfunded mandate to further subsidize the export of raw timber and chips. The agencies recently told the Board of Forestry that the program for providing minimal protection for our fish and wildlife, clean water, and wood resources, is dysfunctional and requires a budgetary implant, and an attitude change, to implement the existing Title 38 and Title 41 provisions that comprise the forest practices act.

The forest practices act already exempts logging related activities from the standards of coastal districts under the CZM program, like those of the Kenai Peninsula Borough which enacted much stronger protections for the fish resource, in the interest of the economic base. The legislature should not now consider the strike against sustained yield, reflected in the Section 2 provision, which proposes to eliminate the cumulative effects analysis, necessary to assuring sustained yield of the multiple resources, in 38.05.112. Looking at the whole picture for logging activities is forbidden by Lines 14 and 15 on Page 1 of this bill. At 38.05.035 however "the reasonably foreseeable cumulative effects of oil and gas exploration, development, production, and transportation on the sale area, including effects on subsistence uses, fish and wildlife habitat and populations and their uses, and historic and cultural resources;" must be considered and discussed by DNR. The cumulative impacts of widescale logging should not be singled out as protected from objective review.

The Board of Forestry has asked the legislature to not make the change, in Section 4, which would remove timber sales of less than 160 acres from the requirement that sales be listed in the five year schedule. The Board of Forestry which is designed by statute to act only by super majority (6 of 8 votes), has asked that all sales be listed once. I am surprised that the administration does not forthrightly support the existing standard, as part of the overall forest practices consensus agreement, or at least support the position of the Board.

Page Two

CS for HB 212, Version 0

The legislature did not, in 1990, enact all the compromises of the so-called "green-book-consensus" but made some more. Led by Senator Fahrenkamp of Fairbanks the legislature altered the deal in several important ways: the 100-foot/5% cap-buffers were reduced to 66 feet in which harvest could occur by applying for a variation. Private land buffers are not required at all in Region 2 which includes Cook Inlet, and North of the Alaska Range there are no buffer requirements on public land either.

No other west coast state has limited the application of buffers so regionally, or so limited buffer integrity by providing for sweeping variations. And what other state provides a seat on the Board of Forestry for "a representative of a mining organization"?

These were all elements of the new deal cut in the legislature that changed the consensus. So was eliminating the 160 acre threshold. Not a big concession compared to the concessions to fiber industry stakeholders, especially §1.17.087: the notorious "VARIATION FROM REQUIREMENTS" which directs a state forester to grant "---- a variation from a requirement imposed by this chapter or the regulations adopted under this chapter."

We already have, in many respects, the worst forest practices program of the western states. Unfortunately these respects are important in Alaska and include insufficient care for vital renewable resources needed by many of us like trees, water, fish, wildlife and a sustainable economy.

What we need from the legislature is 1) Senator Torgerson's bill to allow the state to slow down the export frenzy, 2) the governor's bill to encourage the making of finished products in the state, and 3) a decent budget for the agencies charged with forest practices oversight. We do not want legislation like this that places no restriction on the export of raw material such as round logs and chips from state lands. This bill will only lead to a further taking of our common property resources, and the incidental trashing of the traditional multi-faceted forest resources component of our economy for the benefit of export logging.

This legislation is untimely because the state, at present, 1.) has no mechanism for limiting exports, 2.) no mechanism for making the cost-causer the cost-payer, 3.) an underfunded, misdirected and inept forest practices program, and 4.) lacks a fiscal note describing additional agency staff needed for oversight.



Dan Ritzman

2/1/96
Testimony

Alaska Environmental Lobby, Inc.

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House Finance Committee

February 1, 1996

Comments on HB 212

The Alaska Environmental Lobby opposes HB 212.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Dan Ritzman and I am the Boreal Forest Coordinator for the Northern Alaska Environmental Center in Fairbanks. I am here volunteering with the Alaska Environmental Lobby. I have followed this bill closely since it was introduced last spring, I provided testimony to House Resources three times and to the Board of Forestry when they considered this legislation. I recognize and appreciate the efforts that this Legislature and the Administration have made to find language that address the concerns of everyone.

Before I address our specific concerns with the CS that is in front of you I would like to address a larger question. Is HB 212 needed? I believe the answer is no. The Sponsor Statement states that the problem, a lack of timber for smaller timber operations, was caused by the "inability of the Department of Natural Resources to allow the harvesting of this resource." Nobody will argue that DNR was not offering smaller sales, and that this was truly a problem for the smaller operations. But, I would disagree that it was the provisions of Titles' 38 and 41 which were causing this problem. These statutes, as currently written, provide enough flexibility for DNR to offer small sales -- the problem was that the people in the Division of Forestry were not responding to the needs of the local people and offering the sales.

Over the past year and a half I have attended numerous hearings where small loggers and value-added processors have asked DNR to offer smaller sales, the standard response was that these sales were too costly to administer compared to the return from the stumpage fee. The Northern Center listened to the concerns of the loggers and proposed a Community Woodlot program which we felt would meet the communities need for public oversight and the loggers need for smaller sales.

It would seem that DNR finally got the message that their was a need for small sales. This month they offered 15 sales at an auction, nearly all of which are under 100 acres. In addition, the new five-year schedule for the Fairbanks area lists 33 additional sales under 100 acres over the next two years.

Now the problem before you -- HB 212 makes substantial changes to Titles 38 and 41, these statutes cover the entire state, not just "small" sales by Interior operators. The development of the Forest Resources and Practices Act was a long process involving representatives from a variety of interests, including the timber industry, the fishing

industry, conservation organizations and many others. Changes are not needed in the law, changes are needed in the funding, implementation and regulations that the agencies use to carry out the law.

As for my specific comments on HB 212, CS version O, there are three significant concerns.

First. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Environmental Conservation do not have the dollars to carry out their existing statutory requirements. Two weeks ago at the Board of Forestry hearing here in Juneau, both the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Environmental Conservation presented reports that they did not have the budget necessary to continue to monitor timber operations effectively. This legislation will further stress these Departments and put Alaska's populations of fish and wildlife at further risk. A fiscal note should be required for this legislation which takes into account the unfunded forest practices responsibilities of ADNR, ADEC, and ADF&G.

Second. Section 2 (page 1, lines 14-15) appears to eliminate an important requirement that the state use the best available data to evaluate the cumulative and long-term effects of forestry activity on both the trees and non-timber resources. Cumulative impacts, the additive affects of a number of sales, may be the most serious effects of logging. It certainly is one of ADF&G's greatest concerns on the Kenai Peninsula, which has suffered huge increases in logging on private, University, DNR and other lands. Due to the cumulative impacts of a variety of activities, particularly logging and associated road building, the brown bear season on the Peninsula has already been closed. As logging increases in the Interior these same types of cumulative effects may be seen there.

- **Recommendation: the Committee must reinsert the language requiring the consideration of ... immediate and longterm effects of individual and collective forest activities...**

Third, Section 4 (page 3, lines 20-22) eliminates the Five Year Schedule requirement for sales of 160 acres or less. This would mean that over 70% of the sales in the Interior and a fair number of sales on the Kenai would **not** appear on the schedule.

The five Year Schedule is the only consistent tool to notify the public and other commercial users of the forest. It includes (at the present time) in one document a substantial number of state sales in a region. The exception to this are the many salvage sales which were exempted from listing by HB 121.

It is nearly impossible to learn about these sales from individual sale announcements buried in the legal section of the newspaper, and even if one did see all of the individual announcements you would still not have a good sense of the overall picture for the region.

The Board of Forestry, which has representatives from logging companies, the fishing community, conservation organizations, recreation, and fish and wildlife science recommended that all sales be listed at least once on the five year schedule. The

Board operates on a consensus minus one format -- so these recommended changes could be considered to have the endorsement of a wide range of groups who follow the timber management discussions.

- **Recommendation: the Committee should adopt the language suggested by the Board of Forestry that sales of less than 160 acres appears in at least one Five Year Schedule.**

This concludes my comments. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.



Northern Alaska Environmental Center

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House Resources Committee
September 19, 1995
Comments on HB 212

The Northern Alaska Environmental Center opposes HB 212.

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

For our part, the Northern Center has actively monitored logging plans in the Interior since 1990 and have warily listened to proposals for increased logging in the slow-growing boreal forest. Alaska has long been used as a source for raw resources with little heed for the interests of residents. We recognize the faces on the other side of this debate: the robber barons of the 1950's are the timber barons of today. During the past 16 months as the environmental representative on the Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee, we have routinely advocated for other seats/interests which are often poorly represented at the table: subsistence, hunting, trapping, recreation, tourism and the general public. The Northern Center strongly opposed SB 310 the day it was introduced and opposed it to the end. At the March 25 Fairbanks Forest Summit we offered an alternative proposal to provide small operators with greater access to state timber without eliminating or circumventing public notice and planning requirements. In short, we have participated, challenged, and cooperated as we felt necessary and appropriate. Due to our involvement in, and up-close understanding of the public debate over increased logging in the Interior, we feel completely justified in pointing out the dangers of HB 212 and confident in our analysis that this bill is neither necessary nor acceptable.

With its history of placer mining and the construction of the pipeline, the Interior is no stranger to industrial development or economic cycles. Yet, we will not willingly let our community get used. Most of the logs from the relatively small-scale existing logging operations have been directly shipped out of state in unprocessed form. And if you listen carefully to the large-volume logging proposals, you will find they offer nothing in the way of a guarantee of sustainable benefits for local employment or value-added in-state



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processing. The social, economic, and environmental costs of such operations are destructive and unacceptable to the vast majority of residents.

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

The bill designates forestry the primary use on all state forests, regardless of the value of those lands for other public resources or uses. It does not provide a process for resolving conflicts or excluding lands where the public finds forestry would be incompatible with more or equally important public values. There are no requirements for DNR to identify, protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitats nor are they required to minimize impacts to these habitats. The proposed changes ignore potential impacts to other forest user groups and does not include measures to assess impacts to other public resources.

HB 212 undermines the state Forest Resources and Practices Act. The Act was revised in 1990 under a consensus among industry, state agencies and public interest groups. The initiation of significant changes without going through a consensus process will violate the spirit of the Forest Resources and Practices Act.

Additionally, the Northern Center opposes Section 2 and the last sentence of Section 9 of HB 212 which eliminate an important requirement that the state use the best available data to evaluate the cumulative effects of forestry activity on both the trees and non-timber resources. These sections prevent concerns over impacts to salmon habitat from being addressed without complete scientific analysis. The Northern Center believes there is still much to learn about ecological functioning and relationships within the boreal forest, especially with regard to the riparian corridors. Thus, the Northern Center believes management actions must be conservative where scientific data are limited. We encourage further research to ensure that the best possible data are available for understanding the long-term, cumulative effects of management decisions on the forest, fish, wildlife and people of the region. Without adequate funding for the Habitat Division of Fish and Game, and time to complete the research, this information will not be available. It would seem that this Legislature is unwilling to ensure that this level of funding remains available.

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

We object to the provisions in HB 212 Section 7 which change the primary purpose of state forests from one of multiple use, where all interests have equal consideration in the planning, to one of timber production, where logging interests will have primary say in the management of our forest. The Northern Center believes that the boreal forest has intrinsic as well as commodity values. Commodity production, while important

economically, is but one of the many uses of the forest. Proper stewardship of public forests should involve a balance among beneficial uses to minimize conflicts and preserve options for future generations. Forest management that meets multiple use objectives must begin with sustained forest diversity and function at the landscape level, not the yield of any commodity.

If the true intent of HB 212 is to help small logging operations acquire wood to be used in local high value-added products, the Northern Center believes that this can be accomplished, without legislation, under the existing statutes with a few minor changes in regulations. We introduced the Community Woodlot concept this past spring at the forum sponsored by the Lt. Governors' office. The Woodlot, a copy of which is attached to my written comments, would enable smaller operators to have easier access to timber and still satisfy the concerns of the other forest users. I have also included a report that addresses how the woodlot could be enacted with new regulations.

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

We believe that the answer to any problems with the management of our state forest land does not lie in special interest legislation from Juneau, but in broad-based community planning efforts. The Northern Center believes the impacted people of the region should have a major role in forest management decisions. Local residents are most directly affected by management decisions and must be fully involved in the formulation of legislation and agency policies which affect management and use of the Tanana Valley State Forest. We especially encourage collaborative efforts such as consensus building, to bring differing interests together to mutually resolve problems. We believe that effective public participation will ultimately lead to management decisions that are best for the forest and the wildlife, fish, and people that depend on the Forest.

We urge you to take a close look at the particulars of this forest debate, support an expanded planning process with meaningful public involvement, and oppose special interest timber legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

Dan Ritzman
Boreal Forest Coordinator

Submitted by: the Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Date: March 25, 1995

Community Woodlot Proposal*

The purpose of this proposal is to explore alternatives to the present system of timber sales in the Tanana Valley State Forest. Under the current system small operators are unable to acquire small sales. This proposal will allow Department of Natural Resources/Division of Forestry (DNR/DOF) to offer more small sales economically, and keep the two year public notice provisions of the current 5-year schedule system.

