

# Written Public Comment

(received between  
11/16/16 – 11/17/16)

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [farina brown](#)  
**Cc:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, November 17, 2016 7:02:37 AM

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Good morning Farina-

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 afternoon!

Steve

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907.269-7697 (direct)

907.748.7418 (cell)

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

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

From: farina brown [<mailto:farinabrown@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 8:11 PM

To: Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)>

Subject: Public Comment

Board of Trustees,

As the former executive director of the Alaska Mental Health Consumer Web, a peer run recovery oriented drop-in center, I am extremely concerned about the refocus of the Trust. The Trust has been a longstanding supporter of The Web, both financially and politically as an advocate for peer supports. As such, I recognize and honor the importance for any organization to think proactively about sustainability and optimization, however, staying true to the organizational mission must remain a priority.

The Alaska Mental Health Trust's primary mission is to improve the lives of beneficiaries by ensuring the availability of comprehensive mental health services. With that said, staying the course while remaining open to new ventures that do not compete with nor detract from the primary mission is always welcomed. However, exploration of unconventional approaches and economic ventures must always remain conversation in the context of the benefit to the core principles and mission of the Trust. Additionally, leadership must be equally dedicated to and in synch with the organizations mission to guarantee the original course is firmly adhered to.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Kindly,  
Farina Brown

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Rebecca Knight](#)  
**Cc:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Cmts. for AMHT Nov. 16-17 Board of Trustees mtg.  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 5:07:23 PM

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Good evening Rebecca-

Thank you for taking the time to call-in and provide public comment and pointing out our oversight that your attachment was not included in the packet. We will address this and make sure the board has a copy of the attachment.

Again thanks and apologies. Have a nice evening!  
Steve

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

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**From:** Williams, Stephen F (DOR)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 3:29 PM  
**To:** Rebecca Knight <[bknight15@icloud.com](mailto:bknight15@icloud.com)>  
**Cc:** Smith, Miri K (DOR) <[miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)>; Lawrence, Carley J (DOR) <[carley.lawrence@alaska.gov](mailto:carley.lawrence@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Cmts. for AMHT Nov. 16-17 Board of Trustees mtg.

Good afternoon Rebecca-

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

Steve Williams  
Chief Operating Officer  
Alaska Mental Health Trust  
Direct (907) 269-7697  
Cell (907) 748-7418

On Nov 15, 2016, at 4:18 PM, Rebecca Knight <[bknight15@icloud.com](mailto:bknight15@icloud.com)> wrote:

Please see the attached for the upcoming, Nov. 16-17 AMHT Board of Trustees meeting.

Please include it in the packet for the meeting.

Thank you,

Rebecca Knight

<Knight\_Cmts. to AMHT Bd. Trustees\_15Nov16.pdf>

PO Box 1331  
Petersburg, AK 99833  
Nov. 15, 2016

Alaska Mental Health Trust  
Board of Trustees  
3745 Community Park Loop  
Anchorage, AK

Hello Trustees,

The Alaska Mental Health Trust is serious need of oversight, including a complete audit and independent investigation into its operations. I did not arrive at this conclusion lightly. Circumstances as outlined below, surrounding the issuance of AMHT's threat to log Petersburg and Ketchikan uplands lead to my conclusion. Further, due to the risky and controversial nature of AMHT's proposed Petersburg and Ketchikan timber sales, the Trust must immediately remove them from further consideration for the purpose of logging. The federal lands intended to be exchanged are equally problematic. [See attached photo].

I support a federal buyout of the all the lands included in the proposed exchange legislation. Trust officials have also said they are open to a federal buyout. It would result in multiple benefits by eliminating contentious Trust lands from the threat of logging while guaranteeing income to Trust beneficiaries. It would also prevent lands on Prince of Wales, Gravina and Revilla Islands from logging under the weak Alaska Forest Resources Practices Act which, for example, allows clearcuts of any size. Appraisals and surveying would be less expensive by roughly half, since roughly only half the lands would be involved in the buyout. Finally, it would remove the Trust's long cited reliance on an unreliable timber industry.

However, aside from the benefits of a federal buyout, a review of the record leads me to conclude that AMHT had no real intent to log these uplands when it issued its threat to "move forward"<sup>1</sup> with the timber sales. Moreover, this hollow threat was intended solely to create a stampede of support for controversial legislation which could only be advanced through political trickery—via a congressional rider attached to must-pass legislation.

