

FINAL MINUTES
Board of Forestry Meeting
November 12-13, 2013
Fairbanks

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Call to Order and Roll Call. Chairman Chris Maisch called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. The Anchorage and Juneau teleconference sites were connected. Matt Cronin, Jeff Foley, Erin McLarnon, Eric Nichols, Chris Stark, Mark Vinsel, and Brian Kleinhenz (substitute for Ron Wolfe) were present. A quorum was established. Wayne Nicolls arrived later in the meeting.

Approval of agenda. (*See handout*) The agenda was unanimously approved without changes.

Public Meeting Notice. The meeting was noticed by issuing public service announcements and press releases, mailing announcements to interested parties, and posting a notice on the state and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) websites. (*See handout*)

Approval of Minutes. The Board reviewed and unanimously approved the August 12-13, 2013 minutes with a minor change. (*See handout*)

Announcements.

- RDC meets Nov. 20-21 in the Denaina Center, including Sens. Murkowski and Wyden who are working on forestry legislation proposed by National Association of State Foresters (NASF) on national forest management. Chris Maisch is the NASF chair this year.
- The Alaska Miners Association met last week and had discussions about potential state primacy for section 404 permits and other Clean Water Act issues.
- Maisch has copies of a CD on wood biomass entitled, “Alaska’s Green Gold.”
- Maisch handed out a new book on bioenergy produced by the nonprofit Forest History Society. (*see handout*)

FRPA budgets and funding.

Kevin Hanley (DEC Water Quality Division): Section 319 funding remains about \$300,000 – an historically low level. DEC is focusing that funding on 15 grants for water body restoration. Hanley and many other DEC water staff are partially federally funded. The federal furloughs came close to affecting those employees under the state-federal Performance Partnership grant. Nichols – all federal timber sales were shut down as well, and Alcan received a “cease and desist” order.

Jim Durst (ADF&G Habitat Division): An increment for \$85,000/year for Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) work is now part of the base budget for the ADF&G Habitat Division. ADF&G also uses Southeast Sustainable Salmon Fund money for some FRPA inspections in SE Alaska. DOF provided some funding through a Reimbursable Services Agreement (RSA) for interior biomass sale work and is working on another RSA to co-chair the Region II-III Reforestation Science and Technical Committee. ADF&G is doing okay in getting out in the field and remains committed to FRPA work. There are no anticipated changes in the ADF&G FRPA budget.

In the summer of 2013, ADF&G spent a lot of time on state decision process for wildland fire management, and is working with the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordination Group to incorporate wildlife habitat information into the base data for fire management. ADF&G appreciates the DOF process for fire

management decisions, e.g., on the 2013 Stuart Creek 2 Fire. ADF&G has input on such activities as the location of dozer lines relative to streams, suggestions for hand-clearing, distances from streams for retardant drops, rehabilitation plans, etc. There were a lot of fish resources in the area of the Stuart Creek fire.

Maisch noted that DOF is the lead state agency for wildland fire and coordinates with other land managers. ADF&G participates in the decision-making process for fire management actions. There is discussion on how much fire-related work is part of an agency's normal duty, and when DOF should order an agency resource advisor to be paid through fire suppression funding.

Foley stepped out for a teleconference; there was no quorum at this point.

DOF tries to avoid retardant drops in water bodies unless there is a life safety issue. That's challenging due to the extent of fish habitat and scarcity of information. Durst – ADF&G is trying to get better stream data incorporated into the fire management information in advance, keep it up-to-date, and include it whenever new teams are briefed.

Vinsel noted that keeping retardants out of streams is important to marketing Alaska salmon – chemicals are tracked in detail.

Maisch – The DOF budget is flat regarding FRPA funding. DOF supported the FY14 increment for ADF&G. The work load is balanced fairly well against the budget. DOF is using Sustainable Salmon Fund money for road condition surveys. The Division is interested in finding funding to repair or replace inadequate culverts identified in the Kenai road condition surveys. The agencies are discussing whether replacing problem culverts could be considered wetland mitigation for other development activities. Hanley said that this idea would likely be considered positively.

Maisch – DOF anticipates a decline in FRPA activity in the Afognak-Kodiak area over the next several years; Southeast activity is stable; it is increasing in the Interior. The agencies are looking at how to address FRPA needs in rural areas of Region III.

2013 LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

HB 79/SB 28 - Susitna State Forest/negotiated timber sales. Maisch – this bill is primarily on the Susitna State Forest. It was not heard in 2013 due to Mat-Su Borough and legislator concerns. DOF and the Governor's Office have worked with those groups in the interim to address their issues. There was a concern from some that the state is not supportive enough of additional access, especially across the Little Susitna River. The State has made progress through an RSA from DOT to build a pioneer winter road this winter across the Little Susitna River to the Fish Creek block where there is state and borough land for agriculture and forestry. DOF has demonstrated its support for access. There is one new borough Assembly member. DOF will go back to the Assembly and ask again for support. This is the second year of the session, and DOF hopes for meaningful progress. The City of Houston had concerns about one parcel that was determined to be school trust land; the parcel will be dropped from the bill. Land classified for forestry east of the Parks Highway will be kept in the bill – DOF has been educating people that there are other lands available for development. DOF will keep the Board apprised of how they can participate in support for the bill.

Mass wasting regulations. Marty Freeman, DOF Liaison to the Board: The regulations were filed by the Lieutenant Governor and went into effect on September 25, 2013. DOF also completed the documentation of the process to review mass wasting issues, including the risk maps, bibliography, and history of the Science & Technical Committee, Implementation Group, and Board reviews (previously

mailed to Board). The fieldbook of FRPA regulations has been updated to include the changes to the regulations since June 2007, including the mass wasting regulations, references to the Alaska Coastal Management Program, and references to ADF&G reflecting the Habitat Division's return to ADF&G (previously mailed to Board). The update now also includes 11 AAC 95.400 (purpose of fire protection), and 11 AAC 99.140 (status of Mental Health Trust land under FRPA).

- 1) Implementation -- we are now using the new standards, although we may not see much in the way of changes until we receive new DPOs in Region I.
- 2) Training – John Winters, DOF, is planning to include the new regulations and the indicators for “unstable slopes” in upcoming operator training for Afognak/Kodiak –check with John on update
- 3) Purple book --The BOF recommended including the indicators for “unstable slopes” and “saturated soils” in the purple book. DOF prepared an errata sheet incorporating these changes, along with the updated Region II stream classification system, and a correction in the table of contents (*see handout*). DOF distributed the errata sheet to its area offices, DEC, and DFG, and posted it on the website.

Nicolls joined the meeting, and a quorum was re-established.

REGION III FORUM

TVSF overview, activities, and University of Alaska land entitlement. Mark Eliot, DOF Northern Region Forester, provided an overview of the 1.8 million-acre Tanana Valley State Forest (TVSF), which was established in 1983 and is managed for multiple use and for sustained yield of renewable resources.

