

# **Written Public Comment**

**(received between  
11/15/16 – 11/16/16)**

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Christine Schut](#)  
**Cc:** [Lawrence, Carley J. \(DOR\)](#); [Smith, Miri K. \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: beneficiary input  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 10:25:37 AM

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Good morning Christine-

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

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**907.269-7697 (direct)**  
**907.748.7418 (cell)**  
[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

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**From:** Christine Schut [mailto:cschut@ahfc.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 10:22 AM  
**To:** Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <steve.williams@alaska.gov>  
**Subject:** beneficiary input

Mr. Williams,

I am unable to call in for the teleconference but would like to state that as a Service Coordinator for Senior and Disabled Housing, I work with several people who are currently beneficiaries of the Trust. What troubles me is that I seem to be having a great deal of difficulty finding public access information regarding the Board of Trustees and what the focus of a 'new organization' might be. I received information from Alaska Commission on Aging, but I am not confident that the vast majority of beneficiaries would have access to this information. Without contacting a representative sample of beneficiaries, it would be impossible to judge input; especially, as it seems, the decision appears to have been made without even the knowledge of all the Trustees. It also troubles me that this new organization focus seems to be mainly on things that have not been terribly sustainable in the past and do not look to be that fruitful in the future. For example, timber harvesting has not shown itself to be a sustainable industry in Alaska and has serious environmental drawbacks. One industry that has proven to be financially viable is the healthcare industry. Perhaps investment into a facility that treats those with mental health issues, trains providers, and provides employment/job training opportunities for beneficiaries to reach a higher level of inclusion might be a more effective way to spend/invest the money in trust.

Public access and transparency with this entity needs to improve to the extent that beneficiaries have an informed voice in Alaska Mental Health Trust. If this is truly an Alaskan resource and resource driven, we must not neglect to utilize our greatest Alaskan resource; her people.  
Thank you.

Christine Schut, BSW  
ALPA/AHFC Service Coordinator  
907-460-2773

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**From:** Smith, Miri K (DOR)  
**To:** "[dh@swiftventure.com](mailto:dh@swiftventure.com)"  
**Cc:** [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re Comment on Mental Health Trust Upcoming Nov. Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 9:38:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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Hi Deborah:

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!

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**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](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

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**From:** Deborah Hayden [<mailto:dh@swiftventure.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 8:58 PM  
**To:** Menefee, Wyn (DNR) <[wyn.menefee@alaska.gov](mailto:wyn.menefee@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comment on Mental Health Trust Upcoming Nov. Meeting

Dear Mr. Menefee:

Thank you for the listening session you and the Trust sponsored in Ketchikan.

This is my comment for the upcoming Mental Health Trust Meeting in which you said the Trust will reconsider its decision to start the contracting process to log Deer Mountain if the land exchange does not happen by January 15.

In the event the land exchange does not happen by January 15, I urge you and the Trust to delay the logging contracting process until May 2017. A few more months will give the legislative process time to work out. I realize that the Trust has been going through this onerous and frustrating engagement with the federal government for over 10 years. A few more months on top of 10 years will not be a huge percentage extension of time. Those few months will, however, give enough time to learn the tenor of the new administration toward forest management in general.

So far, the messages that have been coming from the new administration have been oriented

toward more resource development. This may be favorable for an expedited land exchange. Waiting a little longer will give time to find out the new policies and actions relating to forest and land management.

If the new administration moves toward more active use of forest resources, it may allow more timber harvest in the Tongass National Forest and operations such as Alcan Forest Products and Viking lumber will not have to close for lack of supply. The urgency to log before the loggers disappear will diminish. Let's wait and see what happens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,



*Deborah Hayden*, CEcD, EDFP\*

Managing Director  
Swiftcurrent Ventures, LLC  
11011 Victorson Court  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
907 254-5300

\*Certified Economic Developer, Economic Development Finance Professional

**From:** Smith, Miri K (DOR)  
**To:** ["Perry Reeve"](#)  
**Cc:** [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Save Deer Mt!  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 9:27:00 AM

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Hi Perry:

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!

