

HB 98 / SB 85

Forest Land Use Plans; Negotiated Timber Sales

Board of Forestry

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August 3, 2021



Presentation Overview

- Issue: SE Alaska timber industry is struggling to survive.
- How can we provide and protect timber jobs?
 - Step 1: Change negotiated timber sale statutes to allow local industry to sell all the timber it harvests, as export if needed.
 - Step 2: Provide a stable and predictable supply of timber to the industry, once a timber sale has been purchased.





Issue: Timber industry in SE Alaska is struggling to survive

A dwindling supply of timber from the US Forest Service has hurt the timber industry in Southeast Alaska.

SE Alaska supports only 325 timber industry jobs today, compared to 4,000 jobs in the 1990s. Now, even those jobs are in danger.

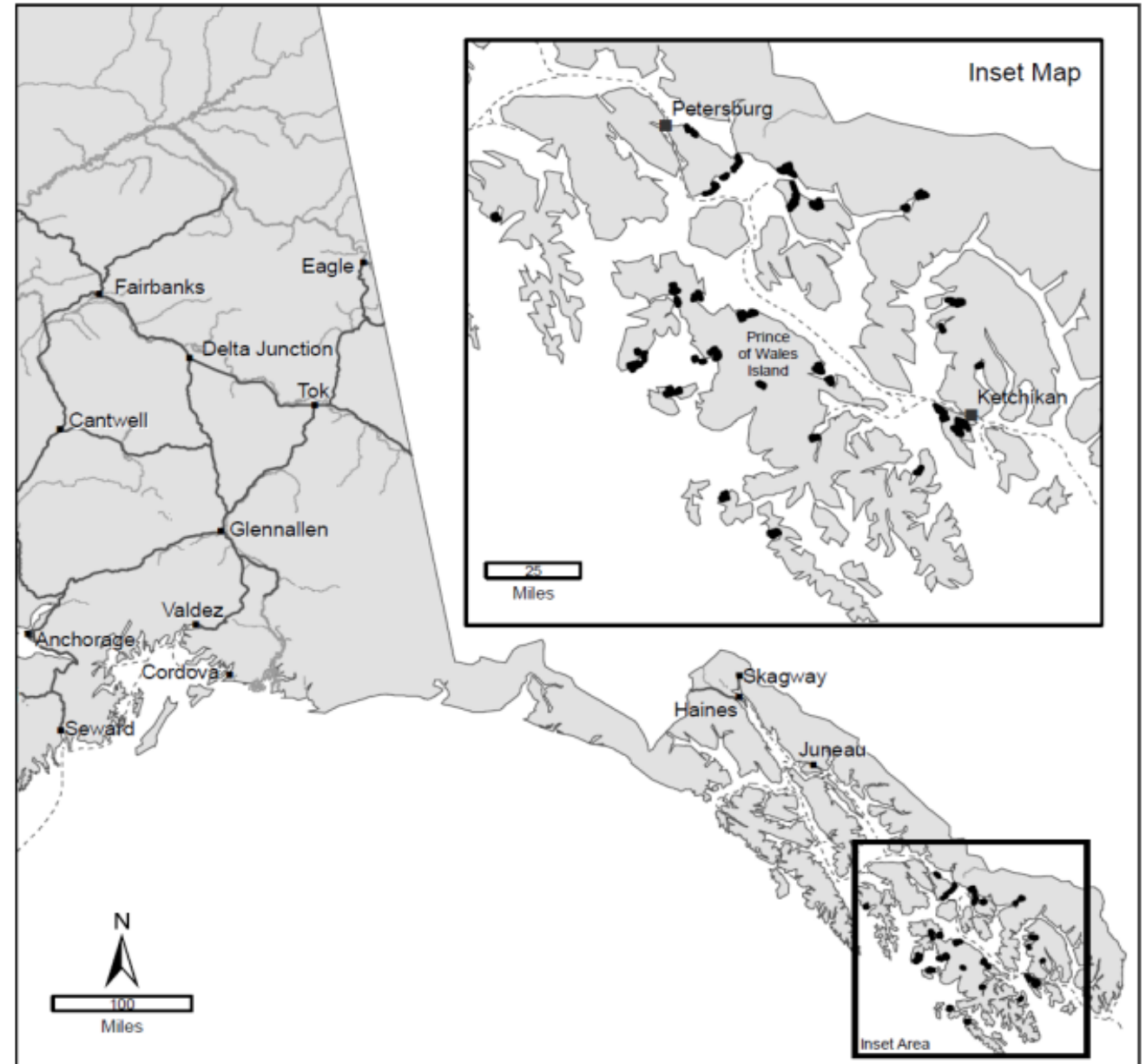
Until young growth timber in the Tongass National Forest becomes economically harvestable in about 2030, the industry will struggle to survive on an inadequate timber supply.

