

## Cook Inlet SAF meeting

02/21/14

### Minutes

1. Rick Jandreau, Area Forester from the Division of Forestry, Palmer provided a briefing on the Susitna State Forest proposal. This bill was introduced three years ago and is now up again for consideration. With the establishment of a state forest, state lands are kept in the forestry land use designation which requires a forest plan and subsequent infrastructure to develop timber resources. The Susitna State Forest would be modeled after the Tanana State Forest. These 760,000 acres of state land are mostly west of the Susitna River, which creates an interest in accessibility.
2. Roger Burnside, former Entomologist with the Division of Forestry, Anchorage described a 3-day planning session coming up this week: Cooperative Forestry Program Review with the US Forest Service. The last review was 17 years ago. Federal funding to coop programs is declining. The Federal partners are looking to the states for an increased hard dollar match.
3. Meg Burgett gave a history and status report of Project Learning Tree in Alaska. Meg has been with UAF Cooperative Extension Service since 1986. PLT came to Alaska in 1985, first hosted within CES through the leadership of Tony Gasbarro. Then PLT moved to DOF. Funding has declined. In 2013 and 2014, the American Forest Foundation gave \$10,000 each year. PLT is student focused and seeks to develop environmentally literate citizens. All PLT materials go through extensive industry and academic review to ensure quality. PLT seeks a more interactive steering committee. Via the Alaska Public Lands Information Center, forest education / ecology kits are available to check out. These cost about \$700 to assemble. Meg is seeking donations of forestry tools of the trade and ecological lessons in the form of forest artifacts useful for an outdoor classroom setting. There are opportunities to partner with SAF: writing grants, Jan Dawe's One Tree project, funding, partnerships in the classroom. If SAF contributes funds, ANROE can serve as a fiscal agent.
4. Tree Sale Report - Roger Burnside stated that of 12,000 trees for the 2014 sale, 4,500 were pre-sold. Another 3,000 were sold by today's meeting, leaving only 3,600. He ordered 16,200 seedlings for 2015 and 4,800 of those are already pre-sold. CISAF needs to decide our future objectives for this effort. What is our capacity to manage an expanded tree sale, tax implications, and contributions to the existing scholarships. Could consider a donation to PLT.