ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1985-1986 8672

3602 HRES SJR 20 - SJR 50

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RECORDS CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, an employee of the State of Alaska, do hereby certify that the microfilm images on this microform are accurate reproductions of the original records of the State of Alaska as accumulated during the regular course of business, and that it is the established policy and practice of this State to microfilm its records and to dispose of the original records after microfilm reproductions have been made.

James O. Smith
Signature of Camera Operator

9/5/89
Date

02-519 (REV 8/78)

SJR

20

TO: Members of House Committee on Resources

FROM: Senator Coghill

RE: Soil conservation budget cuts

Soil and Water Conservation Programs will be cut drastically in fiscal year 1986 and 1987. Alaska will bear the brunt of many of these cuts as we are still a developing state. Much of our soils have not been surveyed, our resources uninventoried. The rationale behind much of the cuts is that the the work has been accomplished. That may be well and good for California or the Midwestern farm states, but Alaska is not in the same situation.

The programs which most effect Alaska include soil surveys, snow surveys and watershed planning and construction.

Anticipated cuts will result in the loss of about nine local conservationists. The state does not have the staff to make up for these positions.

The following is an excerpt from the FY1986 Budget Summary for the United States Department of Agriculture:

> "Snow Surveys and water forecasting provide a valuable service to water management groups responsible for over 10 million acres in the Western States and Alaska for

irrigation, flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife power generation, municipal and industrial water supply and water quality. It is not an essential activity to support the Federal-State-local conservation technical assistance program. Snow survey work can be continued by private or public organizations serving the areas primarily benefitting from this activity."

Snow surveys are important to our river areas. They give an indication of the potential run-off and flooding. The Interior received 200 to 300 percent more snow than usual this winter. The assistance of the soil and water conservationists can not be overestimated for the upcoming years.

Watershed planning and construction, including river basin surveys and flood prevention will be terminated during 1986. The U.S.D.A. claims these programs have a lower priority for Federal funding in the conservation areas. It believes that states should take over these functions if the services are beneficial. Presently we do not have the staff to take over these functions and probably will not be able to by the 1986 termination date.

Resource inventories and analysis will be updated in 1985, but further analysis will be scheduled for some time in the 1990's. As a developing, changing state our resource areas must be inventoried so we make prudent decisions based on as much data as possible. Timely resource inventories will assist our public officials toward this goal.

Soil surveys basic services will be continued, but will be provided as needed. Project mapping will be done on a priority basis where the soils information is urgently needed. The mapping of Federal Service and

Bureau of Land Management will be discontinued. All the agricultural land in Alaska has been mapped by this service. Our soils are extremely fragile. We can not afford to lose these vital services.

(The following material is an excerpt from the FY 1986 Budget Summary for the United States Department of Agriculture.)

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS
(Program Level in Millions)

Agency/Program	1984 Actual	1985 Current Estimate	1986 Budget	1987 Budget
Soil Conservation Service:				
Conservation technical assistance	$275	$272	$285	$160
Soil surveys	54	54	51	36
Plant material centers	4	4	4	4
Resource inventories and analysis	18	18	11	- -
Snow surveys	4	4	3	- -
Great plains conservation program	21	21	7	- -
Watershed planning, construction	245	230	93	- -
Total	621	603	454	200
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service:				
Agricultural conservation program	190	190	- -	- -
Other cost-sharing programs	40	21	- -	- -
Total	230	211	- -	- -
Total, SCS & ASCS Conservation	$851	$814	$454	$200

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

The budget provides $200 million and 5,000 staff-years for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) for 1987. This level is about one-third the funding and staffing level appropriated for 1985. The transition year of 1986 will reduce employment by approximately 9,300 employees at a one time cost of $254 million. ASCS Conservation cost-sharing programs are discontinued also. Over the five year period 1986-1990, the budget proposal would yield savings of $2.8 billion compared to a continuation of SCS and ASCS program at the current level.

While the 1986 program and budget proposal is heavily influenced by fiscal policy constraints, it also reflects 1) the outlook that the economic incentives to devote marginal, erosion-prone land to row crops will be lessened once the Administration's commodity program legislation is enacted, 2) the general policy that Federal programs of financial assistance to individuals and state and local units of government should be cut back, especially in those cases where economic incentives of existing non-federal institutions might come more significantly into play in the absence of current levels of Federal assistance, and 3) the general recommendation from the Grace Commission that major economies could be achieved by limiting federal staffing in conservation district offices.

April Snow Survey Report

By Roger Boyer
U.S. Soil Conservation Service

Snow survey has shown some interesting facts this month. Many people felt that the high winds and warm temperatures which we experienced in March were probably reducing the overall snow pack and moisture levels. Observations made at the end of the month do not verify this.