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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](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

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

From: Perry Reeve [<mailto:perryreeve@me.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 9:16 AM  
To: Smith, Miri K (DOR) <[miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)>  
Subject: Save Deer Mt!

Greetings Alaska Trust Members!

Please understand, the Mental Health and well being of Ketchikanites is at stake! Deer Mt and environs is our shelter our shawl of nurturing, our Mother Nature!

I came in 1972 and chose Ketchikan as a place to raise my young, like the childrens story: Make Way for Ducklings, I knew this was the place to nest. The evergreen that surrounded the town in the mountains and the sea below, insured that there would be clean air and no sprawl. Through the years we've raised two children and they now raise their own enjoying hikes up the mountain to celebrate birthdays and also partings, to hike with friends and to say farewell to others.

Having worked at Community Connections, I took special needs children up to the first mile lookout! They found it challenging & empowering, refreshing their sense of self worth and ability to manage their lives below!

If you as deciders of our future have visited the Mt. you would have seen the landslide beyond the first mile lookout. You would know we get 12 feet of rain annually and that any disruption of our ecosystem may have profound affects on our community!

I request that the community purchase the area if a better plan isn't available. I would support our adopting a tree as well!

I just saw the Villages of England story of a few who banded together & bought a barren hill in their midst for a similar price!

Thank you!

Perry Reeve  
907-821-8028  
P.O.Box 23154  
Ketchikan,  
Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Smith, Miri K (DOR)  
**To:** ["victoriamcdonald@hotmail.com"](mailto:victoriamcdonald@hotmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Deer Mountain  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 9:16:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [11\\_15 AMHT letter.pdf](#)

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Hi Victoria:

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

Have a great day!

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**Miri K. Smith-Coolidge**  
**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**  
Phone: 907.334.2533  
Cell: 907.632.1836  
Fax: 907.269.7966  
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[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

**From:** victoria mcdonald [<mailto:victoriamcdonald@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 6:56 PM  
**To:** Trust Land Office (DNR sponsored) <[mhtlo@alaska.gov](mailto:mhtlo@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Deer Mountain



To Mental Health Trust:

Being one of many opposed to the logging of Deer Mountain, I will repeat many of the issues surrounding this proposal. and why I am opposed to this sale.

Negotiations over this proposal have been going on for 7 years with no immediate result. AMHT has decided that decisions must be made soon, no matter the consequences. Deer Mountain is iconic, which does not concern any of AMHT, who only want to pressure the community into accepting this ridiculous proposal.

Although I am opposed to this sale, moving the sale to another area in Southeast is not a viable answer. Our old growth forests contain massive amount of carbon, no matter where. To consider logging our forests, without regard to the value of how much carbon is absorbed and held, shows how out of touch AMHT is with overwhelming climate change. Leaving our forests intact is more reasonable than eliminating habitat. In addition, old growth forests take anywhere from 300-400 years and should not be sacrificed.

AMHT allows the trees cut to be and shipped out as export. Yet the mills that survive, such as Viking Lumber, scream about lack of timber, as they ship timber overseas. Those panicky statements are untrue. If the few people involved in the logging industry were to plan the future, mills will have plenty to cut and mill and can be sold locally instead of shipping wood from Canada and the US.

Many of the slopes for these timber sales are on steep slopes. Landslides are a common occurrence in Southeast; if Deer Mountain is logged, there will be slides with unknown consequences. But consequences be damned; AMHT will push these sales and deny that logging causes problems. And for years, the landscape is devastated, taking decades to recover.

Hopefully you will consider my comments.

Thank you for your time.

Victoria E. McDonald  
6526 Rodgers Pass  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

**From:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Faith Myers](#)  
**Cc:** [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#); [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Testimony attached  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 8:55:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [Testimony to Trust Authority November 15 2016.docx](#)

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Hi Faith:

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

Have a great evening!

