

Chichagof Conservation Council

-----Box 621 Tenakee Springs AK 99841 March 2008-----

RECYCLE your E-waste

The Chichagof Conservation Council and the City of Tenakee Springs are working with Total Reclaim Inc. to collect and recycle electronic equipment.

Total Reclaim is a for-profit corporation, and charges for responsible recycling as an alternative to exporting waste to poor countries with lax environmental standards. The Rasmussen Foundation has given Total Reclaim a grant to cover part of their costs when working with registered non-profit organizations like CCC. Rasmussen grant funds will cover most of the charge for E-waste recycling and we hope that AML will give us a break on shipping charges. At this point we hope charging \$5 per monitor, large computer, or large battery will cover costs.

What you can do to get toxic trash out of Tenakee:

- *Box up your e-waste and attach (tape) accessories to functional equipment.
- *Watch for signs announcing dates and strategies for collection. We hope to ship on the June barge.
- *Help collect and palletize e-waste. Contact Joan McBeen or John Wisenbaugh to volunteer.

What qualifies as E-waste? Good question! Computers, monitors, laptops, keyboards, mice, zip drives, speakers, scanners, fax machines, photocopiers, printers, televisions, electric typewriters, radios, VCRs, stereos, DVD players, telephones, cell phones, electronic games, floppy disks, CD's, DVD's, video cameras, digital cameras, cord/wires, batteries within electronics, adding machines, modems, toner cartridges, microwave ovens, UPS's (uninterrupted power supplies) non-PCB ballasts, bread makers, coffee makers, blenders/mixers and small power tools are all eligible. Florescent lamps and batteries of all kinds also qualify.

Refrigerators and freezers are NOT covered by the grant.

Functional equipment will be distributed to worthy recipients, not destroyed. Be sure to include all associated cords, chargers etc., with usable electronics.

STOP THE ROAD CONNECTION

CONTACT SENATOR BARBARA BOXER NOW!

Sen. Boxer has introduced an amendment to reverse some of Don Young's antics. Write to the address shown below, but it's faster to email to "boxer.senate.gov", or fax 415-956-6701.

Ask for repeal of Section 4407 of SAFETEA-LU.

Chichagof Conservation Council
Box 621 Tenakee Springs AK 99841

Senator Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

March 24, 2008

Dear Senator Boxer,

We recall with deep gratitude your work to protect Southeast Alaska's Tongass National Forest when you co-sponsored the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990. We hope you have good memories of your trip to Tenakee Springs in 2003.

We really need your help. In 2005 Representative Don Young pulled off a sneak attack that threatens both Tenakee's unique character and wild watersheds like Kadashan (just across the bay from Tenakee) that you helped protect "in perpetuity" through the Tongass Timber Reform Act.

We understand you are already working on an amendment that will correct some of the problems created by Representative Young's SAFETEA-LU, Public Law 109-59. Hidden within the 839 pages of that bill was this sentence:

SEC. 4407. <<NOTE: Enactment.>> RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the reciprocal rights-of-way and easements identified on the map numbered 92337 and dated June 15, 2005, are hereby enacted into law.

This language has been interpreted as overriding very specific directives in the Tongass Timber Reform Act. Map # 92337 and a later Memorandum of Understanding between the US Forest Service and the State of Alaska identify 19 right-of-way easements across the Tongass National Forest to be exchanged for 126 marine log dump sites and 228 "marine access points". Many of these easements are for deeply controversial and divisive road plans, but there was no opportunity for public comment on the exchange.

Residents of Tenakee Springs enjoy unique freedom from automobiles, and the City of Tenakee Springs has consistently resisted efforts to connect our community to the network of logging roads on northeast Chichagof Island. Decades of controversy and litigation were resolved by Section 106 of the Tongass Timber Reform Act, which prohibited the U.S. Forest Service from making "any further efforts" to complete any road connection without the consent of both Tenakee and Hoonah. (Hoonah is the other community on northeast Chichagof Island).