Snow packs and moisture levels throughout the area have increased either slightly or, in some cases, dramatically. Tok and Fielding Lake are the only areas with snow pack moisture levels near average. The heaviest snow pack, relative to long term averages, is at Shaw Creek Flats, where moisture levels at over 250 per cent of normal. There are nearly seven inches of water laying on the ground. This breaks the snow pack moisture level record. The Delta-Clearwater area increased slightly in snow depth and moisture, going from 23 inches to 25 inches of snow, and from 4.8 inches to 5.2 inches of water in the snow pack.

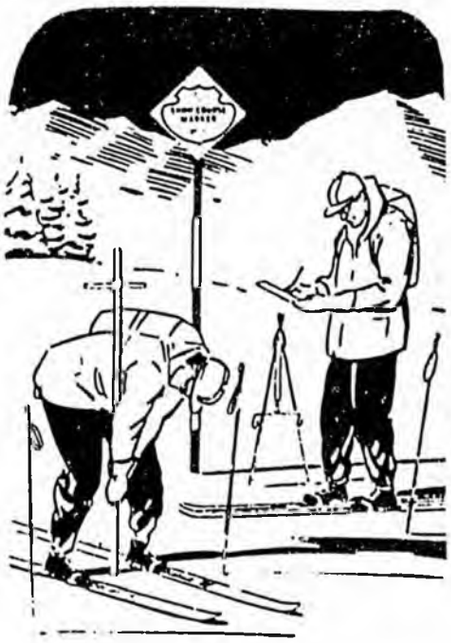
What all these numbers mean is that there is a great deal of water laying on the ground in the form of snow. If break-up is delayed by continued cool temperatures in April, it should probably be a very wet and muddy spring.

Homes and other buildings in or near low areas or intermittent water courses will probably experience flooding for longer periods of time than is normal.

If, however, temperatures are warm in the daytime and drop below freezing at night, break-up should be gradual with little more flooding and muddy conditions than is normally expected.

Area snow packs are approaching those that were present in the springs of 1968 and 1971, which are the highest for which we have records. If you lived here during those years and have a good memory of what happened in the spring, you may have an insight of what could happen this year. In both of those years, the snow pack lasted late into the spring.

I flew over the area where the Jarvis Creek Overflow channel begins and saw a sizable collection of aufeis, which blocks the main channel of Jarvis Creek and causes the overflow flooding. With the significantly above-average snow pack of moisture in the area, there is a strong possibility for substantial flooding along the overflow channel this year. Residents who live along or near the normal flood route should be thinking of what they intend to to do protect their property and to maintain access during the flooding period.



The key point to remember is that if break-up is rapid the chances for severe flooding are greatly increased. But if break-up is slow and occurs over a long period of time, excessive flooding will probably be avoided. A final note -- we would be interested in hearing from anyone in the community who has good records or a good memory of the years of 1968 and 1971, as far as snow conditions and spring flooding are concerned. Give us a call at 895-4241, or stop in at the SCS office in the Jarvis Office Center.

April 1 Snow Survey Data

	Depth (inches)	Water Content (inches)	Record Water Content (inches)	Years of Record	Percent of Average
Granite Creek (Mile 1410)	25 (16)	5.2(3.2)	7.0 1971	18	162
Fort Greely	24 (19)	5.4(3.3)	7.2 1967	19	150
Shaw Creek Flats	28 (14)	6.8(2.7)	6.0 1971	26	252
Gerstle River	23 *	4.9 *	* *	3	*
French Creek (Salcha)	40 (27)	11.5(6.0)	12.1 1971	24	192
Little Salcha (Salcha)	35 (24)	10.1(5.1)	10.5 1971	24	204
Tok	16 (18)	3.3(3.4)	6.0 1967	26	97
Meniasta Pass	39 (29)	10.7(6.0)	11.4 1979	24	178
Chistochina River	28 *	6.3 *	* *	1	*
Haggard Creek (Sourdough)	33 (27)	7.5(5.7)	13.3 1979	22	132

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James O. Smith
Signature of Camera Operator

9/5/89
Date

02-519 (REV 8/78)

SJR

48

HOUSE

COMMITTEE REPORT

-5/8

(9)

Date referred: 4/16/86

FURTHER REFERRALS: FINANCE

DATE: May 8, 1986

The RESOURCES Committee has considered SJR 48

Relating to the continued operation of the Institute of Northern Forestry at Fairbanks and the Forestry Survey Group in Anchorage.

and recommends:

[XX] do pass

[ ] do not pass

[ ] do pass with attached amendment(s)

[ ] no recommendation

[ ] replace with _____ [ ] same title

[ ] new title

and recommends _____

[ ] further referral to the _____ Committee

and attaches: [ ] letter of intent
[ ] first fiscal note
[ ] new fiscal note
[ ] zero fiscal note