- 5 woodlots, each
 - 100 acres
 - different species (spruce, birch, aspen)
 - different ages
 - different regions of the valley
- Listed annually in the 5-year schedule

Within each woodlot there will be smaller sale units of 10 acres. These smaller units will be offered either as competitive bid sales or as negotiated sales. There will be a stipulation that no individual may have more than three "woodlot" sales at any one time. This provision would insure that the "woodlots" remained for the local timber operators.

This process would reduce the cost to DNR/DOF. Instead of 10 Forest Land Use Plans (FLUP), there will be one FLUP with 10 cutting units in it. There will be some increased costs, more site visits etc. but these should be minimal.

Two benefits of Community Woodlots:

- Social -- supports community utilization of forest resources and local needs.
- Economic -- typically small operators spend a higher percentage of their money within the local economy, generating additional jobs.

DNR/DOF will have to make some adjustments in the regulations, but if all parties are agreeable to this these changes could be made in a timely matter.

* This is an initial draft for consideration/input. Specifics should be adjusted to suit small logging operations with a high value-added emphasis.

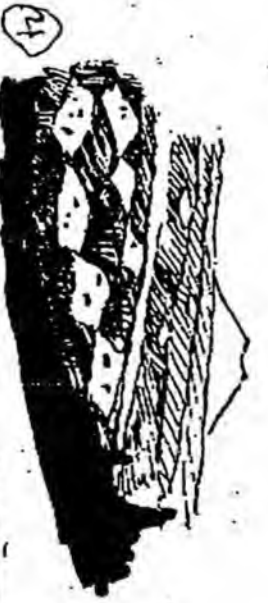
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115 people at Roadland, Corn King
 laundromat, the Madrite mine, the Captain
 Hawk Hotel, and in the Co-op Plaza were
 asked what level of clear cutting they wanted.

Results:

- 1) (none) 45 1.5 7
 - 2) (present level) 27 2.5 4
 - 3) a little more than today 21
 - 4) a lot 4
 - 5) a whole lot 12
 - 0) doesn't matter 0
- Erik Holland
 testimony
 2/1/96

WHAT LEVEL OF CLEAR CUT
 DO YOU WANT IN TAWAN,
 UNLLEY?



Testimony: Highlights of Quick 'N Dirty Poll

Good afternoon. My name is Erik Holland. I'm a muralist and tour guide in Fairbanks, AK. Tour guiding is a profession I love and I don't want to stop. So I have a story to tell and an invitation to extend.

I became concerned about efforts to build a large timber industry here in Interior Alaska because if they practice industrial forestry on the scale of I've seen other places, it threatens my job.

I wasn't sure how others felt, so I decided to create a little visual to show people to find out what level of clearcutting they wanted. I respect and revere democracy, so if it ~~the~~ turned out Interior Alaskans wanted a big timber industry... well that's majority rule. As I began the poll and to open my mouth many people warned me that Alaska was not "green".

The little ~~visual~~ visual I devised showed clearcutting in 5 stages.

(2)

Once I finished the card, I showed it to people and said, "We are going to diversify the economy here in Interior Alaska and build up our forestry industry. The Tanana Valley state Forest belongs to every Alaskan. So, your opinion counts, what level of clear cutting do you want in the Tanana Valley state forest?"

I asked the question at Caros Foodland, a grocery store, laundromats, and at Cushman, the unemployment office downtown business owners, and even during my Tuesday night league dart games. I did NOT ask around at the "U".

The results astounded me. I expected answers to cluster around 3, in a normal "bell shaped curve". Instead, number 1 was 1, number 2 was 2, 3 was 3, 4 was 5 and 5 was fourth, however,

seem to indicate. The results ~~indicate~~ a difference between the thinking of the people + the legislature.

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE
JEANNETTE JAMES

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House of Representatives

House District 34

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HOUSE BILL 212 TIMBER MANAGEMENT

The House State Affairs Committee introduced HB212 at the request of constituents from the timber industry in Fairbanks. These people are operators of small lumber businesses in the local communities. Their livelihoods have been impacted by the overly complicated procedures they must endure to secure timber from the state. It is not the lack of timber which has caused a problem, it is the inability of the Department of Natural Resources to allow the harvesting of this resource. Current statutes are such that the five-year planning and three year updates required by Title 38 make continuation of an ongoing industry very difficult.

Well-managed timber harvesting not only helps create and support jobs and a healthy economy, it creates and supports healthy forests. The Fairbanks community, as well as many other Alaskan communities, are being prohibited from developing the basic timber industries necessary for maintaining strong forest ecology and a strong economic environment.

HB212 addresses the minimum changes necessary to ensure the survival of the timber industry in Alaska.

Alaska State Legislature

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House Of Representatives

House District 34

HOUSE BILL 212, FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

Comparison of CS(RES) to the original bill

Changes made in the Resources Committee Substitute represent months of intense hearings with the House Resources Committee, the Department of Forestry, the Administration, the bill sponsor, and business people from the forestry industry. A truly cooperative effort resulted in this CS, which addresses the needs and wishes of all parties.

All section, page, and line numbers refer to the CS for HB212(RES) dated 1/24/96.

SECTION 1 of the bill amends AS 38.05.112(a) relating to when a site-specific forest land use plan must be prepared.

Page 1, line 5 of the CS rewrites the section to read, "authorize the harvest of . . ." The department does not harvest timber, it just sells it and allows it to be harvested.

Page 1, line 6 of the CS clarifies the harvest areas to be 10 acres or less, not just those less than 10 acres.

SECTION 2 of the bill amends the requirements for preparation of forest use plans under AS 38.05.112(b).

The CS rewrites the bill to put some of the deleted language back into the law relative to other agencies providing information on the effects of forest activities on the timber base. However, it would now only require the commissioner to consider such information, whereas under current law he must base the plan on the decision. With the new language, the department would be less likely to be sued successfully for not placing enough weight on the supplied information.

Also, the CS adds a comma after the word "agencies" on page 1, line 14, for clarification.

SECTION 3 of the bill amends AS 38.05.112(c) relating to considerations required in a forest land use plan.

The CS rewrites the first part of Section 3 to close a small loophole left open by the original bill. Basically, in developing a land use plan, the division will now have to take the actions described in AS 38.04.065(b) only if those actions have not been taken in developing a regional or area land use plan in the case of general state land, or in developing a forest management plan in the case of a state forest.

SECTION 4 of the bill amends AS 38.05.113 relating to the requirements of the five year schedule of timber sales; provides an exception for timber sales previously noticed in the five year sale schedules; and adds exceptions from the five year sale schedule listing requirements.

Page 3, line 17 of the CS adds the article "the" back in. This means that state timber sales will still have to appear in the five year schedule of timber sales for the two consecutive years just prior to their going up for sale. This is how the law currently reads. The original language in HB 212 would have allowed a sale to go forward even if it had only appeared in some five year schedule in the distant past. As the Administration has pointed out, this would have made the five year schedule totally useless as a planning document.

Page 3, line 20 of the CS is one of the more important elements of the bill. "Small sales" currently can be exempted by regulation from the required two listings on the five year schedule of timber sales. This provision would define "small sales" as those of 160 acres or less and exempt them by statute. This is in accordance with the original "Green Book" agreement, pages 43 and 44.

SECTION 5 of the bill adds a new subsection to AS 38.05.113 dealing with continued offerings of timber sales after the sale has been listed in the five year sale schedules.

Section 5 was rewritten in the CS to include a change requested by the Administration. All re-offers will have to be made within two years of the original offering year or they will have to go back on the five year schedule of timber sales. Presumably, this would also require an updated land use plan and possibly a new appraisal. The CS reflects the original intent of the bill, that is, the two year limit on re-offers was meant to govern sales that were offered and not purchased and sales that were sold and not harvested. The CS version makes more sense as a management tool.

SECTION 6 of the bill amends AS 41.17.090(c) by providing that detailed plans of timber operations on state land do not have to be prepared and submitted to the state forester under the Forest Practices Act.

The CS contains a simple change. Present law requires the operator to provide a detailed plan of operations to the Division of Forestry before beginning operations. It primarily applies to operations on private land, and the original bill removed the requirement for the state Division of Forestry to notify itself when planning operations on state land. At the Administration's request, the CS adds "state land not managed by the division," since the division still needs a plan of operations from Mental Health Trust land activities and University land activities.

SECTION 7 of the bill amends AS 41.17.200 by providing new direction for the commissioner of natural resources in the management of state forests.

Page 4, line 13 of the CS contains a change requested by the Administration. The word "emphasizing" has been replaced by "that provides for." This change reflects compromise language that retains the proposed shift of emphasis in the purposes section of the statutes governing state forests. Even without the word "emphasizing," the new language puts timber resources more into the forefront while retaining the multiple use elements.

SECTION 8 of the bill also amends AS 41.17.200, by adding a new subsection directing that the commissioner shall restrict public use of the land and its resources only when necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

The CS amends this section by dropping the elements relating to forest growth and wildlife habitat management. The CS retains the provision for full access and the provision limiting restrictions on land use to those necessary to carry out the purposes of the state forest. In the access provision, the phrase "fullest possible access" has been changed to "fullest practicable access." Not only is this a lesser standard, it is also one that should be less liable to litigation.

The CS also, in cooperation with the Administration's requests, redrafts Section 8 to eliminate the possible interpretation that a high level of roading would be required while still protecting against unnecessary restrictions on access.

SECTION 9 is a new section added in the CS. It is a technical, conforming amendment to AS 41.17.210(a) made necessary by section 10 and 12 of the bill. Those sections move existing language in AS 38.05.112(d) to AS 41.17.230(a). Section 9 merely changes an internal reference to AS 38.05.112(d) to reflect this change.

SECTION 10 of the bill amends AS 41.17.230(a) by providing that the commissioner of natural resources must permit and allow the uses mentioned in AS 38.05.112(c) in state forest management plans and provides procedures for the commissioner to follow if it is found that a permitted use is incompatible with other uses.

The CS puts the existing language of AS 38.05.112(d) into Title 41 where it belongs. The reason for doing this is that Title 41 governs Forest Management Plans, and this language sets forth requirements for identifying incompatible uses in Forest Management Plans. It does not belong in the section of statute governing Forest Land Use Plans (AS 38.05.112) but in AS 41.17. The only change from the existing language of AS 38.05.112(d) is the addition of the words "and benefits" on page 5, line 18.

Section 10 has also been modified from the original bill by removal of the last sentence which would have required scientific data to support any restrictions of use. This issue was discussed by the Board of Fisheries at length, and the problem they identified was that there may be reasons for some land use decisions that have little or nothing to do with scientific data. For instance, the state and local governments may decide that the best use of a particular part of the forest would be to set up some picnic tables and allow people to camp and fish by a particular stream or lake. Obviously logging would be restricted in that parcel, but it would not be based on scientific data.

SECTION 11 of the bill provides a wildlife management objective for the Tanana State Forest.

On page 5, line 22 of the CS, "human consumption" was changed to "human use" at the request of the Administration.

SECTION 12 of the bill provides a repealer to correspond to the change in Section 10 of the bill.



Greater Fairbanks

Chamber

of Commerce

709 Second Avenue

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Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

FAX: (907) 456-6968

September 25, 1995

Mr. Jack E. Phelps
Aide to the House Committee on Natural Resources
716 West Fourth, Suite 380
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Phelps:

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce recently passed Resolution 95-0918 in support of House Bill 212 and Resolution 95-0918.2 in support of House Bill 344, with some specified changes.

We strongly support reducing the bureaucratic process that is required for small loggers and small mill owners to obtain timber. The Fairbanks chamber also supports the governor's bill, which provides incentives for the local manufacture of high value-added wood products.

The Fairbanks chamber represents over 600 businesses with over 5,000 employees. Please take our membership into consideration as you review our resolutions.

If you have any questions regarding Resolution 95-0918 and Resolution 95-0918.2, please feel free to call me at 907-452-1105.

Sincerely,

William J. Robertson
President/CEO

WJR/kjh

enclosures



Greater Fairbanks

Chamber

of Commerce

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Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

FAX (907) 456-6968

Introduced by: Natural Resources Committee
Date Introduced: September 18, 1995
Date Passed: September 18, 1995
Date Transmitted: September 19, 1995

RESOLUTION 95-0918

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GREATER FAIRBANKS CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE SUPPORTING HB 212.**

WHEREAS, a bill is pending before the Legislature which would reduce the bureaucratic processes required for small loggers and small mill owners to obtain timber, and

WHEREAS, the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce, by and through its duly elected Board of Directors, (the Fairbanks Chamber) finds that this legislation is important and necessary to support and stimulate the local, small forest products industry,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce supports HB 212.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be distributed to:

cc: Fairbanks North Star Borough
The City of Fairbanks
The Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor of the State of Alaska
Legislative Information Office
John Shively, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources
Honorable Frank Murkowski, United States Senate
Honorable Ted Stevens, United States Senate
Honorable Don Young, United States Representative

PASSED on September 18, 1995 by the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

B.B. Allen
Chairman

William J. Robertson
President/CEO



ALASKA CENTER *for the* ENVIRONMENT

519 West 8th Avenue, Suite 201 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501
 (907) 274-3621 • fax: 274-8733

December 15, 1995

House Resources Committee
 716 W. 4th, Suite 380
 Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

Re: H.B. 212

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you again for coming to Anchorage to take testimony on H.B. 212, a bill which is of tremendous interest not only here but statewide. This letter will in some cases repeat, but will also elaborate on or add to, the oral comments we made at the public hearing on December 5.

