

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES, 1989-1990 8672
6012 HOUSE RESOURCES

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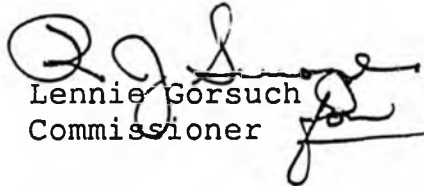
Representative Menard

-2-

February 26, 1990

I hope this budget estimate is useful. I appreciate your efforts in helping us resolve the natural resource management issues in this area.

Sincerely,


Lennie Gorsuch
Commissioner

Enclosures

cc: Senator Szymanski
Representative Goll
Gary Gustafson, Director
Division of Land and Water Management
Commissioner Don Collinsworth
Department of Fish and Game
Frank Rue, Director
Division of Habitat
Department of Fish and Game

**COST FOR YAKATAGA AREA PLAN
FISCAL YEAR 91**

<u>100 Personal Services</u>		
Natural Resource Manager I	(18A)	\$ 50.5
Natural Resource Manager II	(16A)	<u>44.5</u>
		\$ 95.0
<u>200 Travel</u>		
Planning team meetings (for each mtg.		8.3
3 staff Jnu-Anc or Anc-Jnu),		
5 meetings x \$550 (airfare +		
2 days per diem)		
Public meetings-issues (3-4 Communities)		7.0
Planning Area Overflight		<u>15.3</u>
<u>300 Contractual</u>		
Publish introductory brochure		2.0
Xeroxing, newsletters, ads		3.0
Inventory work, mapping		6.0
Print resource and issues reports		<u>2.2</u>
		13.2
<u>400 Supplies</u>		
Set-up and Misc. Supplies		<u>10.5</u>
		10.5
		<u>\$134.0</u>

TOTAL:

FISCAL YEAR 92

<u>100 Personal Services</u>		
Natural Resource Manager I	(18A)	\$ 50.5
Natural Resource Manager II	(16A)	<u>44.5</u>
		\$ 95.0
<u>200 Travel</u>		
Planning team meetings (5)		8.3
Public meetings - alternatives		<u>5.0</u>
		13.3
<u>300 Contractual</u>		
Alternatives brochures		5.0
Xeroxing, summary of comments, etc.		<u>5.0</u>
		10.0
<u>400 Supplies</u>		
Miscellaneous Supplies		<u>1.0</u>
		1.0
		<u>\$119.3</u>

TOTAL:

FISCAL YEAR 93

<u>100</u>	<u>Personal Services</u>			
	Natural Resource Manager I	(18A)	\$ 50.5	
	Natural Resource Manager II	(16A)	<u>44.5</u>	\$ 95.0
<u>200</u>	<u>Travel</u>			
	Planning team meetings (5)		8.3	
	Public Meetings - Draft Plan		<u>5.0</u>	13.3
<u>1300</u>	<u>Contractual</u>			
	Agency Draft		5.0	
	Public Draft, Brochure		10.0	
	Final Plan, Summary		10.0	
	Newsletters, postage, etc.		<u>5.0</u>	30.0
<u>400</u>	<u>Supplies</u>			
	Miscellaneous Supplies		<u>1.5</u>	
				<u>1.5</u>
				\$139.8
		TOTAL:		

Proposed Yakataga Area Plan
DNR Budget Summary

<u>FY 91</u>	<u>FY 92</u>	<u>FY 93</u>	
	(figures are in thousands)		
Personal Services	95.0	95.0	95.0
Public Meetings (travel, brochures, xeroxing, etc.)	9.0	12.0	17.0
Resource Assessment Research (travel, mapping, printing)	10.2		
Printing Final Plan			10.0
Supplies, xeroxing, misc mapping, travel to planning team meet- ings, etc.	19.8	12.3	17.8
	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL	\$134.0	\$119.3	\$139.8

DF&G Budget Summary

	<u>FY91</u>	<u>FY92</u>	<u>FY93</u>
Personal Services	73.3	73.3	73.3
4 months Cartographer II (\$15.8)			
12 months Habitat Biologist II (47.1)			
2 months Habitat Biologist III (10.\$)			
Travel and per diem	12.8	12.8	12.8
(includes planning/work team meetings and travel to Seward, Cordova, and Yakutat)			
Contractual	5.9	5.9	5.9
(includes air charter costs to conduct annual goat and moose surveys)			
Supplies	1.0	1.0	1.0
	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL	\$93.0	\$93.0	\$93.0

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
IN THE HOUSE

HOUSE BILL NO.
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act making special appropriations to the Department of Revenue, the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Game for settlement of litigation concerning conveyance of limited timber cutting rights to the University of Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

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

* Section 1. The sum of \$1,968,511 is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Revenue for deposit in the University of Alaska Trust Fund as partial payment for acquisition of the university's timber cutting rights at Cape Suckling (tract A148).

* Section 2. The sum of \$134,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Natural Resources and the sum of \$93,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Fish and Game for fiscal year 1991 costs for preparation and adoption of an area plan for state lands in the Icy Bay to Cape Suckling area.

* Section 3. The sum of \$_____ is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Natural Resources for costs of reappraisal of the University of Alaska's limited timber cutting rights at Cape Suckling.

* Section 4. The sum of \$_____ is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Natural Resources for costs of surveying state lands at Reed Island and Upper George Inlet.

* Section 5. The unexpended balance of appropriations made in this Act lapse into the general fund on December 31, 1992.

* Section 6. This Act takes effect on the day following approval by the Alaska Superior Court in consolidated Case No. 1JU-88-271 Civil of a legal settlement between the City of Yakutat, the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC) et al, the Department of Natural Resources, and the University of Alaska Board of Regents which provides for sale of the university's Cape Suckling limited timber cutting rights to the State of Alaska, and which settles other legal issues concerning the university's timber cutting rights at Cape Yakataga and White River.

Letter of Intent for

"An Act making special appropriations to the Department of Revenue, the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Game for settlement of litigation concerning conveyance of limited timber cutting rights to the University of Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

It is the intent of the legislature that the settlement of SEACC et al v. Gorsuch (Consolidated Case No. 1JU-88-271) provide for repurchase of the University of Alaska's limited timber cutting rights at Cape Suckling (tract A148), for time for completion of an area plan for the Icy Bay to Cape Suckling area prior to any timber harvest at Cape Yakataga (tract 20), and for the otherwise unhindered exercise of limited timber cutting rights at Cape Yakataga and White River (tract 52) consistent with the terms and conditions of Appendix I to ADL 223456 as modified by the finding and decision on remand.

The legislature intends to compensate the university for the Cape Suckling limited timber cutting right based on a new appraisal which establishes the value of the affected timber as of the effective date of this Act from the following sources:

- 1) An appropriation of \$1,968,511 to the University of Alaska Trust Fund in the Department of Revenue;
- 2) If the appraisal exceeds \$1,968,511, transfer of all or a portion of Reed Island (tract 57, valued at \$1,762,500) and/or Upper George Inlet (tract 78, valued at \$206,000);
- 3) If the appraisal exceeds \$3,937,091, the legislature intends to appropriate additional amounts from the general fund, transfer state mortgage contracts, and/or transfer other state assets to the university until the full appraisal price is reached.

It is the intent of the legislature that an area plan for state lands in the Icy Bay to Cape Suckling area be completed under AS 38.05.065 and DNR regulations on or before December 31, 1992. DNR shall coordinate preparation and review of the area plan with ADF&G on fish & wildlife habitat protection issues, and consider management options for protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and populations, sport and subsistence hunting and fishing, recreation, tourism and scientific values, settlement, timber harvest, mining, material extraction, and other uses the department considers appropriate. DNR shall establish a temporary Citizens' Advisory Commission to assist in preparation and review of the area plan. If the area plan precludes exercise of all or a part of the university's limited timber cutting rights at Cape Yakataga, the legislature intends to compensate the university in cash at the then-current market value as determined by appraisal.

It is the intent of the legislature that the university and DNR develop a plan for harvest of White River trees in accordance with the Forest Practices Act as revised during the 1990 legislative session and in accordance with provisions of the 1988 settlement and the 1989 final finding by the commissioner.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources Committee
 committee on CS for HB 58-3 / 346, dated 3/22/90
 bill/subject ^{HB} committee name

I am Assistant Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I have performed contractual work for the Chugach National Forest and the Tongass National Forest to identify important scientific resources and establish a network of Research Natural Areas in those areas.

I am especially concerned that the scientific resources be identified in the state lands between Cape Suckling and Icy Cape by qualified people (e.g. 600+ year-old trees with valuable tree ring records). DNR seems insensitive to the natural values of the area. I urge the Legislature to provide an affirmative direction to protect the sensitive resources of the area by appropriate language in CS for HB 583 or preferably HB 346. The Legislature should speak and set a direction for the Area Plan or Game Refuge and thus constrain the options DNR might otherwise bring up.

Signed: _____

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

4837 Palo Verde Ave. Fairbanks 99709

Address

479-3765

Phone No.

Proposed Yakataga State Game Refuge
Background Information

Location: The proposed Yakataga State Game Refuge is located between Cape Suckling and Cape Yakataga on the northeast gulf coast.

Area Description: The proposed Yakataga State Game Refuge is situated on a wide coastal plain sandwiched between the exposed northeast gulf to the south and the Bering Glacier and Robinson Mountains to the north. Several major river systems transect the area including Kiklukh River, Tashalich River, Seal River, Tsiu River, Tsivat River, Kaliakh River, Chuiki River, Duktoth River, and Yakataga River. A string of glacial lakes rings the toe of Bering Glacier.

The area includes large expanses of riparian and sedge/muskeg wetlands with extensive ponding formed by glacial moraines and enhanced by beaver dam building activity. Better drained sites support healthy stands of Sitka spruce, western hemlock, and mountain hemlock. Alder thickets crowd the lowlands. Western black cottonwood are also present. In the lowlands, the flatness of the terrain provides for widely braided river channels with extensive communities of riparian willow.

Justification: Pressed between rugged mountains and ice fields to the north and the storm beaten north gulf coastline to the south, the coastal lowlands located between Cape Suckling and Cape Yakataga provide an oasis of productive habitat for fish and wildlife.

The proposed state game refuge lies along the main Pacific migration route of birds flying north to breed. The high coastal mountain range funnels millions of birds along the narrow coastal corridor. A majority of waterfowl migrating north along the coast stop to rest and feed in these coastal lowlands on their way to summer nesting grounds. A minimum of 295 trumpeter swans were counted in the proposed refuge in 1985, with nesting concentrated in the Kiklukh and Tashalich River drainages, the Kaliakh and Chiuki River drainages and the numerous beaver ponds of the Tsiu and Tsivat River floodplains. The Chiuki River, a tributary of the Kaliakh River, has one of the highest swan nesting densities in the state. A minimum of 62 trumpeter swans have been observed wintering within the proposed refuge boundary (1989) primarily in the Tashalich and Tsiu/Tsivat River lower drainages. Hundreds of bald eagles winter in high densities along the lower stream reaches. Upwards of 500 moose are known to use the coastal lowlands. In the winter they concentrate between the Tashalich River and Seal River and along the Tsiu River floodplain.

About 700 mountain goats inhabit the more mountainous regions. Extreme weather conditions and heavy snowfall often drive goats to lower elevations during winter. At these times, goats can be found in lowland forests along the coast. One-hundred fifty to two hundred brown bear inhabit the area. In the spring they concentrate along the Kiklukh River, on the lowlands between Bering Glacier and the coast, and along the coast from the Tsiu River to Cape Yakataga to feed on newly emergent vegetation. In the summer, brown and black bears concentrate along fish streams to feed. The most heavily fished systems are the Kiklukh, Tsiu, Kaliakh, and Kulthieth rivers. Approximately 35 - 50 wolves are estimated to occur in the proposed refuge. Their numbers have been slowly increasing in recent years. Other furbearers found in the area include wolverine, coyote, lynx, marten, mink, land otter and beaver.

