

Southeast Conference

Resolution 16-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF POSTPONING ANY TRANSITION TO YOUNG GROWTH HARVESTING UNTIL THE YOUNG GROWTH TREES MATURE AND ARE OF SUFFICIENT QUANTITY TO SUPPLY A FINANCIALLY VIABLE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

WHEREAS, the Forest Service proposal to accelerate the end of old growth harvesting and instead harvest young growth stands before they mature will result in the loss of our manufacturing sector, and

WHEREAS, only low-value lumber can be sawn from prematurely harvested young growth timber, and

WHEREAS, we are at a competitive disadvantage to young growth sawmills in the Pacific Northwest because:

Competitors in the low-value lumber markets are much closer to the customers than our mills and,

The small log mills in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere compensate for the low-value of the lumber by constructing highly mechanized sawmills each of which requires much more than 100 million board feet of lumber annually and,

At least another 30 years of growth is needed to establish sufficient young growth volume to sustain a financially viable young growth manufacturing facility.

WHEREAS, even the round-log export market cannot support a financially viable harvest of most of the young growth timber in Southeast if it is logged prematurely, and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service estimates that it will be able to offer 88 million board feet of young growth annually within 15-years, but that volume estimate does not contain an economic screen which under the current land management guidelines would reduce the available economic timber to about 25 million board feet annually, and

WHEREAS, in 30 years the volume of young growth timber will grow to more than double the current volume and the individual trees will be larger in diameter which will enable the sawmills to produce higher value lumber, and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service has announced that it will not have sufficient old-growth timber sales prepared to sustain the few surviving sawmills because the agency diverted its timber sale preparation efforts to work on premature young growth timber sales, and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service recently prepared a revised demand analysis for the TLMP Transition, but that analysis was very poorly done and it doesn't even attempt to look at timber harvesting and manufacturing economics.

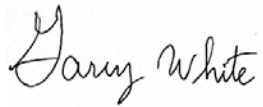
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, we request that the Forest Service continue preparing old-growth timber sales and halt work on amending the land management plan until a credible financial analysis of the proposed transition is completed and critiqued by the affected communities in Southeast Alaska.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we request that the Forest Service offer sufficient old-growth timber sales to comply with the requirements of the Tongass Timber Reform Act, which the agency has estimated at 140 million board feet annually.

ADOPTED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE ON MARCH 29, 2016 AND IS DUE TO SUNSET ON MARCH 30, 2017.

Witness By:



Garry White, President

Attest:



Shelly Wright, Executive Director