First, a clarification. We raised the issue of scenic beauty at the hearing, and referred to the concerns about it raised by the many opponents of both proposed Turnagain Arm logging and the proposed Sutton-to-Clennallen intertie, because we think the protection of Alaska's magnificent scenic beauty often receives a far too little attention. We did not mean to imply, however, that it was our only, or even our most important, concern when it comes to logging and road building on state lands in Alaska. [Incidentally, we and most other intertie opponents, support trying to reduce electric rates in the Copper River Basin; we believe, however, that there are far better ways to accomplish that than building the intertie.]

Second, we would like to reiterate, especially since several loggers were critical during the hearing of the changes in the 11/20/95 Work Draft that was the subject of the hearing, that many of these changes were recommended not just by the administration, but also by the Board of Forestry. The board is a nonpartisan body, and as presently constituted it represents a broad variety of forest users. We believe that the changes are a definite improvement, and appreciate the committee's efforts to make the bill more acceptable to the majority of Alaskans who use the forests for a wide variety of purposes that are often incompatible with large-scale logging and road building.

Finally, we support attempts to make timber available, in reasonable quantities, to small Alaskan loggers and processors. However, we are not sure that H.B. 212 would accomplish that; instead, its primary focus seems to be making commercial logging a higher priority on Alaska's forests than other competing forest uses and resources, and reducing environmental protections. We suggest addressing the constraints on small loggers—such as bonding and insurance requirements, and the high cost of offering small sales—directly. For example, the woodlot concept, discussed we understand at your meeting in Fairbanks, might help resolve the latter problem.

The following are our section by section comments:

Section 1. How is salvage handled when land is cleared for a nonforest use? At Pt. Mackenzie a huge amount of timber was wasted when that land was cleared for dairy farms. Wouldn't a FLUP help prevent this from happening?

Section 2. We oppose this amendment, which would appear to eliminate from the existing section the requirement to analyze long-term and cumulative impacts. Yet cumulative impacts may be the most serious effects of some timber sales. It certainly is one of ADF&G's greatest concerns on the Kenai Peninsula, which has seen a huge total increase in logging on private, federal, borough, university and mental health as well as state lands. Due to the cumulative impacts of a variety of activities, the brown bear season on the Peninsula has already been closed, and it appears that the black bear season may soon be closed as well.

Section 3. We recommend deleting (c)(3)(D). Most wildlife biologists, both state and federal, believe that commercial logging is more likely to harm rather than maintain and enhance the quality of fish and wildlife habitat.

Section 4. We strongly object to eliminating the Five Year Schedule requirement for sales of 160 acres or less. This would mean, we are told, that nearly all of the sales in the Interior would not appear on the schedule, and that would be the case for a significant minority of Kenai Peninsula sales as well. We support the compromise recommended by the Board of Forestry that would require such sales to appear once, but not twice, on the schedule.

The Five Year Schedule is an incredibly useful tool. It includes (at the present time) in one document all state sales in the region for a five-year period. It is nearly impossible to learn about these sales from individual sale announcements buried in the legal section of the newspaper, and even if one did see all of the individual announcements one would still not have a good sense of the overall picture for the region. Finally, we do not believe that promises from the present administration to put sales on the schedule whenever possible in spite of the exemption is adequate since a new administration could adopt exactly the opposite policy. What is needed is a good law, not good intentions.

Section 7. We strongly support the changes made to this section by the work draft. We believe that the vast majority of Alaskans believe that our state forests should be multiple use lands where all forest resources and uses are meant to receive equal consideration. Large-scale commercial logging and road building are frequently incompatible with large numbers of other resources and human uses. Additionally, benefits from these other resources and uses can be obtained from timber stands daily/weekly/monthly/annually, while logging of the stands can occur in most regions of the state only every 100-120 years (or more, if we hope to maintain old growth).

Section 8. Most people now recognize that increased ease of access is by no means an unmitigated good. Adverse effects can result from spin-off activities and development, and the increased pressure that comes from increased access can degrade both fish and wildlife (and other resources) and the quality of recreational experiences. A balanced look needs to be taken at both the possible benefits and detriments that might result from increased ease of access in any particular situation rather than tipping the scales in favor of more access. Consequently, we support the administration's recommendation that

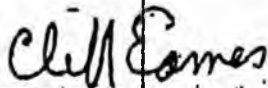
"the fullest" be deleted from (b)(1) and "only" be deleted from (b)(2). We suggest in addition, however, that "appropriate" be substituted for "practicable" in (b)(1) and "necessary" in (b)(2).

Section 10. We support the change in the work draft deleting the earlier scientific data requirement. Many land management decisions, and certainly ones that are far more substantial than the picnic area example, are rightfully made for policy reasons that do not have a scientific basis—and logically can not be expected to have such a basis. Logging is incompatible, for example, with a great many recreation and tourism activities, and both the public and the tourism industry would, for areas important for recreation and/or tourism, wholeheartedly support prohibiting logging in those areas. For example, Alyeska Resort recently wrote a letter to the Forest Service basically opposing the proposed logging in Turnagain Arm.

Section 11. We believe that the wildlife management objective for the forest should be the maintenance of wildlife populations in their natural diversity (a similar objective should be included for vegetation). Certainly the existing proposal would be greatly improved, however, by the substitution of the word "use" for the word "consumption," which would eliminate the preference for a particular type of wildlife user over the majority of users.

Thank you again for all your work on this bill and for coming to Anchorage to hear from us personally.

Sincerely,



Cliff Eames
Issues Director



Alaska Center for the Environment

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

February 1, 1996

House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: H.B. 212

Dear Committee Members:

Since I will be unable to attend the hearing this afternoon on H.B. 212, a bill of very great interest statewide, we would like to submit this letter for your consideration.

The Resources Committee has done a considerable amount of work on this legislation. We have attended most of the committee's public meetings or hearings on this bill, either in person or by teleconference, as well as the hearing sponsored by the Board of Forestry. Although the committee made several very positive changes to the legislation, two serious issues remain which we would like to bring to your attention:

1. **Cumulative effects.** On the Kenai Peninsula, the area we have focused on in the last few years, there has been an explosion of logging activity. A great deal of this has been on private lands, but borough, state, federal, university trust, and mental health trust lands are also being logged or proposed for logging at a greatly accelerated rate. We understand that the Department of Fish and Game's primary concern in this regard is the cumulative effects that this logging on a variety of land ownerships is likely to have. Yet Section 2 of H.B. 212 would remove a cumulative effects analysis requirement from the statute, as well as mandating the commissioner to only "consider" certain data rather than "base a forest land use plan" on the data. We urge the committee to delete Section 2.

2. **Five Year Schedule Exemptions.** Requiring that sales be listed at least twice on the Five Year Schedule before they can be sold was a critical part of the bi-partisan agreement that led to the Forest Practices Act amendments. Section 4 would eliminate that requirement for sales of 160 acres or less.

Proponents of this section argue that the schedule requirement delays "small" sales that don't require the same level of protection that larger ones do, and that it is consistent with the FPA agreement (see above). For many members of the public, however, these are not small sales, especially when considered cumulatively. A large majority of the sales in the Interior, a significant minority on the Kenai Peninsula and, we understand, many sales in Haines State Forest, would not appear on the Schedule if this amendment were to pass.



In spite of the FPA agreement (which is now approximately five years old), the Board of Forestry has recommended a compromise that we and many others support: requiring that sales of 160 acres or less appear at least once on the Schedule. This requirement would not be a burden to the Division of Forestry or to the industry since it would have little or no effect on how long it would take to prepare a sale. A FLUP needs to be prepared in any case and other tasks are of course necessary as well (we believe that the Division of Forestry would agree with this assessment).

On the other hand, the advantages of having sales appear on the schedule at least once are substantial. The schedule is an incredibly useful tool. It includes (at the present time) in one document all state sales in the region for a five year period. It is nearly impossible to learn about these sales from individual sale announcements buried in the legal section of the newspaper, and even if one did see all of the individual announcements one would still not have a good sense of the overall picture for the region.

Finally, we do not believe that promises from the present administration to put sales on the schedule whenever possible in spite of the exemption are adequate since a new administration could adopt exactly the opposite policy. What is needed is a good law, not good intentions.

We support attempts to make timber available, in reasonable quantities, to small Alaskan loggers and processors. However, we are not sure that H.B. 212 would accomplish that; instead its initial focus seemed to be making commercial logging a higher priority on Alaska's forests than other competing forest resources and uses, and reducing environmental protections. We suggest addressing the constraints on small loggers--such as bonding and insurance requirements, and the high cost of offering small sales--directly.

Alaskans have a tremendous interest in the state's forests and use them for a wide variety of purposes, not just logging. A number of very positive changes to H.B. 212 have already been made. Making the two changes recommended above would produce a bill that would still benefit the logging industry but would be far more supportable for the majority of Alaskans who depend on the forests for fish and wildlife, recreation, water quality, and other resources and uses that are often incompatible with large-scale logging and road building.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,



Cliff Eames
Issues Director



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1993-94

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#94-7

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Adopted by the AVA Membership
September 30, 1994*

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 18, 1996
To: Rep. W.K. Williams
From: Jack Phelps
Re: Summary of HB 212, version M

You asked for a summary of HB 212 in its current version.

General comments

The bill's overall purpose is to provide flexibility to the commissioner and, indirectly, to the Division of Forestry (DOF) so that the needs of small timber operators in the state can be assured of a timber supply to meet immediate needs as they arise. The bill also includes some small adjustments to Title 38 requested by DOF to make the law more in keeping with current practice and to ensure consistent treatment of all state lands with respect to forest management. Finally, the bill includes some adjustments to Title 41 which are intended to help secure a sustainable forest products industry on Alaska's state forests.

Section by section analysis

SECTION 1 exempts 10 acre sales (and smaller) from the requirement of a Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP). It also exempts salvage sales where the purpose is a land use conversion from forest to nonforest use. This keys in with your HB 121 from last year in which we exempted such sales from the 5-year schedule but not from the FLUP.

There is no controversy over this section.

SECTION 2 changes the requirement for the commissioner to base a FLUP on the best available data, including the data provided by other agencies, to requiring him to consider all the best available data in adopting the FLUP. This is, indeed, a subtle change, but it could be an important one in defending our timber sale program in court. This part of Section 2 has been agreed upon by the administration, including the Commissioner of Fish and Game. However, Section 2 also removes the direct references to "immediate and long-term" and "individual and collective" (generally referred to as "cumulative impacts") from the data the commissioner must consider when provided to him by other agencies. It is important to note that this proposed language does not prevent those agencies (mainly we are talking about Fish and Game's Habitat Division here) from providing information on

cumulative impacts, and if they provide it, the DNR commissioner must still consider it when making his final determination.

There is controversy about this section. In fact, the administration is now saying that it is their sole point of disagreement with the bill. As noted above, they have accepted the change to "consider," but they want the explicit references to cumulative impacts put back in. They have said, however, that if this section remains as is, they will continue to consider cumulative impacts.

SECTION 3 makes two changes to AS 38.05.112(c). The first simply ensures that all state lands subject to timber harvest will be covered by a planning document subject to public review of one of three types 1) area or regional land use plan; 2) forest management plan (applicable only to state forests); or 3) a FLUP if there is a proposed timber sale and neither of the two previously mentioned plans has been developed for the affected land. This clearly improves public process in land planning for timber harvest.

The second change in this section is to include a reference to silvicultural practices and timber harvest as legitimate forest management techniques useful for wildlife habitat improvement.

While initially there was some opposition to the second of those two changes, it has all died down and there is now no controversy over Section 3.

SECTION 4 makes three changes to the statutes governing the five-year schedule of timber sales. First, the information the department has to include is streamlined, removing the references to the department's allocation of resources. Second, outdated language referring to the first year of the five-year schedule is deleted.

There are no controversies associated with these first two changes.

Third, subsection (c) of AS 38.05.113 is amended to exempt sales smaller than 160 acres from the five-year schedule. This provides a definition for the existing exemption for "small" sales and takes it out of the regulatory arena.

There is controversy on this part of the bill. ADF&G along with some members of the environmentalist community want the bill to reflect the recommendation of the Board of Forestry, which was to require sales of 160 acres or less to appear in 1 five-year schedule.

SECTION 5 adds a new subsection to the five-year schedule law which would allow the re-offering of timber that has been through

the notice procedure but not actually harvested. This provision would give the division two years to re-offer such timber.

There is no controversy over this section, however the Fairbanks timber operators would have preferred more flexibility in this section.