Much of the Fairbanks Area is roaded, and the Delta Area has access from the Pogo Mine Road. Access is most difficult in the Tok Area. The TVSF plan says that the goal is to access the entire forest over time. Much current access is through winter roads and ice crossings. Nichols – after 30 years there is still a lot of area that isn't roaded. Economics have to support access development. Maisch – a lot has been done in the last 30 years and demonstrates what can happen with a dedicated state forest. DOF continues to seek funding for road construction and maintenance. Stark noted that state timber sales that are proposed are actually sold, not tied up in litigation, which is different than on federal land in Southeast.

Glenn Juday, University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), noted that three of the six Research Natural Areas in the TVSF have been used for research; documentation will be included in the BAKLAP. The RNAs cover unique landscape features and are not typically commercial forest land. The Red Fox Experimental Forest is managed by DOF. It returned to the state following litigation on the University land settlement. It may be proposed for addition to the TVSF in the future.

There is land in the TVSF that will be transferred to the University in 2055 for a research forest surrounding Bonanza Creek. DOF wants to ensure that it will stay as forest land and not be converted into other income-producing land. The Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest is currently managed under a long-term lease to the US Forest Service (USFS).

Nichols -- How much economic activity is there on the TVSF? Once there are roads it generates all kinds of activity. Juday reported that a UAF student just completed a forest use survey as part of a master's project on non-timber forest activity on the TVSF. Maisch emphasized that DOF wants to be sure it can maintain the roads it builds.

Natural Resources and Forestry program at UA. Steve Sparrow, UAF-Interim Dean of the School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Science provided an overview. UA offers a B.S. degree in Natural Resources Management, B.A. and B.S. degrees in Geography, a PhD in Natural Resources Sustainability, and a M.S. in Natural Resources Management. There is also a relatively new Master of Natural Resource

Management and Geography which requires a project rather than a thesis – it is a program designed for professionals. The new program averages 4-5 students/year. The 130-credit-hour forestry option under the B.S. in Natural Resource Management is currently accredited by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) for a forestry degree.

Enrollment in natural resource curricula has been declining, and the university has lost a lot of the forestry faculty – as people retire, they were not replaced. This has made it hard for students to complete their degrees efficiently, contributing to the decline in enrollment.

UAF is revamping the Natural Resource Management B.S. degree (*see handout*) so that there is a single degree rather than the three options currently offered (including the forestry option). SAF is developing a program to accredit natural resource management degrees. After years of decline, there is now a growing demand for forestry degrees nationwide. UAF hopes the new degree can be accredited by SAF. UAF is also working on developing a minor in forestry with the courses needed for students who would like to take the forester certification exam after graduation. UAF is also considering a merger with the Cooperative Extension Program.

Foley rejoined the meeting; all members were present.

Maisch suggested establishing the possibility of an associate degree for forestry similar to the program for fire science. Juday – it would help UAF if the forestry community could track the forestry-related employment base in Alaska. The planning office data underestimates the need. Maisch – there are a lot of natural resource jobs available.

Nichols expressed anger that universities have stopped supporting timber harvesting. Alcan employs 150 people, but no one from the university asks the industry what they need. Alcan would never hire someone with a watered-down degree without the necessary technical skills. Sparrow – an associate's degree might be better tailored to that. UA did a survey and got the answer that employers want people who can think and manage, and they would teach the technical skills. Juday – UAF does offer forestry-specific courses outside the core courses, e.g., silviculture and natural resource measurements.

Vinsel – everyone involved in natural resource management for the state should have a basic understanding of resource management, not just natural resource majors.

Juday the profile of incoming students shows that they are people who are adventurous, reward-oriented, interested in the location, and in natural resources. As they progress through the university they increasingly focus on employment. Cronin – the root of the problem may be the societal stigma on forestry. In the USFS employees don't get to actually practice forestry.

Kleinhenz expressed concern about forestry vanishing from the curriculum. Forestry is one of the few natural resource professions that can generate revenue. There is a growing need for people with these skill sets. There is a vacuum nationally now -- other universities made similar changes. John Yarie, UAF noted that the University of Washington is going to reapply for forestry accreditation. West-wide there are a lot of students in resource programs, but not necessarily in forestry. Kleinhenz – people need basic skill sets like reading maps. That's important as students seek sellable skills. Sparrow – we need to know there is demand for forestry graduates. Maisch – UAF just reestablished its advisory committee for the natural resource programs.

Nicolls suggested conducting educational outreach to the high school level. Sparrow said that the program has a new focus on recruitment. Maisch suggested working with professionals to identify speakers. DOF has discussed the need for an academy for basic forestry field skills.

Nichols sees no young people in the industry coming up through the university. People are retiring across the West and there's nobody to step up to fill the vacancies. From the industry perspective, basic skill sets are important, not just computer skills – there is little opportunity to gain the essential experience on the ground. Stark concurred that universities are blowing off basic technical skills in natural resource fields – the same is true in fisheries management.

Board introduction. Maisch provided a brief overview of the organization and duties of the Board for people attending a Board meeting for the first time.

Planning updates. Jim Schwarber, DOF Planner – The Eastern Tanana Area Plan is in process. The Yukon-Tanana Area Plan awaits adoption by the DNR Commissioner. It covers 358,000 acres of forestry classified land and includes recommendations for additions to the TVSF. On the Susitna-Matanuska Area Plan, the state Superior Court affirmed the agency adoption of the plan and the case was closed April 1, 2013. It includes recommendations for a State Forest and for further forest planning. Inventory is continuing. DOF is working on the Susitna State Forest outreach plan to support the state forest proposal. The annual Mat-Su winter roads meeting with logging operators and mushers scheduled for Nov. 21, 2013, and DOF will meet with the Willow Dog Mushers Association. The draft SE State Forest (SESF) Management Plan is in prep; public review will occur in spring 2014. Wrangell Borough selections are nearly complete, including some that were in the SESF. Review of lands outside the State Forest would occur through area plan review. DOF is evaluating when a review of the TVSF management plan will be needed.

Curran – the Wrangell selections included just a few parcels in the SESF after negotiations about the borough needs and the long-term management plans of DOF. DOF was aware of Borough interests when the additions to the SESF were made. There is a small net loss to the timber base. The Wrangell selections were grandfathered in by the State Forest legislation. Subsequent formation of municipalities won't include selections from the SESF.

Fairbanks Area. Kathryn Pyne, DOF Fairbanks Area Forester provided an overview of Area activities (*see handout*).