The Alaska Department of Transportation now contends that SAFETEA-LU trumps the Tongass Timber Reform Act, and has already completed surveys for the Tenakee connection. **Please add language to your SAFETEA-LU clean-up amendment that repeals PL 109-59, Section 4407, and reverses any action taken toward its implementation.**

I hope the attached information provides sufficient background. If you need more information please call me (907-736-2305), or contact Emily Ferry at the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (907-586-6942).

Sincerely
Molly Kemp

- List of attachments:
1. Photo of Tenakee Springs, Alaska
 2. Tongass map with Tenakee highlighted
 3. Background information: "Don Young's Sneak Attack on the TTRA"
 4. Letter from Alaska Department of Transportation claiming that SAFETEA-LU trumps TTRA
 5. City of Tenakee Springs resolution opposing road connection

Background: Don Young's Sneak Attack on the Tongass Timber Reform Act Robs Tenakee of Road Protection

Tenakee Springs has consistently opposed being connected with the network of logging roads on northeast Chichagof Island for over 30 years. Decades of dispute and litigation were resolved by Congress in the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990 (TTRA), which prohibited the USFS from making "any further efforts" to complete any road connection without the consent of both Tenakee and Hoonah.

In August 2007 Tenakee's Mayor received a startling letter from the state Department of Transportation (DOT), announcing plans for construction of the long opposed road connection. The City quickly responded with another resolution opposing the road connection and citing the TTRA prohibition.

In response DOT Regional Director Malcom Menzies acknowledged the existence of the TTRA prohibition but claimed that SAFETEA-LU trumps the TTRA: *"The City of Tenakee Springs resolution and comments from constituents, including the Chichagof Conservation Council, all cite the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990, section 106, as not allowing the US Forest Service to construct the road connection or prohibiting this connection without the approval of the cities of Tenakee Springs and Hoonah. However, we believe Congress, when it passed Public Law 109-59, Section 4407, directed the US Forest Service to grant the State of Alaska a right-of way easement for construction, operation and maintenance of the road in question."*

What is SAFETEA-LU?? In 2005 Congress passed Don Young's massive national transportation bill known as "SAFETEA-LU", which included funding for the infamous Bridge to Nowhere. Unnoticed in the bill's 839 pages was this sentence: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the reciprocal rights-of-way and easements identified on the map numbered 92337 and dated June 15, 2005, are hereby enacted into law" (PL 109-59, section 4407).

Map # 92337 was prepared by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT), and identifies 19 road corridors including Sitka-Rodman Bay, Bradfield Canal, both sides of Lynn Canal, Kadashan-Peril Straits, and the Game Creek-Indian River road connection between Tenakee Springs and Hoonah. It also identifies 126 log transfer facilities and over 200 "Marine

Access Points (MAPs)" which are defined as "public docks, boat ramps, mooring buoys, floating breakwaters, and other facilities". The map identifies 5 log dump sites and 6 marine access points in Tenakee Inlet. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which implements Section 4407 directs the US Forest Service (USFS) to grant easements for planning and then construction, reconstruction and operation of the identified roads to the State of Alaska, in exchange for tideland easements for the log dumps and MAPs. There is no provision for public participation.

DOT identifies the Hoonah-Tenakee connection as a "Road to Resources" project, claiming that it will allow a Hoonah sawmill access to federal timber sales in Tenakee Inlet. State budget records show that since 2003 the "Roads to Resources" program has provided state-funded road construction for private enterprise development, primarily to provide access to mineral sites. Between 2004 and 2007 the program was funded with a total of \$38 million. DOT's proposed FY 09 budget requested \$3 million for "Roads to Resources".

To see correspondence, map, MOU and other documents on line, contact Kim Rivera:
"ccfishc@gci.net"

Sealaska-Crab Bay Senator Lisa Murkowski is said to be considering revising the Sealaska land claim bill. This is a good time to remind her of local opposition to the proposed Sealaska "enterprise area" in Crab Bay.