SECTION 6 exempts DOF timber offerings from the plan of operations notification requirements. This eliminates the current, ridiculous practice of having DOF notify itself whenever it proposes to harvest timber on DOF-managed land.

There is no controversy over this section.

SECTION 7 changes the statutory purpose for state forests so that timber production is mentioned up front. The language in this latest version is somewhat watered down from what was proposed in the original bill, which called for "emphasizing" timber production, utilization and replenishment.

There is controversy over this section. The industry folks in Fairbanks think the language has been watered down too much. Some environmentalists want the purpose left alone. Rep. Davies wants the word "management" removed so that the purpose of the forest is multiple use, not multiple use management. The problem with that suggestion is the sentence does not set forth the purpose of the state forests, but the purpose in the establishment of state forests, hence it is not inappropriate to say the purpose is a particular type of management. Probably the sentence should be completely recast to actually state the purpose for the state forests, which is what most people think it says now.

SECTION 8 adds a new subsection to the purposes section setting forth a limitation on the commissioner's authority to restrict access to the state forests. It says he may not limit access unless it is necessary to carry out his statutory authority to promote multiple use of the forests.

There is no longer any controversy over this section since we eliminated the presumed indirect reference to road building after the December 5 hearing (compare the K draft to the M draft).

SECTION 9 is a simple conforming amendment made necessary by Sections 10 and 12 of the bill.

SECTION 10 puts language currently found in AS 38.05.112(d) into AS 41.17.230(a). The reason for this is that current AS 38.05.112(d) limits the commissioner's authority with respect to forest management plans which are authorized under AS 41.17.230. The remainder of AS 38.05.112 refers to Forest Land Use Plans (FLUPs), not forest management plans. This amendment would put all the references to forest management plans into the same

section of statute, thus reducing the potential for confusion. Section 10 should be considered together with Section 12 which removes the same language from AS 38.05.112. The only change to the language other than a necessary reference to AS 38.05.112(c) is the addition of the words "and benefits" to the information the commissioner must include when he declares an incompatibility.

SECTION 11 adds a wildlife management objective to the statute governing the Tanana Valley State Forest. It would emphasize the production of wildlife for human use as part of the state's purpose in having a state forest in the Tanana Valley.

There is some controversy over this section. The ADF&G doesn't particularly like it, but the administration agreed to accept it after we changed the word "consumption" to "use" at their request.

SECTION 12 merely deletes language from AS 38.05.112 which is moved to AS 41.17.230 by Section 10 of the bill.

ADDENDUM 1/29/96

The sole difference between version M and CSHB 212(RES) version O is the insertion of a comma on page 1, line 14.

JAN-29-96 14:52 FROM CITY OF SEWARD TO COUNCIL

CITY OF SEWARD

P.O. BOX 147
SEWARD, ALASKA 99664



- Main Office (907) 224-3331
- Police (907) 224-3338
- Harbor (907) 224-3138
- Fire (907) 224-3445
- Telecopier (907) 224-3248

January 25, 1996

Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

RE: Language Amendments to Timber Legislation

Dear Governor Knowles:

Community members of the city of Seward are among those statewide who are frustrated by legislation that keeps timber processing facilities failing - or completely shutdown. As you know, for a significant number of years timber sales have been insufficient in size and quantity to sustain timber products industries in the Southcentral region. The short-term, short-supply sales cause timber to be purchased, salvaged and exported in-the-round at a price that eliminates any hope of competition from the timber products industry.

We recognize and applaud your efforts to lift legislative restrictions in order to allow high value-added timber processing in the state. We truly appreciate your dedication in this regard, though the term high value-added restricts the development of potential timber products industries. Inasmuch as we feel that Southcentral and Interior timber supplies might be more appropriately used for plywood, waferboard or chip processes, the language that specifies high value-added should be amended to simply reflect a value-added timber product. By amending the language to a broader and more appropriate term, *timber products industries would be free to negotiate with the commissioner longer-term timber supplies to produce value-added products like plywood, veneer and other boards.*

The timber issue has been for some time the topic of debate and lengthy discussion among the Seward City Council, board/committee members and our citizens. At its January 10, 1996, meeting, the Port & Commerce Advisory Board voted unanimously to recommend that City Council urges legislators to amend the high value-added language to value-added combined with long-term, negotiated timber sales.

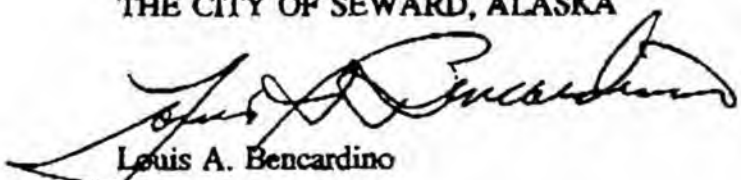
Governor Knowles
Timber Legislation Language
Page 2

At its January 22, 1996, meeting, City Council members approved the enclosed Resolution No. 96-007 which supports the board's recommendation and "urges Alaska State Legislators to amend the restrictive timber statute language that specifies 'high value-added product' to allow a broader criteria for the manufacture of (more diverse) 'value-added products', combined with long-term, negotiated timber supplies."

We ask that you seriously consider this amendment and thank you for your past support and positive efforts to stimulate the timber products industry. As you know, winter and year-round jobs are available through wise use of our timber resource.

Sincerely,

THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA



Louis A. Bencardino
Mayor

LAB:gp

Enc: Seward City Council Resolution No. 96-007
City Manager's agenda statement re: Res No. 96-007

Cy: Senator John Torgerson, Alaska Legislature
Representative Gary Davis, Alaska Legislature
Commissioner John T. Shively, Alaska DNR
Honorable Ted Stevens, U.S. Senate
Honorable Frank H. Murkowski, U.S. Senate
Honorable Donald E. Young, U.S. Congress

Sponsored by: Garzini

**CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA
RESOLUTION NO. 96-007**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF SEWARD, ALASKA, SUPPORTING LEGISLATION THAT
ENCOURAGES LONG-TERM, NEGOTIATED TIMBER SUPPLY
CONTRACTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS**

WHEREAS, from the 1995 City Strategic Plan, the Port and Commerce Advisory Board (PACAB) reviewed timber issues for further focus and determination; and

WHEREAS, a subcommittee of the PACAB was formed to research the Alaska timber industry issues and identify the elements required to sustain the operation of a local timber processing facility that would revive and cultivate long-term timber-based economic development on the Kenai Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, for several years Alaskan timber has been exported "in-the-round" and was acquired through high-bid, short-term timber sales which are cost prohibitive and uncertain for timber processing industries; and

WHEREAS, Alaska State Legislators have introduced legislation that attempts to resolve some of the significant problems associated with timber acquisition, in particular, the conditions for potential long-term, negotiated timber supplies; and

WHEREAS, SB180 / HB 344 refer to high value added wood product which "does not include plywood . . . waferboard, chipboard, fiberboard, . . . veneer, and other similar wood products specified by the commissioner by regulation;" and

WHEREAS, the PACAB subcommittee recommended that the timber bill language be changed to include those and other such "value-added products" and to include consideration of secondary product such as wood chips in the sale negotiation; and

WHEREAS, at the January 10, 1996, PACAB meeting members voted unanimously to recommend that City Council convey to legislators through our representatives the critical need to change timber legislation language to reflect the general term "value-added product," and to reinforce that a long-term, negotiated timber supply is essential for timber processing industries;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA, that:

Section 1. The City of Seward urges the Alaska State Legislature to amend the restrictive timber statute language that specifies "high value-added product" to allow a broader criteria for the

CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA
RESOLUTION NO. 96-007

manufacture of more diverse value added products combined with long-term, negotiated timber sales.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the city of Seward, Alaska, this 22nd day of January, 1996.

THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA

COPY

Louis A. Bencardino, Mayor

AYES: Anderson, Bencardino, Crane, King, Sieminski
NOES: Deeter, Keil
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST:

Linda S. Murphy, CMC/AE
City Clerk

(City Seal)

Agenda Statement

Meeting Date: January 22, 1996
From: City Manager Ronald A. Garzini
Agenda Item: Legislation Relating To Timber Supply



BACKGROUND & JUSTIFICATION:

Derived from the City Strategic Plan, the Port & Commerce Advisory Board focused on timber industry issues and formed a sub-committee to conduct research, culminate an opinion with regard to the issues and to develop a position in terms of how the city might effect positive change.

Efforts have been made by Alaska State legislators to create and amend statutes designed to assist the timber products industry. Though some industry members benefit from existing language amendments the gesture has fallen short of a greater intent.

According to statutes, high value-added wood product means kiln-dried or commercially dried lumber, interior finish paneling and trim, flooring, doors and windows, cabinet stock, furniture, musical instruments or parts of instruments, toys, tools and implements, ready-to-assemble building kits, and other similar finished wood products specified by the commissioner by regulation...etc. The term "high", preceding value-added, is far too restrictive to further develop potential timber products industries such as plywood, veneer, and/or chipboard plants. Our view is that Southcentral and Interior timber supplies might be more appropriate for plywood, waferboard or chip processes.

At its last meeting, the Port & Commerce Advisory Board passed by unanimous decision a recommendation to City Council that supreme efforts be made immediately to amend the restrictive term "high-value added" relating to timber to a broader and more appropriate "value-added" term.

By eliminating the restriction, industries would be free to negotiate with the commissioner longer-term timber supplies for value-added products such as veneer, plywood, and several types of board.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council pass Resolution 96-007 and convey to legislators through our representatives that the "high value-added" language be amended to "value-added", combined with long-term, negotiated timber sales.

APR 10 1995

BRIEFING ON THE ISSUES CONCERNING HB212.

When the Tanana Valley state forest was established in 1983, it was intended to be a "working forest" designated for use. To prevent it from becoming a park, 14 uses including timber harvest and access, mining, hunting, trapping, wildlife management, and recreation were guaranteed in the Tanana Valley State Forest law. It is inconceivable that someone would tamper with this hard earned community consensus. But in 1990, without representation from the Interior, the Forest Practices Act Steering Committee removed the 14 guaranteed uses from the original state forest law.

HB 212, introduced by Jeannette James, reinstates the 14 uses in the Tanana Valley State Forest law, restoring the intent of the state forest as it was originally created: a place for people to use. The Tanana Valley Sportsmen Association supports this multiple use bill; we assisted in drafting portions of it.

To understand the importance of the state forest, one must look at how it fits in with the other land use designations over the entire valley. Every land use designation has a stated "primary use". All other uses must be compatible with that stated primary use. Most of the valley, about 80%, is set aside as "limited use" designations: park, refuge, wildlife habitat, recreation, wilderness etc. In contrast, the state forest, a mere 5% of the valley, was set aside as an area to be used by people, to be actively managed to produce timber, game and other products, making it a unique and valuable asset to the local community. It provides a type of multiple use recreation that is rare: access by forest roads and trails. There are few areas one can drive to for this type of off-highway recreation. State forest roads and skid trails get tremendous use by hunters (grouse, moose, and bear), trappers, snowmachiners, berry pickers, campers, firewood cutters, skiers and dogmushers. The skid trails in the Rosie Creek woodcutting area have been used by the US ski team for training during the winter and mountain bike races during the summer. Winter roads put in by loggers are quickly taken over by trappers, dogmushers, snowmachiners and skiers. These multiple uses take place because of access created by timber harvest. The forest industry built the roads that everyone uses, providing unique recreational opportunities not available in the rest of the valley. State forest roads also serve to disperse hunting pressure.

Environmentalists have stated that the entire valley will be clearcut and roaded. How can this be true, when the state forest only covers 5% of the land? It is becoming increasingly clear that environmentalists wish to eliminate timber harvest from the valley. HB 212 is needed to protect our local forest industry and other forest users from continued attack from preservationists.

The boreal forest has evolved around major disturbances such as wildfire. Because fire periodically cleans out the older forest and starts new vegetation growing, forests in the interior do not reach old ages like those found in the Pacific northwest. Wildlife, particularly game and furbearers, need this new vegetation to provide food and cover. Environmentalists have dishonestly sold the concept that all timber harvest is bad for the environment. This is not true. Timber harvest, like fire, creates new vigorously growing vegetation important to our interior wildlife.

To understand the critical role timber harvest plays, one must understand fire history in the Tanana Valley. Since the 1950's wildfire has been actively suppressed. Before fire fighting, it's estimated that an average of 160,000 acres burned every year in the Tanana Valley. With the advent of fire fighting, less than 100,000 acres are burned in an average year. For forty years, the Tanana Valley has been shorted 60,000 acres per year of new vegetation important to game and other wildlife because of fire fighting. Forest inventories show that there are very few forests younger than fifty years old. To bring

back healthy wildlife populations, forest habitat must be rehabilitated. Since there are many scattered private lands in the valley, wildfire will not be allowed to burn in many places. Timber harvest and vegetation crushing are the only practical management tools available to bring health back to our ecosystem. Crushing is expensive. In contrast, timber harvest provides free habitat enhancement as well as access for hunters, trappers, snowmachiners, and cross country skiers, etc.

