

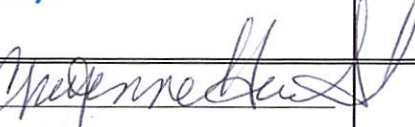


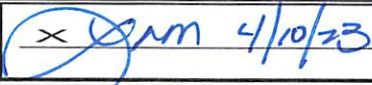


**SUBJECT:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH MANAGER TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR AN OVER THE COUNTER SALE FOR THE LONG LAKE ROAD SALVAGE TIMBER HARVEST (MSB007991).

**AGENDA OF:** April 18, 2023

**ASSEMBLY ACTION:** Adopted with McKee, Bernier & Hale opposed. 4/18/23.  
SP

**AGENDA ACTION REQUESTED:** Present to the Assembly for consideration.

Route To Department/Director	Signature	Comments
Originator	x 	
Community Development Director	x 	
Finance Director	x 	
Borough Attorney	x 	
Borough Manager	x 	
Borough Clerk	x  4/10/23	SP

**ATTACHMENT (S) :** Fiscal Note: YES X NO \_\_\_\_\_  
 Long Lake Road Salvage Timber Harvest Map (1 pp)  
 Public Comments (45 pp)  
 Resolution Serial No. 23-041 (1 pp)

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Land and Resource Management Division has identified a potential salvage timber sale on approximately 137 acres of Borough-owned forestland across five Borough parcels (Tax ID: 19N04W32B001, 19N04W32B002, 19N04W29C005, 19N04W29C006, 19N04W29C007). The five parcels comprise about 279.5 acres, but only 137 are included in the proposed harvest area. The acreage may change slightly subject to a detailed analysis of forest inventory data and detailed site evaluation.

A salvage harvest within the subject Borough parcels was proposed because of its high stocking of birch with minor components of dead and damaged spruce. Forest management activities will target the reduction of birch stocking and removal of salvageable dead and damaged spruce to promote natural regeneration, enhance growth of residual trees, reduce fire hazard, and improve overall forest health.

The proposal for the timber salvage sale was made in the best interest of the forest and the surrounding community. This expedited process will allow for the timely management of Matanuska-Susitna Borough forestland and reduce the risk of wildfire. There is an opportunity here to realize some value from the trees before more succumb to rot and other disturbances. Access to the timber from Long Lake Road is expected for a majority of the timber harvest related traffic.

The anticipated timber haul route is about 1.4 miles, along Long Lake Road, to Nancy Lake Parkway, to get to MP 57 Parks Highway. The haul route passes by seven privately owned parcels.

The proposed timber salvage is estimated to contain approximately 1,000 cords of timber. Assuming the operator employs three logging trucks, there could be as many as nine log truck loads leaving the harvest area each day, resulting the removal of 90 cords per day. At this rate, it would take a couple weeks to complete the timber harvest. The low truck traffic volume and the short distance to the highway suggest this is a suitable location for a commercial timber salvage.

Pursuant to MSB 23.05.025, the required 30-day public notice was completed March 24, 2023. Fifteen comments were received. Thirteen of the comments submitted objected to the timber harvest. No comment was received from the Willow Area Community Organization.

Should the Assembly direct Administration to offer the proposed timber sale, a second public notice would be mailed to all property owners within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of the boundaries of the affected borough-owned parcels if a responsive bid is received to harvest the timber. A second resolution would be presented for Assembly consideration, authorizing the Borough Manager to enter into a timber sale contract with the operator that successfully bid on the timber sale.

**RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:**

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly adoption of Resolution Serial No. 23-041 authorizing the Borough Manager to solicit bids for the Long Lake Road Timber Salvage Sale (MSB007991).

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
FISCAL NOTE

Agenda Date: April 18, 2023

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH MANAGER TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR THE LONG LAKE ROAD SALVAGE TIMBER HARVEST (MSB007991).

ORIGINATOR: Community Development

FISCAL ACTION (TO BE COMPLETED BY FINANCE)	FISCAL IMPACT <u>YES</u> NO
AMOUNT REQUESTED <u>\$</u>	FUNDING SOURCE <u>Timber Harvest</u>
FROM ACCOUNT #	PROJECT #
TO ACCOUNT : <u>203.000.00 3xx.xxx</u>	PROJECT #
VERIFIED BY: <u>Cheryl W. Hall</u>	CERTIFIED BY:
DATE: <u>4-1-23</u>	DATE:

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028
Personnel Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land/Structures						
Grants, Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING						

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE	<u>\$</u>					
---------	-----------	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING:

(Thousands of Dollars)

General Fund						
State/Federal Funds						
Other	<u>\$</u>					
TOTAL	<u>\$</u>					

POSITIONS:

Full-Time						
Part-Time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary) \$ Actual amt. based on bid. There is \$5,000 minimum bid requirement.

PREPARED BY:

PHONE:

DEPARTMENT:

DATE:

APPROVED BY:

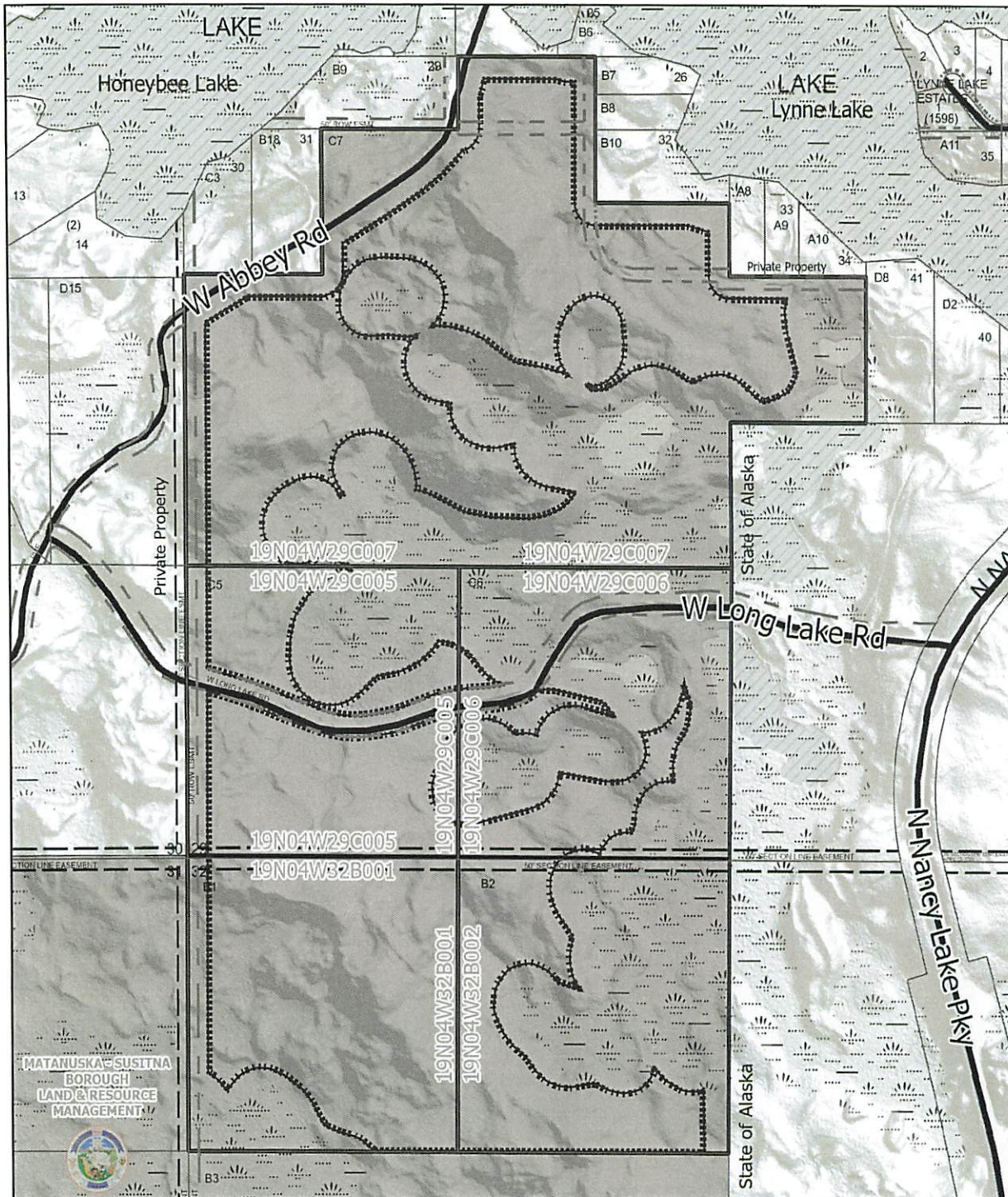
DATE:



# Long Lake Rd Potential Timber Harvest Area

MSB007991

Township 19 North, Range 04 West, Sec. 29 & 32



Timber Harvest Boundary

Mat-Su Borough

Wetlands

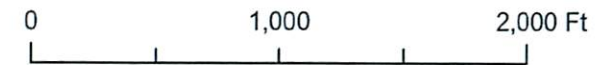
Waterbodies

ROW Easements

Right of Way

Section Line Easement

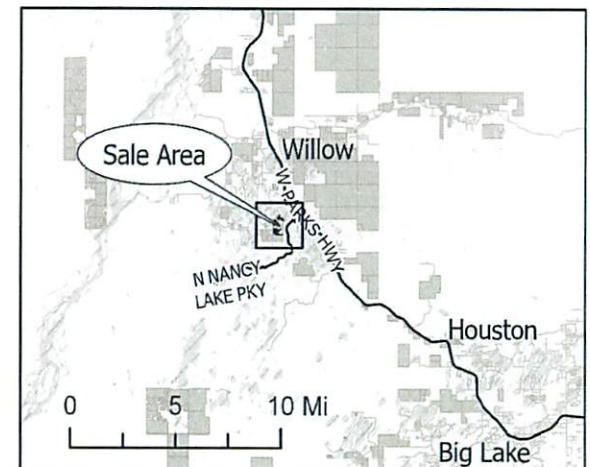
N



A buffer zone of 100 feet has been established to protect the wetlands, property boundaries, and rights of way.

The total operable area for timber harvesting is estimated to be around 137 acres, with 63 acres located to the north of Long Lake Rd. and 74 acres to the south.

The exact size available for timber harvesting and buffer zones may be subject to change over time.



IM 23-079  
RS 23-041



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

From: Jeff Bowker <[jeff.bowker.ak@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.bowker.ak@gmail.com)>

Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 8:56 AM

To: Land Management <[Land.Management@matsugov.us](mailto:Land.Management@matsugov.us)>

Subject: MSB007991 Long Lake Rd Timber Harvest

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Hi, my name is Jeff Bowker and I have a place over by this proposed timber harvest. I do have several questions and concerns. Why would the borough choose land that is right in the middle of a rec/residential area? Once a tree is removed we won't see another tree that size in our lifetimes with the slow growing season. Where will the logging trucks be running as there are lots of us with homes by Lynne and Honeybee lakes? Who is the forester who will be in charge of this project to insure it is done properly and not left up to the logger who will look for easy? How will you monitor the extra people who will see these logging roads as a new playground/party zone/gun range/trash dump/fireworks launch site? They will look at this as a new parking lot, ignoring private property.