Following, are just a few of the facts that lead to my conclusion regarding AMHT's intent to log:

First, in an alleged violation of the Open Meetings Act, on August 24, AMHT issued an ultimatum to log highly controversial and risky Petersburg and

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<sup>1</sup> Deer Mountain, Petersburg timber sales OK'd. Ketchikan Daily News. by Nick Bowman. 8/25/2016. <http://www.ketchikandailynews.com/premium/timber-sales-8-25>

Ketchikan uplands if federal land exchange legislation failed to pass Congress by mid-January.

Second, what the AMHT failed to disclose to the public when they issued their threat, is that they had already, nearly “finalized”<sup>2</sup> timber sale negotiations with the industry for purchase of timber associated with the proposed exchange. This is significant. They did not yet own the lands, but were apparently so confident their legislation would pass, that they had long beforehand entered into lengthy and likely, binding negotiations with the timber industry. It appears that what the AMHT was really after was a stampede of support to seal the deal for the legislation.

In fact, when asked during the recent Petersburg public meeting whether timber sale contracts exist for the exchange parcels, the executive director responded “Yes”. This answer was quickly recanted – twice – by AMHT’s resource manager who added, “No, you can’t sell something you don’t own.” His denial is flatly contradicted by his own email. That this contradiction occurred, followed with a denial raises serious questions.

To be clear, AMHT did not own the lands in question yet were actively expending Trust resources toward finalization of timber purchase agreements. However, for lands they did own (and continue to issue ultimatums to log), they have done absolutely nothing towards timber sale planning.<sup>3</sup> If they really intended to log Petersburg and Ketchikan uplands, then why haven’t they begun sale planning as they have done for land they do not own? I can only conclude that the threat has been a ruse all along.

AMHT’s needless threats have caused much upheaval and discord in our communities. Local citizens have been used by the AMHT as mere tools to advance federal legislation. It is shameful.

As explained in an op ed that appeared in Sitnews on Tuesday<sup>4</sup>, “Congress should be wary of letters supporting a land exchange, since they were solicited under false pretenses. Congress should simply buyout the forestlands, since the Trust has acknowledged it is a viable option. It is a classic win-win.”

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<sup>2</sup> AMHT email from Paul Slenkamp to industry, municipal and agency recipients. August 17, 2016. “We are in final negotiations with Viking Lumber for purchase of all timber on POW associated with this proposed exchange.” While the email was specific to a meeting on Prince of Wales Island and the timber purchase specific to Viking Lumber, located on POW, it follows that similar negotiations had been conducted with Alcan for Revilla Island timber.

<sup>3</sup> As cited repeatedly during recent public meetings in Petersburg Oct. 27 and Ketchikan Nov. 1

<sup>4</sup> AMHT Open to Federal Buyout - But Questions Linger. By Rebecca Knight. Sitnews. Nov. 15, 2016. [http://www.sitnews.us/1116Viewpoints/111516\\_rebecca+knight.html](http://www.sitnews.us/1116Viewpoints/111516_rebecca+knight.html)

Sincerely,

*Rebecca Knight*

Rebecca (Becky) Knight



Recent logging - nearly 4,000 acres - at Leask Lakes, Revilla Island by the Alaska Mental Health Trust. The Alaska Mental Health Trust Act would give AMHT an additional 8,000 acres adjacent to this for a total 12,000 acre cut.

Photo credit Rebecca Knight

Follow up Questions:

1. Are insurers of the timber industry who will log the Petersburg and Ketchikan timber aware of the risky nature of logging on these already mapped high hazard soils above and adjacent to residential and other infrastructure? Please remember the Oso, Washington situation where the State was forced to pay \$50 MM and timber companies \$10 MM in damages for violations of logging regulations on oversteepened and unstable slopes that killed 43 people.
2. Has the Trust formally withdrawn from the administrative land exchange process?
3. Please disclose the total cost to the Trust of participation in the administrative land exchange process.

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Rebecca Knight](#)  
**Cc:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Cmts. for AMHT Nov. 16-17 Board of Trustees mtg.  
**Date:** Thursday, November 17, 2016 7:00:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [BK Ltr. to AMHT Resource Cmte. 102516.pdf](#)

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Good morning Becky-

Thank you resubmitting your Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> letter to the Resource Management committee for the board's consideration. Hard and electronic copies will be provided to Trustees as well they will be posted on the Trust website.

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:** Rebecca Knight [mailto:[bknight15@icloud.com](mailto:bknight15@icloud.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 10:31 PM  
**To:** Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Cmts. for AMHT Nov. 16-17 Board of Trustees mtg.

Hello Steve,

It is very troubling that both sets of my comments were excluded from the record and that my Oct. 25 comments were misplaced.