SIGNING DO PASS:

Shultz

Miller(NP)

Herrmann

Wallis

Jenkins

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Pearce NoRec

Co-Chairman Shultz

Alaska State Legislature

P.O. BOX V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-4907

Senate
Committee on Resources

M E M O R A N D U M April 8, 1986

TO: All Members
Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Staff, Senate Resources Committee

RE: SJR 48 Relating to the continued operation of the Institute of Northern Forestry at Fairbanks and the Forestry Survey Group in Anchorage

SJR 48 requests the U.S. Congress to appropriate funds and direct the U.S. Forest Service to reverse its decision to close the Institute of Northern Forestry at Fairbanks and to restore the capacity of the Anchorage Forestry Survey Group.

As part of the federal government budget cuts, the U.S. Forest Service Institute of Northern Forestry at Fairbanks is proposed to be closed. The budget for this operation is $735,000. In addition, a $150,000 reduction is proposed for the Forest Inventory Research group at Anchorage.

There is a zero fiscal note.

Enclosures:
- U.S. Forest Service fact sheet on Fairbanks
- U.S. Forest Service fact sheet on Anchorage
- Memo from DNR
- Institute of Northern Forestry work plan

STATE OF ALASKA 1986 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date : _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. : SJR 48
Title : Continued operation of the Institute of Northern Forestry

Sponsor : Senate Resources
Requestor : Senate Resources
Date of Request : April 7, 1986

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected : _____
BRU : _____

Components : _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES : (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
CAPITAL	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
REVENUE	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -

FUNDING : (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS :

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : Attach a separate page if necessary

Prepared by : Senate Resources Committee
Division : _____
Phone : 465-3818
Date : April 7, 1986

Approved by Chairman Commissioner : _____
Agency : Senate Resources Committee
Date : April 8, 1986

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note) :
- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

10/25/85

Official Plan. Statement

February 5, 1986

Pacific Northwest Forest Experiment Station Comments on Proposed Closure of Institute of Northern Forestry, Fairbanks

As part of the fiscal 1987 budget submitted to Congress February 5, the Chief of the Forest Service has proposed closure of the Institute of Northern Forestry at Fairbanks. As the Institute of Northern Forestry, the Forest Service has carried on research at Fairbanks, since the mid-1950's, and the current facility was constructed in 1962-1963. Current programs include research on management strategies for interior Alaska forests, effects of fire and methods of control, classification of Alaska vegetation, dealing with forest insects, managing forest habitat for wildlife, and managing for quality water from forests. The laboratory has seventeen employees, in a 13,000 square foot facility, located on the University of Alaska campus.

The closure is proposed as part of a continuing effort to reduce the costs of government. The sharp downturn in the 1987 budget, coupled with the impact of inflation on budgets of the last few years, necessitates significant management actions.

Past research has focused on providing a basic understanding of the characteristics and ecology of Interior Alaska forests. With current need to reduce expenditures, it is inappropriate to embark on the next generation of studies, which should emphasize development of the land and its resources. All research on managing forests and fire will be eliminated, and wildlife habitat research will be reduced, for an annual cost reduction of $735,000. Those programs that remain will be moved to Anchorage, to avoid the fixed costs of maintaining a facility in Fairbanks. To the greatest extent possible, employees will be reassigned to funded jobs at Anchorage or at other locations.

FACT SHEET

Reagan Administration Proposed Budget Reductions and Resulting Change in Forest Service Research Programs in Alaska in Fiscal Year 1987 (Begins October 1, 1986)

1. Reduce funding at Fairbanks Forestry Sciences Laboratory (Institute of Northern Forestry) by $735,000.

2. This would close the Laboratory and terminate the services of 10 permanent employees.

3. All research on silviculture, ecology of Interior Alaska forests, vegetation classification, genetics, and fire effects and control, is scheduled to be terminated. Wildlife habitat research would be reduced but not closed out.

4. The remaining research and employees at Fairbanks in soil, water, forest insects, and wildlife habitat will be consolidated with the Forestry Inventory Research at the Anchorage Forestry Sciences Laboratory.

5. Reason given for closing the INF laboratory is that research to date has focused largely on basic forest and related ecology. Now there is need to shift to a new generation of studies, mostly applied, emphasizing development and utilization of forest resources. Funding is inadequate to do this.

6. Funding for the Forest Inventory Research at Anchorage will be reduced by $150,000. This will substantially slow, but not stop multiresource inventory in Alaska. Major river drainages, now scheduled for inventory that would be postponed for several years include the Kuskokwim-Bristol Bay, Copper River, Kenai Peninsula, South Central Alaska, Upper and Lower Yukon River Basins, and the Kobuk River Basin, all areas of high public interest.

