

The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
Trust Land Office
BEST INTEREST DECISION AFFIRMED
Naukati Exchange Timber Sale

MHT 9100904
MH Parcel(s) CRM-7060

Action: Adopt the Best Interest Decision dated Friday, December 8, 2017 regarding the above referenced disposal as final, without modification. This decision document, combined with the Best Interest Decision dated December 8, 2017, constitutes the final decision on this matter, in accordance with 11 AAC 99.040.

Notice under 11 AAC 99.050. The Trust Land Office published the public notice of the decision to dispose of through negotiated sale of about one hundred million board feet (100 mmbf) of old growth (not previously harvested) timber on lands to be acquired from the United States Forest Service (USFS) as authorized by the Alaska Mental Health Land Exchange Act of 2017. Notice of the action was published on November 11 and December 12, 2017 in the Anchorage Dispatch News and November 30, and December 12, in the Ketchikan Daily News, the notice was posted on the Alaska Public Notice Web Page and distributed to other interested public and private parties. The notices provided more than a 30-day original public comment period.

Summary of Comments: The TLO received comments from four commenters on the proposed sale. Comments received on the sale were in support of the potential employment the sale would provide and the financial benefits to the Trust and its beneficiaries. One comment requested a two-week extension of the public comment period. Some requested that roads be left open after timber harvest for hunting and subsistence gathering. Some requested that the non-merchantable logs be stacked and provided to the public for firewood. Also addressed was slope stability during rains and snow along the highway and that timber harvests could have visual impacts in the area.

Response to Comments: The TLO extended the public comment period from January 3 to January 15, 2018. It is the intention of the TLO to manage these lands for timber production. The TLO has committed to providing public access to the lands acquired through the land exchange. This will allow for hunting, fishing, berry and mushroom gathering. Through our timber sales there will be provisions made for designated areas for firewood gathering of non-merchantable logs. The TLO timber harvests may have temporary visual impacts. The sale area has a long history of harvest and it is expected that the TLO harvests will be similar to past practices. Slope stability will be a factor considered in planning timber harvests. The best management practices outlined in the Alaska Forest Practices and Resources Act regarding slope stability will be followed.

Trust Authority Consultation: The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority was consulted on this matter on October 27, 2017.

Modifications: As no comments were received suggesting that the Best Interest Decision dated December 8, 2017 should be substantively modified in any way to better serve the interest of the Trust and its beneficiaries, the Executive Director has determined that no change shall be made to that document.

Final Decision of the Executive Director: Considering all of the above, the Executive Director of the Trust Land Office hereby adopts the Best Interest Decision dated December 8, 2017 as final.

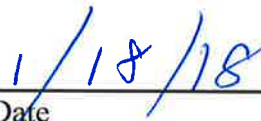
Reconsideration: Persons who submitted timely written comments during the notice period that ended January 15, 2018 are eligible to request reconsideration of this final best interest decision under 11 AAC 99.060(b) within 20 calendar days after publication of the notice or receipt of the final decision, whichever is earlier. A request for reconsideration must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director. Before filing an appeal to the Superior Court under AS 44.62.560, a person must be eligible to request and must actually request reconsideration within the time specified above.

The Executive Director shall order or deny reconsideration within 20 calendar days after receiving the written request for reconsideration. If the Executive Director takes no action during the 20-day period following the request, the request is considered denied. Denial of a request for reconsideration is the final administrative decision for purposes of appeal to the superior court under AS 44.62.560.

APPROVED:



Wyn Menefee
Executive Director



Date