I converted my Oct. 25 comments to a PDF tonight, but they were submitted through your comment portal the evening of Oct. 25. Fortunately I saved a copy.

Please be sure that these are distributed to the Board tomorrow as well as posted online as an addendum. I will followup with the Board and will check the website to be certain.

Sincerely,

Becky Knight

On Nov 16, 2016, at 5:47 PM, Williams, Stephen F (DOR)  
<[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)> wrote:

Hi Becky-

I'm sorry to bother you with this, but can you please re-email me the comments you submitted on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Much appreciated, sorry for the inconvenience.

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:** Rebecca Knight [<mailto:bknight15@icloud.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 5:20 PM  
**To:** Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Cmts. for AMHT Nov. 16-17 Board of Trustees mtg.

Thank you Steve,

As I requested, please do not forget my previous comments from Oct. 25 ~ 9:00 PM as well as those from yesterday.

I submitted the Oct. 25 comments through your comment portal and heard someone ask the Board during the Oct. 26 meeting whether they had seen the comments that were received that morning. I assume the comments that were referred to were mine.

Both overlooked comments should be submitted as an addendum on your website, since the public likely downloaded the comments and would naturally think they already had them. Posting as an addendum would overcome this issue.

Sincerely,

Becky Knight  
Petersburg

On Nov 16, 2016, at 5:07 PM, Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)> wrote:

Good evening Rebecca-  
Thank you for taking the time to call-in and provide public comment and pointing out our oversight that your attachment was not included in the packet. We will address this and make sure the board has a copy of the attachment.

Again thanks and apologies. Have a nice evening!  
Steve

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**From:** Williams, Stephen F (DOR)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 3:29 PM

**To:** Rebecca Knight <[bknight15@icloud.com](mailto:bknight15@icloud.com)>  
**Cc:** Smith, Miri K (DOR) <[miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)>; Lawrence, Carley J (DOR) <[carley.lawrence@alaska.gov](mailto:carley.lawrence@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Cmts. for AMHT Nov. 16-17 Board of Trustees mtg.

Good afternoon Rebecca-  
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

Steve Williams  
Chief Operating Officer  
Alaska Mental Health Trust  
Direct (907) 269-7697  
Cell (907) 748-7418

On Nov 15, 2016, at 4:18 PM, Rebecca Knight  
<[bknight15@icloud.com](mailto:bknight15@icloud.com)> wrote:

Please see the attached for the upcoming, Nov. 16-17  
AMHT Board of Trustees meeting.

Please include it in the packet for the meeting.

Thank you,

Rebecca Knight

<Knight\_Cmts. to AMHT Bd. Trustees\_15Nov16.pdf>

Submitted 10/25/16

Hello Resource Management Committee,

Please consider the following comments during your deliberations tomorrow, 10/26/16.

A legislatively directed and financed federal buyout of all the AMHT exchange lands continues to be a fantastic way to settle the debacle AMHT has found itself in—specifically the overwhelming public opposition to logging Petersburg and Ketchikan uplands. I have also read serious concerns from Meyers Chuck, Hollis, and Nakuti, etc. residents about AMHT logging around their communities. Clearly, our Southeast Alaska neighbors have a similar stake in the potential consequences.

The administrative side of the solution (necessary mapping, valuation etc.) would simply compliment the prevailing legislative process from where the funds would be endowed. From what I read in Ketchikan media, the AMHT has indicated that they are amenable to a buyout.

A buyout would be the simplest option. Additionally, this congressional approach would be not just be a win-win, but a win all the way around. By that I mean that it would solve AMHT's problem and the problems for the communities, while avoiding unconscionable destruction of old-growth forest that otherwise would occur in the administrative trade.

With the endowment approach, only half the surveys and appraisals would be involved since only the AMHT lands would be included—not Forest Service land. It makes fiscal sense because it would cost the Trust roughly only half the estimated \$6 million cited by Trust Board Chair Russ Webb in his KDN op-ed. No NEPA costs would be incurred by the Trust.

