

MINUTES: Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 14, 2022, 6:00 – 9:00PM

Location: DNR Large Conference Room, 3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, and Zoom meeting.

Attendees, in person or by Zoom:

Alison Arians
Kristin Timm
Helge Eng
Jeremy Douse
Reed Morisky
Dan Rees
Tom Malone
Mike Spindler
Egil Fjellheim
Tom Paragi
Young's Timber, Joe Young
Nik Nichols
Matt Stevens
Kevin Meany
Jason Moan
Julie Hagelin
Jason Moan
Dave Lutz
J Sparks
Thomas Nerbonne
Brad Cox

6:00pm Introduction of CAC Members and guests – Tom Malone

Introductions: See attendee list

6:05pm Review and approve minutes from April 15, 2021 meeting – Tom Malone

Tom Malone: Corrections, every page is page 2.

Minutes Approved.

**6:10pm ANNOUNCEMENTS
+ CAC members reappointed**

Tom Malone: Reed, Dan, Mike reapproved.

Tom Malone: A few expire this December, will work on that.

6:15pm

OLD BUSINESS (Since Dr. Lutz is joining us from New Hampshire, and will be 4 hours ahead of us, his brief update is scheduled before New Business.)

+ Update on project: 'Investigating Changes in Forests Across Alaska and Canada,' with CAC involvement – Dr. David Lutz, Dartmouth College, Department of Environmental Studies

Dave Lutz: Dartmouth college
Arctic-Boreal Vulnerability Experiment ABoVE
Forest ecologist
NASA satellite data to initialize model.

Simulate forest dynamics and assess tradeoffs in delivery of ecosystem services under a set of stakeholder-informed management strategies at each study site.

Use as a tool for potential different management scenarios for different management units.

Holding a workshop May 5. To discuss potential future scenarios. Utilize scenarios in forest model and present some outcomes related to forest structure, carbon, timber management. Has funds for travel to workshop. Will be in DNR large conference room. Will try to have remove option to participate too. Work on procedures catered to the questions CAC has in updating management plan. Social science to build out computer model. Listen to what CAC would consider in terms of future management. Walk through management units and goals under different amplitudes of climate change. Look at guidance in existing management plan. What would be considerations of what areas might be harvested. How they'd like to experiment with model and what is useful information. He'll be up on the third and have a day to prepare. Simulate thinning, harvest, replanting. Spin through different climate scenarios to see different compositions. If interested, contact him to be put on attendee list. 50 scientists will be in Fairbanks. He'll be leading one breakout group for several hours focused on the state forest. Using radar to look at permafrost, changing migration patterns for wildlife. Come and ask questions of these scientists that might be helpful for management plan revision. Following Wednesday for breakout.

David.a.lutz@dartmouth.edu

(603) 646-4009

If people can only join for part, just let him know. He can pay mileage reimbursement.

Tom Paragi ADFG: Dave mentioned going through unit by unit, but some are broken into subunits, could be 30-40. Talking about all?

Dave: some units don't have much activity so not much to say. Will focus more on 4c and d, ones closer to Fairbanks that go into FYSTS. Can talk about management units a long time, but will move through quickly on units that don't have management at all like Bonanza Creek. Workshop is not set in stone. Want procedure to work for them and to encapsulate how they're actually managing. He knows modeling inputs and will be translating

Tom: if there's a handful of units for modeling that are priorities, and Dave can let them know priorities, they can look at it ahead of time.

Dave: look at ones that are more accessible. Wildlife is also important, look at thinning or other management they've worked on.

New state forester introduction:

Helge Eng: New director and state forester took over when Chris Maisch retired. He retired from Calfire Dept. of Forestry after 29+ years. Fair amount of experience on west coast in BC, CA, OR, WA. He has worked in logging, timber cruising. Started career in Canadian Yukon. Fuels reduction and wildfire prevention are two of governor's top priorities. Important for DOF to

