

# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **USDA Forest Service**

### **Alaska Region**

---

**Contact:** Julie Speegle  
**E-mail:** [jspeegle@fs.fed.us](mailto:jspeegle@fs.fed.us)  
**Phone:** (907) 586-7150  
**Date:** Feb. 21, 2006

**Public Affairs**  
**P.O. Box 21628**  
**Juneau, AK 99802**

### **REGIONAL FORESTER UPHOLDS EMERALD BAY DECISION**

**JUNEAU, Alaska** – Alaska Forest Service, Regional Forester Dennis Bschor, today gave the go-ahead for the Emerald Bay timber sale. The project area is located about 40 air miles north of Ketchikan within the Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District.

Bschor affirmed the Tongass National Forest Supervisor's decision to authorize the harvest of 16.4 million board feet of timber from Cleveland Peninsula. The Forest Service received two appeals on the project.

Bschor concurred with Tongass National Forest Supervisor Forrest Cole's selection of Alternative B from the record of decision. That alternative authorizes harvest of timber from 600 acres, construction of 5.8 miles of new road (2.2 miles of which would cross a medium old growth reserve), and construction of a land-to-barge log transfer facility at Emerald Bay. Clearcutting was found to be the optimal method for harvest, based on analysis supported by the ROD.

The decision directs Cole to review marten model runs to ensure they support the analysis in the environmental impact statement. Cole must also consult with the forest biologist to determine the need for additional goshawk surveys prior to project implementation.

Appellants included one individual, Jill Jacob, and a coalition of environmental groups: Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Sitka Conservation Society, Greenpeace, Juneau Group of the Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, and The Wilderness Society. The appeals were denied on all points.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: The full text of the appeal reviewing officer's recommendations to Bschor are attached for further amplification/clarification.**