I understand getting dead spruce out but I struggle to see how adding logging roads, the extra traffic, noise, etc will improve this area. I am not in favor of what has been sent out.

Thank you, Jeff

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Mr. Bowker,

Thank you for contacting the borough regarding the proposed timber harvest.

The borough selects areas for timber harvest based on many factors, such as access, timber quality and density, soils, and the surrounding land use.

Right now, we are targeting areas with dense stands of dead spruce and over-mature birch for harvest as a means to reduce the threat of wildfire.

Timber harvest is the most economic means available to remove fuels from the forest. The last two similar timber harvests have occurred in similar areas, one at the intersection of Church and Seldon Road and one off of Yoder Road. Zero complaints were received for those timber harvests. The borough is working with the small local timber operators, who work these smaller harvests at a pace that does not generate much traffic. During the winter months, Abbey Road's accessibility is restricted due to lack of plowing.

Long Lake Road from the Nancy Lake Parkway will serve as the main entry point for the proposed timber sale, with log trucks utilizing it. There will be no need for logging trucks to travel north of the Borough property on W Abbey Road. However, after our team evaluates the site conditions and the current state of W Abbey Road, we may explore the possibility of using the section of W Abbey Road that runs along the northwestern boundary of the proposed sale area.

This timber harvest was proposed as a means to reduce fuel loading near residential areas, as well as, to improve the potential land sale opportunities for the parcels off long lake road.

The most direct route to the Parks Highway is the anticipated haul route for the timber. Given the topography and soils, a small percentage of the timber may be hauled along Abbey Road. The small acreage accessible from that road is unlikely to generate much traffic. Timber hauling is restricted to periods when it will not damage the roads or the borough land.

I will be overseeing the timber sale contract on behalf of the borough. A performance bond and a reforestation bond are held as financial incentives for the loggers to comply with the contract and state regulation requirements.

We have a technician that periodically inspects the timber sales for compliance with the contract and state regulations. The frequency of the inspections are based on the pace of the harvest. We've found it's easier to correct potential contract violations early and make sure that timber operators know what is expected before they start on a borough timber harvest.

State Forestry will be overseeing the timber harvest for compliance with the Alaska State Forest and Resources Protection Act - <https://forestry.alaska.gov/forestpractices>

There are operational impact restrictions both in state and local code requirements.

Borough code places limitations on the off-site impacts from timber harvest in M58 28.60 - [https://www.coderepublishing.com/AK/MatanuskaSusitnaBorough/#/MatanuskaSusitnaBorough28/MatanuskaSusitnaBorough2860.html#28\\_60](https://www.coderepublishing.com/AK/MatanuskaSusitnaBorough/#/MatanuskaSusitnaBorough28/MatanuskaSusitnaBorough2860.html#28_60)

The borough code restrictions include regulatory limits on noise, artificial lighting, buggers and general public safety.

Between the State regulations protecting the resources and the borough regulations protecting adjacent property owners, we haven't received any complaints for the recent timber harvests.

Our intent is to utilize the forest management activity to improve the forest health, enhance growing conditions for the residual trees, and promote natural regeneration of desired trees in the understory. This is achievable by opening the canopy through the removal of dead and declining trees, as well as reducing the birch stocking. The prescription will include a certain number of leave trees per acre so the land retains a sufficient tree population to effectively re-forest it. Additionally, our management plan will entail preserving all live spruce within the proposed harvest boundary.

Timber operators are responsible for controlling access to active timber sales as their liability insurance covers the area while they're under contract.

The timber sale contracts typically require skid roads, which are temporary trails used by the equipment that hauls the logs out, to be blocked once the harvest is complete. The skid trails end up being some the most vigorous tree re-growth area. The effort to block the entrances to the skid trails and log landings are key aspects of the final inspection once the harvest is over.

Please let us know if you have additional questions.

Emerson Krueger  
Natural Resource Manager  
907-861-7867

Christian Munar  
Land Management Specialist  
907-861-7863

IM 23-079  
RS 23-041

## Proposed Timber Sale - Long Lake Rd

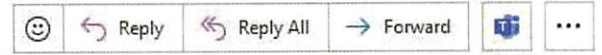


Christian Munar

To: [swboomershine@gmail.com](mailto:swboomershine@gmail.com)



Potential Timber Harvest on Long Lake Road.docx  
18 KB



Fri 3/10/2023 9:25 AM

Hi Mr. **Boomershine**,

Pleasure speaking with you on the phone. Please let us know of your concerns, inputs/feedbacks regarding the proposed timber harvest along Long Lake Road.

Thank you,

**Christian Munar**

*Land Management Specialist*

*Mat-Su Borough*

*(907) 861-7863*

IM 23-079  
RS 23-041



## Summary: Proposed Timber Harvest at Long Lake Rd

Thank you for contacting the borough regarding the proposed timber harvest.

The borough selects areas for timber harvest based on many factors, such as access, timber quality and density, soils, and the surrounding land use. Right now, we are targeting areas with dense stands of dead spruce and over-mature birch for harvest as a means to reduce the threat of wildfire. Timber harvest is the most economic means available to remove fuels from the forest. The last two similar timber harvests have occurred in similar areas, one at the intersection of Church and Seldon Road and one off of Yoder Road. Zero complaints were received for those timber harvests. The borough is working with the small local timber operators, who work these smaller harvests at a pace that does not generate much traffic.

This timber harvest was proposed as a means to reduce fuel loading near residential areas, as well as, to improve the potential land sale opportunities for the parcels off long lake road.