Four species of salmon (king, sockeye, coho, and pink) occur in the area, although coho salmon are by far the most prevalent. Dolly Varden, cutthroat trout, and steelhead are also documented.

Land Status: The proposed state game refuge encompasses approximately 282,604 acres and is composed of state and federal land. Timber rights to portions of the state land have been slated for disposal to the University of Alaska with subsequent sale and harvest of timber planned. Portions of the proposed refuge have also been previously proposed for legislative designation as a state forest. Between the Kaliakh River and Cape Yakataga virtually the entire shoreline is staked for mining claims. There is also an offshore prospecting permit. A number of setnet cabins are located at the mouth of the Tsiu River. A five acre land lease has been granted near the Tsiu River for use in a commercial guide operation. Applications for several additional similar leases are pending.

Current Uses: The proposed Yakataga State Game Refuge is accessible by boat or plane and has long been an important hunting and fishing area for Yakutat residents. Within the proposed refuge boundaries, moose, mountain goats, black and brown bear and waterfowl are hunted by residents and guided non-residents. An average of 4 guide/outfitters have service the non-resident hunting/fishing public within the boundaries in recent years. Commercial setnet sites are concentrated at the mouths of every major river. The Tsiu/Tsivat River system is one of the richest commercial fishing systems for its size and type. Sport fishing opportunities are abundant. Outfitters and guides take fishermen into the area to fish for salmon; the Tsiu River is a popular coho fishing stream.

Other Natural Resources: Gold was discovered on Yakataga area beaches in 1897 or 1898. Prior to World War II approximately 15,000 ounces of gold was taken out of the area. Beach material in the area contains gold, garnet, ores of iron and titanium, and trace amounts of rutile, zircon, and chromite. Minor amounts of platinum also have been found.

Exploration for oil and gas occurred in the late 1950s and early 1960s; however, no producing wells have been developed. Oil and Gas Lease Sale 79, proposed for 1994, includes areas both offshore and onshore between Cape Suckling and Icy Bay.

The area between Icy Bay and Cape Suckling contains an estimated 144,000 acres of commercial grade mature spruce and hemlock forest.

Support and Opposition: The City of Yakutat and various conservation organizations are known to support the bill.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

PREPARED BY WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, ANCHORAGE

November, 1989

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 20
DOUGLAS, ALASKA 99824-0020
PHONE: (907)

The current estimated values of big game and furbearer species available for harvest in the project area are listed below. Estimates were derived from an informal survey of business operators and local staff knowledge regarding current expenditures and related costs for these activities. Out-of-pocket expenditure estimates were based on costs for transportation, guiding services, equipment, food, tags and licenses, lodging and meals ("out-of-field"), taxidermy, and food value of meat for successful hunters. These estimates were not derived from a specific economic study and do not incorporate all known public economic values of wildlife resources. They should be considered as minimum values developed to show the economic importance of these resources to the state.

The number of mt. goats available for harvest in the Icy Bay to Duktoth River area during the fall of 1989 was 15. The estimated 1989 economic value for these goats is \$64,000.

Five brown bear were estimated to be available for harvest in this area. The estimated value for these 5 bears is \$49,700.

There were an estimated 20 black bears available for harvest in this area during 1989. Their value is estimated at \$54,800.

The current liberal season for moose in the area provided an opportunity to harvest 5 moose. The estimated value of moose during 1989 is \$17,600.

Furbearers harvest records for the area are incomplete and therefore are more difficult to provide estimated values for. Estimated numbers of furbearers available include 3-8 wolves, 5-10 wolverines, 30-50 marten, 20-30 river otter, 80-150 mink, 30-70 beaver, 30 coyote and numerous but unknown number of ermine. The estimated value for the fur resources in the area is \$12,000-26,000.

The annual estimated total value of these wildlife resources is \$198,600-212,600. If this annual value is projected over a 100 year rotation period, then estimated value of these resources range from \$19,860,000 to \$21,260,000.

It is not our intent here to state that the above numbers represent absolute values of the area's wildlife resources. However, they do represent a reasonably accurate estimate of the economic value that is derived by the state from their utilization. Recognition of this value, and how it could be diminished by competing land use activities is an important aspect of any planning document.

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

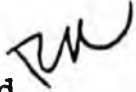
TO: Jim McAllister
Regional Forester
Division of Forestry
Department of Natural Resources

DATE: November 24, 1989

FILE NO.:

TELEPHONE NO.: 465-4290

SUBJECT: Icy Bay Wildlife
Information

FROM:  Richard D. Reed
Regional Supervisor
Habitat Division
Department of Fish and Game

This is in response to the October 11 memorandum sent by Mike Peacock directly to Herman Griese requesting significant amounts of wildlife information for the Icy Bay to the Duktoth River area. Given the broad nature of the request, the Wildlife Conservation Division has not been able to compile all of the information and evaluate the various documents associated with the Icy Cape Timber Sale modification that are currently under review. The division has provided the following information which is enclosed:

Mt. Goat Hunting Participation and Success, Icy bay to Cape Yakataga, 1983-1986

Mt. Goat Hunting Participation and Success, Icy Bay to Yakataga River, 1972-1975 and 1976-1979.

Mt. Goat Survey Data- Icy Bay Area

Brown Bear Harvest (Successful Hunts Only) Icy Bay-Cape Yakataga, 1961-1988.

Black Bear Harvest (Successful Hunts Only) Icy Bay-Cape Yakataga, 1973-1987.

We hope to provide the balance of the information requested within the next thirty days.

To assist us in prioritizing workloads, on future information requests please:

1. Send the request to the Habitat Division.
2. Be as specific as possible as to the information needed.
3. Provide dates by which the information is desired.

Thank you.

Enclosures as stated

cc: Dan Timm, WC, Anchorage
Herman Griese, WC, Cordova
Dave Hardy, Habitat, Sitka

bcc: Frank Rue

MT. GOAT HUNTING PARTICIPATION & SUCCESS
 ICY BAY TO CAPE YAKATAGA
 1983-1986

	<u>Number Successful</u>	<u>No. days</u>	<u>Number unsuccess.</u>	<u>No. days</u>	<u>Total hunters</u>	<u>% success</u>	<u>Total days</u>	<u>\bar{x} / hunt</u>
Independence Creek	1	2	0	0	1	100	2	2.0
Icy Cape	32	113	24	103	56	57	216	3.8
Munday Creek	17	66	16	70	33	52	136	4.1
White River	6	13	2	4	8	75	17	2.1
Cape Yakataga	19	92	16	61	35	54	153	4.4
Cotton Creek	1	5	0	0	1	100	5	5.0
Total	76	291	58	238	134		529	
(per year)	19	72.8	14.5	59.5	33.5	57	132.3	3.9

MT. GOAT HUNTING PARTICIPATION & SUCCESS
ICY BAY TO YAKATAGA RIVER (1972-1975)

	Number Successful	No. days	Number unsuccess	No. days	Total hunters	% success	Total days	\bar{x} days/ hunt
Independence Creek	0	No Data	0	No Data	0			
Icy Cape	21		9		30	70		
Munday Creek	0		0		0			
White River	5		0		5	100		
Cape Yakataga	5		5		10	50		
Total	31		14		45			
(per year)	7.3		3.5		11.3	69		

MT. GOAT HUNTING PARTICIPATION & SUCCESS
ICY BAY TO YAKATAGA RIVER (1976-1979)

	Number Successful	No. days	Number unsuccess	No. days	Total hunters	% success	Total days	\bar{x} days/ hunt
Independence Creek	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--
Icy Cape	29	76	8	32	37	78	108	2.9
Munday Creek	1	1	1	7	2	50	8	4.0
White River	5	15	1	4	6	83	19	3.2
Cape Yakataga	13	25	5	10	18	72	35	1.9
Total	48	117	15	53	63		170	
(per year)	12	29.3	3.8	13.3	15.8	76	42.5	2.7

MO. GOAT SURVEY - ICY BAY AREA

CENSUS AREA	DATE	# OF GOATS
Independence Creek	8-11-89	23
	8-3-84	78
	7-28-77	96
Icy Cape	8-11-89	21
	8-3-84	82
	7-28-77	41
Munday Creek	8-11-89	18
	8-3-84	17
	7-28-77	246
White River	8-11-89	56
	8-3-84	46
	7-28/8-3-77	70
Cape Yakataga	8-11-89	33
	8-3-84	4
	8-3-77	12
S. Channel Yakataga River	8-11/8-12-89	31
	8-3-84	16
	8-3-77	1
Yakataga Glacier	8-12-89	106
	8-4-84	78
	8-3-77	103
Porcupine Creek	8-12-89	27
	8-3-77	13
Boulder Creek	8-12-89	5
	8-3-77	39
Cotton Creek	8-12-89	4
	8-3-77	15
Iron Creek	No Surveys	

BROWN BEAR HARVEST (SUCCESSFUL HUNTS ONLY)

ICY BAY - CAPE YAKATAGA

		S. Channel									Total		
		Independence	Icy Cape	Munday Creek	White River	Cape Yakataga	S. Channel Yakataga River	Yakataga Glacier	Porcupine Creek	Boulder Creek		Cotton Creek	Iron*
1961	No. Successful/												3/-
1962	No. Days					4/-		2/-					6/-
1963			1/-										1/-
1964								1/-					1/-
1965													0
1966													0
1967			2/-										2/-
1968													0
1969			2/10					1/1					3/11
1970			1/2					4/4					5/6
1971													0
1972								1/5					1/5
1973			2/7			1/1		2/2					5/10
1974													0
1975													0
1976		1/4						1/1					2/5
1977			1/9					1/5			1/4		3/18
1978			1/2					1/1					2/3
1979			1/1										1/1
1980								1/1					1/1
1981													0
1982			1/3										1/3
1983			3/16					1/3					4/19
1984			1/1								3/13		4/14
1985				1/3				2/10			2/2		5/15
1986			3/7										3/7
1987				1/2		1/1							2/3
1988											2/7		2/7
Total													
(1961-1988)		1	19	2	6	21				8			57
(1969-1988)		1	16	2	2	15				8			44
\bar{X} bears /year													
(1961-1988)		.05	1.05	.11	.33	1.16				.44			3.16
Total days													
(1969-1988)		4	58	5	2	33				26			128
\bar{X} days/hunt													
(1969-1988)		4.0	3.6	2.5	1.0	2.2				3.3			2.9

* Iron Creek data is combined with S. Channel Yakataga River.

BLACK BEAR HARVEST (SUCCESSFUL HUNTS ONLY)

ICY BAY - CAPE YAKATAGA

1973-1987 (15 YRS)

		Independence	Icy Cape	Munday Creek	White River	Cape Yakataga	Yakataga River	Yakataga Glacier	Pocupine Creek	Boulder Creek	Cotton Creek	Iron*	Total
1973	No Successful/	0						0	0	0	1/19		1/19
1974	No days												0
1975			1/9		1/1		1/1						3/11
1976											1/1		1/1
1977						1/7							1/7
1978													0
1979													0
1980							1/9						1/9
1981					1/10						1/1		2/11
1982													0
1983						1/10	2/2						3/12
1984			3/4	2/2		1/1	1/1						7/8
1985			5/13	3/18			3/16				2/4		13/51
1986			3/4										3/4
1987			1/5								4/21		5/26
Total Success (1973-87)		0	14	5	2	3	8	0	0	0	9		41
\bar{x} bears /yr.			.93	.33	.13	.20	.53				.60		2.73
Total days			36	20	11	18	29				46		160
\bar{x} days/hunt			2.6	4.0	5.5	6.0	3.6				5.1		3.9

* Iron Creek data is combined with Yakataga River.