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**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](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

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**From:** Faith Myers [mailto:[faith.myers@gci.net](mailto:faith.myers@gci.net)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 8:34 PM  
**To:** Smith, Miri K (DOR) <[miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Testimony attached

Dear Miri Smith-Coolidge,

Attached is Testimony to the Trust Authority Board for the public comment period of your Board meeting—Would you give it to the Board members and also Katie Baldwin Johnson...we met with her today in committee. Thanks, Faith and Dorrance

Modest legislative improvements in disabled psychiatric patient rights like improving the grievance procedure law and appeal process would save lives. Forty percent or more of the individuals provided forced psychiatric treatment will be damaged by their treatment; even modest improvements in quality of patient care as an example: recognizing and treating sanctuary trauma would significantly lower that number.

Until the general public and the legislature has an understanding of the types of patient complaints in locked psychiatric institutions there will be no necessary improvements. Today there is no impartial body to pass judgment on a psychiatric patient's grievance or formal appeal, only hospital employees who at too many times have a reason to keep secrets.

Forced psychiatric evaluation and forced treatment is often a physical process. Thousands of individuals go through forced treatment or evaluation each year in Alaska. There is a real potential of a patient arriving at an acute care psychiatric unit in handcuffs, being strapped to a gurney or placed in isolation, degrading conditions that often leads to lack of self-worth. The amount of power given to the managers of private psychiatric units to detain an individual has never been matched with state laws designed to allow the individuals being detained to protect themselves from mistreatment.

When compared to other states, Alaska is very unique. The Department of Health and Social Services turns disabled psychiatric patients over to the staff of locked private psychiatric facilities with very few specific standards of care and protections. (47.30.660 (b) (13)) Two state attorneys have said there is an argument that Alaska's unique way of delegating care of disabled psychiatric patient as probably unconstitutional.

Statistically, by the time a person ends up in a locked acute care psychiatric facility, they have burned many of their bridges with family and friends. That leaves a patient's primary caregiver and protector employees of a psychiatric institution. The patient advocates work for the hospitals with no autonomy and the hospitals write the patient grievance procedure and appeal process. Ninety-eight percent of legitimate patient complaints will never leave the psychiatric hospital to be viewed by the general public or the legislature.

Individuals in Alaska with a severe mental illness are mistreated. What is not obvious to the general public or the legislature is the extent of the mistreatment. In 2005 at state-run Alaska Psychiatric Institute, the three sexual abuse allegations by patients were discounted. Fifty-four complaints of not receiving respect or dignity discounted. Multiple complaints of physical abuse discounted. Eighteen of not being safe discounted. The power of discounting patient complaints even today goes in favor of the managers of psychiatric institutions. API management in 2005 was embarrassed. API's answer: Never again let the general public look at the specific categories of patient complaints in their hospital.

There is no vaccination or preparatory lesson to prevent a person from developing a mental illness. I have an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Development, never smoked, rarely drink alcohol, but still developed a severe mental illness. Because of poor institutional treatment, I had to be treated for post-traumatic stress injury, costing hundreds of hours in treatment and thousands of dollars. The psychiatric institutions working to stabilize my mental illness with medications often valued convenience and economics above quality of care and patient rights.

A female with a severe mental illness is the most likely to be sexually or physically assaulted, or be taken advantage of. A female in an acute care psychiatric unit has a better than even chance of developing or exacerbating some form of Post-Traumatic Stress Injury. Improving rights for psychiatric patients would cut down on suicide, recidivism, assaults and PTSI. Today management of psychiatric units and their employee unions are the major roadblocks to the state making necessary improvements to psychiatric patient rights and quality of care.

