

# Chichagof Conservation Council

Box 621 Tenakee Springs Alaska 99841

December 31, 1994

## 1994--GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS

First the good news- With Jack Ward Thomas as chief, there was real progress in Tongass management in the past year. The Forest Service canceled the remainder of APC's 50-year contract after APC closed its Sitka pulp mill, and the economic sky did not fall. The concept of a sustainable economy gained support. Some efforts were made to implement the "viable populations" study recommendations. In our local encounters with Chatham area staff we have felt a genuine desire to build trust and communication.

## Now the Bad News- A New Native Claim Bill

Senator Murkowski introduced a new native claim bill in the last days of the 103rd Congress, setting the stage for a raid on protected areas in 1995. SB 2539 calls for the creation of five new village corporations, based in Ketchikan, Petersburg, Wrangell, Haines, and Tenakee Springs, and the transfer of lands from the Tongass to these private corporations. The only lands available for selection appear to be areas permanently designated as "roadless" (LUD II) in the Tongass Timber Reform Act or currently in administrative LUD II status. In his floor statement Senator Murkowski called for up to SEVEN townships for each new corporation (ANSCA Southeast corporations got one township each). The Alaska delegation intends to re-introduce this legislation in January.

-----  
CCC Annual Meeting  
Saturday January 21, 1994  
2:00 pm  
Wisensaugh residence  
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

Election of Officers  
Priorities, strategy for 1995

-----  
New Native Claim Bill cont.

In Tenakee Inlet, the areas open for selection could be Kadashan, Trap Bay, Seal Bay and Long Bay.

There are few constraints on logging practices on native lands- a quick look at what has happened around Hoonah, or Lake Florence, or where Klukwan Inc. has logged says it all.

We're alarmed, and believe everyone who loves Tenakee Inlet should be.

We all have something at stake. Like to hunt? Remember that private native lands are generally off limits to non-members. Of course that won't matter after a few years when the deer winter range is gone. Commercial or sport fisherman? Take a close look at the streams affected by Shee-atika cutting on Admiralty if you want a look at the future of Tenakee's coho production. Interested in a future involving local wood manufacturing? Or tourism? Native clearcuts would be in addition to current USFS plans.

We must speak out- loud & soon!

New Native Claim Bill cont.

SB 3529 claims that Tenakee and the other proposed new village corporations were "inadvertently" left out of ANSCA. That claim is contradicted by the same report cited in the legislation. The report, prepared by the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) at the University of Alaska Anchorage, shows that the five communities were reviewed and denied for corporation status in an open, deliberate process. Three of the five filed appeals which were denied by the Alaska Native Claims Appeals Board in the 1970s.

The bill also mandates that timber cut on selected lands has to have 'primary processing' in Alaska (ie.. resurrect the APC pulp mill or ship it to KPC).

A deliberate screen of secrecy has surrounded the negotiations leading to the new native claim bill. A June memo by Bob Willard of the Southeast Alaska ANSCA Land Acquisition Coalition (SAALAC) describing negotiations with our congressional delegation spells this out by stating " Until such time as consensus is made, we make no contact with the environmental organizations or the State of Alaska, including municipalities".

We must demand opportunities for public involvement and comment.

Your support is vital. So are your ideas and inspiration.

If you want more detailed information leave a message at 736-2234. or send a note with your dues.

CCC will keep you posted!

---

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

CCC dues remain \$5/person, \$10/household. Additional contributions will be put to good use!

---

Where did CCC money go in 1994?

postage	7%
office supplies	1%
copies	3%
copy machine (!)	31%
telephone	30%
travel assistance	19%
incorporation cost	3%

---