Long Lake Road from the Nancy Lake Parkway will serve as the main entry point for the proposed timber sale, with log trucks utilizing it. There will be no need for logging trucks to travel north of the Borough property on W Abbey Road. However, after our team evaluates the site conditions and the current state of W Abbey Road, we may explore the possibility of using the section of W Abbey Road that runs along the northwestern boundary of the proposed sale area.

Given the topography and soils, a small percentage of the timber may be hauled along Abbey Road. The small acreage accessible from that road is unlikely to generate much traffic. During the winter months, Abbey Road's accessibility is restricted due to lack of plowing.

The borough's Natural Resource Manager, Emerson Krueger, and the Land Management Specialist, Christian Munar, will be overseeing the timber sale contract on behalf of the borough. The performance bond and reforestation bond are intended to be held as financial incentives for the loggers to comply with the contract and state regulation requirements.

State Forestry will be overseeing the timber harvest for compliance with the Alaska State <https://forestry.alaska.gov/forestpractices> : <https://forestry.alaska.gov/forestpractices>.

Given the low value of the timber, it is difficult for the borough to dictate operational parameters for the loggers. We won't know the details of the harvest until we begin negotiations with a logger.

There are operational impact restrictions both in state and local code requirements.

Borough code places limitations on the off-site impacts from timber harvest in MSB 28.60: <https://www.codepublishing.com/AK/MatanuskaSusitnaBorough/> - <https://www.codepublishing.com/AK/MatanuskaSusitnaBorough28/MatanuskaSusitnaBorough2860.html#28.60>

The code restrictions include regulatory limits on noise, artificial lighting, buggers and general public safety.

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Between the State regulations protecting the resources and the borough regulations protecting adjacent property owners, Land and Resource Management Division have not received any complaints for the recent timber harvests.

Our intent is to utilize the forest management activity to improve the forest health, enhance growing conditions for the residual trees, and promote natural regeneration of desired trees in the understory. This is achievable by opening the canopy through the removal of dead and declining trees, as well as reducing the birch stocking. The prescription will include a certain number of leave trees per acre so the land retains a sufficient tree population to effectively re-forest it. Additionally, our management plan will entail preserving all live spruce within the proposed harvest boundary.

Land and Resource Management Division's intention is to solicit bids for the proposed timber harvest.

If a responsive bid is received, and the State Division of Forestry approves their detailed plan of operations, then the harvest may be presented to the Borough Assembly for their consideration.

Timber operators are responsible for controlling access to active timber sales as their liability insurance covers the area while they're under contract.

The timber sale contracts require skid roads, which are temporary trails used by the equipment that hauls the logs out, to be blocked at the end of the harvest. The skid trails end up being some the most vigorous tree re-growth area. The effort to block the entrances to the skid trails and log landings are one of the key aspects of the final inspection once the harvest is over.

Please let us know if you have additional questions.

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## Re: Proposed Timber Sale - Long Lake Rd

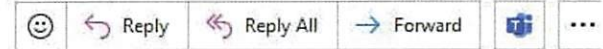


Cheryl Boomershine <caboomershine@gmail.com>

To Christian Munar

Cc Skip Boomershine

You replied to this message on 3/13/2023 8:32 AM.



Sun 3/12/2023 2:12 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Christian,

I just saw the Word doc attached to your email to Skip which will answer some of our questions. I apologize for the oversight on questions answered in this doc but please respond as best possible to the others. Thank you.

On Sun, Mar 12, 2023 at 2:05 PM Cheryl Boomershine <[caboomershine@gmail.com](mailto:caboomershine@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello Christian,

Please find attached our comments and questions on Timber Harvest MSB007991.

Our account number with the MSB is 219N04W29C003.

Thank you for your assistance.

Best regards,  
Cheryl Boomershine

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <[swboomershine@gmail.com](mailto:swboomershine@gmail.com)>

Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2023 at 10:50 AM

Subject: Fwd: Proposed Timber Sale - Long Lake Rd

To: <[caboomershine@gmail.com](mailto:caboomershine@gmail.com)>

Sent from my iPhone

IM 23-079  
RS 23-041





MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
Community Development  
Land Management Division  
350 East Dahlia Avenue  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

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MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Type: Timber Harvest (MSB007991)**

**Tax ID: 19N04W32B001, 19N04W32B002,  
19N04W29C005, 19N04W29C006, 19N04W29C007**

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Land and Resource Management Division is proposing an over-the-counter salvage timber harvest on approximately 137 acres of forested land across five adjacent Borough parcels (19N04W32B001, 19N04W32B002, 19N04W29C005, 19N04W29C006, 19N04W29C007). The five parcels encompass 279.5 acres, but only 137 acres are included in the proposed harvest area and may be subject to change based on detailed analysis of forest inventory data and site evaluations.

Going forward, the forest management activities will focus on several key goals. These include the reduction of birch stocking, as well as the removal of beetle-killed spruce trees. Certain number of trees per acre will be retained to enhance the aesthetic quality of the area and improve potential access for future Borough land sales while reducing the overall threat of wildfire.

Supporting material is available for public inspection during normal business hours on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Building in the Land Management Division or visit the Public Notice Section on the Borough's web page [www.matsugov.us](http://www.matsugov.us). Public comment is invited on this request. If you have any comments please mail or deliver them to the Borough offices at the address indicated above, no later than **March 24, 2023**. If you have questions about this request: call Emerson Krueger at 861-7867, or Christian Munar at 861-7863 between 8:00-5:00 or you can send an e-mail to: [LMB@matsugov.us](mailto:LMB@matsugov.us) (please refer to **MSB007991 Long Lake Rd Timber Harvest when submitting comments**).

