

Written Public Comment

(received by 11/14/16)

From: Smith, Miri K (DOR)
To: ["Carol/Kent Wegener"](#)
Cc: [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)
Subject: RE: Petersburg Land Exchange Legislation
Date: Monday, November 14, 2016 7:13:00 AM

Hi Carol & Kent:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments below. We will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a great day!

Miri K. Smith-Coolidge
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
Phone: 907.334.2533
Cell: 907.632.1836
Fax: 907.269.7966
Email: miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov

www.mhtrust.org

From: Carol/Kent Wegener [mailto:wegener@aptalaska.net]
Sent: Sunday, November 13, 2016 8:41 PM
To: Smith, Miri K (DOR) <miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov>
Subject: Petersburg Land Exchange Legislation

We wish to thank Carlton Smith and John Morrison for their Guest Commentary that was published in the Petersburg Pilot on November 10, 2016. We have written to our three members of Congress using the addresses in that article. We are also submitting a copy of that letter to you for your consideration on this important issue. Thank you. Kent and Carol Wegener

Please support Petersburg Land Exchange Legislation.

Since 1977 we have lived at our home at 694 Mitkof Highway living below land now owned by Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. We are certainly in favor of land exchange legislation that would allow The Trust to generate a needed source of funding and also protect homeowners below the proposed logging areas.

We have never had any problems at our residence with flooding, erosion, or slides and want to keep it that way. Additionally, State of Alaska Water Rights Certificate No. 380 was issued on a water source originating and

passing through the proposed logging area. This water source protected by State of Alaska Water Rights Certificate No. 380 and Alaska EPA regulations has provided quality drinking and domestic household use water for over 50 years. We maintain the system carefully and it takes care of us in return.

Thank you again for your consideration.

From: [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#)
To: [Norbert Chaudhary](#)
Cc: [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)
Subject: RE: Save Deer Mountain
Date: Sunday, November 13, 2016 4:55:00 PM

Hi Norbert:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments below. We will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a good evening!

Miri K. Smith-Coolidge
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
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From: Norbert Chaudhary [mailto:saltyseadude@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 13, 2016 9:51 AM
To: Smith, Miri K (DOR) <miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov>; mhtlo@aska.gov
Subject: Save Deer Mountain

Dear Board Members,

My wife and myself are strongly opposed to clear cutting or selective harvesting of timber on Deer Mountain. In the event that the land exchange legislation does NOT pass, we urge the Mental Health Trust Authority to strongly consider an outright sale of the Deer Mountain parcel.

We hike Deer Mountain regularly and have witnessed the hurricane force winds that slam the slopes of Deer Mountain repeatedly in the spring, fall and winter months. If selective harvesting were to take place on Deer Mountain holes would be opened up in the forest canopy on this steep fragile mountainside guaranteeing blow downs of other trees not harvested. This in turn which lead to more blow downs and massive slides on this steep slope ruining any chance for regrowth for hundreds of years.

Deer Mountain is not only the back drop of our city it is our very soul.
Please take this comment into consideration at you next meeting.

Regards,
Norbert and Diana Chaudhary

862 Forest Park Drive
Ketchikan, AK 99901
(907) 617-2704

From: [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#)
To: [Mike Sallee](#)
Cc: [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)
Subject: RE: AMHT's Deer Mountain logging and land exchange extortion
Date: Sunday, November 13, 2016 4:54:00 PM

Hi Mike:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments below. We will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a good evening!

Miri K. Smith-Coolidge
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
Phone: 907.334.2533
Cell: 907.632.1836
Fax: 907.269.7966
Email: miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov

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From: Mike Sallee [mailto:mikesallee@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2016 11:26 PM
To: Smith, Miri K (DOR) <miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov>
Subject: AMHT's Deer Mountain logging and land exchange extortion

My name is Mike Sallee. I was born and raised in Ketchikan, lived both part time and full time on Gravina Island since 1956 when my mother started homesteading there. While commercial fishing has contributed the most to my lifetime income, wood has played a substantial role, both for home heating as well as a secondary source of income. I've owned and operated a small sawmill, providing lumber for my own use as well as for many dozens of other people for over thirty years. My brother worked nearly his whole life either as a logger or in some capacity closely associated with logging.