FRANK'S
HANDOUT @
RES. COMM.
HEARING ON
ICY BAY
TUGGER
SALS

BRIEFING PAPER FOR YAKATAGA AREA
Prepared by ADF&G Habitat Division
February 16, 1990

FEB 20 1990

REGION I

Area addressed here is located between Cape Suckling and Yakataga on the northeast gulf coast.

Area Description: The area is a wide coastal plain sandwiched between the exposed northeast gulf to the south and the Bering Glacier and Robinson Mountains to the north. Several major river systems transect the area including Kiklukh River, Tashalich River, Seal River, Tsiu River, Tsivat River, Kaliakh River, Chuiki River, Duktoth River, and Yakataga River. A string of glacial lakes rings the toe of Bering Glacier.

The area includes large expanses of riparian and sedge/muskeg wetlands with extensive ponding formed by glacial moraines and enhanced by beaver dam building activity. Better drained sites support healthy stands of Sitka spruce, western hemlock, and mountain-hemlock. Alder thickets crowd the lowlands. Western black cottonwood are also present. In the lowlands, the flatness of the terrain provides for widely braided river channels with extensive communities of riparian willow.

Fish and Wildlife Resources: The coastal lowlands located between the mountains of Cape Suckling and Cape Yakataga provide an oasis of productive habitat for fish and wildlife.

The area lies along the main Pacific migration route of birds flying north to breed. The high coastal mountain range funnels millions of birds along the narrow coastal corridor. A majority of waterfowl migrating north along the coast stop to rest and feed in these coastal lowlands on their way to summer nesting grounds. A minimum of 295 trumpeter swans were counted in the proposed refuge in 1985, with nesting concentrated in the Kiklukh and Tashalich River drainages, the Kaliakh and Chiuki River drainages and the numerous beaver ponds of the Tsiu and Tsivat River floodplains. The Chiuki River, a tributary of the Kaliakh River, has one of the highest swan nesting densities in the state. A minimum of 62 trumpeter swans have been observed wintering within the proposed refuge boundary (1989) primarily in the Tashalich and Tsiu/Tsivat River lower drainages.

Hundreds of bald eagles winter in high densities along the lower stream reaches.

Upwards of 500 moose are known to use the coastal lowlands. In the winter they concentrate between the Tashalich River and Seal River and along the Tsiu River floodplain.

About 700 mountain goats inhabit the more mountainous regions. Extreme weather conditions and heavy snowfall often drive goats to lower elevations during winter. At these times, goats can be found in lowland forests along the coast.

One-hundred fifty to two hundred brown bear inhabit the area. In the spring they concentrate along the Kiklukh River, on the lowlands between Bering Glacier and the coast, and along the coast from the Tsiu River to Cape Yakataga to feed on newly emergent vegetation. In the summer, brown and black bears concentrate along fish streams to feed. The most heavily fished systems are the Kiklukh, Tsiu, Kaliakh, and Kulthieth rivers.

Approximately 35 - 50 wolves are estimated to occur in the proposed refuge. Their numbers have been slowly increasing in recent years. Other furbearers found in the area include wolverine, coyote, lynx, marten, mink, land otter and beaver.

Four species of salmon (king, sockeye, coho, and pink) occur in the area, although coho salmon are by far the most prevalent. Dolly Varden, cutthroat trout, and steelhead are also documented.

Current Fish and Wildlife Uses: The proposed Yakataga State Game Refuge is accessible by boat or plane and has long been an important hunting and fishing area for Yakutat residents. Within the proposed refuge boundaries, moose, mountain goats, black and brown bear and waterfowl are hunted by residents and guided non-residents. An average of 4 guide/outfitters have service the non-resident hunting/fishing public within the boundaries in recent years. Commercial setnet sites are concentrated at the mouths of every major river. The Tsiu/Tsivat River system is one of the richest commercial fishing systems for its size and type. Sport fishing opportunities are abundant. Outfitters and guides take fishermen into the area to fish for salmon; the Tsiu River is a popular coho fishing stream.

Effect of Creating a Refuge: The effect of creating a refuge would be to emphasize the fish and wildlife values of the area while allowing other uses to occur as long as they are compatible with that primary purpose. It would also give the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) a greater role in land use decisions.

Need for Management Planning: Whether or not the legislature decides to create a refuge, public use area, or state forest the administration should initiate a regional plan for the area. The plan would assess all the resource values and set land use policy before major commitments of resources are made. This will avoid piecemeal decisions that can and have caused significant impacts to wildlife, and frustrated the public's need to understand and participate in the decisions that affect management of resources they depend on.

Staffing Needs: If the legislature directs the administration to begin a plan immediately and not wait until ongoing plans are completed, the department will need funding to participate.

ADF&G strongly supports the proposed amendment to the Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) and the fiscal note that goes with it. If the fiscal note is approved, three of the department's six new positions will be assigned to southeast Alaska and one of those will focus on timber harvest in northern Southeast including the Yakataga area. Without this new position, the department will be left with what we have now -- the equivalent of one-half a position -- to deal with timber harvest on all lands in northern Southeast. If the FRPA and fiscal note do not pass we will be unable to give adequate attention to timber harvest and other uses of the Yakataga area

NOT ACTUAL
AREA BUT
I INCLUDED
JUST IN
CASE

ICY RAY MOUNTAIN GOAT SURVEY SUMMARY

by
Herman Griese
Wildlife Biologist
Cordova

Mountain goat surveys by nature produce variable results. Factors that influence surveys are numerous. Surveys conducted between 1977 and 1989 at Icy Bay and Cape Yakataga were conducted within a two-week time frame, around the first week of August. Time of day can influence survey results. Observability of goats and the chances of seeing the greatest percentage of goat populations are best the last three hours of daylight. Next best would be the first two hours of daylight, prior to sun hitting the goats. The hotter the goats become the more difficult it is to find them, thus surveys in the middle of the day are likely to represent a small sample of the entire population. Overcast days, being cooler, tend to produce more representative survey results. Aircraft type affects air speed of survey, and the best results come from slow maneuverable aircraft. There is inherent variation among observers. Few surveys of goat populations could ever be expected to locate 100% of the population, in fact most surveys are considered to locate between 60 and 80% under the best conditions. With all these qualifiers in mind the surveys conducted over the years for the areas east (East WR) and west (West WR) of the White River are presented below.

Date	Time	Number of goats (% kids)		ACRFT	Observer
		East WR	West WR		
7/28/77	0958	398-410 (25)	-----	C-180	R.Quimby
8/3/77	0945	-----	43 (35)	C-180	R.Quimby
8/4/84	1000	204 (22)	-----	PA-18	B.Dinneford
8/4/84	1217	-----	39 (28)	PA-18	R.Dinneford
8/11/89	1931	97 (27)	-----	PA-18	H.Griese
8/11/89	2100	-----	81 (20)	PA-18	H.Griese

Survey conditions were considered to be "excellent" in all surveys except for the 1989 survey of East WR, it was considered "good" due to sun glare.

What should stand out is that survey times and aircraft type have progressed to provide near optimum survey results. The decline in goat numbers in East WR is likely to have been

tempered by increased effort to find goats in later surveys. The decline is probably more dramatic than surveys indicate.

Factors that commonly effect mountain goat population declines include excessive harvest (legal and illegal), predation, deep snow or extremely icy winters, disturbance during critical life stages (winter and spring), and habitat loss. It is apparent that any weather condition experienced by one side of White River would be experienced equally by the other side. And likewise, predation by wolves, which apparently began during the 1970's, is likely to have affected both sides. In recent field activities in West WR wolf scat was located that contained goat hair and hooves. However, we have no indication that wolves have been more common on one side versus the other. That leaves human harvest to consider. Illegal goat harvest cannot be measured.

Hunters have been required to report goat harvest in Unit 6 since 1975. It is safe to say, however, that reporting has been less than 100%. In 1985, I found that reporting by all Unit 6 goat hunters may underestimate legal goat harvest by as much as 30%. The harvest numbers are therefore minimum legal harvest numbers.

After decades of research and population monitoring of mountain goats, wildlife managers have determined that hunter harvest should not exceed 5% of healthy populations, especially if the harvest approaches 50% females. Since surveys are not considered to represent 100% of populations, we have established upper allowable harvest levels at 7% of observed numbers for each population of goats in Unit 6.

Mountain goat harvest by hunters and poachers is generally influenced by ease of access. Both areas were subject to aircraft access by possessing substantial airstrips and potential for beach landings. Clearly, the many logging roads developed east of the White River have improved access to goat populations for hunters. Yet reported harvest is not indicated as a significant factor in the decline.

The differences in natural environmental conditions and legal hunting pressure between areas east and west of the White River are few. However, there are several major unnatural differences. The east side has a substantial area of clearcut timber, a great deal of heavy vehicle traffic on a substantial road system, a large seasonal population of loggers, and the human activities associated with logging.

What has influenced the population of goats east of the White River to decline is not clear. Considering the differences in remaining habitat and logging activities, it

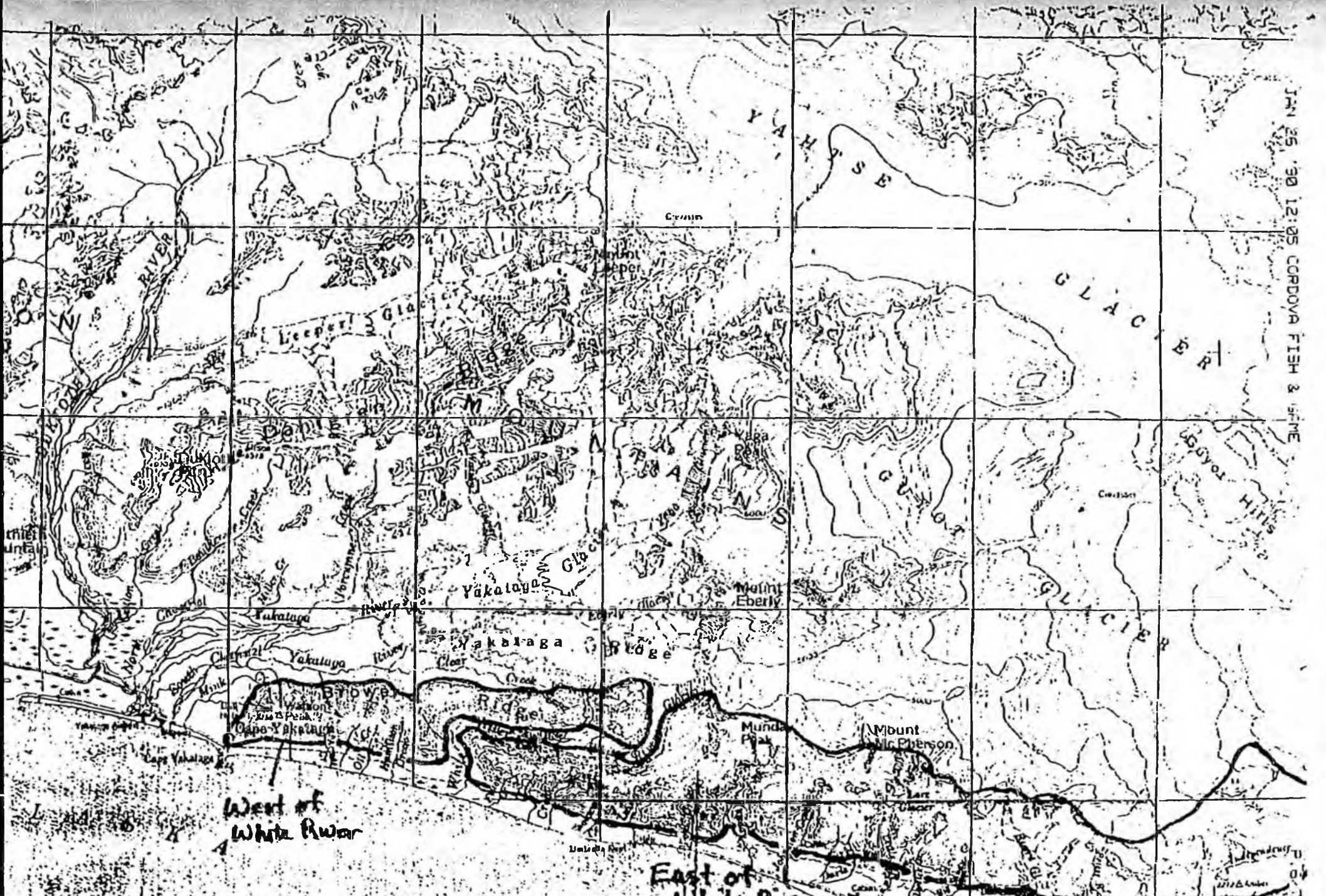
seems to be very clear that logging has promoted the decline in some way. Logging activities may have disturbed goats enough to force them to vacate historical range. In the survey notes of R. Quimby in 1977 he noted:

"Whether by coincidence or not, there were fewer goats above the logging area than on either side. Possibly the goats move away from the noise or perhaps those areas (of habitat) are not as good for some reason"

There remains a lot to be learned about how goats react to human activities. However, throughout the Pacific Northwest logging activities have repeatedly, in some way caused declines in adjacent populations of mountain goat.

griese/RICK3 griese/JREG13

JAN 25 '90 12:25 CORDOVA FISH & FINE



West of White River

East of White River

MT. GOAT COUNT AREAS

SCALE 1:250000



1 22 S
1 23 S

Icy Cape

BAY



Northern Alaska Environmental Center

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

30 January 1990

Representative Mike Davis
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: Cape Yakataga Timber Sales

Dear Representative Davis:

I'd like to express my appreciation, on behalf of the membership of the Northern Center, for the Oversight Hearings that House Resources Committee is holding on timber sales in the Cape Yakataga area.

We are concerned that non-timber values in the Cape Yakataga-Cape Suckling area have been and are being overlooked. Department of Fish and Game objections to the timber sales, based on the effect of logging on important habitat resources, were brushed aside, although those objections since have proved justified.

We are also concerned about the *process* by which the Icy Cape II timber sale was held, as well as the 1987 timber rights conveyance to the University of Alaska and the 1986 *Sullivan* settlement. From my perspective, all seem to flagrantly disregard the public interest and I believe they merit careful scrutiny.

The Northern Center opposes the land use classifications in DNR's Draft *Cape Yakataga Land Use Plan*. Instead, we strongly support the Resource Committee proposal for State Game Refuge status for all lands between Cape Yakataga and Cape Suckling, and we believe that lands covered by the *Land Use Plan* should be classified as Wildlife Habitat rather than as Resource Management or Forestry.

DNR's history of land management in this magnificent and important piece of Alaska's coastline has not been a proud one. We applaud the decision of the Resources Committee to give this area the time and attention it deserves.

Sincerely,

June Weinstock
President, Board of Directors



Northern Alaska Environmental Center

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

12 February 1990

Representative Curt Menard
Co-Chairman, House Resources
Box V
Juneau 99811

RE: HB 346 Yakataga State Game Refuge

Dear Representative Menard:

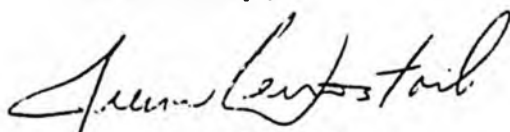
Enclosed you'll find a letter to Mike formally expressing our support for State Game Refuge designation of the lands between Capes Yakataga and Suckling.

I know you're a committee sponsor of HB 346, so I send this along merely as a formal statement of our concern and position. If you should ever need to demonstrate that concern for the Yakataga area is indeed statewide, you can wave it.

I hope you'll be able to move this bill as soon as possible. Please let us know if we can help.

Thanks!

Sincerely,


June Weinstock

Tongass Tourism & Recreation Business Association

740 Fifth Street Juneau Alaska 99801

February 15, 1990

Representative Curt Menard, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
Pouch V, State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Menard:

The Tongass Tourism and Recreation Business Association (TTRBA) is a coalition of over 100 Alaska businesses operating in southeast Alaska, including Yakutat and Cordova. We are primarily tourism-based or recreation-based lodges, fishing charters, outfitters, tour operators, guides, air taxis and retailers that believe in the wise use and management of all natural resources.

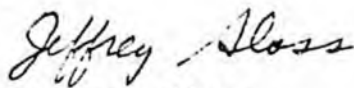
We are deeply concerned over the State's Dept. of Natural Resources' Draft Cape Yakataga Land Use Plan. The plan is flawed in that far too much of the timbered area is committed to logging and not enough is retained for fish, wildlife, recreation and subsistence uses.

Too much of the area's coastline has already been logged; a nearly unbroken 21 mile stretch of clearcuts extend from Icy Cape to Cape Yakataga along the state-owned forelands. Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game protective stipulations were largely ignored resulting in the clearcutting of buffer strips, stream violations and a decline of nearly 50% in mountain goat populations above the sale areas.

Therefore, those lands between Cape Suckling and Cape Yakataga must be excluded from timber harvest. We urge you to support HB 346, providing State Game Refuge status and re-classification to Wildlife Habitat for all state lands between Capes Yakataga and Suckling. In addition, all lands under the Draft Cape Yakataga Land Use Plan should be classified Wildlife Habitat (instead of Forestry or Resource Management as proposed in the draft plan).

This last stretch of unlogged state foreland is increasingly important to many of our hunting & fishing guides, outfitters and air taxis as well as to sport hunters & fishermen, commercial fishermen and subsistence users. The area has been described by at least one ADF&G biologist as the richest wildlife habitat in the state! It is far more valuable unlogged for the long-term sustained yield of healthy tourism and recreation industries as well as for subsistence use, fisheries & wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey Sloss
Executive Director



Alaska Center for the Environment

700 H Street, Suite 4 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501 • (907) 274-3621

March 21, 1990

House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: Proposed Yakataga State Game Refuge

Dear Members of the Committee:

I am again sorry that because of a conflict I will not be able to attend one of your hearings, this time on the proposed Yakataga State Game Refuge, a subject about which ACE feels very strongly. Our position, however, has not changed since we testified at the February 1 teleconference, so for the most part we will briefly reiterate what we said at that time.

The suggestion was made at that earlier hearing that additional logging should be allowed so that "direct human benefits" could be provided to the people of Seward and elsewhere. However, the spectacular forests along this coast, uncut, provide a great many direct human benefits, both economic and non-economic, to a wide variety of users, including subsistence users, commercial and sport fishermen, hunters, guides, outfitters, air taxi operators, and, as we also learned last time, wind surfers (and undoubtedly this is not an inclusive list).

Logging is incompatible with the above existing, valuable uses. We need to recognize that allowing additional logging in the area requires substantial trade-offs, that is, the acceptance of significant damage to the existing uses. We don't believe the trade-offs are acceptable.

A major portion of this coastline has in effect been allocated to large-scale logging, and the result has been the destruction of mountain goat habitat, of certain important streams, and of the area's spectacular scenic beauty. The only certain, long-term means of balancing this allocation with an allocation that favors the other, very important resources and uses, is the legislative designation of much of the remainder of this stretch of coastline. For this reason we strongly support the establishment of the Yakataga State Game Refuge.

A DNR area planning effort, while generally a good idea when the land allocation slate is relatively clean, would not be an appropriate solution in this instance. We already know that an existing major commercial allocation for logging needs to be balanced by an allocation that will protect the many valuable competing resources and uses. And DNR, especially in

recent years, has been extremely reluctant in its area plans to make recommendations for legislative designations, especially specific ones and ones that would result in a change of land managers (e.g., from DLWM to ADF&G). DNR has repeatedly said that that is a job for the legislature--which of course it is; the plan would merely recommend. So there's no reason why the legislature shouldn't act now rather than wait for the completion of a planning effort that is highly unlikely to seriously address the game refuge proposal; and shouldn't permanently protect an area with known values that could at any time be threatened by administrative actions.

Thank you for the chance to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

Cliff Eames

Cliff Eames
Issues Director



CORDOVA DISTRICT FISHERMEN UNITED

P.O. Box 939

Cordova, Alaska 99574

(907) 424-3447

February 26, 1990

Representative Curt Menard
Chairman House Resource Committee
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

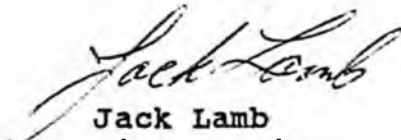
Dear Sir:

I sat in on the teleconference on Tuesday evening, February 20, concerning the Yakataga Timber Issues, from the conference phone at the community college here in Cordova. As the conference went on and with Steve Ranney there in Juneau representing CDFU, I chose not to speak at that time, feeling that my comments then would be non-productive.

I do feel that comments are in order as a result of the conference. The direction that the conference took was a step in the right direction in terms of addressing the need for the development of an area wide management plan. If DNR, DF&G and other appropriate departments will work together without the usual "turf battles" to develop such a plan, then we are all moving in the right direction. However, in order to develop this kind of plan you must have public input and I submit to you that the public has already spoken to a large degree with the request of a Yakataga Game Refuge. Of course, as the plan develops, there will be more public input, but I believe that with a Game Refuge you will already have identified the public's greatest concern in the Yakutataga area. A Game Refuge does not preclude development of the area, it protects the sensitive environment and habitat of the area from being overrun.

In closing, I would like to thank you sir, for allowing me to speak freely on this issue and for your personal attentiveness as well.

Sincerely,


Jack Lamb
Vice-President

cc: Governor Steve Cowper
Representative Cliff Davidson
Senator Bettye Farenkamp
Representative Gene Kubina

Senator Jay Kerttula
Senator Mike Szymanski
Senator Dick Eliason

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF HABITAT

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

BOX 3-2000
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802
PHONE: (907) 465-4106

BRIEFING PAPER FOR YAKATAGA AREA
Prepared by ADF&G Habitat Division
March 21, 1990

Location: The area addressed here is located between Cape Suckling and Cape Yakataga on the northeast gulf coast.

Area Description: The area is a wide coastal plain sandwiched between the exposed northeast gulf to the south and the Bering Glacier and Robinson Mountains to the north. Several major river systems transect the area including Kiklukh River, Tashalich River, Seal River, Tsiu River, Tsivat River, Kaliakh River, Chuiki River, Duktoth River, and Yakataga River. A string of glacial lakes rings the toe of Bering Glacier.

The area includes large expanses of riparian and sedge/muskeg wetlands with extensive ponding formed by glacial moraines and enhanced by beaver dam building activity. Better drained sites support healthy stands of Sitka spruce, western hemlock, and mountain hemlock. Alder thickets crowd the lowlands. Western black cottonwood are also present. In the lowlands, the flatness of the terrain provides for widely braided river channels with extensive communities of riparian willow.

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participate in the decisions that affect management of resources they depend on.

Staffing Needs: If the legislature directs the administration to begin a plan immediately and not wait until ongoing plans are completed, the department will need funding to participate.

ADF&G strongly supports the proposed amendment to the Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) and the fiscal note that goes with it. If the fiscal note is approved, three of the department's six new positions will be assigned to southeast Alaska and one of those will focus on timber harvest in northern Southeast including the Yakataga area. Without this new position, the department will be left with what we have now -- the equivalent of one-half a position -- to deal with timber harvest on all lands in northern Southeast. If the FRPA and fiscal note do not pass we will be unable to give adequate attention to timber harvest and other uses of the Yakataga area

MAR 19 1990

STEVE COWPER

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
JUNEAU

March 19, 1990

Ms. Ann L. Lowe
Chair
Southeast Regional Fish
and Game Council
c/o Department of Fish and Game
Division of Boards
P.O. Box 3-2000
Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Ms. Lowe:

Thanks for your letter concerning House Bill 346 which would establish the Yakataga State Game Refuge. I agree with you that in recent years, there has been a great deal of controversy in this region. I recognize the need for comprehensive planning for the region and believe that an area plan would be an important step in resolving public controversy and providing for sustainable use of State land in the area.