Anchorage

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CUT IMPACTS ON PNW 4103, FY87

February, 1986

THE SITUATION

Given the President's budget for FY 1987, the Forest Inventory and Analysis Unit in Anchorage can expect to take a $148,000 (Washington Office appropriation level, $130,000 PNW Station level) cut in its budget. Over the past 5 years, Anchorage FSL (FIA) has received an operating budget between $160,000 and $270,000 after removing salaries and Portland/WO overhead. In FY 1985, PNW 4103 received operating funds totaling $269,000. This was reduced in FY 1986 to $226,000, and is targeted to be cut to $96,000 in FY 1987.

No new permanent positions have been added to FIA staff since June, 1984. One position (a Research Biologist) which vacated, has not been refilled, in order to compensate for normal salary increments (In-step increases, etc.). Numerous other cost savings measures have been implemented to reduce overhead costs, such as space reduction, computer reconfiguration, etc.

The basic "housekeeping" budget need for PNW 4103 (FIA) is about $40,000. With $56,000 left, there will be no funds to continue field work. The $56,000 will barely keep data analysis running on data that have been collected during FY85 and FY86.

IMPACTS

Work to continue--The work to be continued for FY 1987 will involve only data analysis associated with the legislatively mandated 1990 RPA Timber Assesment, as well as data analysis of field data previously collected in the Tanana River Basin and southeast Alaska in FY 1983-85.

Work to be discontinued--With the budget cut, it will be necessary to discontinue collection of field data on the Chugach National Forest and Copper River Basin; classification of Landsat scenes for the Copper River and Kuskokwim River Basins; and collection of aerial photography resource materials for these same areas. Additionally, because of the Research Biologist position vacancy, there will be decreased emphasis on wildlife habitat research and associated efforts.

The consequence of these efforts being discontinued will result in difficulty meeting national legislative mandates to respond to the Resources Planning Act's requirement for nationwide timber and vegetation assessment information on a periodic (10 year) basis, especially looking ahead to the period between 1990 and 2000.

There is an added consequence in that Federal budget cuts promise to close out the SCS's River Basin Mapping and Inventory and Monitoring programs. Additionally, the State of Alaska is cutting back in its timber and vegetation inventory efforts in both the Division of Geological and Geophysical Services and in the Division of Forestry. These agencies, along with FIA, are the only Natural Resource agencies currently collecting vegetation inventory and mapping information on a state-wide basis. With no vegetation inventory data input, management decisions will suffer for all Alaska agencies, state and federal.

The current research objectives and areas of research for PNW 4103 (Anchorage FSL) are as follows:

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The research objectives of the Alaska Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) unit at Anchorage, as stated in the Research Work Unit Description, are to:

1). Evaluate the renewable resource inventory needs for the State of Alaska and summarize these in terms of data elements to be measured;

2). Inventory the renewable resources for Alaska in accordance with the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978, and;

3). Analyze and report the results of these inventories in an integrated context.

CURRENT AREAS OF RESEARCH

Research has previously proceeded on a regular basis, providing timber inventory and other vegetation inventory information on a sub-region by sub-region basis (often on a river basin basis). Several areas are currently going through a resource analysis stage, including:

-Porcupine River Unit
-Upper Yukon River Unit
-Susitna River Basin Unit
-Chugach National Forest Unit
-Tanana River Basin Multi-resource Inventory Unit
-Southeast Alaska Multi-resource Inventory Unit

Research is also proceeding in the analysis stage involving some very important subject areas relating to Natural Resource Management decisions. These include:

-Estimating changes in areas and volumes of timber on lands transitioning from federal ownership to Native and State ownership due to various selection legislation. This work is partially completed for the Tanana River Basin, for southeast Alaska, and for the Chugach National Forest.
-Preparation of Landsat vegetation classification maps for the Tanana River Basin and the Southeast Alaska Units.
-Development of vegetation profiles for use in evaluating wildlife habitat for the Tanana River Basin and Southeast Alaska Units.
-Developing biomass estimates for all vegetation in the Tanana River Basin and the Southeast Alaska Units.
-Developing new sampling and data collection techniques for use in multi-resource inventories.

The planned Federal and Alaska State budget cuts will mean discontinuation of these kinds of multi-resource/vegetation inventory analyses for the uninventoried River Basin Units of Alaska, which include the Yukon, Kuskokwim, Copper River, Bristol Bay, and Kobuk basins.

