



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF FORESTRY/DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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May 21, 2018

Mayor Mark Jensen
Borough Administration
PO Box 329
Petersburg, AK 99833



Dear Mayor Jensen:

This correspondence documents our conversation and understanding concerning the Division of Forestry (DOF), Draft Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales (FYSTS) that the Petersburg Borough provided comment on during the public comment period. The borough expressed concerns about two timber sales that appeared in the schedule because of your ongoing land entitlement selections under the expanded acreage provided by Senate Bill 28. The parcels in question were the Thomas Bay and Mitkof Island (Fredrick Point) locations.

Per our conversation, I assured you that the DOF would not offer timber sales in these two locations until the adjudication of the borough's land selections was completed. The Thomas Bay parcel was a special concern as this acreage is not located within the Southeast State Forest and can potentially be selected during the process. Portions of the Mitkof parcel are located within the Southeast State Forest and are not available for selection, since the forest is a legislatively designated area.

Once the adjudication process is completed, the Division looks forward to working with the borough to encourage long-term forest management in the region. Perhaps a joint project may be feasible, but in any case, the Southeast State Forest will be an asset for the area and will continue to provide opportunities for your community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John C. Maisch".

John "Chris" Maisch
State Forester and Director

Cc: Heidi Hansen, Deputy Commissioner DNR
Brent Goodrum, Director Division of Mining, Land and Water, DNR
Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Senator Bert Stedman
Greg Staunton, Southeast Area Forester, DOF