deliver results. Amazing amount of support for fuels and wildfire prevention in governor's office, legislature, and public. Want to avoid burning down subdivision and homes, that has translated into funding support. DOF has budget request in for \$4.2 million this year for a variety of budget items including timber and right sizing the fire organization, reinstating the firefighter training academy (first academy in Tok and then move it around). \$17 million earmarked in capital improvement fund for fuels reduction is keeping division quite busy. Want to spend public money wisely. Don't want to load up on bureaucrats but do need to increase staff, dozer operators and foresters to get work done. Unique point in time. Feds are kicking in relatively large amounts of funding as well. Through IJA we will get hundreds of millions for forest health and wildfire prevention. Working with federal partners on grants. Assuming funding materializes we'll be in a good place for fuel breaks and fireproofing large areas. Working on local lumber grading program. Idea is dimensional lumber has to be graded (certification stamped) that it's sufficient quality to support the structure for the lifetime of the house. Only certain entities can certify, Western Wood Products Association. You have to buy into that and it's expensive. Small processors can't afford. This will be an alternative. Everyone he's talked to has supported it enthusiastically. Working with Priscilla Morris at USFS PNW Research Station in Anchorage on it. Hopeful to get legislation to support it. Will work with anyone who's interested to get a program and get legislation passed. Enthusiastic support from DNR commissioner. Looking to move it forward pretty soon.

Helge Eng cont.: right sizing division. Looking to modernize facilities including this one. Getting kicked out of fire quarters in Palmer, lease ending. Looking at dispatch facilities. More on that at a later date.

Tom Malone: Welcome on board.

6:30pm **NEW BUSINESS**
 + Election of committee Chair and Vice Chair

Tom Malone: nominations are open for chair.

Brad Cox [?]: nominate Tom and Dan as chair and vice chair.

Tom Malone: don't need election so they'll move on.

+ Spruce beetles in Interior Alaska & the TVSF – Jason Moan, DOF

Jason Moan: Forest health forester with DOF. Not able to be in person because fieldwork on the Kenai. Spruce beetle update.

Spruce beetle is native to forests of Alaska. Most activity is in Southcentral but spruce beetle is also native to the spruce forests of the Interior.

The 2021 aerial surveys across the state mapped 193,500 ac of spruce beetle damage. Slightly more than 2019 but less than 2018; No aerial surveys were flown in 2020. Aerial survey data is available if anyone would like it. Scattered activity in Interior with concentration near Ft. Yukon.

2650 ac in spruce beetle damage north of Alaska Range, most around Ft. Yukon. 2150 acre along a few dozen miles of Yukon River. Not quite the level of an outbreak, but forest health will be keeping a close eye on it.

Activity scattered in stand but significant amounts of stand not affected.

325 acres of spruce beetle activity in TVSF. Considered light to very light activity. TVSF is typically covered every year in aerial surveys.

191,000 ac active damage in Southcentral last year. Significant activity in Mat-Su and Denali Borough. A lot of scattered activity in black spruce in lower Susitna valley and NW Kenai, which were hit heavy early in the outbreak. Black spruce is not a preferred host.

There have been at least 1.6 million cumulative acres impacted within the outbreak in Southcentral. Trying to better document. Usually only look for active damage, but trying to look for trees that were killed previously in this same outbreak.

Zoom into northern part of outbreak. Northern extent around Carlo Creek on Parks Hwy. On the east side of Talkeetna Mountains, upper Susitna River also seeing activity. Both areas are a concern. Upper Susitna activity has no terrain-based barrier to prevent the possible spread east to Copper River valley. Both areas will be high priority for aerial surveys and outreach efforts.

What will happen next?

Hard to predict. Factors include dispersal factors temperature, rain, humidity, host presence. Also overwinter survival factors, including life stage, location in tree, temperature, snow depth, predators.

Natural predators typically build up to where they can affect population, or exhaustion of host, or unfavorable environmental conditions. Until one of those happen, expect to see activity.

www.alaskasprucebeetle.org is valuable reference for Alaska-specific spruce beetle information. maintained by UAF cooperative extension.

Questions?

Dan Rees: do you notice anything different with upper Nenana valley vs upper Susitna valley?

Jason Moan: Not necessarily. Seems to be acting fairly similarly. Have research projects with UAF focused around Cantwell so hope to have more information on that topic perhaps this year or next.

Kristin Timm: what is threshold for outbreak vs. steady state of beetles in the forest?

Jason Moan: in some parts of the country for other bark beetles there was a threshold per acre. But there's not an established threshold in Alaska. Usually when they're seeing merging of large areas of attacked trees with other large areas of attacked trees.

Kristin: it could be interesting as part of the whole modeling effort.