- The 2013 fire season had significant fires, but relatively little in the TVSF. DOF closed commercial and personal use harvesting during the peak fire season – most of the fires were human-caused, including one started by a logging operation.
- There are about 200 miles of logging roads in the Fairbanks Area. Activity on Native land will bring access close to state land in the Kantishna Area. Silt-based roads are hard to maintain, but the cost is prohibitive to bring in gravel. The Fortune Creek Bridge should be closed or upgrade to meet DOT specifications. An upgrade would cost \$180,000 because of public use. If closed, damage by illegal stream crossings might cause more damage. Most logging roads to the TVSF cross multiple ownerships. DOF is discussing whether all TVSF roads have to be open to the public, or whether there could be restricted roads like the Pogo Road. DOF may have to close roads to prevent degradation. Nichols -- DOT will never approve a RR car bridge. If they have to approve DOF roads, there will be big funding issues. Curran – DOT comes in when they perceive there is excess public use. If there is a permanent bridge, it will have to meet DOT standards. Roads are used by the public even when signed, closed, and gated. Roads built under the silvicultural exemption do not have to be built to DOT standards.
- Timber theft continues to be an issue. DOF has written letters, called people suspected of theft, and published an article in the Daily News Miner, but it's hard to get troopers to respond – it is not a high priority for them. Maisch – DOF does not have citation authority, and there is not a good history of successful prosecution.

- The Fairbanks Area issued 721 permits for 2621 cords for personal fuelwood in 2012, and is likely to meet or exceed that amount this year. The Borough has also issued some permits. On Craig's list, fuelwood goes for \$150-\$340/cord. People bringing truckloads of wood from Tok for the Fairbanks market. There is little dead, dry wood in the Fairbanks Area.
- 2013 spring and fall auctions had buyers for most sales. DOF is reoffering some prior sales.
- The local SAF chapter is putting on a firewood workshop.

Nichols asked about revenue from timber and fuelwood. Based on the cordwood value, there is a half-million dollar industry in fuelwood alone.

Stark – there needs to be a way to certify where wood comes from. The public would respond to knowledge about whether they are buying legal or illegal wood. Nichols – the fuelwood market increases the number of economic acres that can be harvested. Maisch – it also helps support access development. Between the pellet mill, Northland Woods, and the fuelwood market, we are getting close to the point where we could fully use the allowable cut. Reggear – illegal harvesting in the Fairbanks Area affects the legal operations by depressing the market.

Interior Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA). Doug Hanson, DOF Inventory Forester – the FIA is a strategic scale inventory of forest conditions designed to broadly assess status and trends. In Alaska, FIA began in 1995 around the national forests in southcentral and southeast Alaska. The first remeasurement was completed in SE in 2013, and the USFS is now reassessing the sampling strategy. They are looking at starting the program in Interior Alaska in 2014-15, using a revised sampling system with a pilot study in the TVSF. They would put in one ground plot per 30,000 acres, and combine that data with airborne LIDAR and thermal imagery. Total cost for 10 years: \$14,482,313 just to install the plots across the interior.

There is interest in using the data for climate change research. Kleinhenz – FIA is getting used for carbon exchange projects. Hanson said that it will be usable for carbon projects in Interior Alaska, but the scale will be coarser, so additional detail will be needed. The same plot data will be collected. Kleinhenz – encourages DOF to stay engaged with the USFS to ensure applicability. Maisch – FIA is the required baseline for participation in the California carbon exchange. DOF is interested in being able to assess regionwide changes associated with climate change and wildland fire. FIA is the nation's "tree census." Yarie – adding in Interior Alaska doubles the amount of forest land covered by FIA nationally.

DOF Staff changes. Mark Eliot, DOF Northern Region Forester is headed to a new job in Idaho after Christmas. Brian Young is heading to Minnesota for a dual USFS-University of Minnesota research position. Mike Reggear has been promoted to the head of the large project team. DOF will recruit for a Forester II position to fill the position Mike left in Delta. Noah Lloyd is the new Forester II in Ketchikan. Ed Soto is joining Greg Staunton in the Division's new roads office. We are pleased that there is a good candidate pool.

Public comment. Marty Laudert, private landowner on the original Alaska Highway in the Delta area: The original highway is now on the national registry of historic places, and the thought of logging equipment on that road is scary. Have found working wood-stave culverts. Logging trucks couldn't run over that road without destroying it. That road should be off-limits to logging use. The state owns a lot of land; there is relatively little in private hands. Logging close to private land should be limited, due to concerns about timber theft and an increase of people in the backcountry. The TVSFCAC seat for tourism is vacant. It would be easy to clearcut everything along the highway. Tourists will be driving the highways – please cut farther back from the highway.

Nichols – in SE logging has been driven near private land because of the federal land lock-ups. There is tremendous tourism in SE, and some of the most popular attractions are on old logging roads that have grown back. Tourists are interested in knowing how people earn a living in Alaska, and the industry works well with tourists. Laudert – some cutting is good for forest management and fire management.

Maisch – The State Historic Preservation Office reviews all state timber sale proposals to incorporate those interests in timber planning.

Stark – Encouraged Laudert to contact him if there are specific concerns around their property. Forestry is not done the way it used to be. Nichols – get to know the local forester. Those people have the ability to manipulate proposals.

Boreal Alaska: Learning, Adaptation, and Production (BAKLAP) update and reforestation studies.

Glenn Juday, UAF reported on the efforts to upgrade Alaska forest research field installations. The project is starting to synthesize the available information.

One project is a hectare-scale inventory and analysis study in the area burned by the severe 1983 Rosie Creek fire. Most reforestation is accomplished through natural regeneration following fire in Interior Alaska. The average interval between major cone crops is about every 11 years. Gliding seeds typically travel about 2-1/2 times the tree height. Reproductive timing of white spruce maximizes the chance that seeds will be released into a landscape in which fires have occurred recently. Timing is important – seed beds are receptive for only about 10 years post-fire. Seedlings germinate more frequently than predicted in horsetail patches, and less frequently in *Calamagrostis* patches. The *Calamagrostis* patches stay frozen longer. Horsetail patches may have nutrient advantages.

The first white spruce seedlings reached breast height 10 years post-fire, and increased steadily since. Getting the seedling on the site as soon as possible is important to a tree achieving dominant status. Reproduction does not take place over several decades following disturbance – it just appears that way because it takes so long for some seedlings to reach breast height.

Red squirrels have nipped many primordial buds for food in years between good cones crops, causing terminal shoot failure. *Botrytis* fungus increases once there is a dense canopy that traps moisture.

Regeneration after spruce harvests in the Fairbanks Area: Miho Morimoto, UAF PhD candidate: This study sampled 699 plots in 27 harvest units on state land. The type of harvesting has evolved over time. It was primarily clearcut salvage following the Rosie Creek fire, followed by clearcuts for the Asian export markets from 1988-98. Reduced demand led to partial cuts from 1998-2012. More clearcutting is expected as biomass demand increases

The current FRPA requires that regeneration be established within seven years post-harvest. The number of stems/acre required depends on size. All the study units met the standards because of the number of large residual stems. Scarification and the method of regeneration affect subsequent stem density and tree size. The study compared the density at the time of survey and at the time of the study – all units continued to increase in stem density after seven years, and all met the stem density standard eventually. Stem density may not be the best method to assess regeneration success. Scarification has little effect on stem density in clear cut stands, but it did in partial cuts. Total biomass was greater in non-scarified units within partial cuts.