Caring for disabled psychiatric patients or individuals with a dual diagnosis has become a multi-billion dollar business and "Alaska's latest gold rush." Practically every major health-care corporation wants in. In the absence of strict state standards, the decision of quality of patient care for the disabled is often decided in a boardroom 2000 miles away. The state of Alaska and the legislature should be setting the grievance and appeal rights and due process—How a patient is informed of their rights. And a dozen other quality of care issues. Acute care psychiatric patients with some evidence believe they have been sold to the lowest bidder.

Mental Health Advocates, Faith Myers/Dorrance Collins, 3240 Penland Pkwy,  
Sp. 35, Anchorage, AK. 99508 (907) 929-0532

**From:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Bob Weinstein](#)  
**Cc:** [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Public Comment- Deer Mountain  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 6:48:00 PM

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Hi Bob:

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 evening!

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**Miri K. Smith-Coolidge**  
**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**  
Phone: 907.334.2533  
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Fax: 907.269.7966  
Email: [miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

**From:** Bob Weinstein [mailto:bobalaska@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 5:49 PM  
**To:** Smith, Miri K (DOR) <[miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Public Comment- Deer Mountain

To Members of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees:

With respect to Item II- K-3 Timber Sale, MHT 9100854, the Deer Mountain issue, it now appears that you have been presented with an alternative motion (or amendment) which provides for an option of a sale of the Trust's Deer Mountain interests.

I ask that you consider this as an alternative motion, with the intent that a possible sale replace, and for the time being effectively remove the possibility of, a timber harvest on Deer Mountain.

First, doing so will indicate that the Trust's main goal- one that has strong support- is the exchange legislation, and that, if for some reason it does not seem that the legislation will pass in a timeframe deemed necessary by the Trust, the option of a sale will be considered.

Second, it will allow for a timely consideration of potential processes and funding sources relative to a purchase of the Trust's issues.

If a majority of the Board does not support the motion regarding a sale as an alternative, I would then request that you adopt it as an amendment so that a possible sale is at least an option that might be considered.

Finally, I would suggest that sometime in the near future the Board review and direct a

changes in how and when impacted communities and concerned are brought into the process. The Board packet notes that the sale option is a result of hearing what the public had to say during the recent meetings in Ketchikan, Saxman, and Petersburg.

I would suggest that, in the future, the Trust and Trust Land Office engage the communities to listen to opinions and possible concerns about potential actions- especially those in which controversy and public concern can be reasonably anticipated- prior to any action being taken. In this instance, that would have meant prior to the original Resource Management Committee vote on August 11, 2016. Had such a process been in place, it seems quite possible that the Committee/Board would have taken the public concerns into account at the time the Deer Mountain and Petersburg timber harvest issues were being considered for the first time. If so, the decision- and the subsequent public reaction- might well have turned out quite differently.

Bob Weinstein

**From:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [mtpoint@hotmail.com](mailto:mtpoint@hotmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#); [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Deer Mt logging  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 8:52:00 PM

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Hi Kurt and Marlene:

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 evening!

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**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](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** kurt kuehl <[mtpoint@hotmail.com](mailto:mtpoint@hotmail.com)>  
**Date:** November 15, 2016 at 3:18:49 PM HST  
**To:** "[info@mhtrust.org](mailto:info@mhtrust.org)" <[info@mhtrust.org](mailto:info@mhtrust.org)>  
**Subject:** SPAM: Deer Mt logging

Dear Alaska Mental Health Trust Board of Trustees:  
I have been a resident for almost 40 years in Ketchikan. Our town's livelihood for locals and tourists alike depends on maintaining the beauty and uniqueness of Deer Mt. As the first city, Ketchikan, and its environs, gives visitors a first impression of how we as a city and state value the natural beauty of Alaska. Deer Mt represents a tradition of beauty and recreation by locals and visitors which, with your help, can be enjoyed and shared for generations to come. Hopefully the decision you make as a trust, which may result in a land exchange, represents those values as you considered the alternatives to logging Deer Mt.

Kurt and Marlene Kuehl  
5646 S Tongass Hwy  
Ketchikan  
AK 99901

Sent from my iPad