Jason: he can look to see if he has more about that.

Mike Spindler: any information on winter severity and what will turn around an outbreak?

Jason: there's been documented beetle mortality from winter temps elsewhere in North America, have been instances where severe winter cold has knocked back populations. Don't recall if there's study for Alaska.

Tom Malone: what month do you fly?

Jason. Middle of July. That's when most of the damage signatures for a wide variety of diseases and insects and abiotic are most visible. This year will be flying late June in Southcentral, July for Interior.

Reed Moriskey: how long do beetles stay in tree after it appears dead?

Jason: spruce beetle in Southcentral typically has 2-year life cycle. 2 winters in the tree, so emerge in the third year. Can shift to one year life cycle when temperatures shift. In Interior they're thought to regularly have a one year life cycle, so emerge the spring/summer 1 year after attack. Recommend processing within a year of the tree being attacked. But some variability. Southcentral right now is seeing a mix of one-year and two-year life cycles.

+ Review of 2022 Northern Region Five Year Schedule – Kevin Meany, DOF Forester

Jeremy: a couple years ago DOF moved to a regional schedule which is a better model and seems to be working better. Purpose is to give public and industry an idea of where DOF is moving with timber sales and identify management intention in regards to forest markets and conditions. Years one and two tend to be more solid. The out years are more of a mapping exercise. Generally a sale has to be proposed on at least one of the last two FYSTS before it can be offered for sale. DOF foresters assess the

current market conditions in the Northern Region when putting together the FYSTS. From DOF's perspective, spruce sawtimber is stable and is utilized to supply local mills. There are a few places buying logs from local suppliers for cabin kits. With tariffs and covid there is more interest in local wood. Also, there is an increase in local fuel costs.

The demand for birch has been increasing— Aurora Energy Solutions owns the firewood kiln in Fairbanks. Local logging operations have started to work together to optimize harvest operations. Specifically, operators have begun sorting logs out by species and sending the sorted piles to the appropriate mill operation. Mixed species sales are becoming more desirable due to the collaboration. Nonattainment area has had an impact on firewood. Anyone selling firewood in area has to register with DEC and meet criteria for below 20% moisture content. With kiln or split and store for 9 months, or get from salvage situation like a burn. Some smaller operators have more interest in salvage because of that. Lacking access to units like 4c where there was a burn a few years ago limits the availability of salvage sales. Working with Fairbanks North Star Borough to get access and meet need. Down in Tok the existing market is stable, Gateway school still harvesting 2000 green tons per year for biomass. They can use green wood—win-win for Gateway and DOF. Any questions or comments can be sent to Kevin or Matt or Kato or Jeremy. Showed DNR DOF forestry resources viewer so people can explore sales. Matt said they can still produce paper maps for anyone who needs them, just call. Google Alaska forestry GIS or go to DOF main page <https://soa-dnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=034b8108c9cc4b199bc93f297af4ef13>

Mike Spindler: Spent time look at habitats around sales and said good job.

Jeremy: a few different GIS web apps, for inventory.

Mike: can pull in NWI map for wetlands too.

Kevin: once you get used to it it's easy to pull in other data.

Reed: is this on Alaska mapper?

Jeremy: this is separate

Matt: can bring in Alaska mapper data to the forest resource viewer

Tom Paragi: kudos for this amazing tool.

Dan Rees: is there a sale in ag parcels on Nenana Totchaket

Jeremy: Division of Agriculture approached DOF to try to do timber sale to clear off some of that land.

Dan Rees: does that have promise?

Jeremy: Nenana is looking to have a mill down there, but this would probably not feed the mill. Personal use sale, firewood in that area.

Kevin: firewood loggers, heat plant they want to put in. It seems like we're silent partners listening in and helping where we can

Matt: moving quickly though on ag

Dan: first disposal is this summer. Is the road city limits?

Jeremy: road will be constructed by the state and maintained by the city. It will give access to the Kantishna block all the way to the Kantishna River

Kevin: we have state forest there.

Dan: someone looking to expand and gravel that road?

Jeremy: DOT and DMLW are looking for material sites. It won't be a great road, mostly sand.

Dan: getting closer to Kantishna block. Is that trucking distance viable for Fairbanks market

Jeremy: depends on road conditions. End of Standard Creek is a long haul.

