

A scenic view of a forested lake with driftwood in the foreground. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding forest. The foreground is dominated by several large, weathered logs and branches protruding from the water. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen trees under a cloudy sky.

# **Alaska Forest Products Industry Overview – *Managed Forests are Working Forests***

**By**

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Lands Manager**

**Resource Development Council  
Alaska Resources Conference  
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An example of a real  
Alaskan endangered species  
is...





# The Alaskan Logger

Seen here in their natural habitat, there are estimated to be fewer than 200 left in the wild.





**How is your sector being represented?**

- \* By your own industry people?**
- \* By others?**



How is this.....







...different than this???



# Both industries are:

- Sustainable
- Renewable
- Are NOT mutually exclusive





**Natural resource industries must continually monitor their message, send the correct message and strive to maintain strict standards.**





If they don't, others will be glad to send their own message,  
right or wrong:

## Greater Southeast Alaska Conservation Community

GSACC – a new regional environmental organization established in 2011

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### GSACC sues to stop Big Thorne logging

September 5, 2014 at 1:54 am



Last week GSACC sued the Forest Service over its Big Thorne logging project, on Prince of Wales Island. We are joined by four other organizations in the suit. Big Thorne is by far the largest logging project on the Tongass since the pulp mill era ended nearly two decades ago. In a formal declaration in [...]

[read more](#)

### Big Thorne is on hold: How an endemic species can halt a timber sale

October 3, 2013 at 11:26 pm



by GSACC board member Natalie Dawson "When you spend much time on islands with naturalists you will tend to hear two words in particular an awful lot: 'endemic' and 'exotic'. Three if you count 'disaster'. An 'endemic' species of plant or animal is one that is native to an island or region and is found [...]

[read more](#)



**Can the western states (and Alaska) afford another 20 years of the Northwest Forest Plan's consequences?** (adapted from [theforestreport.org](http://theforestreport.org))

**There has been significant and in some cases unintended consequences to the federal forests, the forest sector, rural communities and private land management.**

**Since the decline of timber, many rural communities have not been able to replace the jobs and income lost with other industries.**

**Will another 20 years under the same policy dogma produce desirable results?**



## Message and Call To Action:

**There appears to be a growing recognition by a wide range of parties of the need to manage federal forests to restore healthy conditions. ([theforestreprt.org](http://theforestreprt.org))**

**Non-managed forests will follow nature's lead (which likely will not be in our best interests).**





# One of the consequences of a non-managed National Forest System:

## FIGHTING WILDFIRE IS BECOMING MORE EXPENSIVE

### FIGHTING WILDFIRE IS BECOMING MORE EXPENSIVE

*From FY1991 through FY1999, average Forest Service and Department of the Interior wildfire protection appropriations were \$0.92 billion annually, while in the past decade (FY2002 through FY2012), wildfire protection funds for these agencies have averaged*

***\$3.13 billion annually***

***Where will this funding come from?***

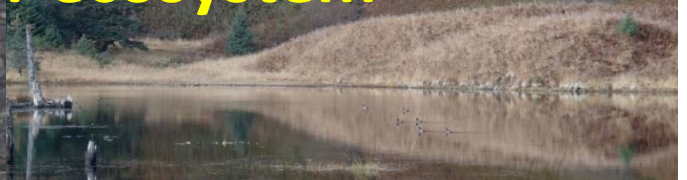


(<http://headwaterseconomics.org/wildfire/fire-costs-background/>)



# Federal forests should be managed like private forests:

- Managed, private forest lands provide multiple resource amenities simultaneously (i.e., fish, clean water, wildlife, recreation, timber and numerous other ecosystem services)
- Managed forests support regional/national economies
- The opportunity cost of *not* managing federal forest has been staggering







**The butt-end of things in 2014:**

**State 44 MMBF**

**Federal 38 MMBF**

**Private 70 MMBF**

**Total 150 MMBF**

**That is 28 MMBF less than 2012**



# **Alaska Forest Products Industry Status:**

(Owen Graham, Alaska Forest Assoc.)

- **Sealaska legislation is the #1 priority**
- **Without this legislation Sealaska will be out of wood by next year, costing upwards of 200 living wage jobs/careers (~ 30 MMBF less harvest production)**
- **Koncor's Afognak Island Operations: Within 4 years of completion (~ 30 - 45 MMBF less harvest production)**
- **Forcing Alaska regional production to well under 100 MMBF statewide**



# Alaska Forest Products Industry Status: Tongass Issues

## Forest Service *“Big Thorne Timber Sale”*

- Big Thorne has been sold; however, environmentalists have filed lawsuits to halt the sale and the F.S. has now postponed any activity until after April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015
- F.S. is unable to implement most of their other timber sales
- Viking (the purchaser) may run out of logs before April 1<sup>st</sup> and may be allowed to do some harvesting after giving the F.S. 30 days notice

(Owen Graham, AFA)





## Alaska Forest Products Industry Status: Tongass Issues

The F.S. has amended their 5 year “timber sale schedule”

F.S. has significantly downsized the next major mature growth timber sale and has redirected their staff to work on a “young growth” sale

These actions have been opposed by both industry, the state and congressional delegation with no results as of yet

(Owen Graham, AFA)



# Take Home Messages:

Adapted from (theforestreport.org)

**Resist any efforts to adopt federal forest practices.**

**Insist that any changes to the Alaska Forest Practices Act be based on the full body of contemporary science and experience.**

**Regulations that represent political compromise would not be regarded as credible and would promote more controversy.**

**Reform Federal overreach on the Tongass (and elsewhere) through fewer environmental regulation/restrictions.**







**This family supported by timber dollars.  
Thank you.**