My primary complaints with AMHT logging are:

- 1) The very best wood is exported with most its value being realized by non-residents. Mobile Manufacturing Co. that builds and sells small sawmills like mine tells me there are over 400 of their mills in Alaska, over 100 of those in SE Alaska and 19 in Ketchikan. There are other brands as well, e.g. Miteymites, Woodmizers, Lucas, and others, not to mention homemade mills and a variety of chainsaw mills. To suggest there's insufficient manufacturing capacities and therefore that wood should be shipped out unprocessed like mined ore is ludicrous.
- 2) The landscape is left as an industrial sacrifice zone for decades to come with no effort to even cut up and disperse the logging slash. After walking through

AMHT heli-logged lands on Gravina, places I'd been deer hunting for decades it became clearly evident there was little incentive to recognize or even minimally accommodate historical uses of lands transferred to AMHT.

3) While helicopters are a potent and valuable management tool, way too much valuable AMHT timber ends up felled and left to rot in order to make the whole operation cost-effective. There are evidently no laws to assure felled trees and merchantable wood from Trust lands are fully utilized. The USFS dictates felled sound trees must be removed down to six or eight inches top diameter and if something like one third of the log is sound it needs to be utilized. Even the State of Alaska's hunting regulations do not allow wanton waste of game. Dall sheep cannot be killed for their horns alone. Black bears cannot be killed for gall bladders. It's ironic AMHT claims they want to make wood available to shore up a wood-starved industry yet wastes so much when its timber is logged.

4) There's virtually no recognition of the substantial part old growth forests play in mitigating the drivers of climate change. Instead the issue is deflected by pointing out what other parts of the world, (Washington, Canada, China, Russia, etc) are doing or failing to do that exacerbate climate change, and;

6) As for Viking Lumber and their warnings of imminent closure if they can't get more old-growth logs, I'm reminded of a very similar argument by Ketchikan Pulp Co. in the 1990s. My late lifelong logger brother's response was "They can learn how to tighten their belts up just like the rest of us. Or they can get to hell out"

If AMHT could be held to staying away from landslide-prone ground, away from public water supplies, away from trails, and leaving the view shed no worse than other view sheds around Ketchikan that have already been selective heli-logged, I suppose some people would not have much heartburn with logging Deer Mountain.

A land exchange may take Deer Mountain and critical lands near other communities off the chopping block but does nothing to address the fact that the unsustainable logging feeding frenzies of the pulp mill era and the more recent liquidations of ANCSA timberlands usurped the easy pickings from our remote and inherently market-challenged region. Yes, we still have some very good timber here in SE Alaska. Barring some catastrophic tree die-off due to climate change there will always be room for a limited timber industry. But that industry will be something quite different from past industries that depended upon high-volume old-growth timber extractions and round log exports in order to keep even small to medium production mills in wood.

AMHT will eventually run out of timberlands to liquidate and its timber-centric motif will be forced to evolve. Meanwhile it doesn't seem very fair to taxpayers to be subject to an extortion that involves AMHT unloading its logged over liquidations in exchange for more virgin ground while the public picks up the tab for the flailing timber industry's externalized costs.

Of the options that are available I strongly suggest a federal buyout, not another

kick-the-ball-down-the-road land exchange.

Sincerely,
Mike Sallee

From: [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)
To: [Deborah Gideon](#)
Cc: [Lawrence, Carley J. \(DOR\)](#); [Smith, Miri K. \(DOR\)](#)
Subject: RE: Mental Health Trust
Date: Friday, November 11, 2016 12:02:56 PM

Good afternoon Deborah-

Thank you for taking the time to put your thoughts in writing and submitting your public comment. Your email below is being forwarded to the board of trustees.