Kevin: have logged there before in winter.

+ Update of TVSF Management Plan process – Ashley List, DOF (30 mins)

CAC would like updates on timing. They'd like to receive draft and then have 10 days or so before meeting to discuss.

+ Consideration of TVSF signs along the Parks Highway – Mike Spindler, CAC

Tom: would people like to signs along the parks highway?

Mike Spindler: TVSF Rosie Creek signs. Tok Area signs are a wonderful character. Would be good to have signs for opening and leaving. Would add status and prestige for Alaska and what they're doing with land management and build public support.

Several: good idea.

Tom: can DOF do that?

Jeremy: not a huge expense, we could do that.

Matt: have talked about that within area. Can do metal signs, starting to do that around the area. Run into vandalism. Hopefully people not firing at them.

Mike: could have two signs, double-sided.

Tom: value of signs on Richardson?

Jeremy: yes.

Mike: good recognition besides fire.

Helge: reminder that DOF manages trust resources.

Mike: like Rosie Creek working forest signs with opportunities for people to enjoy.

8:15pm

REMAINING OLD BUSINESS

+ Rosie Creek Recreation & Forestry Partnership – Alison Arians, Jon Underwood & Jeremy Douse

Alison: project finished and signs installed. Have received many nice comments and emails about people biking and skiing on them. There is a timber sale that's happening there. John not here, but he did a great job.

Tanana Challenge race was rerouted because there was a timber sale in the area. There were multiple options for routes, and it was used.

Jeremy: During the auction Jeremy asked if the purchaser was going to be out there during the race, they said no. Jeremy let race director know about the sale though. Logger plowed the road, and race came up with alternate route. It worked out. It's the state forest and it's there for managing timber resource and secondarily wildlife habitat, and it will just take work to manage recreation use.

Helge Eng: this is an applied social science experiment. He is a bit nervous about it. When he left California his forest had its first tree sitter. But he is happy about how this panned out, and Alaska is not California. People understand why people cut trees down. We don't have a budget for recreation so it has consisted of incidental use and we accommodate them as much as we can within the timber program. Rosie creek was unique because we spent grant money to develop trail specifically for recreation. It will be interesting to see going forward whether recreationists complain about seeing logging, or will they understand this is multiple use and a working forest. UAF should do a research project.

Kristin Timm: she is a social scientist. Is there a permitting process in place for races?

Jeremy: there is a permit system but they've been working informally with that race. Non timber authorizations are issued by DMLW and DMLW comes to DOF to see if DOF agrees with the use.

Kristin Timm: with the sale this winter, one question is whether there was communication about the improvements to the roads to manage the drainage.

Jeremy: the logger working out there could not navigate his log truck over those rolling grade dips. So they'll have to make that modification.

Alison: Learned in the future we'll have to spread those dips farther apart.

Jeremy: or use more traditional drainage structures. Area on top of the hill was an old material site and was dumping ground. Took out cars and made nicer trailhead and people are parking there and using trailhead. Good to get rid of the huge mess there.

Mike: What happened with connection to Bonanza Creek and Alaska Long Trail?

Alison: good question. 10% match. Going to keep having sales in Rosie Creek area so people are used to it. To answer question, DOF applied for RTP grant to do connectors. Also needed trail permit and hadn't gone through the permit process all the way. UAF is also involved and USFS research, had to work around that. Took a while to get permit and that was one reason DOF didn't get RTP grant. They were real sticklers which was unfortunate. Good thing was Helge said we need agreement with DMLW so we don't have to go through this 8-9 month process. Would still like to apply for that grant if this social experiment seems like it's working. She met with trails guys today who are trying to get state money for \$14 million Long Trail including TVSF leg of it. They're excited that the TVSF leg is long and relatively uncomplicated. But we have to make sure it'll work for forestry. Cautiously optimistic it will work. Need good system between DMLW and DOF. Signs are part of that awareness. Alison loves trails and would like it to work.

Dan: are the connections between BCEF and Rosie Creek roads or trails?

Alison: For ATVs and motorized use. Some stream crossings so getting logging trucks across would be hard.