In response to these public concerns about planning for the Yakataga region and the need to carefully consider the regionwide forestry, fish and wildlife, and other values, future timber sale or timber rights transfer will be prohibited until an areawide plan is completed. This prohibition will apply to all State land between Icy Bay and Cape Suckling, except the University timber transfer parcels and the Icy Cape II timber sale and extension which are the subject of previous legal commitments.

An areawide land use plan will determine land use allocation, guidelines, and classifications using a public process with three full rounds of public meetings in local communities such as Yakutat, Cordova, and Seward. The areawide plan will be a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) area plan or, if the Legislature creates a State forest in the region, it could be a DNR State forest management plan. On the other hand, if the Legislature creates a State game refuge, it could be a management plan prepared by the Department of Fish and Game.

Ms. Ann L. Lowe

- 2 -

March 19, 1990

Thanks again for pointing out your concerns. I assure you that natural resource decisions in the region will be made with full public input and involvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Cowper", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Cowper
Governor

cc: Senate Resources Committee
House Resources Committee
Senator Jim Duncan
Senator Jalmar Kerttula
Senator Mike Szymanski
Senator Lloyd Jones
Representative Eugene Kubina
Representative Ben Grussendorf
Representative Bill Hudson
Representative Robin Taylor
Representative Fran Ulmer
Representative Niilo Koponen
Commissioner Don Collinsworth
Department of Fish and Game
Commissioner Lennie Gorsuch
Department of Natural Resources
Gary Gustafson, Director
Division of Land and Water Management
Department of Natural Resources
Alaska Trollers Association
United Fishermen of Alaska
Southcentral Regional Fish and Game Council
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
Prince William Sound Advisory Committee

LAW OFFICES

BIRCH, HORTON, BITTNER AND CHEROT

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

1127 WEST SEVENTH AVENUE • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501 • TELEPHONE (907) 276-1550 • TELECOPIER (907) 276-2822 • TELEX 25-356

THOMAS ALBERT
LUANN E. BAILEY
J. GEOFFREY BENTLEY
RONALD G. BIRCH**
WILLIAM H. BITTNER**
KATHRYN A. BLACK
DOUGLAS BLANKENSHIP
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MICHAEL V. REUSING
ELISABETH H. ROSS**
E. BUDD SIMPSON
STEPHEN F. SORENSEN
SHERIDAN STRICKLAND**
JONATHAN K. TILLINGHAST
DANIEL W. WESTERBURG
T. HENRY WILSON

OF COUNSEL
JAMES J. MORDALE

*D.C. BAR ONLY
**D.C. AND ALASKA BAR

KEY BANK BUILDING
100 CUSHMAN STREET, SUITE 311
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
(907) 452-1888
TELECOPIER (907) 456-5055

ONE SEALASKA PLAZA, SUITE 301
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
(907) 586-2890
TELECOPIER (907) 586-9814

1155 CONNECTICUT AVE., N.W.
SUITE 1200
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036
(202) 659-5800
TELECOPIER (202) 659-1027

March 15, 1990

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.
(907) 263-7204
WRITER'S DIRECT "FAX" NO.
(907) 276-3621

VIA FACSIMILE: 465-2299

Johanna M. Munson, Esq.
c/o The Honorable Rep. Curt Menard
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RE: House Bill on Management of the Yakataga Forest

Dear Johanna:

Following our brief conversations this morning and afternoon, and at your suggestion, I am herewith offering three specific, limited comments on the draft bill on management of the Yakataga forest. As I mentioned, Chugach Alaska Corporation has not had an opportunity to review the draft, and Chugach's president and timber manager are not expected back to town until after the weekend. I have not had the opportunity to discuss the bill with them and these limited comments should not be taken as Chugach's final or complete position on the bill.

Whether Chugach can support the bill is a decision that will have to be made by Chugach management after careful consideration. As I noted, these limited suggestions would go a long way toward removing potential objections to this effort from Chugach's point of view.

First, while everyone acknowledges Chugach's legitimate claims under the Icy Cape settlement, the fact is that satisfaction of those claims is long overdue and Chugach has sustained substantial injury as a result. Under the settlement agreement, the state was obligated to provide the promised timber by March, 1989, fully a year ago. It is worth noting that out of all the entities that have asserted or expressed interests in this area, Chugach alone has considerable amounts of money invested and at risk in these management decisions. Chugach alone has shareholders to which it must account for its bottom line.

Johanna M. Munson, Esq.
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Page 2

In utterly, unquestionably reasonable reliance upon the state's commitments under the settlement agreement, commitments negotiated by the Department of Natural Resources and the Attorney General's office and approved by the superior court, Chugach has substantially changed its position in numerous ways. The very decision to purchase Sullivan, Inc. was based entirely on the state's obligations under the settlement agreement; the price Chugach paid for Sullivan was based almost entirely on the value of the state's obligations under the settlement agreement; Chugach's short and long term timber plans, including its sawmill operations, were based on the settlement agreement timber being harvested in 1989-90; Chugach invested heavily in infrastructure at Icy Bay, expending considerable sums mitigating shoddy practices of previous operators and preparing to harvest the settlement agreement timber.

These are real, hard dollar expenses incurred by Chugach on the completely reasonable expectation that the state would honor contractual commitments negotiated by the public agencies charged with the authority to make such commitments and approved by a court in settlement of bona fide legal claims. I will leave it to other voices at Chugach to describe the importance to Chugach and its shareholders of diversifying its business by developing a viable, in-state forest products operation to provide economic opportunities for its Native shareholders and otherwise fulfill its obligations under the Native Claims Settlement Act.

I would never presume to tell the legislature how to do its job, but even the legislature cannot turn back the clock. The contractual commitments made by the state cannot be unmade, the decisions made by Chugach in reliance upon those commitments cannot be undone, the money spent by Chugach cannot be unspent. While we can appreciate the legislature's dissatisfaction with past management of this area, we cannot accept a "solution" that fails to redress the injury already suffered by the one party who has the most to lose and is the least at fault. It seems trite to note that two wrongs don't make a right, but plainly it is this premise underlying any argument that Chugach should not receive the timber it has been promised. The problems the legislature perceives in the management of this area will not be cured by failure to provide Chugach its timber or inflicting additional financial harm on Chugach.

Accordingly, before any legislative direction in this area can receive the support of Chugach, it must unequivocally provide for satisfaction of the state's obligations to Chugach under the settlement agreement. In this regard, I propose replacing the second sentence in section 1(g) of the bill with the following sentence:

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Page 3

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commissioner shall permit the harvest of timber necessary to satisfy the state's obligations under the court approved settlement agreement entered in Sullivan v. State, Case No. 1KE-85-446 Civil, in accordance with the terms thereof.

Chugach has already publicly stated its support for an area-wide plan for the Yakataga forest and, as a responsible landowner, corporate citizen and Native organization, it will constructively participate in the planning process. But participation and planning is a two-way street and action must be taken to satisfy Chugach's claims under the settlement agreement.

Second, as the largest private landowner in the region covered by the bill, it is important that the moratorium set forth in the first sentence of section 1(g) of the bill not adversely impact Chugach's ability to access and develop its own ANCSA resources in the area. While I'm sure this is not the intent of the bill, I would propose including language explicitly acknowledging these rights. Preliminarily, I would propose adding after the comma in the first sentence of section 1(g) the phrase, "and subject to valid existing rights," and adding as a final sentence:

Nothing in this section shall diminish the right of any private property owner to access or develop its land or resources or the authority of any agency to grant approval therefor.

Third, the proposed citizens advisory commission appears not fairly representative of the entities with legitimate interests in this area. Given that the planning process provides ample opportunity for public comment, the benefit of elevating certain "preferred" voices is debatable. Also, it is unclear what legitimate policy interests are served by having on an advisory commission of eight, four or more persons who would be expected to have very similar advice for the planning process. I would note that there are six Native corporations in the Chugach region, which includes the Yakataga area, but only one proposed for inclusion in the commission. I also note that the Yakataga area includes more than 125 mining claims, which suggests that the commission is not inclusive of all the resource interests in the area.

I would propose eliminating the commission on the ground that the planning process provides sufficient opportunity for the responsible agencies to receive recommendations from interested

Johanna M. Munson, Esq.
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parties. If there must be a commission, I would propose limiting it to representatives of the cities of Cordova and Yakutat, Chugach Alaska Corporation and the University of Alaska, as the four parties with clearly unique and special interests in resource planning in the region. If the commission must include the enumerated entities in section 1(e), I would propose expanding the commission to encompass a balanced and representative array of interests in this area.


As I stated above, these comments should to be taken as constituting Chugach's support for the bill in its present or any other form, or as constituting Chugach's final or complete comments on the matter. Given the apparently inalterable urgency of the committee's need to consider this bill, I felt compelled to submit these limited comments in writing, as you requested. I'm certain Chugach management will have further comments on the bill.

On the issue of timing, I must restate my objection to the extremely limited timeframe in which Chugach is once again expected to respond to a proposal obviously being driven by persons with scant appreciation or concern for Chugach's interest or position in this regrettable affair. This is neither fair to Chugach nor conducive to reasoned policy making. While I am certain that Chugach will participate in the hearings now set for March 22 or 23, I would repeat my request, made to you in obht our conversations, that the hearings be postponed so that I might be able to address the committee personally. As I mentioned, I have prior commitments on both of those days but believe that I might be able to facilitate the committee's consideration of the matters on the table.

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

BIRCH, HORTON, BITTNER
AND CHEROT



Philip Blumstein

PB:jb

cc: Edgar Blatchford, Chairman of the Board,
Chugach Alaska Corporation
Michael Chittick, President, Chugach
Alaska Corporation
Paul Tweiten, Timber Division Manager,
Chugach Alaska Corporation

Student Position Statement
On University Logging

The University of Alaska is concealing a major legal and moral contradiction from it's students, faculty and general public and it must stop.

The university currently owns the timber rights to 37,777 acres of land between Cape Suckling and Cape Yakataga along the Gulf of Alaska and bounded by the Saint Elias Mountains. It acquired these rights as a result of a lawsuit against the Department of Natural Resources.

Originally in 1978 the DNR set aside land in Anchorage for the University but this was given to the municipality of Anchorage. The University threatened to sue, and for reparations was granted a selection of land throughout the state. After this selection was made the University then asked for, and received the timber rights to the land in question outside the public hearing process, violating the law which requires that the University have a period of public notice. This notice was inadequate and in addition, what was posted had the wrong township and range locations for the area. This misled Cordova and Yakutat residents to believe that their area would be unaffected. This failing was observed by a Cordova resident and he alerted other residents and forced DNR and the University to hold a public hearing. At this hearing a capacity crowd testified unanimously against the timber transfer which had already taken place.

As of the 16th of October 1989, the Yakutat Fisherman's Association, the Cordova District Fisherman United, Steve Ranny of Cordova, the Alaska Center for the Environment, and the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, have filed suit along with the City of Yakutat against DNR and UA. For this many local people to cry out against this timber sale there has to be a valid reason for their discontent. The land in question is an important spawning ground for fish, the area abounds with wildlife important for subsistence uses, for guided sport hunting and fishing tours. Previous adjacent timber sales have lead to a crash in mountain goat populations of almost 75% since logging began. This timber transfer would threaten the livelihoods of the residents of Cordova and Yakutat potentially for generations who have depended on the area's resources as a source of income. In addition the University plans to log the area with a non-local company further robbing local people of any benefits which might be derived from the proposed operation. Aside from being unpopular the University is practicing bad forestry by it's own definition.

