

Naukati West

N.K.I. Box 1
Naukati, Alaska 99950

Timber committee and board members Southeast Conference:
Shelly Wright Executive Director:

In June 2004 communities on Prince of Wales (POW) Island were made aware of the fact that Sea Alaska Corporation was seeking to acquire Forest Service lands on P.O.W, Tuxekan, Hecata, and Kosciusko Islands. The communities on these Islands have historically relied on subsistence in the surrounding forest and streams, it is extremely important to these communities. Sea Alaska has a policy of no use of their lands and that would mean No firewood gathering, berry picking, hunting or fishing and actually would isolate the communities of Edna Bay, Port Protection and Point Baker. We asked Sea Alaska to have some informational meetings with the communities and this request has been denied and ignored for four years. We now are informed meetings with each community will happen in April 2008. What in the world happened to change the informational meeting issue?

Sea Alaska has offered user permits to locals that are supposed to be the same as we now have with the Forest Service. In fact they are very different. Permits would expire if you sold your property. If a family had a child after the permit was issued that child would not be allowed a permit. These are only a couple of points among several of the conditions of the permit. Sea Alaska is asking us to accept much less than what we now have. The Forest Service is a good neighbor and Sea Alaska is not going to be.

We have two other issues which are also very important to the communities.

(1). Sea Alaska has a history of whole log export of their timber so no supply for local mills is their policy. Since export timber is a significantly better return the bottom line is obviously more important than a healthy economy in Southeast communities.

(2) The fifteen mile radius non competition areas also known as enterprise sites are not acceptable. Sea Alaska has not provided any suitable answers to these issues and has in fact refused to meet with the public up to now.

Sea Alaska not surprisingly claims they have the support of the Native communities. It should be noted not all the natives agree with this land exchange and have stated so in public meetings.

Sea Alaska has only one interest and that is the bottom line. Sea Alaska has not been able to provide and acceptable answer to the question why legislation is necessary for any party other than Sea Alaska. If this legislation passes the door will be open to other native corporations to come back to the Federal Government for more land because they think their piece of the pie wasn't sweet enough either.

The community of Naukati Bay supports Sea Alaska's remaining land selection established in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Only within the core township boundaries established by the original Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Andy Richter President Naukati West



4-11-08

cc: The Honorable Mark Rye, Abigail Kimbell, Forest Cole, Cynthia Schelin, Rep Don Young, Senator Lisa Merkowski, Nick Rahall, Senator Ted Stevens, Dirk Kempthorne.