State Timberlands in Southeast Alaska

DOF provides the sustainable yield of timber volume possible on state land, but that land base is tiny.

- The Southeast State Forest represents only 0.04% of the SE Alaska land base
- 32 forest units total 46,952 widely scattered acres

In comparison, the Tongass National Forest is 16.8 million acres, with about 5.5 million acres of commercial timberland.



How can we provide and protect jobs?

Step 1. Change negotiated timber sale statutes to allow local industry to sell all the timber it harvests, as export if needed.

- Currently, the negotiated timber sales statutes prohibit our local timber purchasers from selling all the logs for export; **most must be used for local manufacture.**
 - A changing timber supply (more young growth) means that some sizes of timber are not marketable in Alaska.
 - Demand for certain species (e.g., hemlock) is only overseas or in the Pacific Northwest.



Why are negotiated timber sales important?

They allow DOF to choose a timber purchaser not only based on price, but also on the **number of local jobs** the sale provides.





How can we provide and protect jobs?

Step 2. Provide a stable and predictable supply of timber to the industry.
Once timber has been sold, reduce unnecessary appeals to ensure a stable and predictable supply of timber to the industry.

Steps in a Timber Sale

Public and agency comment gathered at each step.

1. Regional Planning: Area Plans & State Forest Plans*
2. Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales
3. Best Interest Finding (BIF)*
 - Timber can be sold after BIF adopted.
 - Enter timber contract: negotiated sale by request for proposals, or competitive sale
4. Forest Land Use Plans (FLUP)*
 - Not all FLUPs must be issued before timber is offered for sale.
 - For large sales, it is efficient to prepare FLUPs in phases, as access is created.

**Subject to appeal.*



BIF vs. FLUP: What's the difference?

Best Interest Finding

Decisional document:

- Should we sell this timber?

Forest Land Use Plan

Implements BIF on the ground:

- How will the sold timber be harvested?



BIFs, FLUPs, and timber harvests must adhere to the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA, AS 41.17), which:

- protects fish habitat,
- protects water quality, and
- ensures prompt reforestation.



Stable Timber Supply

An appeal of a FLUP after the timber has sold can halt harvesting, which can be disastrous to a logging company.

HB 98/SB 85 ensures that once the decision has been made to sell the timber, and it has been sold, no further administrative appeals can occur.





HB 98/SB 85 focuses appeals at the BIF stage, **before** timber is sold.

- Provides stable and predictable supply of timber once sold.
- No interruptions of harvest for Forest Land Use Plans issued after a Best Interest Finding.