Comments: W. Abbey Road is currently not borough maintained and is barely a single lane with some steep dropoffs

on the north side of the road. We are concerned with any increased traffic on W. Abbey Road . There is currently no parking

availability on most of W. Abbey Road except private property. 1. How will the increased traffic on W. Abbey Road be handled

for those harvesting timber? 2. Who will receive the notice for timber sale or is it a website registration? 3. Will the borough

verify those registering for the timber sale are licensed and experienced with timber harvesting? 4. How will W. Abbey Road be

restored after the harvest is completed? 5. What timeframe is anticipated for this harvest to take place? 6. Are there any short  
or long term plans for road improvements in the area?

Thank you for your response in advance.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(If you need more space for comments please attach a separate sheet of paper.)

\*This public notice & request for comments is in compliance with MSB Code 23.05.025

1M 23-079  
R523-041

**Gregory L Jones**

P.O. Box 577  
Willow, Alaska 99688  
(907) 495-5509  
gjones@gci.net

March 15, 2023

Emmerson Krueger  
Natural Resources Manager  
Mat-Su Borough  
350 E. Dahlia St  
Palmer, AK 99645

Re: Objection to Long Lake Timber Sale

Mr. Krueger:

There is no reasonable justification for the Borough's proposed Long Lake Road Timber Sale. Please consider the following bullet points and attachments.

1. The process for conducting this sale appears to be fundamentally unfair to the public and surrounding property owners. There have been very few details established for the sale, including timing, operating regulations, quantities, hours, access, completion condition, subsequent land use and much more. These are all important to the neighbors of this property and none of these details are offered. Then you asked that we comment on short notice. That is not reasonable.
2. It is unclear how and for what public purpose this sale was initiated. The Borough is barely two years into a five-year logging plan that can be found on the Borough web site. The plan designates properties to be offered to businesses and the public for logging purposes. This property is not in the plan. The properties that are in the plan are appropriately remote. This property is not remote. When the Borough staff was asked how this property got nominated for logging, there was no definitive answer. The only thing mentioned by the staff was that the Borough was eager to work with logging companies but had achieved limited success doing so. Staff said that there is one company, Poppert Milling, that is interested in this property, and that Poppert would likely be the logger. In fact, staff further indicated that the missing details referred to in Paragraph 1 above would be worked out with Poppert later this summer, presumably after the sale was conducted. This approach does not come close to passing the reasonableness test.
3. Also, staff has not briefed any of the people and organizations that are available to provide an interface and information flow between the Borough and the public. The Willow area Assemblyman, Ron Bernier, has not been briefed. Neither has the rest of the Assembly. The Willow Area Community Organization has not been contacted or alerted in any way. Other than the notice that arrived by mail, no effort has been made to discuss this project with policy makers or with the impacted property owners. As indicated above, the notice includes almost no detail. There is a statement in the notice that says more information is available on the Borough's website and a link is provided. However, when you click on that link, the only thing

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RS 23-041

posted there is a copy of the same notice that came in the mail – no additional information. It's like this sale is intended to be a secret. Again, not reasonable.

4. In discussing the proposed sale with staff at the Borough, they claim that the four 40ac parcels that make up the southern portion of the property have been for sale for several years, with no takers. Staff went on to suggest that this is a reason to log the parcels that are "for sale", although they provide no reasonable logic connecting the lack of buyers and the sale of timber. Then, for some unknown reason, the northern 120-acre tract, which has not been for sale, was added to the logging sale.

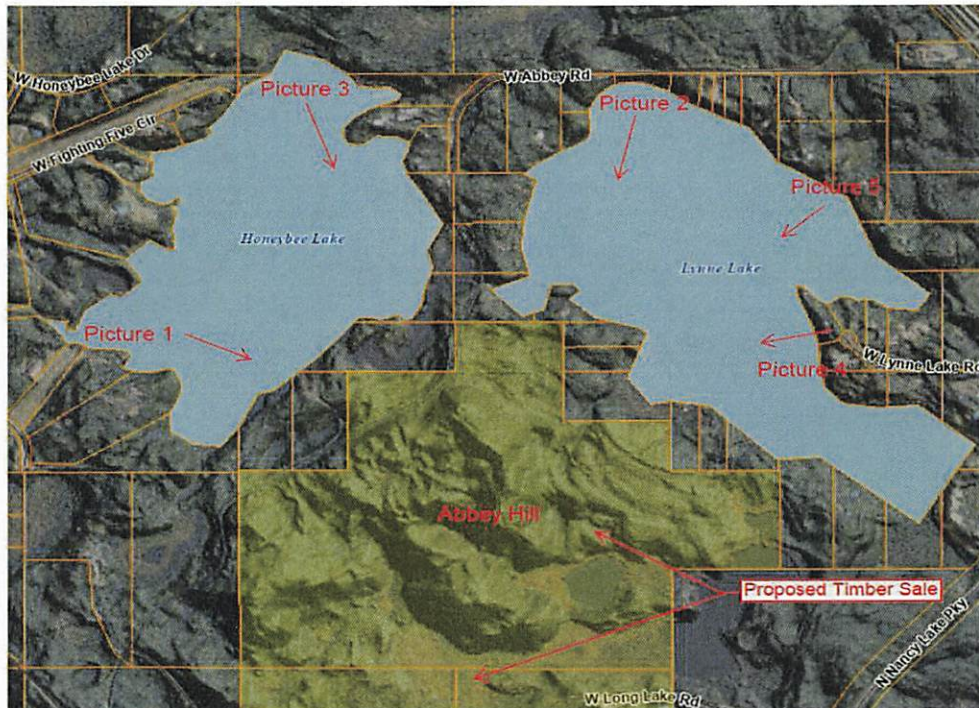
A search of the Borough's web site was unsuccessful in finding the four 40-acre tracts for sale. They are not listed with a real estate agent. There are no signs on the property. In short, there is no way to know they are for sale. Also, staff indicated that they were offered for \$3500 per acre. That is well over any reasonable comparable value in the Willow area. A recent comparable example is the nearby Heimbuch homestead which recently sold in three transactions. One piece is 40 acres with Honeybee Lake frontage, good soils, road access and electricity and phone. It sold for \$5000/ac. Another was 77 ac with mostly good soils utilities and frontage on the Parks highway and Abbey Rd. It sold for approximately \$4000/ac. The third parcel is across the Parks Highway. It is a gravel extraction site with utilities and Parks Highway frontage. It sold for \$6000/ac. When you adjust for worse and/or no access, no utilities, high percentage of poor soils, and lack of waterfront, your Long Lake Road properties would likely be valued much lower than the asking \$3500/ac. So, both the Borough's method of attracting buyers and the pricing of these properties fail to pass the reasonableness test. There does not seem to be a reasonable connection between those facts and the decision to log the subject property.