In a recent lecture on forestry, Dr. John D. Fox of the School of Land and Resource Management said that two important criteria for forest management are that are that; there be "equity" and social and cultural acceptability." Clearly there is nothing equitable or fair about harvesting timber in an area, probably degrading a fisheries resource and definitely degrading a wildlife resource as illustrated by previous harvests. This would eliminate an important resource and not redistribute anything into the local economy. In addition the University is seeking to avoid following the environmental required for state timber sales as opposed to

timber transfers. This type of logging has been referred to as nuclear logging by U.S. Forest Service employees.

In an interview by Karen Kolivosky of the Sun Star, Brian Rogers, vice president of finance is quoted as saying: " The University's view is that it has a responsibility. We're supposed to make money with our trust fund, but have a responsibility to come up with the best way to ensure that there's no harm done to commercial and subsistence fisheries and the regeneration of trees." To make this money, the University could do a number of things. They could demand the dollar value of the area from DNR or reselect lands somewhere where the impact would not be so great. This would preclude denuding vast areas of forest, damaging the livelihoods of local people and keep the University out of ugly legal proceedings. With all the intelligence to be found at this institution, I am sure that a far less heavy handed and respectful way to resolve this problem can be found.

Sacha Botbol Student U.A.F
Director of A.S.U.A.F Movies
U.A.F Wood Center
Fairbanks, AK 99775

tel# Work : 474-6031



WESTGOLD

184 East 53rd Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99518

**WESTERN GOLD EXPLORATION
AND MINING COMPANY,
LIMITED PARTNERSHIP**

Telephone: (907) 561-1855
Telecopier: (907) 561-3556

Representative Curt Menard
Chairman, House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V (MS3100)
Juneau, AK 99811

2-20-90

Regarding request for long term natural resource
interests in the Yakataga/Icy Bay area

At present WestGold has one operating gold mining property in Alaska located at Nome. We operate the BIMA dredge on the largest offshore marine placer in the world, and have been one of the largest gold producers in the State for the last 3 years.

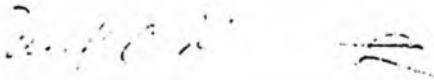
WestGold is interested in expanding its mining operations in the State and has initiated an aggressive exploration program involving placer, hardrock and offshore targets. To date hardrock and placer efforts have centered on Western and interior Alaska. However, offshore prospects have included Norton Sound, Goodnews Bay, the Aleutian islands and the Gulf of Alaska, particularly the area from Icy Bay to Dry Bay. I have included excerpts from several publications indicating mineral potential in coastal areas of Alaska, along with criteria used by WestGold in assessing mineral potential in these areas. This material clearly demonstrates a substantial resource that may have significant economic potential to the State as a whole, as well as the Yakataga area in particular.

Careful comprehensive planning is necessary for the protection and wise use of all natural resources for the best interest of the State. Without such an effort both resource protection and reasonable, environmentally sound development will likely suffer as a result of political controversy and emotional rhetoric of special interest groups from all sides as they attempt to influence public policy. In many cases scientific fact and sound management practices, essential elements in the wise stewardship of our natural resources, are lost as a result of pressure from these special interest groups. A strong and well balanced long term regional plan that addresses all resources and uses in a fair and equitable manner will be an asset to all parties in keeping focussed on resource management consistent with the best interests of the State.

With respect to the Yakataga/Icy Bay area, WestGold would be glad to participate in, or provide input to, a comprehensive planning program representing mining interests. We would recommend that such a comprehensive plan be prepared by ADNR, Southcentral region, since the bulk of the interest groups, Federal agencies and land owners have a presence or regional offices in Anchorage.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on resource interests and planning in the Yakataga area.

Very Truly Yours,



Paul C. Rusanowski, Ph.D.
Manager Environmental Affairs

H B

356

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(9)

Date Referred: May 8, 1989

FURTHER REFERRALS: FINANCE

Date of Committee Action: 4/18/90

The RESOURCES Committee considered:

HB 356

HOUSE BILL NO. 356

[ESTABLISHING THE SUSITNA STATE FOREST]

"An Act establishing the Susitna State Forest."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- [] be replaced with CS HB356 [] the same title
- [] have attached amendment(s) [] a new title
- [] do pass
- [] do not pass
- [] no recommendation
- [] individual recommendations
- [] additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):
(Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

(Date/Dept)

- [] fiscal impact _____
- [] zero fiscal note _____
- [] zero with analysis _____

- [] fiscal note(s) _____
- [] zero fiscal note(s) _____
- [] zero fn/analysis _____

SIGNING BY PASS:

[Signature]
 Bill Hudson
 Bert Thayer

SIGNING:

(Check approp. column)

	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend
<i>[Signature]</i>		X	
<i>[Signature]</i>		X	
<i>[Signature]</i>		X	

[Signature]
 Chairman's Signature

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: Establishing the Susitna State Forest
Sponsor: Resources
Requestor: House Resources Committee

Agency Affected: All Agencies
BRU: _____
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CONTRACTUAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
SUPPLIES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
EQUIPMENT	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
LAND & STRUCTURES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
GRANTS, CLAIMS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
MISCELLANEOUS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TEMPORARY	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: House Resources Committee Phone: 4944
Division: Representative Curt Menard Date: 4/19/90

Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: _____
Agency: _____

Distribution (by preparer):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

Original sponsor(s): Resources Committee

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 356 (Resources)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Susitna State Forest."

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

8 * Section 1. AS 41.17 is amended by adding a new section to read:

9 Sec. 41.17.410. SUSITNA STATE FOREST. (a) Subject to valid
10 existing rights and except for land owned by or transferred to the
11 University of Alaska under a settlement agreement between the state
12 and the university, the state-owned or acquired land and water lying
13 within the parcels described in (d) of this section is designated as
14 the Susitna State Forest.

15 (b) The commissioner shall prepare a management plan for the
16 Susitna State Forest under AS 41.17.230. The management plan for the
17 Susitna State Forest must include the guidelines from the Susitna
18 Regional Forest Plan.

19 (c) The commissioner shall consider and permit the uses de-
20 scribed in AS 41.17.230(e) within the Susitna State Forest subject to
21 findings by the commissioner under AS 41.17.230(f).

22 (d) The Susitna State Forest includes the state-owned or ac-
23 quired land and water lying within the following described parcels:

24 (1) Kusheina Block

25 (A) Township 20 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

26 Sections 3 - 10

27 Sections 15 - 22

28 Section 27: 1/2, 1/2NE1/4

29 Section 23

Section 29: N1/2, E1/2SE1/4

(D) Township 21 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 4 - 9

Section 15: N1/2NW1/2, E1/2NW1/4, N1/2NE1/4

Sections 16 - 21

Section 22: N1/2

Section 27: N1/2

Sections 28 - 33

Section 34: N1/2

(C) Township 21 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian

Section 25: S1/2, SE1/4

Section 36: E1/2, E1/2NW1/2

(2) Petersville Road Block

(A) Township 24 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 3 - 5

Section 6: NE1/4

Section 8: N1/2, N1/2SE1/2, S1/2SE1/4

Sections 9 - 10

Section 13: SW1/4, SW1/4NW1/4, SW1/4SE1/4

Section 19: N1/2, N1/2E1/2, E1/2SE1/4,

SE1/4NE1/4

Section 20: S1/2

Section 23: N1/2

Sections 29 - 31

(B) Township 24 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

Section 1: N1/2

Sections 2 - 5

Sections 6 - 11

Section 12: N1/2, N1/2SE1/4

1 Section 13: W1/2NE1/4, SE1/4NE1/4

2 Section 15

3 Section 16: W1/2

4 Sections 17 - 20

5 Section 22

6 Section 23: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, NE1/4NE1/4

7 Section 28: W1/2

8 Sections 29 - 31

9 (C) Township 25 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

10 Sections 3 - 4

11 Section 6: W1/2, N1/2NE1/4

12 Section 7: W1/2, NW1/4

13 Section 8: E1/2, E1/2SW1/4

14 Sections 9 - 10

15 Sections 15 - 17

16 Sections 20 - 22

17 Section 23: W1/2

18 Section 26: W1/2

19 Sections 27 - 29

20 Sections 32 - 34

21 Section 35: W1/2

22 (D) Township 25 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

23 Section 1: E1/2, SW1/4

24 Section 12

25 Section 13: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, E1/2NE1/4

26 Section 14: E1/2, SW1/4

27 Section 23

28 Section 24: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, E1/2SE1/4

29 Sections 25 - 26

1 Sections 35 - 36

2 (E) Township 26 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

3 Section 20: SE1/4

4 Section 21: S1/2

5 Sections 27 - 28

6 Section 29: NE1/4

7 Section 31: W1/2, SE1/4

8 Section 33

9 (F) Township 26 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

10 Section 24: E1/2E1/2

11 Section 25: E1/2

12 Section 36: E1/2.

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6-0896E
Bradley
2/27/90

Original sponsor(s): Resources Committee

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 356 (Resources)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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19 (c) The commissioner shall consider and permit the uses de-
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21 findings by the commissioner under AS 41.17.230(f).

22 (d) The Susitna State Forest includes the state-owned or
23 acquired land and water lying within the following described parcels:

24 (1) Susitna River Block

25 (A) Township 17 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

26 Section 2: NW1/4

27 Section 3: W1/2, NE1/4, N1/2SE1/4

28 Section 4: East of the left bank of the Susitna
29 River

1 Section 7: East of the left bank of the Susitna
2 River

3 Section 8: East of the left bank of the Susitna
4 River

5 Section 9: NW1/4 lying east of the left bank of
6 the Susitna River, N1/2NE1/4

7 Section 17: NW1/4

8 Section 18: N1/2 east of the left bank of the
9 Susitna River, SW1/4, W1/2SE1/4

10 Section 19: NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4, W1/2NE1/4

11 (B) Township 17 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

12 Section 24: N1/2 east of the left bank of the
13 Susitna River, N1/2S1/2

14 (C) Township 18 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

15 Section 1: East of the left bank of the Susitna
16 River

17 Section 2: E1/2E1/2 east of the left bank of
18 the Susitna River

19 Section 11: East of the left bank of the
20 Susitna River

21 Section 12: N1/2, SW1/4

22 Section 13: W1/2, W1/2SE1/4

23 Sections 14 - 15: East of the left bank of the
24 Susitna River

25 Section 22: East of the left bank of the
26 Susitna River

27 Sections 23 - 26

28 Section 27: East of the left bank of the
29 Susitna River

1 Section 33: SE1/4 East of the left bank of
2 the Susitna River

3 Section 34: East of the left bank of the
4 Susitna River

5 Section 35

6 Section 36: NW1/4

7 (D) Township 19 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian

8 Sections 3 - 10

9 Section 15: NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SW1/4,
10 W1/2NE1/4

11 Sections 16 - 21

12 Section 22: W1/2W1/2

13 Section 28: NW1/4

14 Sections 29 - 32

15 (E) Township 19 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

16 Section 1: E1/2

17 Sections 12 - 13

18 Section 24

19 Section 25: East of the left bank of the
20 Susitna River

21 Section 36: East of the left bank of the
22 Susitna River

23 (F) Township 20 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian

24 Sections 1 - 2: West of the left bank of the
25 Susitna River

26 Sections 3 - 4

27 Section 5: E1/2E1/2

28 Section 8: E1/2

29 Sections 9 - 10

1 Section 11: West of the left bank of the
2 Susitna River

3 Section 14: West of the left bank of the
4 Susitna River

5 Sections 15 - 17

6 Section 18: E1/2L1/2

7 Section 19: E1/2

8 Sections 20 - 21

9 Sections 22 - 23: West of the left bank of the
10 Susitna River

11 Section 27: West of the left bank of the
12 Susitna River

13 Sections 28 - 33

14 Section 34: West of the left bank of the
15 Susitna River

16 (G) Township 20 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

17 Section 25: E1/2E1/2

18 Section 36: E1/2

19 (H) Township 21 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian

20 Section 23: S1/2SE1/4

21 Section 24: W1/2SE1/4 west of the left bank of
22 the Susitna River, E1/2SW1/4 west of the left
23 bank of the Susitna River, SW1/4SW1/4

