

April 1996

Chichagof Conservation Council

Box 621 Tenakee Springs Alaska 99841

LOOKING BACK Early in 1995 prospects for Tenakee Inlet looked pretty grim. After the upheaval in Washington DC it seemed entirely possible that the Tongass Timber Reform Act was headed for the scrap heap. It was clear that protection of areas like Kadashan and Trap Bay was threatened.

After a wild year we can marvel at what didn't happen-but we can't relax. Senator Murkowski's ill-conceived and poorly executed attempts to strip away legislated protections and mandate unsustainable clearcutting failed in 1995. But he'll be back with smoother and more dangerous efforts this year. A new Native claim/timber bill is in the works, as well as a new version of Murkowski's so-called "Jobs and Community Protection Act". Don Young has already had hearings on his Tongass transfer bill, a thinly veiled timber grab if there ever was one. Behind the clumsy legislative initiatives of Murkowski and Young, Senator Stevens continues his too-effective attempts to legislate by appropriation rider.

What did CCC do in 1995?

CCC members produced a good portion of the flood of letters and phone calls that greeted each of the Alaska delegation's outrageous actions in 1995. Your letters to the editor, interviews and support of Governor Knowles' courageous decision to oppose

Murkowski's SB 1054 were all vitally important. **Your support will be equally essential this year.**

During 1995, CCC helped three Tenakee residents bring Tenakee's perspective to Washington DC. John Wisenbaugh and Diane Ziel were there for Tongass oversight hearings in May. Molly Kemp spent the month of February in Washington, and returned in August for the celebrated "non-hearing" on Senator Murkowski's SB 1054. CCC bought gas for a one-day skiff trip to Sitka so four Tenakee residents could attend Senator Murkowski's "workshop" there, and Diane Ziel's testimony became the lead of APRN's news story. CCC has helped with travel to SEACC meetings and a value-added wood products conference.

CCC members testified at the Eight-fathom timber sale subsistence hearings, and are keeping a close watch on the Indian River sale and possible reactivation of the log dump at Sunny Cove. At our annual meeting, CCC resolved to support the ARWTA settlement proposal as part of a transition to a reasonable, sustainable timber industry.

The Chichagof Conservation Council played a key role in last year's battles, and your continued support will make it possible to breathe another sigh of relief at the end of 1996.

* LOOKING AHEAD * Tongass Land Management Plan Revision

The outrageous legislative initiatives of the past year have made it difficult to focus on a important Forest Service planning process- one that will shape everything that happens in the Tongass for the next 10 to 15 years. The Tongass Land Management Plan Revision (TLMP) will designate the status of all Tongass lands not protected by law. For example, Seal Bay and Long Bay in Tenakee Inlet (currently administrative LUD II) are very likely to be shifted to timber production status. The draft TLMP revision will be released very soon, and there will be a 90 day comment period with community hearings.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE TLMP PROCESS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. The Forest Service has a wealth of new information that should be considered, ranging from karst and caves to the recommendations of the Anadromous Fish Habitat Assessment Report. We need to show support when the USFS moves in the right direction, and make a loud noise when it reverts to business as usual.

CCC Annual Meeting

The required annual meeting of the CCC board of directors was held March 12. Ten members attended. Officers elected:

President- John Wisenbaugh
Vice-president- Nick Olmsted
Secretary/treasurer Molly Kemp
Board- Pat Taylor
Board- Joan McBeen

Treasury/Membership Report

The CCC membership drive in June, July, and August was a huge success, with many new members and a welcome matching grant from the Alaska Conservation Foundation.

PLEASE NOTE- we decided at the annual meeting that membership would be by calendar year, rather than undertake the bookkeeping necessary to send out renewals by month. If you've already sent in membership fees in 1996 you are covered! We will try to send out annual renewal notices about this time of year from now on.

CCC members rose to the challenge last year, and kept our organization afloat. Special thanks to Mo and Amy Johnson!

Our 1995 budget broke down this way:

DC/Sitka travel	18%
SEACC meeting travel	29%
telephone/fax calls	12%
office supplies/copier	20%
postage	4%
Chichagof map project	17%

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1996 MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Chichagof Conservation Council has incorporated as a non-profit organization, and your contributions are tax-deductible.

CCC dues are \$5/calendar year for individuals, \$10 for families. Additional contributions gratefully accepted!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Would you like to receive membership information from the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council? yes___ no___

The Forest Service has asked the City of Tenakee for another lease of tidelands at Sunny Cove to facilitate another timber sale up Indian River. The Forest Service states that if the City does not provide access another log dump may be built at 10-mile Spit. What is your opinion on this issue?