5. The parcels offered in the timber sale are fundamentally different from each other. Two of the four 40ac parcels are fairly remote. They have no road access, and they border the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area. They may be appropriate for logging as long as there are no adverse impacts on the recreation qualities of the park. (By the way, has State Parks been briefed?) By contrast, the two 40ac parcels that are bisected by Long Lake Road should not be considered as remote. That road supports a lot of local and weekend traffic. Any logging there will likely interfere with and hinder that traffic. Finally, the 120-acre parcel that sits between Honeybee and Lynn lakes is clearly not remote in any respect. Anything that is done on or with that property will impact numerous adjacent homes and cabins. While the type of logging operation that is proposed may be appropriate for the more remote, isolated parcels, it is certainly not reasonable in the heart of Willow community on property bordered by homes and cabins.
6. Attached are pictures of the northern 120ac tract and its relationship with the neighboring community. This tract is a combination of wetlands and steep hills. The highest hill dominates the northern part of the parcel and, indeed, is visible for miles around. The top of this broad hill towers 160 feet above adjacent Honeybee Lake. The base of the hill rises abruptly from the

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shoulder of West Abbey Road, thus its local name, Abbey Hill. Abbey Hill is the viewscape for most of the homes and cabins around Lynn and Honeybee Lakes. The map below shows the surrounding properties and some of the homes and cabins. The pictures reinforce that fact that this is not a remote parcel suitable for logging.



Picture 1 - Abbey Hill from Pilot Drive



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Picture 2 - Abbey Hill from Abbey Road



Picture 3 - Abbey Hill from Honeybee Lake



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RS 23-041



Picture 4 - Abbey Hill from Lynn Lake Road



Picture 5 - Abbey Hill from Lynn Lake



7. It needs to be noted and acknowledged that access to the northernmost portion of the 120ac tract, where the highest part of Abbey Hill is located, would be impossible without using West

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Abbey Road. To do otherwise, would require building an access road through the wetlands and/or screening setbacks on the site. The map included with the notice of sale shows this clearly. West Abbey Road is a completely undeveloped dirt trail. It is narrow, muddy, and has very large potholes. It is not maintained. During winter, it becomes a snowmachine trail. Its primary purpose today is twofold. It provides access to all of the properties on the SE shore of Lynn Lake and the SW shore of Honeybee Lake. It is also the primary access route to the public access points to Lynn Lake and Honeybee Lake. Mixing that traffic with logging traffic will be untenable. Major improvements would be required to West Abbey Road. The Borough would have to spend much more than the \$15,000 it hopes to make on timber to improve the road. Conversely, a logger would view the cost of upgrading the road as prohibitive. This dilemma needs to be recognized. It adds to the unreasonableness of this logging proposal.

8. The spreadsheet below lists all the parcels that are immediately adjacent to the northern 120 acres. The first thing to notice about the spreadsheet are the Tax Valuations columns. They show that the great majority (78%) of the surrounding properties are not vacant. They are developed with homes and cabins. Values range from modest to expensive. This is by no means remote property! Almost all of these properties either back up to or look directly at Abbey Hill. They will be impacted by whatever happens to this iconic feature. Several years of logging operations and the following years of vegetative healing would result in lower property values for years.

Next, note the total valuation column. These homes and cabins are valued on the Borough tax roles at almost \$15M! Then there is another \$1M in vacant lots. Not remote at all!

Now look at the Recent New Investment column. New owners are buying here. New homes either are being built or have been recently completed. These folks have invested in this neighborhood because of the qualities of the land, lakes, and community. I suspect that you will learn that the folks who have and are continuing to invest in this community were not expecting a logging operation in their back yard.

Finally look at the last two columns on the left. They depict potential impact on the tax valuations of properties impacted by the logging operations. It is reasonable to assume that a logging operation would affect residential values on nearby land. We all know intuitively that discovering a logging operation either next door or out the front windows would deter buyers, and after logging, the disturbed and/or barren landscape would likely depress adjacent property values for years to come. A motivated seller would have to discount the price of the property to offset that reaction. That's how real estate valuation works. The spreadsheet offers a range of scenarios depicting what could happen to values if Abbey Hill were logged.