5-2
F-5

MEMORANDUM State of Alaska

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

TO: John Katz
Special Council

DATE: February 25, 1986

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 465-2491

FROM: Esther C. Wunnicke
Commissioner

SUBJECT: Federal Budget
Cut Impacts

John Sturgeon has brought to my attention that the President's budget for 1987 calls for some cuts to the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management that if not restored could have grave negative impacts to Alaska. I am requesting your assistance in bringing to the attention of our Congressional Delegation some of the following proposed cuts and their impact specifically on Alaska. I have listed them in descending priority order.

Research

When you look at proposed station cuts in other states and the tremendous forest research void, we feel that the complete closure of the Institute of Northern Forestry (INF) at Fairbanks is not justified. Other states have the research base on which they can continue to develop, but Alaska is still in the growing stage and is lacking even the most basic research. The research program helps fund work in the key areas of forest genetics, insects and disease, watersheds, wildlife habitat and fire ecology and behavior, all of which are important to Alaska as we try to strengthen our overall economy as our revenues from oil decline. The State of Alaska has over 60% of its lands in a "let-burn" protection category. The impact on the environment, wildlife habitat is not completely understood. We were depending on the INF to find the answers.

The recently established 2 million acre Tanana Valley State Forest is at a point in its development that Forest research information unique to our interior northern latitudes is vital. In addition, forest lands now being considered for management by Doyon and other Interior native regional corporations, have in the past and will in the future, rely on INF research information concerning timber harvest, regeneration, wildlife habitat, and other resource concerns. Good sound decisions can only be made when one has the necessary information. Without the proper facts any resource development effort will be plagued with controversy because of unknowns.

The Forest Inventory and Analysis Unit in Anchorage will be cut $150,000, which will call for the discontinuation of collecting field data on the Chugach National Forest and

Copper River Basin. This, along with the Federal budget cuts that will close out the SCS's River Basin Mapping and Inventory and Monitoring programs, will mean that no new vegetation inventory data will be available. No new data means that management decisions will suffer for all Alaska agencies, State and Federal, at a time when we need to make the right decisions. The planned Federal budget cuts will mean the discontinuance of these kinds of multi-resource/vegetation inventory analyses for the uninventoried River Basin Units of Alaska, which include the Yukon, Kuskokwim, Copper River, Bristol Bay, and Kobuk Basins. I understand the House has scheduled a hearing on this proposal for February 27 in Washington, D.C.

Fire Management

Reductions in the BLM fire program in Alaska will be felt by our protection organization as we are dependent on them for support. Our two organizations are extremely dependent on each other to meet the protection job for just the priority resource base. There is a direct savings in operating costs of over $3 million to the State and nearly $4 million to the BLM by the existing coop-agreement for protection. The use of in State forces are a critical component for both Federal and State agencies and any reduction in either organization will simply equate to over twice the cost for actual suppression.

Recent studies show that Alaska is now at the minimum level for organization requirements for fire suppression. Additional reductions will not only cost more dollars in suppression, but lives and property will be lost.

State and Private Forestry

Loss of the ability of the U.S. Forest Service to provide forest management and utilization funding will impact the State technical assistance to Alaska's forest industry. New developing industries need help which may not be forthcoming.

State and Private Forestry grants are also cut, which will effect our fire suppression program. The State's fire protection responsibilities have now increased to 134 million acres. Although State appropriations cover most of the cost of program, Federal funding is a necessary component of our State's fire protection activities.

The rapid increase of insect and disease in our forests affects both the commercial productivity and scenic beauty. Elimination of the Pest Scout Program will no doubt put a heavy burden on the State to get into a program where we have no funding or expertise.

We would appreciate any direction you can provide to our Delegation so they may become aware of what these reductions will do to our State as we strive to build up the revenue base.

Fairbanks

Institute of Northern Forestry
Pacific Northwest Research Station
USDA Forest Service

Multidisciplinary Research Work Unit 1651

a. Title: Ecology and management of taiga ecosystems in interior Alaska

b. Mission: Develop an understanding of the ecology of forest ecosystems in interior Alaska for use in land-use planning and management.

c. Six Problem Areas with integrated research studies between problem areas.

Problem 1. Development of a vegetation classification system which is correlated with soil and site characteristics. A standard hierarchical classification system that includes all major plant groups is essential for use by all agencies statewide.

Problem 2. Obtain understanding of the behavior and effects of fire in taiga communities in order to provide information for the development of fire management plans in interior Alaska. Majority of fires in interior are lightning caused. Eighty percent of the taiga has burned once in the last 200 years. Plant succession is strongly influenced by wildfires. Costs of fire suppression in Alaska are very costly; therefore, the capability to accurately forecast behavior of fires in various fuel types would result in substantial savings. Effects of wildfire on vegetation growth and succession and soil are being studied. Research is underway on the use of controlled burns in site preparation for regeneration and wildlife habitat management.

