

FILE

Chichagof Conservation Council

Box 621 Tenakee Springs Alaska 99841

January 4, 1997

It's Comment Time Again... The Forest Service released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Indian River timber sale in December. You have two opportunities to comment-speaking at the hearing in Tenakee scheduled for **January 13**, or submitting written comments by **January 20**. If you have not received the DEIS or summary there is a copy of the full DEIS at the City Office.

Here are some of the possible topics for your comments:

- *Inadequate purpose or need for the proposed project.
- *The DEIS does not acknowledge an important provision of the Memorandum of Understanding that Tenakee residents voted to approve last year, in which the Forest Service agreed that if the Sunny Cove site was used there would be no log dump at Ten-Mile Creek. Some of the alternatives show both sites used.
- *Long term, cumulative effects of past, present and reasonably foreseeable timber sales in Tenakee Inlet.
- *Cumulative impacts of simultaneous sales such as the proposed "Finger Mountain" sale.
- *All action alternatives are based on large scale logging- there is not a genuine range of alternatives.
- *Current and long term impacts on subsistence *resources, especially deer.*
- *Loss of wildlife habitat.
- *Helicopter noise.
- *Loss of current local income from guided recreation.
- *Proposed timber sales are "below cost"- in other words it will cost taxpayer dollars to cut this timber.
- *Impacts to the East Tenakee Trail. The DEIS considers the trail "recreational" and suggests that disrupted users substitute the West Tenakee Trail.
- *Proposed road construction would bring the Indian River road approximately 3/4 mile from the Game Creek road and the rest of the Hoonah road system. The Forest Service will doubtless argue that they are obeying the Tongass Timber Reform Act by not physically linking the roads, BUT the proposed road construction would bridge all the ravines that currently prevent ATV access.
- *Proposed logging on "high vulnerability" karst terrain.
- *No provision to ensure sustained availability of high quality timber for local small scale manufacturing.

Send written comments to: Forest Supervisor
Tongass National Forest Chatham Area
attn: Indian River EIS
204 Siginaka Way Sitka, AK 99835

YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT! The January 13 hearing is our only opportunity to speak "on the record". **Don't miss your chance!**

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SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ISSUE - 1997

What is CCC?

The Chichagof Conservation Council is a non-profit group dedicated to providing information about the future of Tenakee Inlet and the rest of Chichagof Island. CCC's primary focus is federal management of the Tongass National Forest, and the need for a transition from industrial strength clearcutting to sustainable management that protects all resource values for the long term.

CCC voices the concerns of local people who live and work in the Tongass and depend on the full spectrum of forest resources.

What has CCC done? Even before CCC incorporated as a non-profit, many CCC members were actively involved in resisting USFS clearcutting and road construction plans that threatened our home. Led by Diane Ziel, Tenakee Springs successfully blocked road construction and clearcutting of the Kadashan watershed in 1985, opening the door to other legal challenges of USFS policy.

CCC members' letters, testimony and volunteer work in Washington DC helped pass the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990, which included protection of Kadashan, Trap Bay, and a guarantee of no road connection to Tenakee.

What has CCC done?.. continued

After the 1994 election shifted the balance of power in Washington, the Tongass Timber Reform Act came under fierce attack from Alaska's suddenly powerful delegation. CCC helped send several people from Tenakee to Washington to testify in Senate hearings and tell our side of the story. We came very close to losing Kadashan, Trap Bay and everything we've worked so hard to achieve. An all-out effort by many people and organizations turned the tide, and CCC did its share.

Does CCC oppose cutting any trees? On the contrary, CCC is firmly behind small-scale high-value-added forest product manufacturing. CCC has been and will continue to be a vocal opponent of the kind of abuses all too visible in Southeast Alaska.

Now that both pulp mills are closed, is there a need for CCC? Pressure to exploit the Tongass for short term profit will continue as long as a tree is standing. Alaska's Congressional delegation is uniformly allied with the timber industry, and endlessly inventive in dreaming up new ways to open protected areas and exploit Tongass timber at an unsustainable rate.

So is CCC in a panic about anything right now? No, things are relatively calm at

the moment and it's great to be able to enjoy living in this wonderful place. **It is still vitally important to keep our membership large and well-informed.** "Hope for the best, prepare for the worst."

The USFS is a state of transition and confusion, unable to reconcile its old emphasis on timber with a new respect for conservation. There is a real opportunity to change direction in the Tongass, and a real danger of returning to past practices or worse. **Local involvement is the key to a sustainable future.**

Does CCC get involved in local Tenakee disputes? CCC bylaws are specific in focusing the organization on larger issues of resource conservation, particularly the management of the Tongass National Forest. As a registered 501c-3 non-profit organization, CCC is not allowed to attempt to influence the election of city, state, or federal officials.