24 Section 25: West of the left bank of the
25 Susitna River

26 Sections 26 - 27

27 Section 28: NE1/4

28 Section 33: SE1/4

29 Sections 34 - 35

1 Section 36: West of the left bank of the
2 Susitna River

3 (2) Kashwitna Block

4 (A) Township 20 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

5 Sections 3 - 10

6 Sections 15 - 22

7 Section 27: W1/2, W1/2NE1/4

8 Section 28

9 Section 29: N1/2, E1/2SE1/4

10 (B) Township 21 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

11 Sections 4 - 9

12 Section 15: W1/2W1/2, E1/2NW1/4, W1/2NE1/4

13 Sections 16 - 21

14 Section 22: W1/2

15 Section 27: W1/2

16 Sections 28 - 33

17 Section 34: N1/2

18 (C) Township 21 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian

19 Section 25: S1/2, SE1/4

20 Section 36: E1/2, E1/2W1/2

21 (D) Township 22 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian

22 Section 7

23 Section 8: W1/2W1/2, E1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SE1/4

24 Section 16: N1/2NW1/4

25 Sections 17 - 18: N1/2N1/2

26 (E) Township 22 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian

27 Sections 3 - 6: S1/2

28 Sections 7 - 12

29 (F) Township 22 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian

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Section 1: S1/2

Sections 2 - 12

Section 18: N1/2, N1/2S1/2

(G) Township 22 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 1 - 3: S1/2

Section 4

Section 5: E1/2

Section 8: E1/2

Sections 9 - 12

Section 13: N1/2, N1/2S1/2

Sections 14 - 16

Section 17: E1/2

Section 20: E1/2NE1/4

Section 21

Section 28

Section 33

(H) Township 23 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

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Proposed Susitna State Forest - Fact Sheet

In 1983 the Alaska Legislature established a State Forest System. The primary purpose in the establishment of state forests is the perpetuation of personal, commercial, and other beneficial uses of resources through multiple-use management (AS 41.17.200). All potential uses will be permitted under a management plan prepared by the DNR including: commercial timber harvest, harvest of forest products for personal uses, mining, mining claims, mineral lease hold location, mineral leasing, material extraction, recreation, wildlife and fisheries habitat, greenbelts, trapping and sport and subsistence fishing and hunting, grazing, watershed management, research, and other traditional and/or compatible uses. Much of the land in the Susitna Basin is ideal for inclusion in the state forest system and thus long term multiple use management.

There are more than two million acres of commercial forest land in the Susitna Basin area. These lands are capable of producing nearly 30 million board feet (MMbf) of softwood and 130,000 cords of fuelwood annually which could supply much, if not most, of the wood products used by Anchorage and Mat/Su residents on an annual basis (54 MMbf of lumber and 40,000 cords of fuelwood). The State of Alaska manages over 1.3 million acres or nearly 70 percent of the CFL in the Susitna area. At present most of the wood harvested from these lands is used as fuelwood. Some of the annual harvest is manufactured by the 30 or so small sawmills into rough green lumber, about 3 MMbf. A smaller amount is manufactured into cabinets, siding, etc. The changing and uncertain land status in Alaska has discouraged development of a wood products industry by keeping the source of raw material uncertain. Most of this land is needed for multiple use management with wood production as a primary use.

Legislatively designating much of the State's commercial forest land as State Forest and thus long term public retention for multiple use will enable financial investment in industrial development based on a secure supply of wood. The opportunity exists for having 200 direct jobs with an annual payroll of \$7 million based on an annual harvest of 20 MMbf of softwood sawtimber just in the Mat/Su area. Indirect employment would add another 250 jobs. Revenue to the state would likely be in excess of \$800,000 annually. Such industrial development would free the state from relying solely on import sources which could prove unreliable in the decades to come when wood will be in greater worldwide demand. State Forests facilitate such industrial development by insuring a long term timber supply and enabling coordinated and economical management and planning over large tracts of land. At the same time State Forests guarantee recreational use and development, mineral development, wildlife habitat, hunting and fishing, tourism, wilderness, and other uses for generations to come. Committing lands to long term forest management in the Railbelt is critical if Alaska is to achieve any level of self sufficiency with respect to fuelwood, lumber, and other forest products.

Much of the state owned lands in the Susitna Basin are well suited for State Forest designation as they have high value for timber, recreation, tourism, hunting, and fishing. The existing state forest legislation insures that these lands, so designated, will be managed for multiple use for the greatest benefit to Alaska.



Alaska State Legislature

HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

P.O. Box V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-3715

MEMORANDUM

TO: HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM: RESOURCES COMMITTEE STAFF

DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 1990

RE: CS H.B. 356, SUSITNA STATE FOREST

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

CS H.B. 356 expands the boundaries of the proposed Susitna State Forest to include most areas recommended for legislative designation in the Susitna Area Plan and two specific areas in the Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan which designate forestry and fish and wildlife management as primary uses.

The Susitna State Forest as outlined in the CS encompasses approximately 325,000 acres (an increase of approx. 164,000 acres) which would be managed for multiple-use management by the Department of Natural Resources in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game.

The purpose of the Susitna State Forest is to create a designated land base which will be managed for resource management. The State Forest would permanently reserve the land in public ownership and require that it be managed according to principles of multiple use and sustained yield.

The following multiple uses would be allowed within the state forest:

- 1.) Commercial timber harvesting
- 2.) Harvest of forest products for personal use
- 3.) Mining, mining claim, and mineral leasehold location
- 4.) Material extraction
- 5.) Recreation
- 6.) Wildlife and fisheries habitat management including critical habitat management
- 7.) Greenbelt/Buffer management
- 8.) Trapping
- 9.) Sport and subsistence hunting and fishing
- 10.) Grazing
- 11.) Watershed management
- 12.) Research
- 13.) Other traditional compatible uses
- 14.) Uses consistent with the policies of AS 38.04.015

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Recommendations for Susitna Area Plan update
Funding and enforcement
Research
Trail rights-of-way
[OTHER?]

CORRECTION

**THIS DOCUMENT
HAS BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED
TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY**



Alaska State Legislature

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The area encompassed within the Susitna Forest does not include:

- 1.) High value agricultural land from the SAP and the Willow Sub-basin Plan
- 2.) Land disposal areas (homesteads, remote parcels etc.)
- 3.) Mat-Su Borough land holdings
- 4.) Previously designated lands

Specific management guidelines for particular areas within the Susitna State Forest will be developed through a management plan involving state agencies and the public. The management plan will include the regional and site-specific guidelines which are being developed in the Susitna Regional Forest Plan. (Copy of the draft regional guidelines attached).

The area included in the proposed Susitna State Forest equals approximately 10% of all lands in the Susitna Valley.

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REGIONWIDE FOREST MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Forest Management Program

TIMBER SALE PROGRAM

General intent. The goal of the timber sale program is to maintain existing timber harvesting and processing businesses and to expand harvesting and processing to provide additional jobs and income. DNR will develop 5-year timber sale schedules under the Forest Practices Act guidelines for a regular, predictable series of sale offerings. Timber sales should be offered in a range of volumes and duration to accommodate different sectors of the industry and the public. Sale offerings will be subject to budget constraints, access, markets, and the limits of the annual allowable cut.

Coordination with other landowners. DNR will coordinate its timber sale offerings with timber sale offerings of other landowners when it will increase the viability of the offerings or provide other public benefits. Opportunities for coordinating timber sales will be identified, in part, through public and agency review of the 5-year timber sale schedule.

Annual allowable cut. The annual allowable cut will be reviewed and, if appropriate, revised at least every five years. Revisions may occur more often if warranted by new information on growth rates, regeneration, or other factors that affect harvestable volume. The annual allowable cut will apply to commercial and personal use harvesting.

PERSONAL USE WOOD

General intent. Continuing to provide wood products for personal use is one of the goals for forest lands in the SRF area. DNR will continue to make wood available for personal use within the constraints of budget, access, and the annual allowable cut. Sources of wood for personal use include individual permits in remote areas, established personal use harvesting areas in accessible regions, designated community woodlots, negotiated personal use sales, use of wood residues in commercial harvesting areas, and harvest of dead and down wood. No permit is needed to harvest wood that is both dead and down in the planning area.

Regulations on personal use. Wood obtained for personal use may not be sold, bartered or used for commercial purposes. Negotiated personal use sales are subject to the regulations in 11 AAC 71.050. Permits for personal use wood are issued for up to 3200 lf of houselogs, 10 Mbf of sawlogs, or 10 cords of fuelwood. For each established personal use harvesting area, the Division of Forestry sets the number of cords allowed per permit.

Coordination with commercial sales. This plan identifies areas where demand for personal use wood is likely to exceed the supply available within disposal boundaries or private parcels outside disposal areas. These areas will be identified when the planning team reviews individual management units. The SRF will require individual timber sale proposals must address the issue of personal use wood in these areas. The FMR must either explain how personal use wood will be provided or the reasons for not providing wood.

Forest Management Reports for commercial sales will describe any provisions for supplying wood for personal use from the sale area. Areas where a high demand for personal use wood is likely will be identified in the SRF.

Personal use subunits. The Susitna Area Plan identifies subunits where timber harvesting is limited to personal use only. In these subunits, an annual allowable cut will be established. Permits for personal use harvesting will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS AND EXPERIMENTAL FORESTS

Research natural areas. No significant human intervention or manipulation will be allowed in research natural areas except where required to maintain features for which the area was set aside.

Research natural areas (RNAs) may be established in the Susitna Regional Forest Plan. Proposals for research natural areas identified after the plan is adopted will be recommended to the director of the DNR Division of Land and Water Management. The director will review the proposal and make a determination on the site. The director will make his determination in consultation with the DNR Division of Forestry and the Department of Fish and Game.

Objectives for research natural areas are to establish sites that:

- preserve undisturbed examples of vegetation types or communities, unique ecological sites, or geologic features for comparison with those influenced by humans,
- provide educational and research areas for ecological and environmental studies,
- preserve gene pools for typical and rare and endangered plants and animals.

Research natural areas in the Susitna Regional Forest Plan should represent features that are not protected on other public lands designated for that purpose.

RNAs should be of the minimum size necessary to protect the features of interest.

Experimental forests. The objectives for experimental forests are:

- To provide research areas for forest management studies, including manipulative research on vegetation and habitat.
- To protect existing gene pools and to provide managed areas for gene pool improvement.
- To provide educational areas for resource management and environmental studies.

Management plan. A management plan should be prepared for each research natural area and experimental forest. The plan should emphasize the process for approving and monitoring research and other activities in these areas, not on identifying specific research projects. Until a plan is adopted, DNR will manage these areas to protect the features for which they were established. Activities will not be allowed that will adversely impact those features.

Willow Experimental Forest. The Willow Experimental Forest northwest of Wasilla (T18N R2W sect. 25 E1/2) will be included in the Susitna Regional Forest Plan.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fire suppression intensities are determined by the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan for the Matanuska/Susitna area. Fire management practices, including suppression and prescribed burning, are designed to implement the land management policies laid out in the land use plans for this area.

Timber Sale Design and Management

PUBLIC USE

Timber harvest areas will be available for public use except when special restrictions are necessary to protect public safety, prevent damage to natural resources including regrowth, or protect the safety of the operator and security of the operator's equipment or materials.