Helge: Oil spill containment basins and other requirements didn't make sense for a trail, more for urban improvements. To other question, the concept of TVSF as a working forest with an endemic recreation background as forestry and wildlife allows. Or specifically build up for recreation. An existential question for us. Shouldn't be taken lightly. Should be thinking 20-30 years ahead, will there be a string of subdivisions and people who no longer have connection to traditional land use who will object. So far people are pragmatic. Rosie Creek will be very informative going forward.

Tom: Interior trails newsletter Eric Troyer has given very positive output about this and will let anyone write a column to discuss this. He reminds people to not use trails when wet. Hunters often do, and that causes road damage that DOF is on the hook for and it's from public use not logging trucks.

Brad: We don't have a lot of conflict because we try to communicate and that goes a long ways. 20 years ago it was rowdy at the CAC because a subdivision went in and people saw a forestry truck go in, and communication broke down.

Tom: USFS put in campgrounds and people didn't like seeing logging.

Helge: another thing to keep an eye on is trail maintenance. When people get habituated to a certain level of trail and then you can't maintain it, will they complain and go to legislator and expect maintenance by the TVSF.

Tom: it may be possible to cooperate with state parks about that. Cabins section of old plan, he and Jeremy suggest going cautiously with that. Revenues from cabins don't get dedicated to that, have to get legislature to approve it.

Kristin: the only conflict she's aware was that this was a shooting site. She appreciates that DOF put signs up because the shooting was happening on a blind hill on a powerline trail. Now that there's not a bunch of stuff there to shoot at, hopefully it will become less of a shooting area.

Tom: one more old business item: Champion Tree Program. Couldn't get ahold of Don Burdelet who was coordinator. SAF said he lives part time in Arizona. He contacted American Forest Association to see what to do if we lost our coordinator. But no one ever answered his messages. We can still measure trees and we'll just keep the information. Form is online. Person who found the tree can't be the measuring person.

8:25pm

AREA UPDATES [If more time needed, stop between presentations at 8:45 for public comments, then finish updates.]

+ Fairbanks/Delta Area Update – Matt Stevens, Fairbanks/Delta Area Forester, DOF

Matt: this is his third summer as area forester. One area forester, two area resource foresters, and one equipment operator, Egil. Also Jeremy. Metrics. Sealed bid auction 12/23 6 spruce sales, 5 sold. Standard Creek didn't sell. 2 sales had 2 bids each. 5500 cf 300 acres across the area sold. Really targeted at Fairbanks area. This winter will put out Delta sale. Last report was 4/21 to CAC. 5 OTC sales. Negotiated less than 10 acres – 11 sales. Did a lot of work to close out old sales where operator hadn't had contact or cut much. Closed out 29 sales, some will be put back in the mix of 5-year schedules. FRPA : 22 FRPA inspections 2021, 6 inspections, surveyed 152 acres, looking for tiny seedlings. Completed 3 FLUPs. Maintained 87 miles of road. Constructed one mile of new road. 4.2 miles by timber purchases. 153 Permits. Kiln demand for firewood as fuel prices increase. Agency and public review for FYSTS started today, 30-day review runs through May 20. Reforestation update: contract last year to grow 40,000 seedlings that will show up late July/August. Planting contract to Future Forests. Will target recently harvested spruce forest. Haven't planted since 2019. PRT out of Oregon is the grower. Looking to collect cones this fall. Target floodplain site and get cones down to Plant Materials Center. Kevin's already working with PMD and how to rotate through because some of stock is getting pretty old. Doing more reforestation surveys. Layout for fall auction targeted on Delta area. November/December auction timeframe. Road maintenance slowly getting into. Trying to plow mainline roads off, getting heavy snowpack off the roads. Have noticed getting sun earlier and getting airflow. Looking to build up stockpile for material. Going to set up material separator on Standard Creek road. Still working with state parks on Fortune Creek bridge. It went out in mid-January to solicit for contractors to improve entire road overlay and remove and install new bridge on Fortune Creek bridge. Still working the procurement process but at last step. He can send future updates to CAC if interested. Will open a huge amount of ground on other side of fortune creek. Fire outlook for 2022 season: for Fairbanks and Interior region a lot of snow on ground is delaying spring operations, like burning slash piles and Creamer's Field work. Normal to below normal fire season outlook. Promising for air quality. Both Fairbanks and Delta have vacancies in key positions. Fairbanks is close to fully staffed and have been able to fill Fairbanks fire positions, middle management. All the folks back in Fairbanks and Delta fire as of April 1. Exped shipping them to Kenai for grass fires in the next week. This is big fire country have to address it with more complex fuels management. Have been working to roller chopper Old Murphy Dome fuel break units. Put in 15-18 years ago depending on the section. Spruce regen but also alder and willow. About a third of the way through. Christmas snowstorm affected ability to operate. 600 acres fuel break total. Across Elliot Highway is Washington Creek drainage, a couple hundred acres of old fuel treatments—big wide linear feature. Don't expect much fuels treatments on TVSF because there are higher priorities.