Although environmentalists talk glowingly about multiple use to the newspapers, their statements elsewhere show a "no use" view of managing the state forest. In commenting on the timber sale schedule, the Arctic Audubon Society stated: "This summer, members of Arctic Audubon formed a research group to inventory the distribution Townsend's Warbler because it could become endangered early in interior Alaska as a direct result of logging. Along the Cache Creek Road to Left Fork Creek, only two Townsend Warblers were observed....." The published range of the warbler is hundreds of miles to the east of this area. Any species at the edge of its range will be less abundant. Since fire fighting has kept the forest at older ages across the valley, species such as the Townsend Warbler should be at artificially high numbers and early successional wildlife, such as moose, ruffed grouse and hare, at artificially low numbers. Audubon's comments go on further to request that because of the Townsend Warbler, the state forest near the Cache Creek area "should be managed for natural values, which means no harvest or roads". If Audubon's comments were put into action, the forest would be kept at an artificially older age to the detriment of moose, hare, lynx, ruffed grouse and other important game and furbearers. We believe this is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to create a "spotted owl" for the interior with the sole purpose of stopping timber harvest and subsequent use by the public. An activist with the fringe environmental group, the Alaska Boreal Forest Council recently requested the Board of Forestry to restrict harvest on 75% of the state forest. The attacks on the state forest multiple use and our local forest industry are not based on sound management concerns, but rather on turning the one small piece of the valley allocated to use into a wilderness. HB 212 protects not only the timber industry but all users of the state forest.

Numerous guidelines exist within the state forest management plan, Forest Practices Act, best management practices, forest land use plans, forest management statutes, and regulations to provide for sound management of our state forest. All timber harvest is reviewed by the Departments of Fish & Game and Environmental Conservation ensuring that fisheries are protected and habitat enhanced. Each timber sale must be listed for at least two years and go through two reviews by the public. With the possible exception of oil and gas, forest harvest on state land is the most regulated of all industries. Except for very small sales, current legislation (HB 212) does not eliminate this review process as the opponents have asserted. We all agree that wise management is essential.

In addition to restoring the 14 guaranteed multiple uses of the state forest, House Bill 212 has clauses that TVSA drafted to protect multiple use, public access and management of wildlife for game.

We strongly support the return to the concept of a "working state forest" where the primary purpose of multiple use is on producing timber, because it results in game and access. Because the community receives many benefits from timber harvest, and harvest is critically needed to improve habitat and provides a type of recreation not commonly found (accessible recreation), we believe that HB 212 offers a win-win to our community by regaining what was taken away in 1990 and protecting our local forest industry from the onslaught of preservationists.

Sincerely,
Bud Burris, TVSA Forestry and Habitat committee

RESOLUTION- BY TANANA VALLEY SPORTSMENS' ASSOCIATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLUTION - BY ALASKA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

SUPPORTING REESTABLISHMENT OF PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE TANANA VALLEY STATE FOREST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Passed 2/6/95
ATTA Board of Directors

RESOLUTION #94-3
Upper Tanana Subregional Advisory Board

Timber Development For the Upper Tanana Subregion

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

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

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

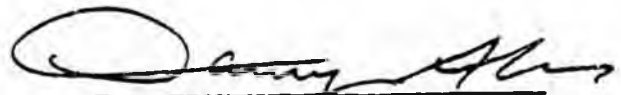
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Upper Tanana Subregional Advisory Board requests that the administration of Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. direct staff to assist the Upper Tanana villages in drafting legislation to:

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

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

CERTIFICATION

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



Danny Adams
Chairman



Alaska Environmental Lobby, Inc.

P.O. Box 22151 Juneau, Alaska 99802

Phone: 907-463-3366

Fax: 907-463-3312

MANAGEMENT AND SALE OF STATE TIMBER

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

SUSTAINED YIELD

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

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

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

ALASKA FOREST PRACTICES ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUR SHARED FUTURE

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

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

★ 1975 *Serving Alaska for 20 years* 1995 ★



Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.

121 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 250, Anchorage, Alaska 99583-2235
Phone 907/276-0700 Fax 276-3887

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Becky L. Gay

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April 26, 1995

Rep. Bill Williams
House Resources Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: HB 212

Dear Rep. Williams:

The Resource Development Council supports HB 212, a bill relating to the management and sale of state timber. RDC believes this bill addresses the minimum changes necessary to encourage the establishment of a forest products industry in the Interior, leading to economic diversification, an additional tax base for local communities and new jobs for Alaskans.

The bill targets overly-restrictive policies in Title 38 and reduces the tremendous amounts of paperwork that is required for smaller timber sales. Currently, sales of state-owned timber that create new wealth and jobs in Alaska are bogged down in excessive, time-consuming and costly procedures. For a small operator and others, the current procedures are totally impractical. However, the modifications proposed in HB 212 will simplify the process and reduce the time and cost of preparing site-specific forest land use plans for individual timber sales.

HB 212 would also bring current statutes back to the original legislative intent which created the state forests. HB 212 re-establishes true multiple use management on state forest, emphasizing production, utilization and replenishment of timber resources.

With 11 million acres of state land and more than 100 million acres of federal lands in Alaska classified for parks and recreation, it is most reasonable to designate less than 2 million acres in the Tanana Valley State Forest for multiple use management emphasizing sustainable timber harvests. HB 212 would help guarantee a long-term supply of timber, a key element necessary in attracting the investment capital needed in the establishment of a forest products industry.

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671

To	405-3793	From	Carl Johnson	# of pages	4
Co.	H105-0381	Co.	RDC		
Dept.		Phone	276-0700		
Fax		Fax	276-3887		

Scott G. Thompson
Berry D. Thomson
Doug M. Webb
J.C. Wingfield
George P. Wuerch

HONORARY DIRECTORS
Phil R. Holdsworth
William R. Wood

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Frank Miller
Congressman Don Young
Governor Tony Knowles

Page 2

HB 212 addresses the minimum changes necessary to ensure the survival of a timber industry in Interior Alaska. It achieves the long-standing objectives of economic diversification and new jobs for the region, while ensuring the sustainable harvest of timber in state forests originally created for the utilization of timber resources.

RDC supports HB 212 and encourages you to work for the eventual passage of this legislation. Please let us know what we can do to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
for Alaska, Inc.



Carl Portman
Communications Director

cc: Rep. Jeannette James

Alaska Forest Association, Inc.



111 STEEDMAN SUITE 200
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901-6588
Phone 907-225-8114
FAX 907-225-8920

**ALASKA FOREST ASSOCIATION, INC.
TESTIMONY REGARDING CS FOR HB-212
PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 17, 1996**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding the draft Committee Substitute for House Bill 212.

My name is Elizabeth West and I am the Director of Communications for the Alaska Forest Association. The Association represents thousands of Alaskans who work in the State's timber industry, with a \$45 million annual payroll and an estimated \$140 million economic impact to the state.

The Alaska Forest Association and its members support the passage of HB 212. This bill will improve the way the state conducts timber sales and will result in secure jobs, better quality of life for our members and improved economies in our communities. This bill also satisfies concerns about the intent of the state's Forest Practices Act for those of us who depend upon a healthy and sustainable forest industry in Alaska. It is a necessary first step in much needed reform for sustained use of our state forests.

The members of our association have long believed in balanced use of our forests and other natural resources. By basing land use plans on sound science and current data from all available sources, valid decisions may be made for multiple and

H 212 Testimony
January 17, 1996
Page 2

sustained use. And over the course of time, as best management practices have changed and improved, our industry has been flexible in its approach to management techniques. The concept of responsible use of commercial timber resources while protecting multiple, sustained use management principles is the best way to benefit all areas of public interest.

We applaud the philosophy that will allow the fullest practical access to and use of our vast, renewable resources. We are pleased to see a reversal of the out-dated presumption of harm that was associated with any human access to public land. We support to the fullest, and in complete confidence, the wording that state land managers have the authority and power to modify access as the need arises. Commercial timber harvest is not an incompatible use of these resources and should be allowed unless specific, scientific data justifies its restriction. With this provision, all concerns about personal bias and political agendas are removed from interfering with utilizing our forest resources to the maximum extent consistent with the public interest. We are agreeable to the possible exclusion of portions of the forest at the discretion of the Commissioner of the DNR as a reliable, impartial authority rather than the possible personal or political bias of a non-commissioned officer.

We support Section 11. The establishment of clear wildlife objectives for the Tanana State Forest makes sense within this bill. Clearly, timber management with habitat issues and related concerns on the Tanana is a prime example of what this bill is about.

In conclusion, I would like to restate the Alaska Forest Association's position in support for HB 212. We appreciate this opportunity to comment and thank the committee for its time.

To House Resources Com. RE HB 212
From Mary Shields - Fairbanke

Jan. 17, 1996

I'm sorry I couldn't get to the hearing this morning. Thank you for considering my concerns.

First of all I am relieved to see that multiple use is still the recognized management goal of the State Forests. We learn from nature that diversity is the wisest plan for future success of life systems, and the forest is certainly ruled by these same principles, as well as Alaska's economy.

I am alarmed that you might remove measures to know the big picture of what is going on. The forest is a biological system that knows no ownership boundaries. What we do to one part of the forest affects the remainder. What we do to the forest we do to ourselves. Please keep requirements to keep track of the immediate and longterm effects of all forest uses. Section 2

Also it is mandatory that we keep all sales on the 5 year Harvest Schedules. 160 is a large sale in the Tanana valley State Forest. Many in the last few years that I have looked at are smaller than 160. As a member of the public concerned with the forest, I want to have input into the system from the beginning...not just react to things after they occur. All sales need to be listed so the public can evaluate them. Section 4

I am also concerned about the wildlife management goals. I don't agree that providing more game for man's use is the ultimate purpose of the forest. The forest is home to many forms of life. All have a role to play and have evolved with the forest over thousands of years. Our wildlife management goal should be to maintain a healthy ecosystem for all forms of life. This in the long run will assure a healthy balance of species, and man will be able to use a portion of those for food. Section 11

Mary Shields
455-6469

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 # of pages = 1

To <i>Rep. Williams</i>	From <i>FRAN</i>
Co. <i>H Resources</i>	Co. <i>FBX L10</i>
Dept. <i>WANTED FOR TESTIMONY</i>	Phone # <i>452-4118</i>
Fax # <i>452-4118</i>	Fax # <i>456-3346</i>

Telephone 11/11/96



September 18, 1995

Alaska House of Representatives Resource Committee

Dear Representative:

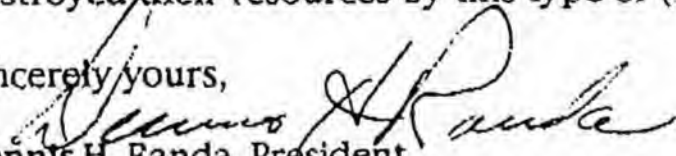
Trout Unlimited of Alaska would address the issue of timber harvest and alteration of the Forest Resources and Practices Act.

Regarding HB 212: Multiple uses of Alaska's resources is a philosophy which Trout Unlimited endorses. This proposed legislation is apparently intended to return to timber industry resource domination which T.U. opposes. Ignoring cumulative impacts, eliminating public participation, exempting small sales from the 5 year plan, and most importantly demanding complete scientific analysis of impacts to fish and game while the legislature has gutted the budget for A.D.F. & G. Habitat Division is nothing more than a guarantee for failure of the sustained resource management mandated by the Alaska Constitution.

Regarding HB 344: Large scale logging over a long period of time will unnecessarily impact regional resources and undoubtedly fail to meet the sustained yield mandate. The 10 year contract time will leave the door open for abuses with little leverage for contract compliance or adjustment for market fluctuations. Timber will only continue to become more valuable to Alaska and as such value added product must be a priority for our timber resources. High value added products will only produce more job opportunity for Alaska. My children grew up here but have jobs outside of Alaska. We need to provide jobs but they must not be at the expense of wise management of our resources nor must the push for jobs preclude the multiple use philosophy which is the only hope for sustained jobs in the commercial fishing and tourism industry.

This type of legislative manipulation of the Forest Resources and Practices act which was created by consensus of industry, agencies, and public interest groups can only lead to the decline of the resources which Alaskans value most: our fish and game resources. We must not follow the lead of the lower 48 states which destroyed their resources by this type of (mis)management.

Sincerely yours,


Dennis H. Randa, President

Alaska Council of Trout Unlimited

(907)262-9494, fax (907) 262-5920

3891 Frenchman Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 455-6227

Representative Bill Williams
716 West 4th Suite 380
Anchorage, Ak
99501-2133

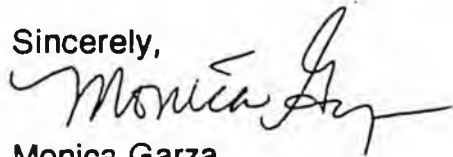
Dear Representative Williams,

On September 19, 1995 you and your committee were in Fairbanks taking testimony on various timber bills. I was at the meeting for awhile hoping to address my concerns on HB 344, but, it got too late and I had to leave.