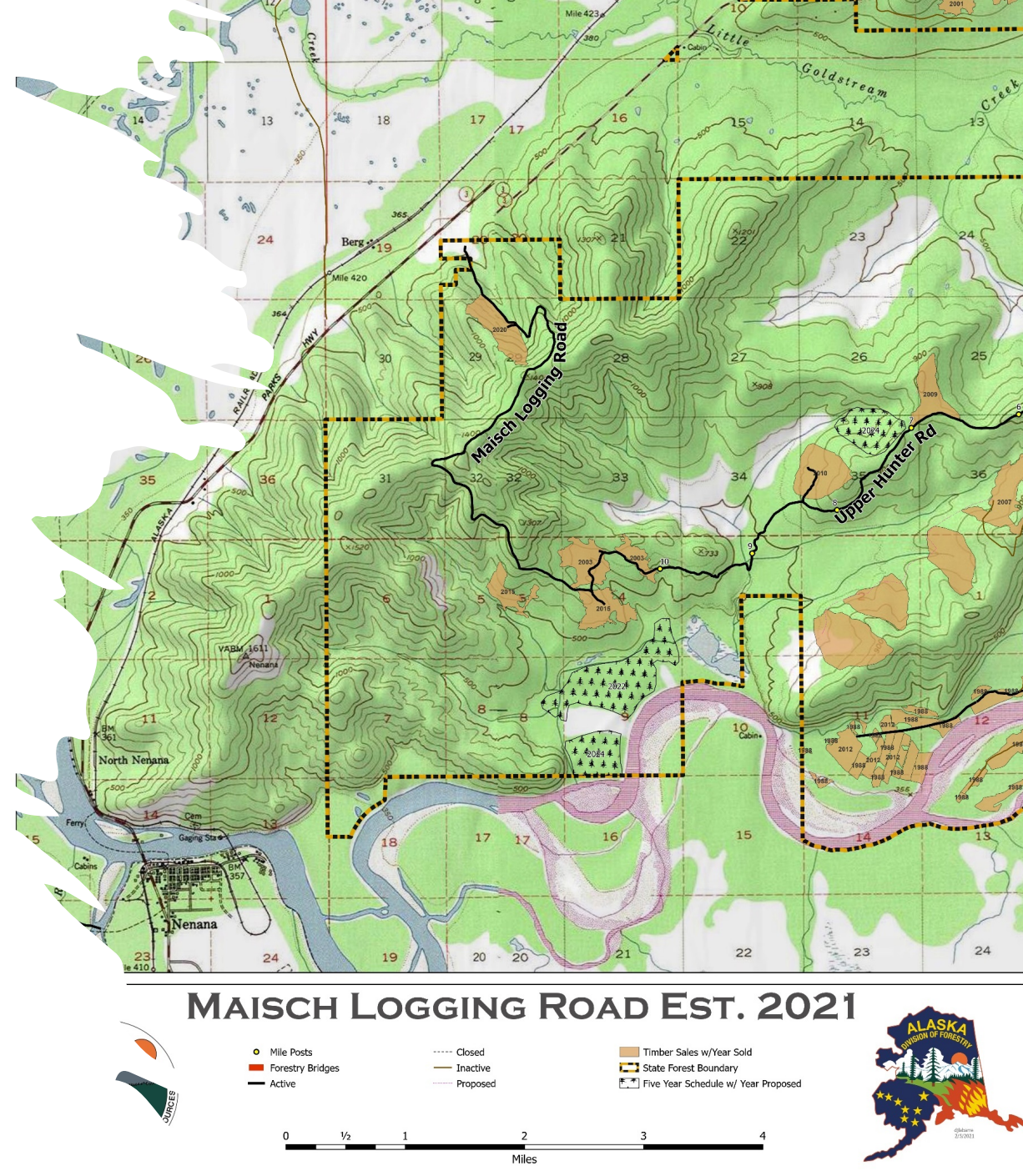


Additional changes:

- HB 98/SB 85 expands the size of timber sales exempt from the need for a FLUP from 10 acres to 20 acres .

HB 98/SB 85 adds specific criteria the DNR commissioner must consider when deciding whether to offer a negotiated or competitive timber sale:

- best interests of the state
- local timber market
- specialized or developing foreign or domestic markets
- presence of underutilized timber
- economic constraints of the intended timber market
- other benefits to the state and local economy





Thank you!
Questions?