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RS 23-041

Emmerson Krueger  
Long Lake Timber Sale  
March 15, 2023  
Page 7

Homes & Cabins Adjacent Owner	Parcel ID	Tax Valuations			Recent New Investment*	Potential Impacts	
		Vacant Land	Land & Building	Total Values		10%	20%
Plaskowski	5008003		\$ 216,300.00	\$ 216,300.00		\$ 21,630.00	\$ 43,260.00
Hancock/Laudius	508002		\$ 100,600.00	\$ 100,600.00		\$ 10,060.00	\$ 20,120.00
Hancock/Laudius	75602	\$ 65,200.00		\$ 65,200.00	N/O	\$ 6,520.00	\$ 13,040.00
Carr	42775		\$ 172,200.00	\$ 172,200.00	U/C & N/O	\$ 17,220.00	\$ 34,440.00
Boomershine	45131		\$ 136,000.00	\$ 136,000.00		\$ 13,600.00	\$ 27,200.00
Arteburn	86156		\$ 108,900.00	\$ 108,900.00	N/O	\$ 10,890.00	\$ 21,780.00
Durrant	20843		\$ 145,900.00	\$ 145,900.00	N/O	\$ 14,590.00	\$ 29,180.00
Bowker	10093		\$ 151,900.00	\$ 151,900.00	U/C	\$ 15,190.00	\$ 30,380.00
Holton/Cubbedge	21710		\$ 98,200.00	\$ 98,200.00		\$ 9,820.00	\$ 19,640.00
Allen	88374	\$ 105,000.00		\$ 105,000.00		\$ 10,500.00	\$ 21,000.00
Allen	49740		\$ 113,600.00	\$ 113,600.00		\$ 11,360.00	\$ 22,720.00
Lonn	38969		\$ 124,500.00	\$ 124,500.00		\$ 12,450.00	\$ 24,900.00
Kampen	13684		\$ 120,700.00	\$ 120,700.00		\$ 12,070.00	\$ 24,140.00
Parker	87404		\$ 357,100.00	\$ 357,100.00		\$ 35,710.00	\$ 71,420.00
Griffo	29097	\$ 88,300.00		\$ 88,300.00		\$ 8,830.00	\$ 17,660.00
Baxter	9781	\$ 132,700.00		\$ 132,700.00		\$ 13,270.00	\$ 26,540.00
Baxter	55752		\$ 513,200.00	\$ 513,200.00		\$ 51,320.00	\$ 102,640.00
Benson	5082	\$ 110,000.00		\$ 110,000.00		\$ 11,000.00	\$ 22,000.00
Subtotals		\$ 501,200.00	\$ 2,359,100.00	\$ 2,860,300.00		\$ 286,030.00	\$ 572,060.00
Lake Properties Facing Hill						5%	10%
Brimhall	39466		\$ 801,800.00	\$ 801,800.00		\$ 40,090.00	\$ 80,180.00
Brimhall	88595	\$ 145,000.00		\$ 145,000.00		\$ 7,250.00	\$ 14,500.00
Jones	64398		\$ 257,900.00	\$ 257,900.00	N/C - N/O	\$ 12,895.00	\$ 25,790.00
Jones	79029		\$ 965,100.00	\$ 965,100.00	N/C - N/O	\$ 48,255.00	\$ 96,510.00
Jones	38052	\$ 60,000.00		\$ 60,000.00	N/O	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Bertrand	69444		\$ 371,000.00	\$ 371,000.00		\$ 18,550.00	\$ 37,100.00
Bertrand	20074		\$ 545,400.00	\$ 545,400.00		\$ 27,270.00	\$ 54,540.00
Logan	23167		\$ 599,800.00	\$ 599,800.00		\$ 29,990.00	\$ 59,980.00
Frahm	73886		\$ 546,800.00	\$ 546,800.00		\$ 27,340.00	\$ 54,680.00
Dinger/Henry	45352		\$ 401,800.00	\$ 401,800.00	N/C - N/O	\$ 20,090.00	\$ 40,180.00
Hayes	54903		\$ 649,100.00	\$ 649,100.00	N/O	\$ 32,455.00	\$ 64,910.00
Knickerbocker	32032		\$ 449,300.00	\$ 449,300.00	N/O	\$ 22,465.00	\$ 44,930.00
Nixon	8108		\$ 523,800.00	\$ 523,800.00		\$ 26,190.00	\$ 52,380.00
Kipke	57954		\$ 144,300.00	\$ 144,300.00		\$ 7,215.00	\$ 14,430.00
Knickerbocker	10292		\$ 46,100.00	\$ 46,100.00	N/C - N/O	\$ 2,305.00	\$ 4,610.00
Merrill	60100		\$ 313,300.00	\$ 313,300.00		\$ 15,665.00	\$ 31,330.00
Merrill	18664	\$ 88,700.00		\$ 88,700.00		\$ 4,435.00	\$ 8,870.00
Aftreth	78239		\$ 100,300.00	\$ 100,300.00		\$ 5,015.00	\$ 10,030.00
McKenna	45874		\$ 33,800.00	\$ 33,800.00	N/O	\$ 1,690.00	\$ 3,380.00
Kelly	516084		\$ 449,400.00	\$ 449,400.00	N/C - N/O	\$ 22,470.00	\$ 44,940.00
Kelly	516083		\$ 65,400.00	\$ 65,400.00		\$ 3,270.00	\$ 6,540.00
Evans	516082		\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00		\$ 4,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
Cange	17077		\$ 59,500.00	\$ 59,500.00	N/O	\$ 2,975.00	\$ 5,950.00
Bogdziewics	18736		\$ 369,900.00	\$ 369,900.00		\$ 18,495.00	\$ 36,990.00
van Wallinga	71675		\$ 519,100.00	\$ 519,100.00		\$ 25,955.00	\$ 51,910.00
Cartwright	62957		\$ 187,200.00	\$ 187,200.00		\$ 9,360.00	\$ 18,720.00
Cartwright	19616	\$ 35,000.00		\$ 35,000.00		\$ 1,750.00	\$ 3,500.00
Cartwright	67367		\$ 485,200.00	\$ 485,200.00		\$ 24,260.00	\$ 48,520.00
Grilliot	7348		\$ 683,100.00	\$ 683,100.00		\$ 34,155.00	\$ 68,310.00
Grilliot	1904	\$ 38,300.00		\$ 38,300.00		\$ 1,915.00	\$ 3,830.00
Leeney	25330		\$ 126,400.00	\$ 126,400.00		\$ 6,320.00	\$ 12,640.00
Thompson	46296		\$ 360,100.00	\$ 360,100.00		\$ 18,005.00	\$ 36,010.00
Stoddard	87271		\$ 373,800.00	\$ 373,800.00		\$ 18,690.00	\$ 37,380.00
Brown	87856		\$ 119,100.00	\$ 119,100.00		\$ 5,955.00	\$ 11,910.00
Bowker	57243		\$ 128,000.00	\$ 128,000.00	N/O - U/C	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 12,800.00
Dawson	77243		\$ 662,700.00	\$ 662,700.00		\$ 33,135.00	\$ 66,270.00
Gottstein	79974		\$ 811,700.00	\$ 811,700.00		\$ 40,585.00	\$ 81,170.00
Tracy	74574	\$ 89,300.00		\$ 89,300.00		\$ 4,465.00	\$ 8,930.00
Tracy	16273	\$ 54,400.00		\$ 54,400.00		\$ 2,720.00	\$ 5,440.00
Tracy	51432	\$ 10,800.00		\$ 10,800.00		\$ 540.00	\$ 1,080.00
Lathrop	16800		\$ 78,300.00	\$ 78,300.00		\$ 3,915.00	\$ 7,830.00
Subtotals		\$ 521,500.00	\$ 12,308,500.00	\$ 12,830,000.00	Sub-totals	\$ 641,500.00	\$ 1,283,000.00
TOTAL PROPERTY VALUES						POTENTIAL VALUATION IMPACTS	
		922,700.00	14,667,600.00			927,530.00	1,855,060.00
		Vacant Land	Land & Building			Low Scenario	High Scenario