Have a nice day!

Steve

907.269-7697 (direct)
907.748.7418 (cell)
www.mhtrust.org

From: Deborah Gideon [mailto:debagideon@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2016 11:56 AM
To: Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <steve.williams@alaska.gov>
Subject: Mental Health Trust

Dear Mr. Williams,

Given the recent changes in leadership and direction made by the Board of Trustees of the Mental Health Trust Authority, I have grave concerns about the direction the Trust is going in serving our beneficiaries. As a provider of mental health services to citizens of Alaska since 1988, I recognize the tremendous needs for mental health services we have in Alaska and how many people in need of services are underserved. Please do what you can not only to insure that the current level of services is provided, but to increase services to meet the needs of so many who are unserved.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Gideon, Ph.D.

Clinical Neuropsychologist
Advanced Neuropsychology of Alaska
3820 Lake Otis Parkway, Suite 108, Anchorage, AK 99508
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Alaska at the telephone number listed above (collect, if necessary) and delete this communication, and all files attached or transmitted with it, without retaining a copy in any form. Dr. Gideon cannot ensure the security and confidentiality of unencrypted communications transmitted by e-mail and assumes no responsibility for damages resulting from unauthorized access, disclosure, or tampering which could have occurred during transmission. Thank you.

From: [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)
To: [Ramey Wood](#)
Cc: [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#); [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#)
Subject: RE: Regards AMHT "open letter" & testimony accessibility
Date: Friday, November 11, 2016 9:27:00 AM

Good morning Ramey-

Thank you for taking the time to put your thoughts in writing and submitting your public comment. Your email below is being forwarded to the board of trustees.

Have a nice day!

Steve

907.269-7697 (direct)
907.748.7418 (cell)
www.mhtrust.org

From: Ramey Wood [mailto:rameywood@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2016 1:02 AM
To: Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <steve.williams@alaska.gov>
Subject: Regards AMHT "open letter" & testimony accessibility

There needs to be more options for testimony. Period.

I *can* email, but that's a lot to line out in the few days, given these days, health, etc.

There *must* be made available more time or others to record testimony of individuals ... but 'accessibility', and the dynamics of our communities, the environmental circumstances, the political climate,...

It is not fair nor really legit, to call for such input, but to leave such little time and offer so few options to participate.

Maybe, there's an idea how the Trust Authority might begin to be more response-able with it's own choice to make it's mission, and practice.

In respect, I look forward to learning of more options for all of we.

---Ramey Wood
Fairbanks

From: [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)
To: [Loree Rayback](#)
Cc: [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#); [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#)
Subject: RE: Comment on AMHT
Date: Friday, November 11, 2016 9:26:34 AM

Good morning Loree-

Thank you for taking the time to put your thoughts in writing and submitting your public comment. Your email below is being forwarded to the board of trustees.

Have a nice day!

Steve

907.269-7697 (direct)
907.748.7418 (cell)
www.mhtrust.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Loree Rayback [mailto:loree_rayback@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2016 11:32 PM
To: Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <steve.williams@alaska.gov>
Subject: Comment on AMHT

Steve Williams,

I am writing you in my personal capacity as a beneficiary of the Alaska Mental Health Trust, and as the mother of a beneficiary, the daughter of a beneficiary, and as the sister of a beneficiary.

The unfortunate shenanigans the AMTH board have been going through seem motivated by a sincere wish to provide competent leadership in spite of their disunity over a collective vision of the future.

I am sure it would be best for everyone involved if we heard some suggestions from beneficiaries.

I would like the board to keep its focus on mental health. I want the board to know why the beneficiaries need them, who the beneficiaries are, and have some ideas of how to help the people who are entrusted to them. The board should be able to guide where the Trust money is spent, but surely the board members do not need to be bogged down with the specific management of lands, minerals and timber, this should be the responsibility of the Land Office. The board should be involved only on a conceptual level. For example, we must insist on sustainable practices in the management of our lands.