Senator Lisa Murkowski
US Senate
Washington DC 20510
email: "Murkowski@senate.gov"
fax 202-224-6665

CCC 's Stream Temperature Monitoring Project

Pink salmon returns in 2006 were dismal throughout most of Southeast Alaska. Many areas were entirely closed as managers sought to ensure minimum stream escapements. Radio interviews with ADF&G biologists indicated a strong likelihood that the hot dry summer of 2004 reduced spawning success and egg survival, and was at least partially responsible for the poor season in 2006. (Pink salmon return to natal streams after two summers in the ocean.).

Tenakee Inlet was one of the few bright spots. Escapement numbers were normal, and allowed for lengthy and numerous purse seine openings. ADF&G seine catch records show that 20% of the 2006 northern Southeast seine catch came from Tenakee Inlet. While most of Southeast had staggering reductions in pink salmon catches in comparison to the previous 20-year average, Tenakee's seine catch was up 159%. While the seine fleet benefited from the Inlet's bounty the seiners prolonged presence was a boon to Tenakee's economy.

While we are all aware that many factors influence salmon production, we wonder if special characteristics of Tenakee Inlet gave spawning salmon an advantage in the hot dry summer of 2004.

The south shore of Tenakee Inlet has a series of excellent spawning streams flowing out of intact, north facing watersheds. It seems likely that big trees and shady deep valleys offer some protection from abnormally hot weather. Local people know that spring is later and snow stays much longer 'up the Inlet'. We have vivid memories of wallowing around in waist deep snow at the head of the Inlet when there were spring flowers blooming in town. Perhaps a combination of geography and intact forest cover helped buffer the effects of high temperatures and low rainfall in 2004.

In April 2007 CCC started a stream temperature monitoring project, using high-tech waterproof devices about the size of a stack of six quarters. CCC purchased seven "Tidbit" data loggers, along with software and a waterproof shuttle that permits downloading and resetting the data loggers on site.

Data loggers were placed in the north facing streams of Seal Bay, Long Bay, Lower Goose Flats, and the head of Tenakee Inlet. For comparison we chose Sitkoh Bay, a south facing watershed that was heavily logged in the pulp mill era. Sitkoh Bay is the most distant and

expensive-to-access site, and we decided to put two data loggers there.

We built protective cases of plastic pipe, well perforated for good circulation with screw-on caps for easy access. The units were secured in protected areas with good circulation, and GPS locations for each site were recorded. We tried to think about extreme water conditions and ice in choosing sites. We'll find out next spring how well we chose.

Ideally we would like to have several data loggers at each site, in case one is damaged or lost. There's a lot to learn about site selection and other factors. Last summer's installations were a way of getting our feet wet, literally and figuratively.

With our usual excellent hindsight we wish we had started this project 10 years ago. However, we expect to be around for a few more decades and hope to get others interested in similar projects. There is a surprising shortage of stream temperature data in Alaska.

Individuals who have contributed time, material, fuel, and/or advice to this project: Bruce Dunlavy, Dave Harris, Molly Kemp, K Koski, Steve Lewis, Craig Mapes, Sue Mauger, Sam and Joan McBeen, Jonathon Moore, Nick Olmsted, Andy Piston, and Leon Shaul.

The Chichagof Conservation Council is a registered 501c-3 non-profit organization, dedicated to the conservation of natural resources with emphasis on the Tongass National Forest.

President: John Wisenbaugh
Vice-president: Joan McBeen
Secretary-treasurer-newsletters: Molly Kemp
Board members: Steve Lewis /Sam McBeen

Chichagof Conservation Council
Box 621
Tenakee Springs AK 99841

**Chichagof Conservation Council
2008 Membership application/renewal**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Membership dues: \$5 individual, \$10 household. Additional contributions are welcome!

CCC is a registered 501c non-profit organization and all contributions are fully deductible.

Would you like to receive membership information from SEACC? (Southeast Alaska's regional conservation coalition) yes _____ no _____

Would you like to be on CCC's e-mail list for *infrequent* announcements and alerts?
yes _____ no _____