+ Tok Area Update – Kato Howard, Tok Area Forester, DOF

Kato: Started last fall. Throughout their area there are multiple uses for harvesting for personal use firewood and hobby mills, gone from one to six in Tok right now. Then large-scale logging and processing. Most of the lands they're dealing with are surrounded by federal lands and DMLW lands and native community lands. Takes a bit to get it through. Kato is learning how to plan those out. The big issues is the hobby and personal use firewood are all less than 10 miles out from town. He's put sales in across a larger area. Other aspects are the fuels projects and the money available—it's a matter of capacity for contractors and his staff. It's going to take a bit to get it together. He sees most of the accomplishments coming from interagency projects with native groups and other state agencies. Right now they use a firefighter as an equipment operator, they don't have a facility for winter work. Trying to rectify that through CIP process. Big issue is to build these for timber and fuels and biomass units along with recreational and general aesthetics for homeowners. Participating with DMLW on subdivision plans. Working on past processes and new processes. On fire side lost two more firefighters, admin, and warehouse position. Looking for people to come live and work in Tok. This summer, all the statistics for fires season look like a below to average season. We're a couple years before the rise to the peak of fire seasons. Have to do inventory from sales so a slow fire season might help with that. Inventory crew coming three times this summer. Biomass sales going on in Copper and Tok.

+ Statewide update – Jeremy Douse, DOF Northern Regional Forester

Jeremy: Thanked staff for all of their work on getting these projects done. From statewide perspective, the division has been renamed (effective 7/1/22) acronym is still DOF. Fuels program is big, and federal funding as well. But it's a process to get up to where we have capacity to implement, including both contractors and DOF staff. Have requested an increment for staffing for fire and forestry from governor's budget. Have asked for 3 additional foresters and 1 additional equipment operator. Forester 5 in Southeast, Forester 2 in Haines, Forester 3 in Northern Region. Looking for a lot of positions on fire side to implement fuels program. Looking at a reorganization of the division. Not going to change the mission. On the resource side there will be more focus on foresters being able to do resource work. Will help get FRPA inspections, reforestation surveys, and getting timber sales out. There will be 2 deputy directors, for fire and forestry branch. Miho Welton is the inventory forester now, she was a research forester at UAF. Runs the GIS shop and the FIA program. The university forestry program is gone, but some of those projects they produced are really important to the division. Remeasuring CAFI plots and levels of growing stock plot which we'd like to keep maintaining, would love UAF to take that back. Also monumenting John Alden's provenance trials plots. FIA is moving to more remote areas this year—finished McGrath. Moving to Aniak, Stony River. They won't have a hub community to work out of. The local lumber proposal—Priscilla Morris with the USFS approached us with this program. 7 states have a similar program. It's an exemption to the building code. Locally produced lumber can be used for single or double home construction. Doesn't require grade stamps as long as operator goes through training course and the lumber is sold directly to the end user. In some states the coop extension or state forestry provides that training. Still in fact finding stage. We don't have statewide building code, many communities use international building code. That's also what AHFC uses. AHFC is interested in an exemption to their minimum construction standards. Would open up opportunities for operators outside of boroughs. Not clear how to reach out to municipalities. Some may be interested, some may not. One of the hang-ups in other states is that the folks who do code compliance inspections were not comfortable with

this. So they wrote in reg that the inspector can refuse any of the material. In Wisconsin quality is higher than box stores. Off the road system this could really help, in Southeast could open up new mill opportunities.

Helge: HB 98 allows negotiated timber sales to be exported. More of a Southeast Alaska thing. Allows for local or domestic export.

Alison: It eliminates the appeal option on a FLUP. The idea is people could appeal on the BIF, which is usually at the same time as the FLUP. It's only happened once, but there's a perception that there are a lot of appeals on FLUPs. It looks like we're eliminating an opportunity for public comment.