Enclosed is a copy on what I had planned to say and I hope that it holds some meaning for you. If you have any questions feel free to call.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monica Garza". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Monica Garza

My name is Monica Garza and I am here to express my concerns on HB 344. I applaud the Governors efforts to find a middle ground on the development and utilization of our forests. This is not an easy process.

I believe it is important that the state not place itself in a position were it is subsidizing a logging industry. If logging is truly a viable industry, it should not need the limited funds of the state. We should not develop a corporate welfare program in our state. Care must be taken to avoid the mistakes that have taken place on the Tongass. The sound management of resources and not contract obligations should be the basis for utilization of the forest. Ten year timber contracts are too long. That is not how I want to see Alaskan land managed. There are too many variables economic, social, environmental to be locked into. Shorter contracts that can be renewed after users can demonstrate sound economic and ecologic impacts is what I would like to see.

As logging develops in our state it is important that care be taken to harvest enough trees to economically viable and not so many trees as to cause ecological damage to water quality, fish habitat and general forest health. The volume of trees harvested will have to be calculated on a site specific basis. This would be a wise thing to do for long term sustained use of the forest. It is important that no single interest or use of the forest prevail. This balance will be difficult to achieve and difficult to maintain. But if it is achieved it will be the envy of the world. Imagine utilizing a resource having it be renewable, and having other elements of that resource such as fishing hunting recreation wildlife tourism etc. continue to thrive. I would like to see that before a sale of timber takes place that the state require a cumulative impact report of logging activities on all other resources, uses, and activities of the forest and that there be continuous monitoring of logging activities.

As these are Alaskan trees the value yielded from these trees should be for Alaskans. I do not want to see our trees exported for peanuts to some other country and then those same trees come back to us in a new form for top dollar. I would hope that the state be vigilant and not allow the timber industry to squeak by and develop some loop hole for shipping trees away. Perhaps there should be a requirement that the state specifically state that in order to be a high value added industry that there be a minimum number of Alaskan worker hours per board foot be maintained.

The lower 48 has used and abused the forest and are experiencing tremendous consequences. This abuse was primarily by the logging industry because their sole interest was allowed to prevail. The logging industry develops short term jobs with long lasting adverse economic and ecological consequences. We are in a position to allow that to happen here or we can prevent it by developing responsible, multiple uses of the forest. There is intrinsic value in just having a forest. In fifty years there will be greater value to be had by just having a forest than there was by having cut the trees in a 10 year timber contract. Do we have the fore sight to understand this or will be only be able to look and the dollars we can hold in our hand for a fleeting moment?

Thank You for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Garza". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**James V. Drew
4725 Villanova Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709**

**TESTIMONY ON HB 212
Alaska House Resources Committee Work Session on Timber
Fairbanks, Alaska
September 19, 1995**

I recommend passage of HB 212 by the Alaska State Legislature. My reasons for this recommendation are outlined below. In developing these reasons, I am also suggesting a change that I believe would improve the legislation from the standpoint of the business community.

1. Currently, sales of state-owned timber are often delayed by excessive, time consuming, and costly procedures required by legislation. These delays have a negative impact on the business aspects of operations conducted by small loggers and small mill operators in Alaska. Specifically, they enhance the cost of doing business and make it difficult for locally produced wood products to compete with similar products shipped in from elsewhere. HB 212 is designed to remedy this deficiency.
2. The harvest of state-owned timber is a resource development activity that provides both economic and societal benefits in Alaska. Timber harvest provides jobs and income for people, and creates new wealth in communities. Moreover, through the creation of personal income, it provides a source of potential revenue for local governments to use in paying for services such as education, police and fire protection, health care, transportation systems, and the management of recreational lands. Today, local governments in Alaska are becoming increasingly concerned about sources of revenue to meet these basic community needs.
3. HB 212 clearly defines the primary purpose of state forests in Alaska as areas of multiple use management emphasizing the production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources while perpetuating personal, commercial, and other beneficial uses of resources. In addition, it requires that forest land use plans consider the use of silvicultural practices, commercial timber harvest, and related activities to maintain and enhance the quantity and quality of wildlife habitat. These mutually beneficial management practices are particularly important as forest land managers work toward meeting the challenge of reversing the deterioration of forest health in Alaska.
4. Operators of small, local timber harvesting businesses in Alaska need reliable and timely access to timber resources on state land if they are to operate successfully in a competitive market economy. With 11 million acres of state land classified for parks and recreation in Alaska, it is entirely reasonable to designate less than 2 million acres in the Tanana Valley State Forest for multiple use management emphasizing the production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources. HB 212 will reduce the government

procedures necessary to provide needed access to the forest resources for the production of wood products by Alaskans.

5. In line with the need to reduce time consuming and costly procedures, I wish to suggest one modification in Sec. 38.05.113 of HB 212. With respect to five-year timber sale schedules, this section now says: The timber schedule must provide a timeline that identifies timber sales, their amounts, and their locations and must be sufficient to provide the public and the forest products industry with a basis to comment on future sale offerings. I recommend deletion of the words, *must be sufficient to*. In the absence of a clear definition of sufficient, endless debate on what is sufficient could lead to continuing delays, legal challenges, and increased costs to the state to administer timber sales.

6. Lastly, the harvest of renewable timber resources on a sustained yield basis also maintains forest values desired by nonconsumptive users. I have personally observed forest industries in other northern countries where good silviculture is practiced that are far more extensive than now exist in Alaska. These same countries also enjoy the advantages of larger outdoor recreation and tourism industries than are currently part of Alaska's economy.

7. In summary, I strongly endorse the resolution supporting HB 212 that was passed by the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce.

MY NAME IS ALBERT PUGH. I AM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERIOR ALASKA FORREST ASSN. MY SON AND I HAVE OWNED AND OPERATED FOUR STAR LUMBER CO, IN FAIRBANKS, FOR 25 YEARS.

I AM HERE TO ASK FOR SUPPORT OF H.B. 212. THIS BILL ADDRESSES THE NEEDS OF ALL OF US IN THE SMALL TIMBER INDUSTRY IN THE INTERIOR.

WHEN ALASKA BECAME A STATE WE HAD THE RIGHT TO SELECT 104 MILLION ACRES OF LAND SO THAT WE WOULD HAVE THE RESOURCES TO DEVELOP AND CREATE JOBS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE AND ALSO CREATE REVENUE TO SUPPORT STATE GOVERNMENT.

WHEN THE ALASKA STATE CONSTITUTION WAS DRAFTED, THE INTENTION WAS TO DEVELOP THE RESOURCES.

TIMBER IS ONE OF THE RENEWABLE RESOURCES THAT SHOULD BE HARVESTED TO CREATE REVENUE.

IN THE EARLY 1980'S THE STATE SET UP A PROGRAM TO GET LAND INTO PRIVATE OWNERSHIP. SOME SITES WERE LAYED OUT ON THE BONANZA CREEK EXPERIMENTAL FOREST. THERE WERE ALSO SOME LAYED OUT OVER TOP OF A TIMBER SALE ON CACHE CREEK. IT BECAME VERY APPARENT THAT, WE IN THE SMALL TIMBER INDUSTRY THAT EXISTED, HAD TO HAVE A TIMBER BASE THAT WE COULD RELY ON. WE FORMED THE INTERIOR WOODCUTTERS ASSN. AND CONTACTED SENATOR BETTYE FAHRENCAMP TO FILE A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE TANANA VALLEY STATE FOREST.

THE TANANA BASIN AREA PLAN DETERMINES MAJOR LAND USES ON STATE LANDS WITHIN THE PLANNING AREA. THE PLAN ALSO SETS MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE VARIOUS RESOURCES.

THE PLAN DESIGNATES SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE USES FOR EACH MANAGEMENT UNIT. SURFACE USES ARE DESIGNATED PRIMARY IF THEY ARE MAJOR SURFACE USES; THE UNIT WILL BE MANAGED TO ENCOURAGE ITS USE, CONSERVATION OR DEVELOPMENT. A SECONDARY USE IS PERMITTED WHEN ITS OCCURRENCE WILL NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE PRIMARY USES.

THE PLAN ESTABLISHES MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES THAT ALLOWS VARIOUS USES TO OCCUR WITHOUT SERIOUS CONFLICTS. MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES CAN DIRECT THE TIMING, AMOUNT OR SPECIFIC LOCATION OF DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES, MAKING THE ALLOWED USES COMPATIBLE.

DURING DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORIGINAL PLAN, THREE ROUNDS OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS WERE HELD THROUGHOUT THE PLANNING AREA AND IN EVERY COMMUNITY IN THE BASIN. MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED PEOPLE ATTENDED MEETINGS IN 1982 TO IDENTIFY LAND USE CONCERNS FOR THE TANANA BASIN. APPROXIMATELY 170 PEOPLE ATTENDED WORKSHOPS IN 1983 DEALING WITH ALTERNATIVE LAND USE PLANS, AND 358 PEOPLE COMMENTED ON DRAFT PLAN IN 1984. THESE WORKSHOPS ARE SUMMARIZED IN SEPARATE DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

THROUGHOUT THE PLANNING PROCESS, MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING TEAM AND D.N.R. STAFF MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM MANY COMMUNITIES AND INTEREST GROUPS, TO INFORM THEM OF THE PLAN'S PROGRESS AND PROVIDE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW RESOURCE DATA AND PLAN PROPOSALS.

INFORMATION GATHERED AT THESE MEETINGS AND THE WRITTEN COMMENTS WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN IDENTIFYING IMPORTANT ISSUES, GATHERING DATA ON LOCAL RESOURCE VALUES, DEVELOPING AND EVALUATING LAND USE ALTERNATIVES, AND SHAPING THE FINAL PLAN.

FOR ACCESSIBLE PORTIONS OF THE BASING, THIS PLAN DESIGNATES ABOUT 240,600 ACRES OF STATE LAND FOR AGRICULTURE, OF WHICH 195,540 IS RECOMMENDED FOR PRIVATE OWNERSHIP.

ABOUT 11.5 MILLION ACRES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED PRIMARY USE WILDLIFE HABITAT.

ABOUT 1.8 MILLION ACRES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED PRIMARY USE FORESTRY.

ABOUT 4.8 MILLION ACRES WILL BE RETAINED AND MANAGED FOR MULTIPLE USE, EMPHASIZING RECREATION.

AS YOU CAN SEE THERE WAS A LOT OF WORK DONE BY A LOT OF REASONABLE PEOPLE

AL PUGH

ALASKA STATUTES UNDER 41.17.200-ARTICLE 3- STATE FOREST SYSTEM- STATES THE STATE FOREST PURPOSES AND SEC 41.17.210 FURTHER DEFINES IT -STATE FORESTS (A) THE GOVERNOR MAY PROPOSE TO THE LEGISLATURE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE FOREST CONSISTING PRIMARILY OF COMMERCIALY VALUABLE FOREST LAND-ETC.

SEC 41.17.230 UNDER (E) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL CONSIDER AND PERMIT THE FOLLOWING USES UNDER A MANAGEMENT PLAN UNDER (A) OR (B) OF THIS SECTION SUBJECT TO A DETERMINATION UNDER (F) OF THIS SECTION (1) COMMERCIAL TIMBER HARVEST AND RELATED ACTIVITIES AND THEN GOES ON TO LIST 13 MORE USES THAT ARE COMPATIBLE WITH TIMBER HARVEST.

THIS WAS TAKEN OUT IN 1990 BY A STEERING COMMITTEE SET UP TO LOOK AT THE FOREST PRACTICE ACT. UNDER PART 1-INTRODUCTION, IT STATES- TO ACHIEVE AN OBJECTIVE AND BALANCED REVIEW, THE REVIEW PROCESS INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF TIMBER LAND OWNERS, STATE AGENCIES, AND USERS OF PUBLIC RESOURCE AFFECTED BY FOREST PRACTICES. ALSO, UNDER THE GENERAL PUBLIC, IT STATES-THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS INVOLVED THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND STANDARD AGENCY PROCESS FOR PROMULGATION OF NEW CONFORMING REGULATIONS. ALSO, UNDER 11, THE STEERING COMMITTEE A. MAKE UP THE STEERING COMMITTEE, MEMBERSHIP ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE WAS A COMPROMISE OF REPRESENTATION FOR ALL WHO ARE AFFECTED BY THE FOREST PRACTICE ACT...ETC.

THERE WAS NO REPRESENTATION FROM THE INTERIOR AND THE TANANA VALLEY STATE FOREST AND THE HAINES STATE FOREST ARE THE ONLY STATE FORESTS IN ALASKA.

THIS COMMITTEE WAS TO COME TO A CONSENSUS, BUT THEY DID NOT.

AS SOON AS THIS REWRITE OF THE FOREST PRACTICE ACT WAS DONE BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE THE TRUSTEES FOR ALASKA FILED 8 LAWSUITS AGAINST THE STATE, STOPPING TIMBER SALES. FIVE YEARS AND \$109,563.00 LATER, THE STATE PREVAILED AND TIMBER SALES WERE SOLD.

