

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

SUPPORT FOR INCLUSION OF AN ALTERNATIVE IN THE TONGASS LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT THAT PROVIDES AN ADEQUATE TIMBER SUPPLY FOR RESTORATION OF AN INTEGRATED INDUSTRY IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

Resolution 07-08

WHEREAS, the timber industry provides high paying, year around employment, which is necessity for the economic future of Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the communities in Southeast Alaska wish to restore a viable, sustainable, timber industry as a part of their economy; and

WHEREAS, an industry that can profitably process all the different kinds of logs that grow in Southeast must be integrated to include sawmills, veneer mills, and mills that can process low grad logs and residual chips; and

WHEREAS, the timber industry is currently operating at a level that is too low to sustain the infrastructure necessary to support an integrated manufacturing industry; and

WHEREAS, the Tongass national Forest is the primary source of the wood supply to the industry; and

WHEREAS, recent independent studies have determined that a minimum operating level of 360 million board feet of economically harvestable timber annually, distributed across the Tongass National Forest is necessary to support an integrated mix of processing facilities; and

WHEREAS, the current Tongass Land Management Plan does not allow for an adequate nor reliable supply of economic timber to sustain the industry; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service is currently in the process of amending the Tongass Plan and various elements of the amended Plan must be changed to assure that an adequate supply of economic timber is available; and

WHEREAS, in order to assure that an adequate supply of economic timber, averaging 260 million board feet of timber annually, may be offered by the Forest Service and to assure that the offered timber is economic, an annual allowable sale quantity of 420 million board feet is needed to select from; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement amending the Forest Plan is scheduled to be released in November 2006, it must present an alternative that includes all necessary changes to the Plan as needed to restore the timber industry; and

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

WHEREAS, in order for those necessary changes to be considered in the final Plan next year, they must be presented and fully analyzed in the forthcoming Draft Environmental Impact Statement; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Conference has recommended that the Forest Service include the Preferred Alternative from its 1992 unpublished Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Tongass Plan Revision in the current Plan Amendment process as a way to address the supply needs of the timber industry.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RE SOLVED, Southeast Conference supports the efforts to restore an integrated timber industry in southeast Alaska with an average operating level of 360 million board feet of economic timber annually from the Tongass National Forest and requests that the Forest Service include an alternative in its Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Plan Amendment that assures the availability of that timber supply.

**ADOPTED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP
SEPTEMBER 21, 2006 at Ketchikan, Alaska.**

Witnessed by:



Carol Rushmore
President

Attested by:



Murray Walsh
Executive Director