Problem 3. There is a need for methods for the regeneration of white spruce and harvesting impacts on the white spruce ecosystem. Methods for regenerating white spruce in upland forests have been developed with soil scarification required; however, regeneration methods and white spruce growth information is lacking for floodplain or river bottom forest. An interdisciplinary study is underway on an island in the Tanana River in order to determine forest management alternatives for white spruce on floodplan sites.

Problem 4. The relation of host and site characteristics to damage by the spruce beetle and major tree defoliators is needed. Spruce beetle outbreaks have infested 240,000 areas of white spruce annually during the last 10 years. The lack of forest management in the Chugach NF has lead to extensive stands of slow-growing over mature white spruce. Research is underway to develop silvicultural methods for the management of white spruce in south-central Alaska. Host resistance in relation to site is one of the

Problem 4—continued.
alternatives that is under study. The role of carbon/nutrient levels in stands of aspen and birch have been found to affect the phytotoxins (defensive chemicals) which either kill feeding insect larva or inhibit feeding.

Problem 5. The effects of timber harvest and placer mining on stream sedimentation and water quality in relation to land management planning is being researched. Stream quality and site productivity in relation to landscape stability and sedimentation production are emphasized in present studies. Both areas of watershed management research include concern with the natural undisturbed state and with consequences of resource management and landscape alteration.

Problem 6. Moose habitat and forage relationships is needed to develop habitat management guidelines for mountainous areas of Alaska. A study is underway in Denali National Park utilizing the behavior of radiocollared moose. Forage use by plant species and intake on a daily and seasonal basis will aid in the description of habitat preference by moose.

Research Work Unit 3102

a. Title: Improving utilization of woody biomass for fiber and energy.

b. Mission: To provide land managers with more effective tools for determining economically acceptable strategies for harvesting, utilizing, and distributing forest biomass.

c. Three Problem Areas with Problems 1, 2 and part of Problem 3 located in Portland, Oregon.

Problem 3. Develop information for making economic and technical evaluations of converting woody biomass to energy. Biomass from clearing land for farming has not been utilized and presents a disposal problem. Utilization of biomass for energy would make land clearing for farming or forest type conversion more economical. Access to existing softwood sawtimber is needed. Markets for products potentially available from hardwood timber are also needed. Studies on lumber recovery, long term storage of wood chips, and burning wood chip with coal for electricity generation are underway.

Research Program Statistics for INF

		Payroll
A. Staff		
11	Scientists	
3	Technical support	
5	Non-technical support	
19	Total	$792,000
5	Temporary summer employment	35,000
3	Extramural funded Cooperative Research Agreements (UAF)	25,000
	Total payroll allotment	$852,000
B. Total FY-86 Budget		$1,170,000
C. Total FY-87 Budget		435,000
FY-87 Reduction		$-735,000

D. FY'87 Research

1. Eliminate:

a. Timber Management Research

Development of guidelines for managing interior forests following a multiple use concept and sustained yield basis. Guidelines for (1) natural and artificial regeneration, (2) silvicultural and timber harvesting methods, (3) productivity of fiber and forage, and (4) development of a standard Alaskan Vegetation Classification System to be used by all Natural Resource-related agencies.

b. Forest Fire Research

Development of guidelines for determining the effects of control/no-control fire supression strategies.

Development of guidelines for using prescribed fire for wildlife habitat restoration, site preparation for natural and artificial regeneration, vegetation management, and conversion of non-productive forests to fiber and forage producing stands.

2. Research Programs Proposed for Move to Anchorage

a. Wildlife Habitat Research

Development of initial management guidelines for moose habitats in mountainous areas of interior Alaska. This includes management practices that create, protect, or enhance the mix of habitats for moose.

b. Watershed Management Research

Development of guidelines to prevent stream sedimentation and impacts on water quality from timber harvest, wildfire and prescribed fire, and general site disturbance.

c. Forest Insect Research

Development of forest management guidelines for reducing tree susceptibility to bark beetles and hardwood defoliators.

Development of non-insecticidal methods for protecting high-value trees in campgrounds, recreational and urban areas.

1. History of lab
   - 1958 Research on tree physiology started
   - 1962 Fire research and plant ecology (succession)
   - 1962 New lab built
   - 1966-1970 Research expanded to include impact of forest insects, timber management, watershed management
   - 1974-1980 Wildlife management, forest genetics

2. a. Staffing - 11 professional scientists
   - 3 professional support
   - 5 research support services

   b. Scientists include:
   Silviculture, forest gentics, forest ecology, forest entomology, fire science, forest hydrology and water quality, soil science, and wildlife ecology

3. Clientele
   a. Users of research results
   - Alaska Department of Natural Resources (Division of Forestry and Division of Lands)
   - Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
   - Alaska Department of Fish and Game
   - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
   - Soil Conservation Service
   - Forest Service
   - Alaska Native Corporations
   - University of Alaska

4. Cooperators
   -All above agencies

5. Multidisciplinary Research Work Unit
   a. Title: Ecology and management of taiga ecosystems in interior Alaska
   b. Mission: Develop an understanding of the ecology of forest ecosystems in interior Alaska for use in land-use planning and management.
   c. Six Problem Areas with integrated research studies between problem areas.