Alison: HB 209 allows general funds to be spent on hiring EFF in nonemergency situations. That's great because we can use them on other projects and it will help give consistency to build up village crews. The Fire Academy is the other piece of legislation in the budget request. Passed unanimously in the House. Doesn't have to go through Senate Finance. Passed Senate Resources, soon it should be on the Senate floor.

Helge: Gronk is sponsoring it.

Dan: Does the lumber grading only apply to surface lumber?

Northland, Icy Bay in Southeast and Ken.

Brad : we were graded until the subsidy passed for monthly inspections and they didn't do enough volume to continue. Northland still does grading and the guy shows up every month.

Dan: is funding going to private lands?

Helge: Ashley?

Ashley List: none of the \$17 million is going to coop forestry programs for private lands. We expect IJA funding, though.

Helge: expects a lot of it will go to contractors and small landowners

Dan: will it go to forest stewardship?

Helge: expect it will benefit private landowners

Dan: it should go to private landowners with stewardship

Matt: the new fuels foresters could help forest stewardship.

Helge: we are trying to protect individual homes through fuel breaks to communities.

8:45pm PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joe Young: He is in the eastern part of the Tok area. On the FYSTS in year one there is only 13.8 acres of sawlogs; year two has 17 acres of sawlogs. He cut 40 acres in 30 days, why are there not more saw log timber sales in the Tok area? He's a commercial value-added operator, not a firewood operator. He's not interested in sales with significant firewood. He sells firewood only in the summer. Young's Timber Inc. is going to market fuel logs to Three Bears. He is going to produce 4.5" diameter by 16" fuel logs. Young's Timber is redesigning its fuel log machine in TX. Between slabs and sawdust and tops they have plenty of material for that. In 2019 and Jan. 2022 he sent letters to DOF requesting saw log sales in Tok River moose habitat enhancement area. He doesn't believe in exporting Alaska timber; Southeast can do that but

he's dead set against exporting from TVSF. Produce our own lumber and serve Alaska citizens. State pushing negotiated sale exports but won't negotiate with local operators.

Jeremy: he'll get back to Joe about saw log sales.

Joe: 30 days to make changes, get comments?

Jeremy: yes. Good point that they usually try to spread out units and have been through this evolution with operators on lower Tanana too. There's definitely timber down in lower Tok drainage, need to put sales there.

9:00pm CAC MEMBER COMMENTS

Dan: Last weekend he went to Rosie Creek trails. Talked to users, people were very pleased these things were there. Most users were fat tire bikers. No one said anything negative about operator plowing to gravel. As Fairbanks grows we get a lot of recreation. There will be conflicts that we'll have to deal with, but that's how it is.

Reed Moriskey: State of Alaska mapper and was looking for TVSF between Nenana and Anderson across the Nenana River, and if the gas line goes, the permits are finalized, we might want to look at the route near Livengood that misses railroads and comes east of Nenana and through the TVSF between Nenana and Teklanika. To miss borough and to miss Nenana if they want to form a Borough. There's a road that goes from Nenana to road.

Ashley: we'll look into that, we're just starting maps, so it's good timing.

Kristin: great asset to jump on those trails from the neighborhood. Likes the idea of keeping sales active there and the message that these are multiple use and forestry first. Glad trails happened, it's a good thing.

Brian Cox: in the industry we get nervous when there's a change in personnel, and appreciates Helge.

Mike Spindler: Appreciates work we do, a lot of complex work is apparent going through TVSF plan to do scoping comments. A lot of conflicts, nonmotorized vs nonmotorized hunters, trappers vs mushers, agency isn't responsible to work all of that. A lot of maintenance goes on and a lot of local pride in that.

Tom Malone: who's coming up on May 5, 11?

Alison: clarification, 5th is just for the CAC. The 11th is the breakout of the 50-scientist group related to TVSF. Alison will send out time again.

Tom Malone: is there a registration fee?

Alison: no.

Mike Spindler: the 11th is helping Dave Lutz with project?

Alison: yes. But 5th is CAC main day.

9:15pm **SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING** April 2023? Third Thursday in April is April 20. Tentative date. Probably meeting in fall or winter to review the plan.

ADJOURN 9:03 pm