The regeneration sampling method was effective for assessing white spruce, but maybe not for white birch – birch regeneration is more clumped.

Key findings so far include:

- Harvest units are adequately regenerated.
- Scarification can increase spruce biomass.
- Planting needs depend on the site location, timing relative to seedfall, and the goal of regeneration. It can result in overstocked stands if planting occurs in heavy seed years.

Morimoto has not yet looked at stand stocking prior to the harvests, but data is available. Nichols – the stocking standards may not be appropriate if the original stands were less dense.

Maisch – we need to consider the costs of different regeneration actions.

Rosie Creek regeneration 28 years post-harvest: Andrew Allaby, UAF Master's candidate – Prior studies measured the percentage of white spruce survival in stands at 5, 10, and 12 years post-treatment. Treatments include scarification/no scarification and planting/broadcast seeding/natural seedfall. Plots include ridgetop and slope-side sites. Earlier studies showed benefits of scarification, planting, and broadcast seeding. Allaby is examining which combination of treatments maximizes white spruce biomass and the number of white spruce stems. Sampling is complete on 114 of the 180 study plots. Data to date show no significant difference in the growth rates of planted and unplanted spruce. Total stem density and white spruce stem density, and total basal area were higher for scarified sites, but there is enough variability that the differences may not be statistically significant.

Foley stepped out for a conference call.

DOF studies in birch and spruce stands: Brian Young, DOF Fairbanks Area resource forester is looking at data from regeneration surveys (2008-2013). Data on the total number of seedlings on a site often shows sufficient total regeneration, but seedlings are not necessarily well-distributed. The following factors appear to be significant in determining reforestation success: the silvicultural harvest prescription, operator, pre-harvest vegetation type, year of harvest, location, time post-harvest, and the duration of sale. The size of the sale had no correlation to regeneration success. Concerns for the future including increasing demand for birch and pole-size spruce timber, and reforestation costs continue to escalate.

Stark – What is the goal for reforestation? Just getting back what we had might not be the best goal.

Reforestation in personal use areas on state land in the Fairbanks Area. Young reported on two personal use areas. The Standard Creek woodlot is 310 acres with birch, aspen, and spruce. Harvesters typically take birch 3-12" diameter, and in pure birch areas the stands revert to *Calamagrostis*. There are many residuals left – very small and very large trees. In the Two Rivers woodlot birch was taken out first, followed by mid-size spruce. DOF will have to deal with some slash piles, and stumps. The plan is to use natural regeneration; spot planting may be needed to fill in. The largest trees are typically left which provide seed trees. A new woodlot has 6-8" diameter spruce and seedling-size spruce. The hope is that the birch will be harvested and provide a release for the small spruce. DOF plans to offer a house log sale in this area with requirements for site clean-up. Maisch – DOF can use fire crews to burn some slash piles. Personal use sales cost more to manage than they generate in revenue – it is consciously offered as a public service. The Fairbanks North Star Borough has offered some permits, but not enough to meet demand.

The total amount of volume in issued permits exceeds the volume in the woodlots, but people usually don't harvest their full permitted volume. DOF tracks the permitted volume and then checks on-site to

determine when the woodlots have been fully harvested. The Division is looking for areas with smaller trees for harvesting and advance regeneration. DOF goes out as much as possible.

Foley returned – all members were again present.

Old Business II

Adaptive management on long-term state sales. Freeman – Work on standards for long-term sales has been deferred as there are no long-term state sales in immediate future. There were no purchasers for the Tok sale.

Region II-III Reforestation standards review. Freeman -- This winter, DOF plans to initiate a review of the FRPA reforestation standards for Regions II and III (*see handout*). In recent years, landowners, researchers, and agencies have raised questions about the appropriateness of the current standards. Issues include stocking standards, reforestation timelines, mixed regeneration, distribution of regeneration, scarification methods, herbivory on hardwood seedlings, and effects of climate change on target species and sites.

The first phase of the review would involve a Science and Technical Committee (S&TC) co-chaired by DOF and ADF&G with scientists and experienced agency staff with expertise in silviculture, forest ecology, soils, reforestation, wildlife habitat, and herbivory. The S&TC would identify issues, compile and analyze the best available relevant information, and review and, if appropriate, recommend revisions to the reforestation standards.

The Board would review S&TC recommendations. If the Board endorses the findings, the second phase would convene an Implementation Group (I.G.) with representatives of implementing agencies and affected interests (e.g., forest landowners, timber industry, wildlife groups, and environmental groups). The I.G. would review the S&TC recommendations and advise the Board on how to implement them in a practical manner on the ground.

Following Board review of the I.G. recommendations, the agencies would proceed to implement the endorsed actions through the statutory process, regulatory amendments, training, or other actions as appropriate.

Nichols – Goals for reforestation may differ by landowner. We will need to review what the statutes say about reforestation. Freeman – The statutes are broad, and allow for diverse goals. Nichols – What happens if reforestation isn't successful on private land? Freeman -- DOF works with owners to achieve compliance rather than focusing on penalties. We have examples of the approach from Kenai and Afognak operations. Nichols – Where did the seven-year timeframe and the 450 trees-per-acre threshold come from? It would be good to know the history. Maisch – DOF will review the prior information. Nicolls – How much is habitat incorporated into these standards? Paragi – The intensive game management law has targets for game species. Goals for regeneration for spruce and hardwoods will have different interactions with wildlife. Freeman noted that the FRPA authority to address wildlife habitat is different for public than private lands. Kleinhenz welcomes the opportunity to address these questions, and noted that we need to be careful not to over-codify the rules and allow professionals to tailor the management to site-specific conditions.

WOOD ENERGY

Update on Fort Greeley biomass project. Mike Curran, DOF Coastal Region Forester introduced Mike Reggear, the new head of the DOF large project team. The team is working primarily in the

Interior. Doug Hanson and Paul Keech from inventory and GIS specialists Tom Ruskowski and Dan LaBarre also work with the team.

The team gives the Division some flexibility. Superior Pellets has requested additional green timber from state land, and DOF was able to get a 117-acre sale out quickly for competitive bids for fuelwood. The team is also assisting the Tok and Copper River area programs.

DOF met with the federal departments of Energy and Defense in Delta. The Siemens proposal for Fort Greely was not within the contract parameters. The federal agencies are continuing to evaluate alternative energy sources for Fort Greely and Fort Wainwright. Energy costs for Alaska military facilities are very high. No biomass project at Fort Greely is expected in the next couple of years.

State timber sales related to biomass proposals. Mike Curran – the Tok sale received no bids. Young’s Timber said the sale wasn’t what they were looking for – it was largely sapling-size hardwoods. AP&T hasn’t yet finished their feasibility study and they don’t know yet whether they will proceed. DOF wanted to be sure that we fulfilled our responsibilities to ensure that a project could move forward if it proves feasible. The Division gained experience in organizing long-term sales and if a large project doesn’t proceed, DOF can sell the timber in smaller sales.