What is CCC's relationship with the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council? CCC is a member group of SEACC, which is the regional grassroots conservation coalition. As a member group, CCC gets a seat on the SEACC board and an opportunity to influence SEACC policy and decisions to reflect the views of CCC members. President John Wisenbaugh is CCC's representative to SEACC. Also, CCC Secretary/Treasurer Molly Kemp currently holds an "at-large" seat on the SEACC board.

Joining CCC does **not** automatically give you membership in SEACC. If you would like to receive SEACC membership information, check the appropriate space on your membership form.

Who is in charge of CCC? At the March 4 Annual Meeting of the CCC Board of Directors the following officers were elected:

President- John Wisenbaugh
Vice President- Nick Olmsted
Sec.-Treasurer- Molly Kemp
Board- Joan McBeen
Board- Pat Taylor

How are CCC funds used? Last year, CCC actually raised more money than we spent and we have a small reserve fund for the next emergency.

1996 expenditures broke down this way:

SEACC board expenses	72%
Phone	13%
Office supplies	3%
Postage	12%

**What lies ahead for the
Tongass National Forest and
Tenakee Inlet?**

*TLMP- The much delayed
Tongass Land Management Plan
Revision is now scheduled to
be released in June.

There is reason to be
optimistic about the new TLMP,
primarily because of the high
level of public participation
calling for rational
management. **Once again,
persistent effort by
determined local people made a
huge difference.**

*Indian River- The Draft
Environmental Impact Statement
for the proposed Indian River
timber sale was scheduled to
be released in March. Tenakee
voters approved a memorandum
of agreement with the USFS,
spelling out conditions for
use of the old log dump site
IF there is a timber sale.
The MOU does not put **any** legal
constraint on the right of the
public or the City government
to participate in the EIS
process, or to appeal or
litigate an unacceptable
record of decision.

*Finger Mountain- The Forest
Service recently held a "pre-
scoping" meeting regarding the
so-called Finger Mountain sale
proposal. The proposed sale
would include areas in Crab
Bay and In-between areas. The
Tenakee meeting was well
attended, and participants
raised numerous questions
regarding the rationale and
desirability of designing
another large timber offering
in this area. A real scoping
meeting is scheduled for May.

Why join CCC? If you fly from
Juneau to Tenakee over
Freshwater Bay or ride the
ferry through Hoonah- you can
see why. If you hunt, fish or
hope your children can enjoy
Tenakee Inlet the way you do-
you have a stake in Tongass
management. If you believe
that our subsistence economy
is a valid alternative- the
venison and fish on your table
in years to come depends on
paying attention to forest
issues now.

What can I do? Right now CCC
is not asking for anything but
your membership and a \$5 fee.

**CCC's goal is keeping members
informed as new issues arise,
and letting you know when your
letters and phone calls are
needed.**

Until then, just send in your
membership form and enjoy
life!

It's time! New members or renewals- your support is important.

1990 MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Chichagof Conservation Council is 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___

Chichagof Conservation Council
Box 621
Tenakee Springs AK 99841

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January 18, 1997

INDIAN RIVER LOG DUMP VOTE

Tenakee voters face an important decision on January 28. Resident voters will decide whether to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Tenakee Springs and the U.S. Forest Service permitting the use of City tidelands in order to reactivate the Sunny Cove log transfer facility for the duration of the proposed Indian River timber sale.

The proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is the result of negotiations between the USFS and a committee appointed by the Mayor of Tenakee Springs. Committee members were Elizabeth Shaw (chair), Diane Ziel, Bob Pegues, Molly Kemp, and Darius Mannino.

On one hand the MOU would provide important protections for Tenakee Springs if the proposed Indian River timber sale takes place. The MOU would prohibit the contractor from having a logging camp within city limits and preclude developing another log dump at 10-mile Spit or next to the existing LTF on state land. The City of Tenakee Springs would receive modest financial compensation when the tidelands are in use, a base rate of \$1250/quarter and \$1.50 per thousand board feet of timber transferred at the site.

On the other hand, there is legitimate concern that endorsing the MOU may give the impression that Tenakee is approving the Indian River timber sale proposal sight unseen, and would prejudice efforts to influence the shape of the proposed timber sale or oppose an unacceptable decision. To date there has been no indication that the scale or design of the plan has been changed to reflect the KPC pulp mill closure.

On yet another hand, acceptance of the MOU does not put any legal constraint on the right of the public or the City government to participate in the EIS process, or to appeal or litigate an unacceptable record of decision.

Considering the widespread ambivalence about this issue, there is only one thing that seems definite. **It is very important that a large voter turn-out demonstrates that residents of Tenakee Springs care deeply about the future of our home.** If you are eligible, please be sure to **vote on January 28.** Absentee ballots are available at the Tenakee Springs City Office.

GET AHEAD OF THE SPRING RUSH! RENEW YOUR CCC MEMBERSHIP TODAY

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