I do not want the board to lose sight of its mission. More money does not always improve lives. Thoughtful allocation of those resources is much more important.

Personally I would love to see the AMHT build, in or near every town and hub village in Alaska, a nature retreat, which includes a suitable community building, devoted to beneficiary use.

Sincerely,

Loree Rayback
PO Box 4274
Palmer, AK 99645

Comment Sheet

If you are unable to provide comment at the November 17, 2016 Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority board of trustees meeting in Anchorage, you may use this form to write your comments now and these comments will be provided to the board at their November 17 meeting. Name and Email is required.

Janice Jackson	11-1-16	jjackson2008@	yahoo.com
Name of Commenter	Date	Email Address	Affiliation

I oppose any logging on Deer Mt. in Ketchikan. My sister-in-law buried her daughter's ashes on Deer Mt. So my family, it is now a sacred place, in addition to being a landmark for our town.

I urge passage of land exchange legislation which in effect would prevent logging on Deer Mountain.

Sincerely, Janice Jackson, Ketchikan AK

Comment Sheet

If you are unable to provide comment at the November 17, 2016 Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority board of trustees meeting in Anchorage, you may use this form to write your comments now and these comments will be provided to the board at their November 17 meeting. Name and Email is required.

<i>Kathleen Yarn</i>	<i>11/1/16</i>		<i>Son is beneficiary</i>
Name of Commenter	Date	Email Address	Affiliation

1st choice: exchange land
2nd choice: helicopter log Deer Mt. (selective harvesting)
Protect against landslides. Protect water.
Disappointed logging, harvesting, will not benefit local loggers & mills. Understand Trust has a fiduciary responsibility to maximize assets for beneficiaries.

If Deer Mt is logged, the mt will look bad a couple years, then it will green up again. In 20 yrs, we will hardly be able to determine which parts have been logged. Already there are "bad" spots of the mt because some areas are too steep to grow trees, & some areas have slid away on their own.

People are part of the environment. We deserve to benefit live & work here. Beneficiaries deserve to have the Trust responsibility of the AMHT upheld.

From: [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Jessee, Jeffrey L. \(DOR\)](#); [Morrison, John S. \(DNR\)](#); [Menefee, Wyn \(DNR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J. \(DOR\)](#); [Smith, Miri K. \(DOR\)](#)
Subject: FW: Forest Service Land Trade
Date: Friday, November 04, 2016 11:10:03 AM

Good morning-
For your information, below is an email I received last night from Gail Sterling regarding the Land Exchange and my response to her.

Have a nice day! Steve
----- 907.269-
7697 (direct)
907.748.7418 (cell)
www.mhtrust.org

From: Williams, Stephen F (DOR)
Sent: Friday, November 04, 2016 11:06 AM
To: 'Sterling/Nichols' <lilpelican2003@yahoo.com>
Cc: info@seacc.org
Subject: RE: Forest Service Land Trade

Good morning Gail-
Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments below. I will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a nice day! Steve
----- 907.269-
7697 (direct)
907.748.7418 (cell)
www.mhtrust.org

From: Sterling/Nichols [<mailto:lilpelican2003@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2016 6:48 PM
To: Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <steve.williams@alaska.gov>
Cc: info@seacc.org
Subject: Forest Service Land Trade

I see in a report by KFSK radio Petersburg, your staff was there telling residents that the land swap will prevent possible logging in their area by trading land on Prince of Wales Island to log instead. I live on Prince of Wales Island. How much more land can you and Ms. Lisa Murkowski take from the island to log?? So you push off the NIMBYs of Petersburg, (not in my back yard, in case you haven't heard the term) onto the residents of POW as if they don't count at all. I don't think that is very honorable. The article also states you make about \$700,000 a year on timber sales. Really? Does that even begin to cover your salaries and expenses? I hope you consider other options at your November meeting. Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Gail Sterling
Port Protection, AK