The large project team benefits the timber sale project teams throughout the Interior. The project team is working on large salvage sales following the 2013 wildfires.

NOTE: The Tanana Valley Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting met from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

The meeting was reconvened at 8:16 a.m. Matt Cronin, Jeff Foley, Erin McLarnon, Eric Nichols, Chris Stark, Mark Vinsel, and Brian Kleinhenz were present. Wayne Nicolls arrived later. A quorum was established.

Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) project updates. Devany Plentovich reported that AEA received 13 new applications for biomass projects for Round 7 of the Renewable Energy Fund grants. Application quality is improving, and the biomass proposals were generally for larger projects. Most projects are at the design and construction stages. Some proposals are bringing in supplementary funding from other sources.

AEA is extending the application period for requests for statements of interest for Alaska Wood Energy Task Group feasibility studies. Both public and private buildings can qualify.

Nicolls arrived; all members were now present.

The Fort Yukon wood biomass project has multiple funding sources. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was required because of DOE funding. The EA was completed a few months ago which covered about ten years of wood supply, primarily cottonwood trees. The project can now start harvesting. Managers are recruiting people for operator training. Heat production won’t start for two years, but the biggest question is wood supply, and work is starting on accumulating wood. Fort Yukon has purchased harvesting and chipping equipment. The equipment is best suited for 6-10” diameter trees. It is important that they don’t grab trees that are too big. Someone from Tok is currently doing equipment training for a month, and will return for refresher training. Seventeen people completed the first week of training, and the top six were chosen to do additional training in the field. It will take about a month to harvest a year’s wood, which can then dry. Everyone wants Fort Yukon to be successful. AEA also hopes to have a small chip-fuel system operating at the Fort Yukon clinic this winter.

Nichols expressed concern that the equipment was too light, and will be difficult to maintain because it isn't standard logging equipment.

AEA studied particulate emissions from new pellet systems compared to existing wood and oil furnaces. At this point it makes sense to target replacement of old wood boilers, but there isn't a significant benefit to replacing oil boilers. Particulates from a new Austrian system are comparable to old oil boilers and far better than old wood boilers and old wood stoves. The new very low emission stoves are not yet available in Fairbanks, but AEA is working to make them available.

Court ruling on biomass carbon emissions and carbon neutrality. Moses Coss, DEC -- Regulation of greenhouse gases from biomass-to-energy plants was deferred to 2014, pending additional rule-making. The court then ruled that EPA had to vacate the deferral, but now there are additional legal actions, and court decisions probably will not occur before the original 2014 deadline. To require a Title V operating permit, a new plant would have to produce about 100,000 tons of CO₂ which would mean burning about 40,000-60,000 cords of wood per year. That is larger than current wood-fired plant proposals. The Tok proposal would produce about 30,000 tons of CO₂/year.

Other air quality permits are required for smaller projects, but they won't be as expensive to implement – they don't require the same kinds of controls.

Carbon neutrality calculations may apply to big projects seeking options to offset emissions. Permits to prevent significant increases in emissions are required for some facilities. Carbon neutrality is not likely an issue for small wood biomass projects. Regulations to address carbon neutrality have not been developed. The amount of CO₂ emitted for a given amount of energy produced by wood is greater than the same amount of energy generated from coal.

FEDERAL PROCESSES

Sealaska entitlement legislation update. Brian Kleinhenz, Sealaska – 70,000 acres remains in Sealaska's land entitlement. House and Senate bills to change the pool of lands in Tongass that are available for the entitlement have made it through congressional committees and await a floor vote. There is a good chance of a positive outcome if a vote occurs – it depends on whether a vote is called. The bill does not compete with the state's interest in additional state forests. The Southeast Alaska Conservation Council is on record in support of the bill.

Mental Health Trust (MHT) exchange legislation update. Paul Slenkamp, MHT – The Trust is working with the DOF inventory staff on opportunities for biofuel and other harvests in the interior. The Trust has about 117,000 acres of land in the Interior, much of it near state forest land.

The Trust is working with DOF on small timber sales in Haines, and working with a small operator in Gustavus. The Trust has two RSAs totaling \$125,000 with DOF for inventory and support work for the MHT-USFS land exchange, and for improving harvest plans on Mat-Su, Kenai, and Interior land using local DOF staff.

The Trust has active timber sales in Kasaan and Wrangell with Alcan Forest Products and is preparing a timber sale on the Icy Bay tract.

Significant progress on the land exchange – MHT noted that the proposal could assist the USFS in the transition to young growth and support SE industry with old growth in the interim. They would offer 10-year contracts at Shelter Cove and on Prince of Wales Island for harvesting and road maintenance

activities. It would provide a good base for some operators for that period. Are moving forward with feasibility analysis en route to an agreement to initiate an administrative land exchange, which would be most of the way toward completing the exchange. The Alaska legislature will also have to approve the exchange once the specific parcels are finalized based on equal value. Ketchikan Gateway Borough recently endorsed the exchange.

The exchange includes about 40% previously harvested land and 60% old growth. Nichols -- markets for old growth will go away when shortage cause prices to increase high enough that costumers switch to alternatives. There is interest in taking advantage of the old growth markets while they remain.

Slenkamp – the amount of Mental Health Trust timber that goes to domestic markets depends on what will produce the greatest revenue.

Cronin – why is the USFS transitioning to second growth? Slenkamp – it’s a political decision, not based on silviculture.

Roadless Rule update. Tom Lenhart, Assistant Attorney General – The State remains involved in two active legal cases from 2011. The first is an appeal of the 9th Circuit decision validating the Roadless Rule; we have waited 15 months already for their decision following arguments. The State also filed a challenge to the Roadless Rule in D.C. District Court. It was thrown out because of time limits, and the case was appealed. The opening briefing on the appeal is scheduled for February; it will probably be at least six months before there is a decision. The State continues to point out that implementing the Roadless Rule in the Chugach and Tongass national forests will violate provisions in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and the Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA).

Tongass updates. Dave Harris, USFS Director of Forest Management for the Alaska Region – There is a lot of political pressure for the Tongass National Forest to transition to young-growth management. USFS silviculturalists continue to state that the young growth won’t be ready for at least 15 years, and USDA Secretary Vilsack’s memo recognized that there would be a transition period of at least 15 years. Nichols – Vilsack said that the young-growth transition is a policy decision to appease most people in the public, especially national environmental organizations. The Tongass is the last national forest harvesting old growth timber. Vinsel – most people’s perception is that humans and nature are separate; they perceive that there shouldn’t be any impact on “nature.” Stark – it’s not just perception – people have lived through environmental degradation.

Harris – The Tongass will incrementally move toward young-growth harvesting, but it can’t be as fast as the transition policy desires. The world is moving toward highly-mechanized processing of smaller trees. The conditions of Tongass second-growth stands are not uniform – they vary greatly depending on the site and age. The markets and the Alaska infrastructure are not yet in place for domestic use of young growth; there is some Alaska advantage for exports. If Tongass doesn’t continue to offer an old-growth program, we will lose the infrastructure and people to operate a forest management program, and it would be very difficult to bring it back. We would lose the ability to manage future forests. The industry is at 10% of what it once was. The pulp industry isn’t coming back. Nichols – The pulp industry built Southeast Alaska as we know it today.

