

BOARDS OF FISHERIES AND GAME
JOINT RESOLUTION #80-B -JB

See also #81-84-FB

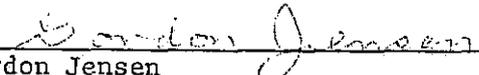
CLEARCUT LOGGING IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

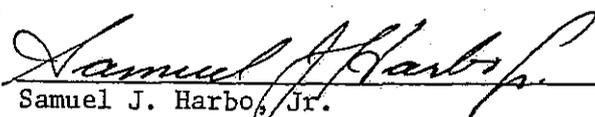
- WHEREAS, the Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game are statutorily charged with the conservation and development of fish and game resources of the State and the Alaska Constitution mandates maintenance of fish and game populations on a sustained yield basis, and
- WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service is committed to multiple use management through various federal acts and its own regulations, and
- WHEREAS, the present forest management practice of clearcut logging throughout Southeast Alaska on a 90-125 year rotation is permanently converting diverse old growth stands with high fish and wildlife values to less diverse second growth stands of much less value to fish and wildlife, and
- WHEREAS, past and projected timber harvest is concentrated in the higher volume stands of limited occurrence and current research has shown these stands to be highly important Sitka black-tailed deer winter habitat, and
- WHEREAS, current scientific knowledge of other fish and wildlife species needs in relation to old growth forest is limited, yet indicates goats, marten, Vancouver Canada geese, bald eagles, salmonids and other species of fish and wildlife may be old growth dependent during some periods of the year, and
- WHEREAS, the salmon commercial fisheries are one of the most valuable industries in Southeast Alaska and both subsistence and recreational use of fish and wildlife is highly important from both an economic and social standpoint, and
- WHEREAS, the State Forest Practices Act, which regulates forest management activities on State and private lands, does not adequately address wildlife concerns,

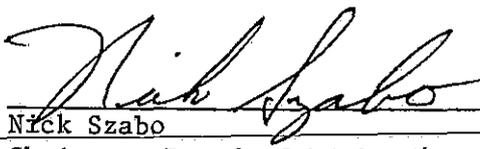
Now therefore be it resolved by the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game that:

1. The public be fully informed by the Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Forest Service of the long term known and potential impacts of clearcut logging on fish and wildlife habitat and subsequent population levels.
2. The Tongass Land Management Plan be revised by the Forest Service to provide more protection for valuable fish and wildlife habitat and reflect recent research findings.

3. If information is not adequate to ensure the protection of fish and wildlife resources, then targeted timber outputs should be reduced by the Forest Service rather than risk permanent damage to these resources.
4. Research be expanded by both the Department of Fish and Game and the U. S. Forest Service to determine the effects of timber harvest on fish and wildlife habitat requirements, and as new information becomes available, results be incorporated in the Forest Service planning process.
5. In all future timber harvests by the State and U. S. Forest Service, timber stands of more than 50,000 board feet per acre not be cut and other volume classes be cut only in proportion to their occurrence.
6. Multiple use management of all resources be maintained by the U. S. Forest Service on the remaining lands not withdrawn for wilderness management nor selected by Native Corporations.
7. Any assessment of resource values by the U. S. Forest Service include a full economic and social analysis of fish and wildlife resources and their human use.
8. Selective cutting with techniques such as balloon and helicopter logging be considered by the U. S. Forest Service as an alternative to clearcutting.
9. The State Forest Practices Act be amended to adequately address wildlife concerns.
10. Major islands or management units as proposed for the Forest Service Regional Plan, whichever are smaller, should be used by the U. S. Forest Service as the basis for individual forest management planning units.


Gordon Jensen
Chairman, Joint Boards of Fisheries & Game


Samuel J. Harbo, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Game


Nick Szabo
Chairman, Board of Fisheries

ADOPTED: Anchorage, Alaska
December 7, 1980

VOTE: Adopted, 14 to 0