



CITY OF EDNA BAY

1 Edna Bay Rd. Edna Bay, Alaska 99901-9803

Ph# (907) 594-6300

Email: mayor@cityofednabay.org

Date: 02/27/2023

Attention: Greg Staunton
Alaska Div of Forestry & Fire Protection
2417 Tongass Avenue, Ste 213
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Re: Public Review Southern Southeast Area FYSTS 2023-2027
Edna Bay Parlay #2

Dear Mr. Staunton,

The City of Edna Bay would like to take this opportunity to submit the following comment letter outlining a number of concerns and questions residents have with the proposed Kosciusko Island East sale, which is to date the closest harvesting activities will come to the community.

Of primary concern for the City is the health and safety of people living in Edna Bay. Many things have changed during the thirteen years since our initial comment to the Division of Forestry regarding management plans on Kosciusko Island.

- 1) We now have many children living along the road system running between the harbor and the school. Parents are justifiably concerned about DOF proposed use of the same roadway residents depend on daily to travel from the harbor to the store and post office, or library on the West side of Edna Bay.

Children regularly ride bicycles and four wheelers while traveling between homes around the community. There are many narrow areas in the road and blind corners with poor to no proper visibility. Any logging traffic on the same section of road will undoubtedly raise the risk of tragic accident or injury.

- 2) None of the roads within the Edna Bay Subdivision have been constructed to the standards necessary to support industrial traffic. These roads were built from a primarily rip rap base with a limited amount of rock on top, and in many areas flex under normal residential use.
- 3) The Edna Bay Bulk Fuel Facility, completed in 2018, has the capacity to house 36,000 gallons of fuel. It is located at the bottom of Kosciusko Dr., the main road coming from the Kosciusko Island East sale site. The risk to our facility from a mechanical issue with a fully loaded logging truck while transporting timber down this steep near 45 degree hillside is alarming.

- 4) Our tank farm depends on regular service from Petro Marine's barge. The only area for them to bring the barge in for fuel deliveries is between the LTF and harbor on the east side of the bay. Any use of this LTF would create a serious hazard to navigation for the barge.
- 5) Taquan Air regularly flies their turbo otter planes in to the harbor airplane float located next to the LTF in East Edna Bay. Any rafting of logs would make it difficult and dangerous for pilots to bring mail, groceries, and supplies into the community. There are no other places in Edna Bay for these planes to land and offload.
- 6) Rafting of logs would also create a navigation hazard for mariners in and around the newly constructed harbor facility. Breakaway logs could damage the facility during storms.

Since there have been no meetings scheduled with residents regarding this sale, or maps readily available illustrating the areas DOF intends to use in and around Edna Bay, there are several questions we would appreciate answers to:

- 1) Who will be responsible for wear and damage to the substandard road base caused by logging trucks rolling from one end to the other of our main road on their way to the LTF?
- 2) Does DOF have restoration activities planned in the project area as required by the Good Neighbor Agreement? If so, can you please identify them.
- 3) Will the contractor be required to carry adequate liability insurance and name the City of Edna Bay as an additional insured for potential damages due to logging activities in and around City infrastructure?

Given the potential for catastrophic accident or injury from heavy logging traffic through the residential area that is the Edna Bay main road, we would like to suggest DOF consider an alternative route of transporting timber to Shipley Bay from the Kosciusko Island East sale.

We would appreciate your office scheduling a meeting at your earliest convenience with our council and residents in Edna Bay to address the issues we have regarding the Kosciusko Island East timber sale.

In closing, we would like to reiterate our continuing desire to work with Division of Forestry and local regional contractors to find a way forward that addresses all stakeholders on Kosciusko.

Sincerely,



Tyler M Poelstra, Mayor