See also: "Road management - Public Use"

TIMBER SALE DESIGN

Overall intent. Forest management in the Susitna Regional Forest Plan area is intended to create and maintain a mosaic of age classes that will provide for a mixture of cut and uncut areas to meet the needs of fish and wildlife habitat, timber production, and recreation. To meet this intent, DOF should use the practices described in this when designing timber sales. These general guidelines may be varied on a site-by-site basis by DOF in consultation with DFG.

Multiple use. Forested lands open to timber harvesting should be managed to maximize production of wood fiber in a manner consistent with the maintenance of the site-specific conditions necessary for multiple use and with the management intent for the subunit.

Cut and leave areas. To ensure that adequate year-round cover is available to meet wildlife species needs, harvests will be designed to leave approximately 40-60% of the cover habitat in each subunit in cover at all times. Leave areas can be cut after the original harvests regenerate enough to function as cover habitat. All buffers set aside from harvesting are included in the cover area calculations.

The DNR Division of Forestry, after consultation with DFG, will determine the rotation age, reentry timing, and species composition for each stand based on sound silvicultural practices. These decisions will consider site characteristics, markets, habitat conditions, and objectives for wildlife management, recreation, and visual quality within the stand and in adjacent stands or vegetation types.

Focal species. DOF will work with DFG to determine the main fish and wildlife species managed in each timber sale area. This information will be included in the 5-year timber sale schedule and Forest Management Reports (FMRs) for individual sales. The public will be able to comment on the strategy for habitat management through comments on the schedule and FMRs.

Cutting unit size and shape. The total area of cutting units within a harvest unit should be 5-50 acres to optimize benefits for wildlife habitat. Total cutting unit area may be increased on a site-by-site basis by DOF in consultation with DFG where a cutting area is designed to accommodate habitat needs. (See cutting unit examples in diagram on last page.)

Timber stands should be designed for shape and edge contrast to provide for wildlife needs. In general, cuts should be designed with irregular borders to increase the amount of forage-producing edge.

In areas of heavy snow accumulation where drifting may bury browse, clearcuts should be oriented downwind. Clearcuts should also be oriented to avoid blowdown and loss of moose habitat. In other areas, a variety of clearcut orientations should be included in timber harvest plans to cover the range of conditions that may be important to moose.

Clearcuts generally should be no wider than 660 feet to allow access to cover for bears and moose and to encourage full utilization of browse. In area where DFG identifies important marten populations, clearcuts should be no wider than 330 feet to avoid creating open areas that are barriers to marten travel.

Where maximum clearcut widths are greater than 660 feet, or in cuts larger than 40 acres, residual islands of dense cover should be left within the clearcut to provide cover, bedding, and shelter for moose. Islands should be 0.5 - 5 acres spaced 660-990 feet apart, stocked by at least 1/3 conifers to provide relief in deep snow, and with tree cover at least 13-20 feet high for hiding cover.

Unharvested strips at least 330 feet wide should be left between harvest units. Leave strips are intended to provide escape cover, thermal cover, resting cover, visual screens in hunting areas, and travel corridors for marten, moose, bear, and other wildlife.

Arrangement of cutting units. Wildlife habitat, including escape and thermal cover, refuges from deep snow, and alternate food sources, should be considered when designing the arrangement of cutting units and leave areas. The location of mature conifer stands near early winter moose concentration areas will benefit moose. The location of clearcuts near black bear food sources should be planned to minimize increases in hunting vulnerability.

Well-drained upland sites that produce abundant browse are preferred sites for clearing; poorly-drained upland sites that produce less browse are better suited for maintenance as wildlife cover in moose winter range.

Recreation and visual quality. Timber sales and timber access will be designed with consideration of recreation values and scenic quality. Sales will be designed by DOF in consultation with DPOR.

See also: "Flightseeing routes - Timber sale design"

HARVESTING SYSTEMS

Preferred systems. In most of the planning area, clearcutting and seed tree harvesting are the preferred harvesting systems for wildlife habitat and timber production. Single-tree selection, group selection, shelterwood cutting, or other harvesting systems may be prescribed on certain sites where beneficial for wildlife, timber management, recreation, visual quality or other considerations.

Full-tree logging. Full-tree logging is encouraged in most areas to provide disturbance of the organic soil for site preparation and to achieve maximum wood utilization from harvested areas. Other logging systems may be used where appropriate because of topography, economic factors, or management of other resources.

Felling and limbing. In known moose forage areas, limbs from felled logs should be removed to minimize damage to residual moose browse during skidding. Where possible, trees should be felled away from moose foraging areas.

HARVESTING SCHEDULES

Concentrate harvesting. Logging activities should be concentrated into the shortest possible time for each unit. Where timber sales are planned to progress through a series of adjacent units, harvest activity should be completed in each unit before starting in the next. Intensive harvest activity in a single season causes less disturbance to wildlife than low level activity over several seasons. [Note: "unit" will be defined after the working group reviews management unit boundaries. "Units" are likely to be either subunits or management units identified in Willow and Susitna area plans.]

Moose concentration areas. Where possible, logging activity in areas where moose concentrate on winter range should be scheduled during periods of the year when moose concentrations are not present. Winter moose concentration areas will be identified in individual management units before the timber sale is offered.

Coordination with other activities. Where possible, timber harvest schedules should be coordinated with other activities to reduce overall impacts.

Seasonal scheduling. Most current timber harvesting is done in winter when access is easier and disturbance to aquatic habitats, wetlands, bear activity areas is lowest. Winter logging also benefits suckering in aspen and quick regrowth of birch and cottonwood. Future harvesting will also be concentrated in the winter. Schedules for harvesting may be specified in individual sales based on considerations of access, site preparation, and forest regeneration. Summer harvesting will be directed to well-drained sites where summer harvests can aid site preparation.

Data collection. Where practical, DFG should complete site-specific habitat evaluations of units scheduled for timber harvest before harvesting occurs. In particular, DFG should evaluate moose browse quantity, quality, and utilization. These data can be used to better define moose range distribution and quality.

SLASH DISPOSAL

General. Slash disposal benefits reforestation, helps avoid insect and disease outbreaks, reduces the amount of fuel available for wildfires, improves habitat and visual quality, and aids recreational use of cutover areas. Logging and road construction slash should be disposed to avoid hindering wildlife from using cutover areas. Disposal can be accomplished either mechanically, or by burning, or by a combination of both methods. Slash that falls on uncut lands adjacent to harvest areas should be cleaned up or removed to facilitate moose use of cover and feeding areas.

Controlled burning. Controlled burning is recommended when climate, soil, and fuel load conditions are conducive to safely removing slash, maintaining forest openings, and improving the quality and quantity of moose forage.

DEC permits are required for burning on forestry projects greater than or equal to 40 acres. DOF burning permits are required on all projects, regardless of size, from May 1 through September 30. Burn barrels, or warming, cooking, or signal fires are exempted from DOF permit requirements.

If burning is proposed for slash disposal, the fire prescription will be included in the Forest Management Report for the timber sale.

Broadcast burning is preferable to piling and burning because it encourages growth of fruiting shrubs used for forage.

When burning is used for slash disposal, burns should be conducted while the ground is damp to protect the root systems of forage plants.

Windrows. Where extensive windrows are built, openings should be cut through the windrows to allow moose passage, especially on moose trails.

Marten habitat. In areas where DFG have identified important marten populations, slash piles and other logging debris that will protrude through the snow should be retained to provide marten access to prey beneath the snow and to improved denning and cover habitat.

Rights-of-way. Dispose of right-of-way slash so as not to inhibit moose movement.

SITE PREPARATION

General. Site preparation ensures prompt reforestation and benefits habitat and visual quality. Where natural regeneration, artificial seeding, or planting will be used for reforestation, a bed adequate for regeneration will be required after timber harvest. The site preparation method used will depend on site characteristics and vegetation desired for reforestation and habitat. Recommended site preparation methods will be included in the Forest Management Report for individual sales.

Choice of techniques. DOF should use the following practices when determining site preparation strategies for timber sales. These general guidelines may be varied on a site-by-site basis by DOF in consultation with DFG.

Recommendations for site preparation timing and techniques should be included in the Forest Management Reports for individual sales.

Disking, scalping, or other mechanical disturbance should be considered to break up soils compacted during harvesting. Compaction may reduce seedling growth or cause mortality.

On aspen sites, cleared areas should be heavily scarified or lightly burned to produce maximum sucker response.

On paper birch sites, scarification should remove the organic layer and expose only the upper mineral soil layer (A horizon).

Timing. Areas should be scarified just prior to peak annual seedfall or artificial seeding to ensure optimum seedbed receptivity.

Soil exposure. Mineral soil should be exposed uniformly over the harvested area to encourage uniform distribution of trees. Mineral soil must be exposed on at least 50% of the harvested area. Mineral soil patches should be as large as feasible.

REFORESTATION

FPA requirements. The Forest Practices Act requires regeneration of forest stands that are not intended for conversion to other uses within 7 years in Region IIb and within 5 years in Region I. Most of the planning area is in region IIb. Parts of the Beluga, Mt. Susitna, and Susitna Lowlands subregions are in Region I. Where specific regeneration goals are known (e.g., manage for cottonwood, convert to white spruce, etc.), they will be specified in individual management units.

Regeneration plan. Forest management reports for timber sales should include a regeneration plan that specifies target species and stocking levels, site preparation requirements, and regeneration methods.

Regeneration methods. Natural regeneration is the main regeneration method used in the planning area at present. Natural regeneration will continue to be used on most sites in the planning area, but seeding or planting may be required for specific timber sales.

USE OF CHEMICALS

Prevention of pest outbreaks. Forest pest management will emphasize prevention of pest outbreaks. An annual insect and disease detection survey will be conducted by the DNR Division of Forestry in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service. DNR will emphasize silvicultural practices that enhance natural mortality of pests and improve tree vigor to reduce the risk of outbreaks. Examples include harvesting mature trees of susceptible species, using group selection cuts, suppressing intermediate host species, using lethal trap trees around harvest areas, disposing of slash, and establishing utilization standards that minimize slash.

DEC authority. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and US Environmental Protection Agency have the primary authority for regulating pesticide use. DEC regulations cover pesticide use and disposal. DEC regulations require applicants for pesticide permits to give public notice of the proposed action. If a local government or 50 residents so request, a public hearing will be held to review the proposed action.

DOF has not used pesticides at an operational scale in the planning area in the past. In the future, pesticides may be used as a forest management tool to control vegetative competition, assist in establishing regeneration, or control forest damage from insects and diseases. If chemical use is proposed for a specific timber sale, public notice for the sale should include a description of the proposed action and its likely effects on forest growth and the environment.

Herbicides. Herbicide application can help ensure regeneration of desired forest species, especially conifers. However, herbicides have not been widely used for forest management in the planning area. A study of herbicide effects on fish and wildlife habitat should be conducted prior to operational herbicide use in this area. Recommendations for this study will be included in the implementation section of the plan. (DFG recommendations are included in attached memo.)

Aerial application. If pesticides are applied aerially, a minimum buffer strip of 250 feet will be maintained in the vicinity of aquatic areas to protect fish and wildlife habitat and human uses from significant direct toxicological effects. A wider buffer strip may be used at specific sites to ensure an acceptable degree of protection. A buffer strip of at least 250' will be left around private lands to prevent adverse impacts on private property.

Fertilization. Fertilization can improve the nutritional status of nutrient-poor soils and make sites more hospitable to seedlings. Nitrogen fertilization of mineral soils should be considered early in the post-logging period to improve the seedbed.

Management of Special Areas

BALD EAGLE HABITAT

FPA requirements. Under the Forest Practices Act, harvesting is prohibited within 330 feet of eagle nesting trees.