I BELIEVE THE CHANGES MADE IN 1990 MAKE IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO PUT UP A TIMBER SALE THAT WON'T BE CHALLENGED IN COURT. WHEN A SUIT IS FILED, THE SALE GOES ON HOLD AND WE SET WITHOUT ANY TIMBER DUE TO THE SUIT AND THE SHORT TIME ON TIMBER SALES THAT WE MAY ALREADY HAVE.

AFTER THE CHANGE IN THE FOREST PRACTICE ACT IN 1990, THE STATE FOREST DOES NOT HAVE A PRIMARY PURPOSE. ALL OTHER STATE LAND CLASSIFICATIONS HAVE A PRIMARY PURPOSE.

THE TAHANA VALLEY STATE FOREST ACREAGE IS JUST UNDER 1.8 MILLION ACRES, SO IF IT IS HARVESTED ON A 125 YEAR ROTATION BASIS WE COULD BE HARVESTING 14,400 ACRES PER YEAR. AT THE PRESENT TIME, WE ARE HARVESTING LESS THAN 1000 ACRES PER YEAR. AT THE PRESENT RATE OF HARVEST IT WOULD TAKE 1800 YEARS TO CUT THE EXISTING STANDS. THE LONGEST CONTRACTS NOW ARE 4 YEARS, SO AT ANY ONE TIME THERE IS STILL 1 MILLION 7 HUNDRED 96 THOUSAND ACRES AVAILABLE FOR OTHER USES.

THERE ARE OVER 195 MILLION ACRES IN ALASKA THAT IS OFF LIMITS TO ANY TIMBER CUTTING DUE TO LAND CLASSIFICATIONS SUCH AS PARKS, WILDERNESS AREAS, WILDLIFE RESERVATIONS, ETC.

IF WE ARE GOING TO HAVE ANY TIMBER INDUSTRY IN THE INTERIOR, WE MUST HAVE H.B. 212 PASSED SO WE CAN HAVE A WORKING FOREST AS IT WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED.

THANK YOU
ALBERT M. PRGH
CHAIRMAN
INTERIOR ALASKA FOREST ASSN.

My name is Gayle Stevens I have lived in Nenana Alaska For 24 years. I own an RV Park. commercial fish and do the bookkeeping for the local grocery store. I have served on the Nenana City council for 9 years. Myself and my family utilize the natural resources and the forests in many ways. We trap, hunt and subsistence fish.

I have many concerns regarding logging in the Tanana Valley, as a fisherman I am well aware of the devastation to the fishery resource throughout our Nation, much of the problems have come from habitat destruction. Most of the studies that have been conducted in Alaska pertain to areas other than the interior. I believe that we must error on the side of conservation until studies can be done that apply to our area. The Interior is unique and studies must be done that are area specific rather than taken from information from other areas. We have watched as our fish runs have suffered due to over harvest in the oceans and we must not allow any unnecessary destruction of the habitat or spawning areas to add to the problems. Fishing has played an important role in the lives of the river people since Alaska became inhabited, we must look out for these people as a priority and not allow their lives to be altered for a few quick bucks for big business.

I have watched logs leave the Alaska Railroad loading area for ~~about~~ ^{many} ~~the past~~ years and there has not been any benefit to the local area. There has been no local hire, the companies do not purchase any thing locally or in any way benefit the local economy. At the same time, I have been out in the forests and have seen the destruction that is left. There are huge piles of logs left in the woods and large areas of clear cut.

We have many people in the interior that depend on the forest for their livelihood and these jobs can not be sacrificed for the benefit of others, especially outside companies. We must give equal consideration to all resource users. Many people depend on fishing, tourism, trapping and dog mushing. I have been out on a historically established trails in the winter and come upon logging trucks bearing down on me or an impassable snow berm.

My concerns are for the people left behind that must live in the area after the logging is done and are still here trying to survive. If we allow logging, even in the name of dead timber, along the rivers we will be putting

at risk all other resource users and the people that live along the river systems. Habitat needs the filtering, cooling and stability that nature provides and we could face diminished fish runs, flooding and loss of wildlife if we allow logging near the river systems. The rivers are so forceful that they can take large areas of land in a few years, if we cut the established stands of trees, we put the wildlife habitat at even greater risk.

We must keep in place all regulation that require equal consideration for all forest user groups and not make special rules for any state owned property. We can not allow special rules for dead or at risk trees. We must look at what effect all logging will have on the other resources or user groups in all cases.

AK RR only entity that has profitted from timber
sales in our area.

Nenana has shrunk
slow growth

Gayle Stevens
Box 38
Nenana, AK

HB 212 - against

September 19, 1995

I have been asked to speak before you at an unbelievably busy time of year for myself and my family. I initially did not believe I could make it, but these issues are so important that I decided to forego sleep to be here.

I have lived in the Interior of Alaska since 1975. Since then I have been a subsistence fisherman and dogmusher, and since 1984 my family and I have made our living through commercial fishing and tourism. (river tours-fishing-dogmushing rides and expeditions). We have had some lean years: during the Fall fishing crisis of two years ago, we barely had enough to live on. I had to put my children on the federal hot lunch program at the school. It was difficult. But, we love our lifestyle and the close proximity to Nature, and feel that the way we live teaches our children valuable lessons about man's interconnectedness with the earth and its creatures. They understand that our rewards are equal to our labors, and that resources are finite and must be treated with respect. We have a lot of variety in our lives: commercial fishing for salmon, and the trips we take our clients on to enjoy the unspoiled beauty of this land in the summer by boat and in the winter by dogsled to our remote lodge west of Nenana. Our guests come from around the world, from places that have been logged over and developed, and they love it here, simply because they can see the handiwork of God: in abundant trees and the wildlife they nurture. It is the untouched forests that keep them coming back again and again. Here are a few samples from our guest book.

"Thank you, otter beaver, moose, eagle, mosquito, and all nature for wonderful time. We will come back again." - Keizo Funatsu, Japan and now here (he relocated because of the beauty)

"A great country, wonderful fishing - we particularly liked the eagles, swans, and moose." - Gary and Pete Ubelhoer, Florida

"We stayed three days at Tolovana- watching nature. This will be on a world map." -Yvonne Nylunsing, Holland

As the previous manager of the Nenana Visitors' Center, I can attest to the 10,000 signatures recorded each summer in the guest book. The majority related to the beautiful country around us and the

abundance of salmon. My favorite was -"A civilized jewel in the midst of awesome wilderness."

Tourism provides initiative for diverse, economic expansion that reaches most businesses and encourages new ones in our area. Tourism is probably the largest private industry employer in the Tanana Valley. We buy fuel locally, hardware, many groceries for our guests. They stay in Bed and Breakfasts, motels and RV Parks. They eat meals out that we do not serve. They buy souvenirs, arts and crafts and smoked fish from local vendors. We use flight charter services as well. At this time, Ecotours are the fastest growing segment in the world tourism market. Such diversity allows people individual pride in their own accomplishments. It would not be the same if we all worked at the local saw mill.

As commercial and subsistence fishermen our very lives and that of our sled dogs depend on the salmon. We bought a commercial fishwheel permit in the late 80's for \$12,000, a substantial investment. At that time a good fisherman could support his family on fishing alone on the Tanana and Yukon Rivers. That is no longer true because of cut-backs in our fish openings. Who will buy our permits if the fish disappear? It has been demonstrated globally the negative affects of excessive logging, especially to the water's edge. Clear streams are crucial to spawning salmon. The world's fish are in a decline from habitat degradation and overfishing. Once it is gone, the cost of rebuilding, as is being attempted in Washington and Oregon and the East coast, far exceeds that of timber production. At this time we do not have scientific data from Forestry or Fish and Game that even begins to address these concerns. There simply has been little funding directed towards it.

Fishing is a way of life. It involves often the entire family. Many are also boat-builders, mechanics, welders. There are skills and personal pride inherent in such endeavors that are non-existent in such occupations as working 9 to 5 for the local mill. Rural people are hard-working and diverse, and making the state forest's primary use as logging quite simply sacrifices the lives and livelihoods of not only fisherman and tourism operators, but trappers, dogmushers and recreational users.

Do I use wood ? You bet. I live in a log home. I heat with wood. I use wood products daily. I support a small local operation (there is one at this time in Nenana). But, we do not support it if it takes precedence

over all other livelihoods. We live in the forest, with the forest. We use it, like we use the fish and a moose once a year. This allows others to do the same. We do not take everything for ourselves, which has been the history of the logging industry.

I have to get on with the daily activities of my life. These hearings do not take into consideration our lifestyles and the timing of nature that we depend on. Think of the many of us on the great rivers of this state and why we chose to live here when decisions are made. We are not voiceless, we are simply busy.

Thank you.

Kathryn Lenniger

Kathryn Lenniger
Box 254
Nenana, Alaska 99760



VanGo^{INC.}
CUSTOM TOURS
ALASKA
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P.O. 81914 FAIRBANKS, AK 99708 • CALL: 907-455-6499 • FAX: 907-455-4126

House Resources Committee Worksession on Timber
September 19, 1995

Thank you for the opportunity for public comment.

As an owner and operator of a local tourism business and as a member of AWRTA (Alaska Wilderness Recreation & Tourism Association) - a statewide industry organization, I'd like to talk about the role of tourism as it regards the forest.

Tourism has been traditionally viewed as a service industry. This is old thinking. The tourism industry - like the forest industry or mining industry or fishing industry - is a 'resource industry'. We are *directly dependent* on the natural resources of Alaska for our livelihood.

Tourism is the third largest private sector industry in this state, following oil and fishing. Ecotourism is the fastest growing segment of the tourism industry, growing over 20% a year. The ecotourism/soft adventure sector of the tourism industry makes significant financial contributions to local communities and hires local residents. This has been documented in recent research from ISER (the University's Institute of Social & Economic Research). The research shows that our clients - ecotourism clients - spend more and stay longer than other visitors to the state.

I'll give you an example from my business. This past March I had a group of 10 clients on a trip which would be described in the industry as ecotourism. The cost of the trip was \$3900/per person - which was money all spent locally, as it did not include airfare to Alaska. The clients also collectively spent over \$8000 shopping over a 2 day period in locally owned shops. This is one group. Multiple this times many more and you can get a picture of the significant economic contribution to our local economy.

These kind of clients come to Alaska because of our natural resources, because of the physical beauty, because of the opportunity to experience nature, because of wilderness, because it is different than anywhere else. The forest of the Interior is a valuable resource to my business, both summer and winter.

State agencies so often lump tourism with 'recreation.' Yes the clients are on vacation and recreating BUT the services that Alaska businesses provide for them is not recreation. It is business activity. And again it is the 3rd largest private sector industry in Alaska. The state is always touting 'private sector development' / 'private & public partnerships' / 'infrastructure development for private sector' - Well the forest is *infrastructure* for my industry - for the visitor



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industry / tourism. What the state does regarding forest management and development very directly impacts tourism. We seem to be left out of HB 212.

Also it often appears to me, as a small business owner that the state is often in conflict with itself about public policy. A recent example related to the forest is a project of the ATMC, Alaska Tourism Marketing Council, who receives state funding. Their advertising agency in Anchorage sends out sends a biweekly promotional piece called "Headline News From the Last Frontier" to journalists across the country in hopes of interesting them in Alaska travel-related editorial a recent one promotes Alaska's fall colors - the forest's colors. It touts Alaska's trees as a fall destination over New England. *(see attachment)*

Is it jobs and job creation that motivated this bill? Then let's look forward - to growing industrys, to world trends, to the technological changes in our society that are forging a global economy that operates very differently from one grown in the industrial revolution.

I read a lot of tourism focused business information from newsletters, industry trends & data, specific periodicals, conference findings, etc. to stay current on the market - what people want, what they are going to pay for, what's in, etc. You might be interested to know that what Alaska is - essentially undeveloped, a piace of raw natural beauty, a place with true wilderness - is one of the very few places in the world where this can be had. The value of a river that 'just is' / a mountain that 'just is' / a forest that 'just is' / has value now and it will have an even higher value in the future.

I don't believe in everything being quantifiable - but if you need to look at things that way you might consider an analogy between the price tag of a gallon of water in Saudi Arabia and the future price tag for 'admission' to a natural place - especially when there is almost none to be had anywhere in the world.

Administration of forest land and the management of timber must include the perspectives of the tourism industry in a serious manner. HB 212 does not provide for tourism interests in an adequate way. This is why I am opposed to HB 212.

Sincerely,

Patricia Walsh

3601 C Street, suite 700

ANCHORAGE ALASKA 99503-5935

(907)563-2289 / (907)563-3573 fax

TDD (907)465-5437



MEMORANDUM

TO: All "Headline News From the Last Frontier"
News Sources

FROM: Robbie Graham/Bernholz & Graham *RG*

RE: Deadline for Reviewing Attached Copy

DATE: Sept. 14, 1995

COPY: David McCormick
David Karp, ATMC
John Litten, ATMC

Recently, you spoke with David McCormick regarding the attached story, and provided him with very interesting information and quotes for our headline news stories. As he explained, the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council sends these timely headlines out every other Monday to journalists around the country in hopes of interesting them in Alaska travel-related editorial. If they are interested in a headline, they can request a full text of the story for publication or further reporting.