The Petersburg Borough Assembly unanimously supported a federal buyout as a "Plan B" if the legislation fails to pass through Congress. With your support, Senator Murkowski could muster the will to pursue the buy out option.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Knight  
Petersburg

## Trust testimony

11/16/16

My name is Bill Herman, a former 20-year employee at the Trust. Since I'm retired, I guess I can speak freely now. I'm currently fearful of the Trust's future. So, mindful of my quick three minutes, here goes:

- 1) Number one: By statute the Trust Authority must use resources to improve the lives of beneficiaries in perpetuity and within state law. Land development is only a tool. Now it seems the primary goal is producing money without real direction. Trustees have migrated to an organizational structure that is a two-headed dragon with poor goals, unclear leadership, unclear accountability, and frequent conflict. This inappropriately pulls Trustees into day-to-day decision-making, causing further conflict.
- 2) Number 2: Abrupt decisions, accusations of closed meetings, a quick CEO resignation, an interim CEO who knows very little about beneficiaries, frequent 4-3 votes, etc. --all seem to further confirm my suspicions that some Trustees have lost their way as described in #1. This narrow 4-3 majority may also put the Trust in violation of Alaska Statutes and regulations.
- 3) Number 3: The Board of Trustees seems out of balance with way too many land managers and developers, and insufficient programmatic expertise and interest. We need some new Trustees.
- 4) Number 4: I fear that Harry Noah's and Bruce Botelho's concerns, about Trustees inappropriately withholding Trust funds from the Permanent Fund, are well founded.
- 5) Number 5: I also fear that if the Governor and the Legislature get heavily involved, with audits and studies reviewing the Trust and its future, the whole settlement could come unraveled. They could create new statutes to increase their control of the Trust and its assets, to the huge detriment of beneficiaries.
- 6) **I have some recommendations:**
  - a) Slow down, there is no crisis, unless you create one. The framework is over 20 years old.
  - b) Be brave. Listen to each other, work toward consensus votes, in open meetings.
  - c) Keep your existing CEO, who has decades of success. Ask him and his staff about what is best for Trust beneficiaries. I know they all keep this in mind every day. I'm unsure about Trustees however.
  - d) Put the Trust Land Office back under the Trust Authority. One head of the dragon.
  - e) Seek and respect advice from the Boards and Commissions Office, the Permanent Fund.
  - f) Be open to input. How about a dialogue with the 4 Boards and other groups? Ask them about recent Trustee actions, about the future, what's best for beneficiaries.
  - g) Finally, get some Board training: on the appropriate level of involvement of Trustees in day-to-day staff work, on managing open meetings, and on good board decision-making.

Thank you.

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [michael mooradian](#)  
**Cc:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Public comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 2:31:31 PM

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Good afternoon Michael-

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 afternoon!

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:** michael mooradian [mailto:[moravius1@yahoo.com](mailto:moravius1@yahoo.com)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 2:28 PM

**To:** Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)>

**Subject:** Public comment

Dear Steve,

My question for the mental health Trust is this,

Is there going to be a temporary reduction in available funds (grants etc.) while the trust reorganizes it's funding source to include land management revenue? If yes how long is it estimated it will take to see revenue from the land management source?

Thank you,

Michael Mooradian, CDCII

**From:** Smith, Miri K (DOR)  
**To:** "Ed Wood"; [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: AMHTA BOARD MEETING - 16 NOVEMBER 2016 - PUBLIC COMMENT - Suzanne Wood, Petersburg, AK  
**Date:** Thursday, November 17, 2016 2:26:00 PM

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Hi Suzanne:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your attached comments in writing. 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: Ed Wood [<mailto:fvtalon@icloud.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 2:10 PM  
To: Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)>  
Cc: Smith, Miri K (DOR) <[miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)>  
Subject: AMHTA BOARD MEETING - 16 NOVEMBER 2016 - PUBLIC COMMENT - Suzanne Wood, Petersburg, AK

Dear Mr. Williams,

Attached please find my public comments presented yesterday during the AMHTA Board teleconference. Would appreciate the appropriate distribution of my public comments be made available to AMHTA trustees for their consideration for discussion-making purposes going forward.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Respectfully,

Suzanne Wood  
P.O. Box 383  
Petersburg, AK 99833-0383  
907-772-3480

**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
Suzanne Wood - Public Comments  
16 November 2016**

My name is Suzanne Wood. I am a co-founder of the Mitkof Highway Homeowners Association in Petersburg, located in southeast Alaska.

With respect to the Trust's P-1 Timber Sale - MHT 9100855 - Item I - Petersburg, we offer the following public comments.

For 11 years, our group of 95 homeowners has actively supported the Trust Land Office not logging or selling their steep and unstable hillside parcels in Petersburg, and instead progress a land exchange with the US Forest Service.

There have now been nine natural landslides above our homes, Mitkof Highway, and the Tyee hydroelectric utility corridor, closing the highway to through traffic, damaging residential property and infrastructure, and disrupting residential utility service.