   Problem 1. Development of a vegetation classification system which is correlated with soil and site characteristics. A standard hierarchical classification system than includes all major plant groups is essential for use by all agencies statewide.

   Problem 2. Obtain an understanding of the behavior and effects of fire in taiga communities in order to provide information for the development of fire management plans in interior Alaska. Majority of fires in interior are lightning caused. Eighty percent of the taiga has burned once in the last 200 years. Plant succession is strongly influenced by wildfires. Costs of fire suppression in Alaska are very costly; therefore, the capability to accurately forecast behavior of fires in various fuel types would result in substantial savings. Effects of wildfire on vegetation growth and succession and soil are being studied. Research is underway on the use of controlled burns in site preparation for regeneration and wildlife habitat management.

Problem 3. There is a need for methods for the regeneration of white spruce and harvesting impacts on the white spruce ecosystem. Methods for regenerating white spruce in upland forests have been developed with soil scarification required; however, regeneration methods and white spruce growth information is lacking for floodplain or river bottom forests. An interdisciplinary study is underway on an island in the Tanana River in order to determine forest management alternatives for white spruce on floodplain sites.

Problem 4. The relation of host and site characteristics to damage by the spruce beetle and major tree defoliators is needed. Spruce beetle outbreaks have infested 240,000 areas of white spruce annually during the last 10 years. The lack of forest management in the Chugach NF has led to extensive stands of slow-growing over mature white spruce. Research is underway to develop silvicultural methods for the management of white spruce in south central Alaska. Host resistance in relation to site is one of the alternatives that is under study. The role of carbon/nutrient levels in stands of aspen and birch have been found to affect the phytotoxins (defensive chemicals) which either kill feeding insect larva or inhibit feeding.

Problem 5. The effects of timber harvest and placer mining on stream sedimentation and water quality in relation to land managmement planning is being researched. Stream quality and site productivity in relation to landscape stability and sedimentation production are emphasized in present studies. Both areas of watershed management research include concern with the natural undisturbed state and with consequences of resource management and landscape alteration. A research watershed (Caribou-Poker Creek) is located 30 miles north of Fairbanks.

Problem 6. Moose habitat and forage relationships is needed to develop habitat management guidelines for mountainous areas of Alaska. A study is underway in Denali National Park utilizing the behavior of radiocollared moose. Forage use by plant species and intake on a daily and seasonal basis will aid in the description of habitat preference by moose.

RECORDS CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, an employee of the State of Alaska, do hereby certify that the microfilm images on this microform are accurate reproductions of the original records of the State of Alaska as accumulated during the regular course of business, and that it is the established policy and practice of this State to microfilm its records and to dispose of the original records after microfilm reproductions have been made.

James O. Smith
Signature of Camera Operator

9/5/89
Date

02-519 (REV 8/78)

SJR

50

Alaska State Legislature

P. O. BOX V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-4907

Senate
Committee on Resources

M E M O R A N D U M April 25, 1986

TO: All Members
Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Staff, Senate Resources Committee

RE: SJR 50 Relating to the incidental catch of high-value fish stocks within the United States exclusive economic zone

SJR 50 calls for the Secretary of Commerce and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to enforce the provisions of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act and reduce the level of incidental catch of salmon, halibut, crab, and other high-value species by groundfish trawlers in the U.S. exclusive economic zone. The resolution further calls for the Governor to aggressively pursue every possible means to persuade the Secretary of Commerce and the NPFMC to enforce the provisions of the Act. In addition, the Governor is asked to pursue a reduction in incidental catch by Alaska fishermen participating in the groundfish industry.

There is a zero fiscal note.