Harris – The Big Thorne Timber Sale was a big part of the proposed sale offerings for this year – it was a 102 MMBF stewardship contract. There were seven appeals on the sale. The original decision was upheld. A new challenge states that Big Thorne will be the final straw that undermines sustainable wolf and deer populations in Southeast Alaska. The Tongass will do a supplemental information report in response to this allegation. The USFS has about 37-40 MMBF outside Big Thorne from which to draw other sales. Cronin offered to help the USFS on the genetics of Southeast wolf populations – the Prince

of Wales Island and the Game Management Unit 3 populations are genetically indistinct. He has additional information.

Harris – Part of the Sealaska legislation will exempt some Tongass lands from the requirement to wait for the culmination of mean annual increment before harvesting. This would provide an opportunity to harvest younger stands and evaluate the economic feasibility of such sales. Thinning is not economically feasible by itself.

Clarence Clark, DOF Tongass Liaison – The Five-year review of the Tongass Forest Plan is complete. Based on changes to Tongass lands and public comments, the USFS will look at amending the current Forest Plan. State comments asked for the USFS to review the allowable cut under the Roadless Rule and analyze whether they can meet the “seek-to-meet-demand” clause of the TTRA with the Roadless Rule in place.

Clark -- The USFS will put an advisory committee (FACA) in place. The draft charter is for about 15 people; they seek diverse, well-rounded, knowledgeable people. The USFS will call for applications and will select participants to represent a variety of interests. The FACA will advise the USFS on lands to include for a transition to young-growth management. Their input will go to the interdisciplinary team working on the Forest Plan amendment. The target is to have the amended plan in place by November 2016. The state may not participate in the FACA because they believe the focus is too narrow. The amendment process will operate under the 1982 planning rule if started prior to May 2015. The USFS can't change the Roadless Rule within a forest plan – Tongass will be limited to considering lands in the roaded land base. An estimate of the annual allowable cut on that land base is about 50-100 MMBF.

The Working Forest Group, (WFG) at the USFS's request, will conduct research on what a future young-growth dominant industry would look like. The Group includes Southeast landowners, private industry, and state interests looking at ways to manage the forest using the triple bottom line. The WFG is completing a study on old growth timber economics on all land ownerships. The goal will be to provide the Tongass with information on the volume thresholds for different types of second-growth industry and what investments would be needed.

The state of the timber industry depends heavily on what comes out of the Big Thorne project. Without the 102 MMBF in the first Big Thorne offering, the USFS will sell only 15 MMBF this year. About 45 MMBF are scheduled for next year. Viking Lumber needs about 25 MMBF/year to run the mill, and they have about that much under contract. Without the Big Thorne wood, Viking will be looking for volume at this time next year. The State has some surplus annual harvest built up, but not enough to sustain the industry. The MHT exchange volume is important to sustaining the industry. The University has a very limited land base. Sealaska can no longer keep all their contractors working after spring 2014. The industry is living hand-to-mouth again. The USFS has changed its NEPA appeal process to an objection process, moving it earlier, to occur in advance of the final Record of Decision. Saddle Lakes is the next big project, about 50 MMBF, which would be offered in about December 2014. The USFS estimate of the “seek-to-meet-demand” volume is 137 MMBF/year. The volume harvested from the Tongass last year was about 35 MMBF, but the industry used a total of about 180 MMBF from a combination of USFS, Mental Health Trust, University, Sealaska, and state land.

Timber Jobs Task Force implementation. Maisch -- DOF is creating a roads office (*see handout*). The State continues to work on options to acquire federal land to expand state forests in Southeast. The federal Hastings bill to push more active national forest management passed the House, but will probably not pass the Senate, and would be vetoed by the President. The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) unanimously passed a resolution on federal land management encouraging evaluation of other models to manage federal forest lands. Maisch is the NASF president this year. The NASF Board and

legislative team are working on this issue nationally and trying to form a coalition of the “willing middle” to develop joint recommendations to Congress. NASF leaders will meet with the USFS Chief in D.C. Other states are suffering from the same problems. There is bipartisan concern about this issue. The Western Governors Association will likely be part of the coalition.

DIVISION OF FORESTRY UPDATES

2013 fire season. Tom Kurth, DOF Fire Program Manager, provided an overview of the DOF fire management program and the 2013 fire season (*see handout*). The average area burned annually has increased over time and the fire season is longer. There were fires in November the last two years. Major 2013 fires included the Stuart Creek 2 Fire south of the Chena Hot Springs Road, the Moon Lake and Tetlin Junction fires near Tok, and the Mississippi Fire west of Delta Junction. A Lower 48 Type 1 Team was called in to manage the Mississippi Fire. Fire program challenges include recruitment and retention of qualified staff, decreasing federal and state funding, increasing contract costs, landowner and agency expectations for biomass and other uses, lack of personal responsibility for reducing fire hazards near homes, and increasing fire size and duration.

DOF, in conjunction with the University, offers training for entry-level positions and red card qualifications. To move into management, employees need college degrees in forestry, fire management, or related fields, and it’s hard to get enough qualified people. Vinsel noted that qualified people may not need college degrees. Maisch – there is some ability to substitute experience for education. Will Putman, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), added that TCC is working with the state to support a fire crew, and provide employment for tribal members. Kurth – there are about 40 village crews, less than in the past because it is harder to maintain crews and ensure that they are available when fires occur. The agencies now rely more on their own crews and contract crews supported by other organizations. Maisch – finding base funding for the crews is difficult. DOF has obtained some funding for hazard-fuel reduction, but the State doesn’t budget funds for hazard reduction.

Delta Area. Mike Reggear, DOF Acting Delta Area Forester – The Delta Area experienced Tanana River flooding early this year. Major access projects include the Quartz Lake Road extension and Delta River West access for public fuelwood areas. Demand for fuelwood remains very high. Commercial timber sales have focused on salvage following fires and windstorms. The main market is for fuelwood, much of which is taken to Fairbanks. DOF used the large project team to quickly develop a green timber sale in response to industry interest. Access is along a road that was built with CIP funds, and the public purchased the decked ROW timber.

The Mississippi Range Fire burned until November 2 this year and covered military and general state land. DOF is developing a salvage timber sale in the burn area (*see handout*). Fire and wind events have been landscape-scale events resulting in crisis management for timber use. Much of the affected area is accessible only in winter. The amount of salvage exceeds the harvesting capacity of the local industry.

