

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1978

Source

SJR 36

Legislative
Resolve No.

2



Relating to land allocation in the Tongass National Forest.

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

WHEREAS land allocation recommendations for the Tongass National Forest are presently being prepared by the U. S. Forest Service in accordance with the Tongass Land Use Management Plan; and

WHEREAS the Tongass Land Use Management Plan process is designed to incorporate and coordinate data on all of the forest's multiple resource values, citizen's comments, socio-economic data, and transportation information; and

WHEREAS the Tongass Land Use Management Plan process will not be completed until June 1, 1978; and

WHEREAS existing jobs in fishing, mining, timber, and tourism industries depend upon careful analysis of the data to be derived from the Tongass Land Use Management Plan; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature favors a balanced, moderate solution to the Tongass land allocation problem which will protect existing and potential jobs in the fishing, mining, timber, and tourism industries, allow for moderate growth in these industries, and protect roadless resource values; and

WHEREAS the Federal Administration is presently in the process of making its own land allocation recommendations for the Tongass in advance of completion of the Tongass Land Use Management Plan, in spite of the statement by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Cutler to the House Interior Subcommittee on General Oversight in Alaska Land on September 15, 1977 that: "With the exception of Admiralty Island, we are just not yet at a stage where we can adequately differentiate among these areas as to

their quality or suggest precise boundaries and acreages. And, we do not have an adequate basis at this time for weighing resource trade-offs and impacts.

"To reach this position we need to devote just a few more months to completion of our Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan, and to wrap up the inventory and analysis of roadless areas in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. These additional few months will permit us to acquire the additional information and public input needed to make sound recommendations to you and will enable us to provide the Subcommittee with important information as well."; and

WHEREAS the recommendations which Assistant Secretary Cutler announced to Congressman John Seiberling on January 12, 1978 (in advance of clearance from the Office of Management and Budget) would appear to cause a loss of existing and potential jobs in the fishing, mining, timber, and tourism industries and may interfere with Native and State selections of land in the Tongass National Forest; and

WHEREAS, in any event, such recommendations in advance of completion of the Tongass Land Use Management Plan would preempt the public comment process in which the State of Alaska and the people of the State of Alaska have participated;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Federal Administration is requested to make no recommendations regarding land allocation in the Tongass National Forest until completion of the Tongass Land Use Management Plan through the normal administrative process.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter, President of the United States; the Honorable Bob Bergland, Secretary of Agriculture; and the Honorable Cecil D. Andrus, Secretary of the Interior.