STATE OF ALASKA 1986 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revisior Date : _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. : SJR 50
Title : Relating to the incidental catch of high-value fish stock within the United States exclusive zone
Sponsor : Sen. Resource Comm.
Requestor : Sen. Resource Comm.
Date of Request : April 25, 1986

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected : ADF&G
BRU : _____
Components : _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES : (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING : (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS :

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : Attach a separate page if necessary

Prepared by : Roland Shanks Phone : 465-4100
Division : Commissioner's Office Date : 4-28-86

Approved by Commissioner : Don Collinsworth Date : 4-28-86
Agency : _____

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note) :
- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

10/25/85

HOUSE

COMMITTEE REPORT

(9)

Date referred: 5/7/86

FURTHER REFERRALS:

DATE: May 8, 1986

The RESOURCES Committee has considered CSSJR 50(Res)

Relating to the incidental catch of high-value fish stocks within the United State exclusive economic zone.

and recommends:

[XX] do pass

[ ] do not pass

[ ] do pass with attached amendment(s)

[ ] no recommendation

[ ] replace with _____ [ ] same title
[ ] new title

and recommends _____

[ ] further referral to the _____ Committee

and attaches: [ ] letter of intent
[ ] first fiscal note
[ ] new fiscal note
[ ] zero fiscal note

SIGNING DO PASS:

Shultz Dick Shultz

Herrmann Adelheid Herrmann

Wallis Kay Wallis

Miller(NP) M.K. Miller

Sund

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Pearce

Roge Jenkins No Rec

Co-Chairman Dick Shultz

Introduced: 4/23/86
Referred: Resources

IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 50

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

Relating to the incidental catch of high-value fish stocks within the United States exclusive economic zone.

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

WHEREAS art. VIII, sec. 2, Constitution of the State of Alaska, requires the Alaska State Legislature to provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the state for the maximum benefit of the people of the state; and

WHEREAS fisheries are Alaska's most important renewable natural resource; and

WHEREAS the salmon, halibut, and crab fisheries have traditionally provided a major source of employment and income for Alaska fishermen; and

WHEREAS the harvestable surplus of every salmon stock of Alaska origin, and of halibut and crab, are fully used by United States fishermen; and

WHEREAS trawlers incidentally harvest a significant number of salmon of Alaska origin, and of halibut, crab, and other high-value species worth millions of dollars while targeting groundfish in the United States exclusive economic zone; and

WHEREAS the incidental harvest of salmon of Alaska origin, and of halibut and crab, by groundfish trawlers in the United States exclusive economic zone is adversely affecting the resource; and

WHEREAS at times the incidental catch of high-value species by groundfish trawlers in the United States exclusive economic zone has exceeded the catch of these species allocated for Alaska fishermen; and

WHEREAS the incidental catch of salmon of Alaska origin and of halibut, crab, and other high-value species significantly and adversely affect Alaska residents who depend upon them for their livelihood, particularly residents of villages in western Alaska, many of whom have annual incomes that average below federal poverty guidelines; and

WHEREAS United States fishermen are becoming increasingly involved in the harvest of groundfish in the United States exclusive economic zone; and

WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the state to support the involvement of United States trawlers in the bottom-fishing industry and to assure that the fishery is developed in a manner consistent with maintaining and protecting traditional fisheries; and

WHEREAS the development of a new fishery for United States trawlers involved in the harvest of groundfish should not be at the expense of the traditional fisheries of salmon, crab, halibut, and other high-value species; and

WHEREAS the experience with the foreign fishing fleet has demonstrated the ability to reduce significantly the incidental catch of salmon of Alaska origin, halibut, crab, and other high-value species without adversely affecting the fishery; and

WHEREAS the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act is designed to maximize economic benefits to United States citizens from the use of United States fisheries resources; and

WHEREAS the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act assigns the Secretary of Commerce a nondiscretionary duty to enforce the provisions of that Act to significantly reduce the incidental catch of salmon of Alaska origin, halibut, crab, and other high-value species by trawlers involved in the harvest of groundfish; and

WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has the responsibility of implementing the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management

Act and has the authority to implement measures to significantly reduce the incidental catch of salmon of Alaska origin, halibut, crab, and other high-value species by trawlers involved in the harvest of groundfish;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Secretary of Commerce and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to enforce the provisions of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act and to take quick and decisive action to significantly reduce the level of incidental catch of salmon of Alaska origin, halibut, crab, and other high-value species by groundfish trawlers in the United States exclusive economic zone; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of Commerce and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council are respectfully requested to develop and enforce specific measures that significantly reduce the incidental catch of high-value species by trawlers and other vessels engaged in ground-fishing that have the least adverse affect on the ability of domestic trawlers to engage in the ground-fishing industry; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor of Alaska to aggressively pursue every possible means, including judicial action, of persuading the Secretary of Commerce and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to enforce the provisions of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act to significantly reduce the incidental catch of Alaska salmon, crab, halibut, and other high-value species by the groundfish fleets operating in the United States exclusive economic zone, with the least adverse impact on the ability of United States trawlers to participate in the ground-fishing industry; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Governor of Alaska to aggressively pursue every possible means of assisting Alaska fishermen who are participating in the ground-fishing industry to significantly reduce the incidental harvest of salmon, crab, halibut, and

other high-value species, without adversely affecting their ability to participate in the ground-fishing industry.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary of Commerce; Jim Campbell, Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.