Valdez/Copper River Area. Gary Mullen, DOF Area Forester – The Area is a mix of ownerships. As overlapping selections are resolved, the state is receiving additional acreage in the area. Spruce bark beetles hit the Copper River Basin hard in the 1980s, and were the impetus for subsequent salvage harvesting on private lands. DOF conducted timber inventory targeted at information for biomass harvesting. AEA conducted 14 pre-feasibility studies for biomass projects, but the costs are prohibitive for most projects. The Area has sold 18.5 MMBF since 1984, but sales average only about 11% of the allowable cut. Firewood is in high demand, and the Area manages 17 woodlots. There are also active hazard fuel reduction and fuel-break projects funded by WUI grants.

There is little post-beetle regeneration in unharvested areas, but there is good natural regeneration on harvest units. There is a lot of breakage and windthrow now. Remaining stands have strong cohorts of residual trees, but most are not of commercial value except for fuelwood.

90% of the area's fires are human-caused. There is a lightning season about every five years, 2013 was one of those years. Ahtna moved a lot of their acreage from limited to full suppression because of interest in biomass. ADF&G is very pro-burn, including prescribed fire for moose and caribou habitat. Bison seem to thrive in the burned areas.

New Business II

Forest Stewardship plans. Clare Doig, Consulting Forester, Forest & Land Management, Inc. prepares forest stewardship programs for Native corporations for the DOF Forest Stewardship Program. He has completed or is preparing plans for a total of 4.6 million acres of land owned by the Mental Health Trust and 17 Native corporations, comprising 41 villages or communities. Active forest management is occurring under these plans, including pre-commercial thinning, scarification, planting, moose habitat enhancement, timber sales, and biomass harvesting. Landowners can get funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) once stewardship plans are approved. For example, last year NRCS paid \$326/acre for thinning. Each stewardship plan includes a 10-year action plan and maps. Landowners could use the 10-year action plan as a voluntary FRPA notification, but the 10-year plans have not been field-checked. The state now has several technical service providers under the NRCS rules. Glen Holt with the Alaska Cooperative Extension Service is also preparing two stewardship plans and is becoming certified as an NRCS technical service provider.

USFS review of cooperative forestry programs. Mark Eliot, DOF Northern Region Forester – reported that the review was delayed until February 2014 due to the federal furloughs. DOF manages cooperative programs for forest stewardship, forest health, community forestry, cooperative fire, and fire assistance. The forest legacy program is managed by the DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The state strategy for the cooperative programs was completed in 2010, and the first five-year review will be in 2015. DOF met with the USFS to adopt a process for the cooperative program review. The USFS is asking 96 questions of the state programs.

Overview of Detailed Plans of Operation (DPO) types. Jim Eleazer, DOF Forest Resources Program Manager – FRPA requires DPOs for standard forestry operations and some land use conversions. Standard operations are those that involve commercial operations on forest land that exceed certain acreage thresholds or to operations on smaller acreages that adjoin surface waters or riparian habitat.

Voluntary notifications of operation are rare, but have been used to provide lead time for fish habitat surveys or to obtain a borough log haul permit.

The DPO (*see handouts*) includes information on the responsible parties, maps, characteristics of units, roads, water, and soils; and the reforestation commitment. DOF must review the DPO within 30 days, including soliciting and incorporating DEC and ADF&G comments. The operator may begin work at the end of the 30 days unless DOF has notified the operator of the need for a field review. Renewals are needed for any parts of an operation not harvested within the annual or 12-month notification period. Renewals don't require additional review.

A Change in Operation is needed for new/reconstructed bridges or road segments, material disposal sites affecting surface waters or unstable soils, new/modified activity in a riparian area, or an increase of ≥ 10 acres – these require a 15-day review. A 30-day review is required for a new harvest unit or the construction of a road access a new area.

Land use conversions that show up on a municipal plat don't require a DPO and reforestation standards don't apply. However, the conversion must occur within five years, otherwise reforestation standards apply. If the conversion is not platted, the operator must submit a DPO.

DOF is considering a simplified DPO for use on small sales for village biomass projects in rural areas. Curran and Putman (TCC) said that the form isn't onerous, but DOF needs to be sure landowners and operators understand FRPA. DOF can work with them to accurately complete the form. DOF and TCC need to be proactive about providing training. Maisch – we could make the form easier to use, provide it on-line, or hot-link it to needed resources like the Anadromous Waters Catalog. Vinsel – it might be better to load the key info on a CD. Nichols stated that the key issue isn't the form, it's the map. Kleinhenz – the map requirements are what force small owners to hire consultants. Putman – TCC provides that service for their clients. Curran – DOF is developing training modules for FRPA. Eleazer – stream classification requires more technical knowledge than some landowners will have. Durst – agrees that the map is the hardest thing to prepare, but it is the most useful part of the document. Helping people make good maps will go a long way to preparing a successful DPO. The flow charts and index of the FRPA regulations are good resources. Jeff Hermanns – none of the rural village sales are greater than 40 acres. Maisch – however, they may be on the riverbank. Nichols – suggested attaching the stream classification system to the DPO form, and linking it to USGS electronic map bases and a simple paint program.

FRPA and rural village harvests. Putman and Curran – Some very small rural projects may fall below the FRPA threshold for commercial operations. They recommend that the landowner or operator still file a voluntary notification of operations. A DPO has to be submitted by the operator, but there may not be a single operator in some rural operations. DOF should perhaps allow landowners to submit DPOs. Curran – landowners can also be the timber owner and operator – it's the entity that the agency would deal with in operations. The landowner can designate the person who will act as the operator. Whoever signs it is liable for any FRPA violations or fines. Putman – this may force the villages to operate in a more specific, businesslike manner. Curran – these issues deserve further discussion as we enter grey areas on applicability. We need to focus on the intent of the Act. We may need to revisit the threshold. The Fort Yukon project clearly meets the applicability standards. Durst agrees that education is key. Nichols – it will be hard to rein things in after operations have started. Working on the definition of commercial operation may be what is most needed. Reggear – the village wants to do the right thing, but it is hard to get people to buy in without some educational effort. Kleinhenz – we are getting caught up in a level of detail that may not be relevant to the Act. We need to stay focused on protecting public fish and water resources. The public understands that. The existing model has worked for bigger organizations that are harvesting, but may not be most effective for small operations in rural areas. Nichols – are we going to enforce buffers on all the little Coho streams – who is responsible to identify, flag, and enforce needed buffers? Maisch – DOF needs to come back to the Board with a work plan.

DNR roads office. Curran – When DOF uses state funding for a project over \$100,000, it must be approved by an engineer licensed in Alaska. Some of the new road and bridge projects are over that amount. DOF is receiving Roads to Resources and road construction funds from DOT for resource extraction roads. DOF will use the funds to build forest roads under the silvicultural exemption from Army Corps permits. The exemption allows lower construction standards. Licensed engineers often don't have experience with design and construction of logging roads. DOF now has two engineering assistants with considerable logging road experience in Alaska – Greg Staunton and Ed Soto. DOF is also looking for a licensed engineer and an upper level procurement officer for these projects. So far DOF has received \$4.75 MM for the Gravina Island road to Vallenar Bay and a winter road across the Little Su River in the Susitna Valley. DOF is requesting capital funds for a log transfer facility in Edna Bay. Nichols -- there are a few licensed forest engineers in Alaska.

