

FILE

Chichagof Conservation Council

Box 621 Tenakee Springs Alaska 99841

02/02/00

ACTION ALERT - It's comment time again The Forest Service has released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed "Finger Mountain" timber sale. Despite the misleading name, all of the proposed logging would occur in Tenakee Inlet at Crab Bay, In-between Creek, and the watershed west of In-between Creek near Little Seal Bay.

The preferred alternative ("B") proposes to cut 21 million board feet from 936 acres, build 21 miles of new roads and reconstruct 13 miles of existing roads. The proposal includes log dumps at Crab Bay and In-between Creek, a logging camp at Crab Bay and a floating camp in Seal Bay. Alternative "B" includes more clearcuts on the face of the mountain directly across from Tenakee and intensive logging in a currently pristine watershed near Little Seal Bay.

Your comments are important. Any future appeal must be based on the record of comments submitted at this point in the process. The comment period deadline is **February 28, 2000**. Send your comments to:

James Franzel, District Ranger
attn: Finger Mountain EIS
204 Siginaka Way
Sitka AK 99835 USFS fax: 907-747-4331

Some of the possible topics for comments:

- *Inadequate purpose or need for the proposed project.
- *Effects of logging, logging camps, log dumps, and associated marine and helicopter traffic on sport and subsistence activities in Tenakee Inlet.
- *Combined effects of this sale and 4 other possible USFS sales in a 20 mile radius (Indian River, False Island, Eight Fathom, and Saook) displacing guide businesses and resulting increased pressure on unaffected areas.
- *Long term, cumulative effects of past and present clearcutting.
- *Destruction of wildlife habitat, damage to fish streams.
- *Tenakee Inlet already has too many clearcuts. Enough is enough.

INDIAN RIVER UPDATE The Forest Service issued the Record of Decision for the proposed Indian River sale in December. There were significant improvements in the ROD, particularly that the plan to extend the Indian River road to nearly connect with the Game Creek road was dropped. However the proposed sale would still mean years of helicopter noise, traffic, and loss of remaining old growth habitat in the already ravaged Indian River area. Local opposition to another round of industrial strength logging is strong and during a very well attended local meeting CCC decided to appeal the decision. A committee chaired by Tuck Harry is writing the appeal.

The many heartfelt and eloquent comments filed in response to the Indian River EIS were a major element in that decision, and will be the basis of CCC's appeal. **Thank you. By working together we have made a difference.**

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

2000 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.

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Would you like to receive membership information from the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council? yes no

\$ 25.⁰⁰ DONATION / DUES
CK # 1658

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~~Craig Mapes
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