The reason our group opposes logging behind our homes is because the slopes are already unstable, and there is no question that logging would further destabilize them, causing potentially catastrophic results.

You may be familiar with the recent \$50 million out-of-court settlement in Washington State following the 2014 Oso landslide that killed 43 people. There was an additional \$10 million payout from the logging company, this being the

result of disruptive activity. Trust logging followed by such a tragedy here in Petersburg would clearly put the Trust corpus at risk from litigation.

At no time since the Mitkof Highway Homeowners Association was formed in January 2006, has it been our intent to enter into litigation against Trust logging their demonstrably unstable slopes above our homes from 3-Mile to 7-Mile along Mitkof Highway. Our primary efforts in resolving the public safety concerns brought to our community by potential Trust logging, have involved substantial efforts by our group, as well as the TLO.

However, any Trust actions taken to begin logging after the Trust's arbitrary deadline of January 15th, 2017, should Senate Bill 3006 fail, can be considered nothing less than a danger to our community, and unfortunately, will leave the MHHA no other choice than to enter into litigation in defense of life and property.

It is imperative that the Trust proceed with its land exchange efforts, even if Senate Bill 3006 fails to pass by January 15, 2017. The Trump administration along with a GOP majority in congress should be able to resolve any community land use issues especially with Senator Murkowski chairing the senate energy and natural resources committee.

We request the Trust Board vote today to, at the very least, extend the arbitrary deadline out another six months to a year so that we can all work together in furtherance of a resolution that alleviates all of our concerns.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.

**From:** Smith, Miri K (DOR)  
**To:** ["psgfire@hotmail.com"](mailto:psgfire@hotmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Comment  
**Date:** Friday, November 18, 2016 11:57:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [Mental Health logging.docx](#)

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Hi Jerod:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your attached comments in writing. 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)

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**From:** Menefee, Wyn (DNR)  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 11:39 AM  
**To:** Smith, Miri K (DOR) <[miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)>; Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Comment

This came it today for the Trust..

**Wyn Menefee**  
Deputy Director  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office  
2600 Cordova Street, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
(907) 269-8753 (Direct)  
(907) 269-8905 (Fax)  
[wyn.menefee@alaska.gov](mailto:wyn.menefee@alaska.gov)  
[www.mhtrustland.org](http://www.mhtrustland.org)

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**From:** Jerod Cook [<mailto:psgfire@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:21 AM  
**To:** Menefee, Wyn (DNR) <[wyn.menefee@alaska.gov](mailto:wyn.menefee@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comment

Just my comments on the subject. Hope it helps.

Jerod Cook

To: Mental Health Trust

From: Jerod Cook (Owner Operator of Falls Creek Forest Products)

Subject: Timber harvest on Mitkof Is on Mental Health Trust land.

Dear Sir/Ma'am

I would like to comment on the issue of logging the Mental Health Trust land on Mitkof Island. I have looked this area over a bit and finally decided to give my opinion. While a large number of people have stepped forward opposed to logging of any kind in this area, because of the threat of landslides and the possibility of logging increasing the possibility of landslides there are only two families that I would consider to actually live in the danger area. The rest are simply against logging. Your land stretches over about eleven miles. About one mile of this could be considered dangerous slide area that could possibly affect some homes. The other ten miles well have very little possibility of reaching or harming any homes if it did slide.

I am fundamentally opposed to the land exchange because it takes possible land that could be purchased out of reach and puts it in the hands of the Forest Service who is not going to sell anything. Having said that, I am not opposing the land exchange because you have put so much time and energy into it already, and I would hate to see that be for nothing.

If the exchange does not happen I would recommend that the whole area that has been put into the exchange be broke up into chunks with different names and advertised separately for logging or sale. I would tell the parties that are worried about slides that you as the owner are worried about litigation if you don't log it as the hillside will no longer hold the weight of all those trees and it is only a matter of time before they come down the hill. Leave the option open to sell the hillside above these home owners to buy so they don't have to worry about it being logged. If they choose to litigate as they are threatening to do then see if you can make them litigate each separate named parcel as they get advertised. This may allow you to put some areas up for timber harvest without litigation where they will fight you on others.

If the exchange does not happen I well be writing you again in late January to try to get a timber sale harvesting regrowth near my mill. This would be a good sale to push forward because it does not have any slide potential, it does not involve old growth and it might get them used to the idea that logging is going to happen on some level.

Just some thoughts. There is a lot of good wood on that hill side and I hope you will not let the loud voices of a few people who simply don't like logging keep you from fulfilling your requirement to make money off your land.

Jerod Cook