Curran – the road office will work on DOF bridge and road design, construction, and maintenance statewide. Fairbanks, Delta, and Haines all have current road issues.

Road status and road closures on public and private land. Curran – FRPA has standards for maintenance on active and inactive forest roads. If a landowner wants to discontinue maintenance, they must close the road by pulling crossing structures and culverts and notifying DOF. DOF will likely require an inspection prior to closure (*see handout on road condition survey*). If there is a problem with a state road, the public should contact the state agency about the problem.

Nichols – it's expensive to build and then close roads. Perhaps there should be another category of roads between "inactive" and "closed," especially as rotations shorten or interim actions like thinning increase. Timber operators are now required to leave roads in a condition where 4-wheelers will be crossing open water. That won't protect water quality. It's hard to simultaneously provide for road closure and ongoing public access by non-highway vehicles. Kleinhenz – landowners also want to reduce their liability for slides or other subsequent actions that occur while harvesting is not active. Hanley – there are opportunities under FRPA to tailor the required actions to the specific site. Curran – we are only addressing FRPA, not private property regulations for other activities. Even if a road is closed, other liabilities remain. Cronin – why would you remove roads if you are going to manage the timber in the future? The cost of maintenance is a cost of operations. Are the private land requirements under FRPA legitimate? I disagree with them on principle. Vinsel – the salmon are public. Cronin – do private property rights end with an actual impact on public resources or with potential impacts like possible pollution? Nichols – DEC's point is that there may be opportunities to store roads while complying with FRPA. Maisch – there isn't a clamoring of landowners that FRPA is broken – FRPA was developed with the consensus of the landowners. Nichols – the landowners agreed to the limited takings under FRPA in exchange for other benefits. No landowner has taken this to court. Cronin – there should be incentives for benefitting endangered species rather than penalties for harm.

Meeting and field trip locations for 2014. Freeman – the Board chose to do the spring meeting in Juneau, the summer meeting with a field trip in Kodiak, and the fall meeting will be a teleconference or videoconference based in Fairbanks.

Next meeting date. March 19-20, 2014 in Juneau

Agenda items.

- Fiscal Year 2014-15 forestry, forest practices, and monitoring budgets
- Proposed Susitna State Forest and negotiated timber sales bill (HB79)
- Wood energy in Alaska and state timber sales for wood energy projects
- Division of Forestry program updates
- Federal forest management in Alaska including Tongass and Chugach national forest planning, Roadless Rule implementation, and Southeast land ownership initiatives
- Alaska Timber Jobs Task Force recommendations and implementation
- Reforestation standards review for Interior and Southcentral Alaska
- 2013 Compliance monitoring and road condition survey reports
- Effectiveness monitoring report
- Annual reports on FRPA effectiveness from DNR, DEC, and ADF&G and organization of BOF annual report to the Governor
- Update on FRPA and DPOs in rural areas
- Southeast Conference reconsideration of the Tongass conservation and management strategy.
- Invite Commissioner Balash

- Invite Beth Pendleton, USFS for an update on the Tongass plan advisory committee and the plan amendment process

Board comments.

- Cronin – Appreciated presentations and the conversation with Harris.
- Kleinhenz – DOF is always well-prepared. Congratulations to Maisch on his NASF leadership – it is good for Alaska.
- Vinsel – Appreciated the information and geographic perspectives. Forest inventory work and FRPA review for implementation with rural biomass projects is good. We need to serve the public. Appreciates having Harris as a consistent presence.
- Maisch – Multiple viewpoints are good. Thanked Kleinhenz for substituting for Wolfe.
- Stark – Kudos to agency staff. Thanks to the University for the frank talk on its programs.
- Foley – Agency professionalism and dedication to jobs admirable.
- McLarnon – Concurred with prior comments.
- Nichols – The Board’s time on Tongass issues is important. We could lose 25% of harvest capacity in Southeast by spring, and over 90% of processing capacity in 12 months. This has a huge impact on Southeast Alaska.
- Nicolls – Fine meeting. Sorry it will be the last one with Mark Eliot. Pleased to see the Board getting beyond a narrow focus on FRPA.

Adjourn Day 4:45 p.m.

Attendees

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Andrew Allaby, UAF | • Jerry Kilanowski, UAF Lands |
| • Dan Bross, KUAC | • Marty Laudert |
| • Clarence Clark, DOF | • Tom Lenhart, AGO (by phone) |
| • Moses Coss, DEC | • Paul Maki |
| • Mike Curran, DOF | • Miho Morimoto, UAF |
| • Clare Doig, Forest & Land Mgmt. | • Gary Mullen, DOF |
| • Jeremy Douse, TCC | • Joel Nudelman, DOF (teleconference) |
| • Jim Durst, ADF&G | • Sun Oh |
| • Jim Eleazer, DOF | • Tom Paragi, ADF&G |
| • Mark Eliot, DOF | • Cassie Pinkel, Superior Pellets |
| • Marty Freeman, DOF | • Devany Plentovich, AEA |
| • Jeff Graham, DOF (teleconference) | • Will Putman, TCC |
| • Kevin Hanley, DEC | • Kathryn Pyne, DOF |
| • Doug Hanson, DOF | • Mike Reggear, DOF |
| • Dave Harris, USFS | • Maggie Rogers, DOF |
| • Maggie Hess (Rogers), (DOF) | • Jim Schwarber, DOF |
| • Glen Holt, UA Coop Extension | • Paul Slenkamp, Mental Health Trust |
| • Rick Jandreau, DOF (teleconference) | • John Yarie, UAF |
| • Ryan D. Jess | • Brian Young, DOF |
| • Glenn Juday, UAF | • Joe Young, Young’s Timber Inc. |

Handouts

- genda
- Public notice
- August 12-13, 2013 Board of Forestry minutes
- Mass wasting regulations
- FRPA regulations field book
- Documentation of process to review mass wasting issues
- Purple book insert on indicators for unstable slopes and Chatwin reference
- List of course for UAF Natural Resource Management degree
- Fairbanks Area Forestry notice of timber sales
- Personal use firewood cutting in the Fairbanks Area
- Copy of PowerPoint slides on Fairbanks Area Forestry
- Overview of Region II-III reforestation standards review, September 2013
- Update of Alaska Timber Jobs Task Force Recommendations and Status
- Developing a method to estimate abundance of wolves in Southeast Alaska. ADF&G progress report January 1, 2013-May31, 2013
- Status of wolves in Southeast Alaska. ADF&G Div. of Wildlife Conservation. October 2012
- Wood for bioenergy. Mendell, Brooks C. and Amanda H. Lang. The Forest History Society. 2012. 68 pp.
- Tanana Valley Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting, Nov. 12, 2013, Agenda
- Forest road mileage in southeast Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources
- Preliminary best interest finding and decision – Mississippi Fire Salvage, Oct. 11, 2013
- Alaska fire numbers 2013