



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF FORESTRY  
Alaska Board of Forestry

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May 19, 2014

Brian Rogers, Chancellor  
P.O. Box 757500  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Fairbanks, AK 99775

Dear Mr. Rogers,

The Alaska Board of Forestry is a diverse group charged with overseeing implementation of the Forest Resources and Practices Act, providing a forum for resolution of forestry issues, and assessing forestry research and monitoring needs. Board members represent the timber, fishing, and mining industries, Native Corporations, professional foresters and fish and wildlife biologists, and environmental and recreational organizations.

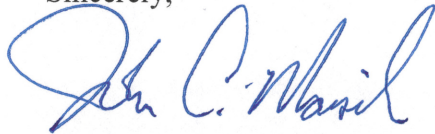
The Board recognizes that the University of Alaska has a significant role in training forestry professionals in Alaska, conducting forestry research, and providing public education on forestry issues. We have been following recent changes in forestry education at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and receive regular reports on forestry research conducted at UAF.

The Board is concerned about the loss of an accredited forestry major at UAF, and supports efforts to rebuild and improve the UAF forestry program. We would like to emphasize the need for a program that produces employable foresters. The work force in the resource agencies and timber industry is aging; as older workers retire, there will be a gap in expertise. Alaska needs a program that produces employable graduates with professional knowledge of forest management, strong technical skills, and substantial, practical field experience.

UA has an important role to play in forest research statewide, and is currently the only institution in the state with significant research capacity in boreal forests. We need applied research that is connected to real issues such as the effects of climate change on sustainable forestry, rapid expansion of wood fuels in urban and rural Alaska, and the impending challenges of managing dense second growth forests in Southeast to sustain harvests of wood and wildlife. Equally important are ensuring that there are effective means of communicating research findings to resource agencies and forest landowners. The reforestation research conducted under the Boreal Alaska Learning, Adaptation, and Production (BAKLAP) program and Dr. Juday's work on predicting spruce budworm outbreaks exemplify research with direct benefits for forest managers.

We encourage UAF to expand forestry research and education through collaborative efforts with the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS), state and federal forestry agencies, and public and private forest land owners.

Sincerely,



John "Chris" Maisch, Chair  
Alaska Board of Forestry

Cc: John Pugh, Chancellor  
Soboleff Annex  
11120 Glacier Hwy.  
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Board of Forestry Members