There is no guarantee these stories will be used. However, there also is the likelihood that if they are used, the editors or writers may want to contact you for further information.

Since you have contributed to the background of this story, we want you to know what is being sent out. Please take a moment to review the story and let us know if there are any factual errors or incorrect spellings of names, tours, places, etc. We are not asking you to edit the stories or comment on the content. Rather, we are simply asking you to make sure that your portion is correct, and to providing you with the information being sent out in case you are contacted for further details.

Please contact me by noon on Friday, Sept. 15 at 561-4488 if there are any changes or corrections to be made to your specific mention. Otherwise, we must assume that all the information is correct and available for distribution. Headlines will be faxed via PR Newswire on Monday, Sept. 18, and stories will be available on the same date.

Thank you in advance for your help with this story, and we will look forward to working with you again in the near future.

Alaska in Autumn Shows Nature at Its Best

ANCHORAGE, Alaska _ Combine shirtsleeve weather, eye-popping colors and the smallest crowds of the year and you've got what many consider to be Alaska's finest season: autumn.

With many Eastern states suffering a second straight year of early and lackluster fall foliage, some tour operators are focusing on the seasonal splendor of Alaska.

"We've got a tour that just went through Denali National Park, and everybody said the scenery was just spectacular," said Silke Busche, manager of tours for St. Tours in Sarasota, Fla.

Like many operators, St. Tours takes advantage of Alaska's off-season rates to offer lower-cost excursions throughout September, when fall colors are at their peak.

Alaska offers a unique autumn palette, contrasting stands of yellow birch and golden aspen against deep green spruce. Looming above treeline is a vast expanse of tundra in a thousand shades of red, purple and orange.

Fall is also prime time for wildlife viewing. Along the coast, whales are making their annual migration to winter feeding grounds and salmon can be seen spawning in shallow streams. Further inland, bull moose and caribou are locking antlers in preparation for mating season.

"It's a time when the north country is entering its essence: preparing for winter," said Pat Walsh, owner of VanGo Tours and Alaska Places, a tour operator based in Fairbanks who offers custom itineraries with a nature/environmental orientation. "Fall is a fantastic time of year here, and probably the least crowded."

John Hall, president of Anderson House Tours in Wabasha, Minn., began offering fall tours of Alaska six years ago. "My goal was to fill one trip," he said. "We ended up selling four. This year we're doing eight."

"I do a lot of tours to New England," he said, "but as an all-around fall color tour, I don't think you can beat Alaska."

A growing number of conventions as well as tour groups are choosing Alaska in autumn, said Keith Fernandez, communications director with the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Wednesday, September 13, 1995 2:12:24 PM c(907) 783-3412

"Trying to sell Alaska outside the summer can be tough," he said, "so we bring a lot of people up here to let them see for themselves what it's like. Once they're here, the scenery sells itself."

(Media contacts: Silke Busche at St. Tours, 813-957-4880. John Hall at Anderson House Tours, 800-325-2270. Pat Walsh, VanGo Tours and Alaska Places, 907-455-6499. Keith Fernandez, Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau, 907-276-4118)

**COMMENTS OF KETCHIKAN PULP COMPANY
REGARDING HB 212 BEFORE
ALASKA HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 5, 1995**

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on HB 212. Ketchikan Pulp Company (KPC) supports clarification of the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Regulations.

KPC strongly supports any legislation which promotes more development of our forests. These forests, if allowed to be managed properly, can produce year-round employment in rural areas which currently have only seasonal employment.

It is imperative that a timber base be established that can be harvested economically with a certain and stable supply. This will promote long-term capital expenditures which are necessary to build an industry that will be a long term employer.

These goals can be reached with sound silvicultural practices with no significant impact on other multiple use management aspects.


KPC is an excellent example of how government and industry can work together to promote a strong and long-lasting economy.

The key points regarding this legislation are:

- Emergency sales of less than 160 acres. This would allow "fast tract" identification and harvest of local forest emergencies, such as bug infestation or blowdown.
- Clarification of multiple use management for production, utilization and replenishment of timber resources.

KPC is very willing to work with the governor to create legislation which will meet his objectives and improve the forest products industry across the state.

Thank You,


Paul Slenkamp

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

1/24/96

(9)

Date Referred: March 22, 1995

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Finance

Date of Committee Action: 1/18/96

The RESOURCES Committee considered:

HB 212

HOUSE BILL NO. 212

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

"An Act relating to the management and sale of state timber and relating to the administration of forest land and classification of state land."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute CS HB 212 (RES) the same title a new title

additional referral to _____ Committee

attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: _____ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal note(s) ADF+G

fiscal note(s) _____

(2) zero fiscal note(s) DNR, DEC

zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<u>Nicholia</u> (Nicholia)				X
<u>Davies</u> (Davies)				X
<u>Long</u> (Long)				X
<u>Kott</u> (Kott)	X			
<u>Austerman</u> (Austerman)	X			
<u>Barnes</u> (Barnes)	X			
<u>Ogan</u> (Ogan)	X			
<u>Williams</u> (Williams)	X			
<u>Green</u> (Green)	X			
	(6)			(3)

CO-CHAIR'S SIGNATURE

W.K. Williams
(Williams)

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

3/22/95

(7)

Date Referred: March 1, 1995

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Resources
Finance

Date of Committee Action: March 21, 1995

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HB 212

HOUSE BILL NO. 212

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

"An Act relating to the management and sale of state timber and relating to the administration of forest land and classification of state land."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute _____ the same title a new title

additional referral to _____ Committee
 attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: _____ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

(a) fiscal note(s) DEC _____ fiscal note(s) _____
Fish + Game
 zero fiscal note(s) DNR _____ zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<u>Scott</u> Ogan			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<u>Ed Willis</u> Willis				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Brian Porter</u> Porter			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<u>Jeanette James</u> James	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<u>Ivan</u> Ivan			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<u>Green</u> Green			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	(1)		(4)	(1)

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE Jeanette James
James

FINAL REPORT

INCREASED
TIMBER HARVESTING
IN THE
TANANA VALLEY:

WHAT DOES THE PUBLIC THINK?

A Public Opinion Survey

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

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

Prepared for:

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

March 1995

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

Prepared for the Fairbanks Industrial Development Corporation
by

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

Introduction

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

Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

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

Survey³ Designed and Pretesting. A draft of the survey was completed by the first of October, 1994. We then began circulating the survey to various interest groups in the area to solicit their comments.³ The result was that a number of substantial changes were made to the survey over the following month. By the first of November, we had a survey instrument which was in an advanced enough state that we began testing it on various classes at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.⁴ These pretests allowed us to find several areas of confusion as well as to obtain estimates of length, difficulty, and expected response rates.

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

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

RESULTS

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

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

- Over ninety percent of respondents indicated that they used the forest for recreation. About thirty percent of the total thought that increased timber harvesting would make them worse off in their recreational use of the forest, and about twenty percent thought their recreational use of the forest would be made better off. Those who thought they would be made worse off supported increased timber harvesting only about twenty-five percent of the time, relative to over eighty percent of the time for those who thought they would be made better off.

- About seventy percent of the respondents used the forest for hunting and gathering, and about forty percent indicated that they used it for trapping. Less than twenty percent of respondents thought they would be made worse off hunting, gathering and trapping, but those who thought they would be made worse off supported the increased timber harvesting much less than those who did not think they would be made worse off.

- Between sixty and seventy percent of respondents used the forest for lumber, firewood, or in their business or employment. Only ten to twenty percent of respondents in these categories thought they would be made worse off with increased timber harvesting. However, those who thought they would be made worse off in these uses were much less likely to support proposals for increased timber harvesting.

- Viewing was a use category indicated by over ninety percent of the respondents. This is also the use category with the most respondents who thought they would be made worse off, with over forty percent saying they would be made worse off in their viewing use of the forest. About sixty percent of those who thought they would be made worse off in viewing opposed increased timber harvesting.

- Respondents were asked how increased timber harvesting would affect their spiritual use of the forest. About seventy-five percent of the population reported using the forest in this way. Those who said they would be made worse off were about three times less likely to support timber harvesting than other respondents.

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

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

- Most respondents were either neutral or did not know whether the timber industry in the Tanana Valley had been environmentally responsible, and only about fifteen percent disagreed. However, about forty percent of respondents agreed that increased timber harvesting would be harmful to the environment.
- About ten percent of respondents agreed that development should be pursued no matter what the environmental cost. An additional ten percent said they agreed that the environment should be protected no matter what the cost. Thus about twenty percent of respondents were either adamantly opposed to or in favor of increased economic development at the expense of the environment.
- Although about sixty percent of respondents felt the state would ensure that the timber harvesting would be sustainable, about sixty percent also thought the state needed to do more planning before it allows increased timber harvesting.
- About eighty percent of respondents either agreed or were neutral to the idea of keeping any roads built for timber harvesting open to public access.
- About half the respondents agreed that the state might end up subsidizing the industry, although only about twenty percent actually supported doing this.
- About sixty percent of respondents felt that increased timber harvesting should be done only if Alaskan owned and operated. However, those who agreed with this were not much different than the remaining population in how they supported the increased timber harvesting proposal.

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

- Restricting the increased timber harvesting to particular regions (e.g., Fairbanks region or Delta Junction and Tok region) would encourage less support.
- Putting fifty percent of the forest off-limits to timber harvesting would have no effect.
- A restriction that the industry could only produce high valued-added products would have no net effect on public support. Those who opposed increased timber harvesting without the restriction were more likely to support it with this restriction, but those who supported increased timber harvesting without the restriction were less likely to support it with the restriction.
- However, if the industry were only permitted to produce low value-added products such as wood chips, there would be about a twenty-five percent decline in support. This would mean that almost sixty percent of respondents would oppose increased timber harvesting in this case.
- Setting fifty percent of the land aside for small operators would cause a slight increase in support, but subsidizing them directly would cause support to decline by over twenty -five percent.
- If the cutting were coordinated to maximize habitat for game, support rose to almost three fourths of the population.

Discussion and Conclusions

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

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

Endnotes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

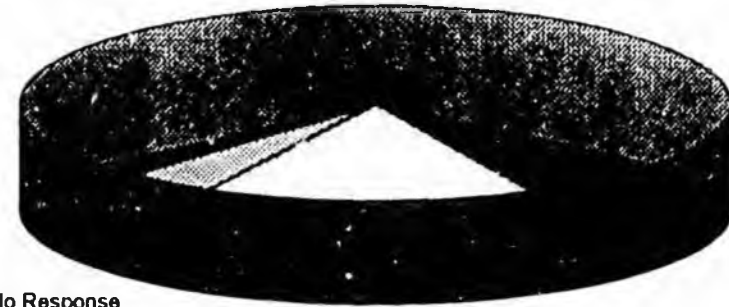
Table 4.1 (continued)

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

Questions
Regarding the Economy
and Timber Harvesting
in the Tanana Valley

Would Increased Timber Harvesting Help the Alaska Economy?

Yes 72%



No Response
2%

Unsure
4%

No
15%

Neither Agree Nor
Disagree 7%

Would You Support A Referendum to Increase Timber Harvesting in the Tanana Valley?

Yes
64%



No
33%

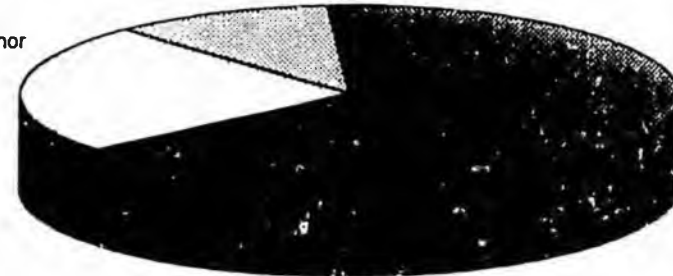
No Response 3%

Is Increased Timber Harvesting the Right Type of Development for the Tanana Valley?

Don't Know
11%

No Response
1%

Neither Agree nor
Disagree
24%



Yes 42%

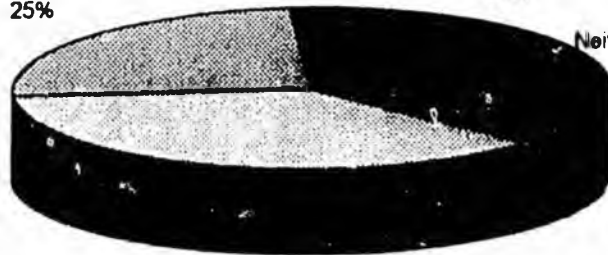
No 22%

Will Increased Timber Harvesting Ruin Small Operators?

Unsure
25%

No Response
1%

Yes
18%



Neither Agree Nor
Disagree
19%

No
37%

Does the Tanana Valley Need New Economic Development?

No Response 1%
Don't Know 2%

Neither Agree Nor
Disagree 8%



Yes
82%

No
7%