\* U/C = Under Construction N/O = New Owner (2 YR) N/C New Construction (2YR)

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Clearly, to achieve a degree of accuracy, each property would need to be evaluated separately. The point is this – the Borough staff estimates that the Borough may generate about \$15,000 in revenue through the logging sale. That would be 3000 cords at their going rate of \$5/cord. We can argue whether there actually is that much marketable wood on this property, but not here. Let's assume that the Borough makes its target \$15K. Under the low impact scenario, and assuming that only half the impacted property owners successfully appeal their tax valuation, the tax base of the borough would be reduced by almost \$500,000. The other end of the scale would hit the tax base by almost \$2M. That is an unacceptable risk to incur for the Borough to gain \$15K in timber revenue. These are hypothetical figures, but they are based on reasonable assumptions. The prospect of Borough's loss of tax base AND the loss of value to property owners is not a proposition that passes a reasonableness test under any circumstances.

9. The notice concerning this proposed timber sale mentions that fire danger mitigation is one goal of the sale. The primary method of mitigation appears to be removal of standing dead black spruce. While this a laudable goal, anyone familiar with the property will attest that there is a small percentage of black spruce in this forest. The wintertime aerial photo below clearly shows that the only black spruce north of Long Lake Road is a small concentration on north side of the road on one of the 40ac parcels. There are virtually none on the 120ac parcel that includes Abbey Hill. Further to the south, along the wetlands to the east of the 40ac parcels, there are scattered concentrations of black spruce, but they disappear as soon as the property gains elevation. From this information, it becomes even more clear that the northern 120 acres is not a candidate for clearing to prevent fires. If some clearing is deemed appropriate on the southern parcels, it could easily be carried out without logging the rest of the property.



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I do not expect the Borough to simply sit on this property for the benefit of the neighborhood. What I do expect is for the Borough to recognize the nature and character of the property and understand its relationship with the community. It is important to recognize that a large component of the value of any real estate is established by its relationship with the community and surrounding properties. In other, more commonly used words, it's location (X 3). Extracting that value involves capitalizing on those locational characteristics. The Borough then needs to apply its mission to the equation and determine how the real estate value is best applied to that mission. In the Borough's case, the mission could be simply raising money, or it could be economic development. It might also include fostering the growth of high quality, affordable and livable communities. Or perhaps it is a balancing act that includes all of the above. In that case, a measure of planning may be required.

I respectfully request that the Borough withdraw its plans to sell timber from the subject property. It should then engage in a dialogue with the adjacent property owners and the Willow community to see how the value from this and any other Borough lands in the area could be harvested and/or invested in the growth and improvement of the community. Perhaps this is the appropriate catalyst to begin an update to the Willow Comprehensive Plan. That would be a reasonable approach.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gregory L. Jones

Copies to:     Edna DeVries, Mayor  
                  Mike Brown, Borough Manager  
                  All Members of the Borough Assembly  
                  Trygve Erickson, Chairman WACO  
                  Poppert Milling  
                  All property owners listed on page 7 of this letter.  
                  The Frontiersman

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RS 23-041

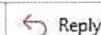
## RE: MSB007991 Long Lake Rd Timber Harvest



Christian Munar

To: Jill &amp; Georgia

Cc: Emerson Krueger, Eric Phillips



Reply



Reply All



Forward



Thu 3/16/2023 10:36 AM

From: Jill & Georgia <[cubbiehole@gci.net](mailto:cubbiehole@gci.net)>

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 10:29 AM

To: Emerson Krueger <[Emerson.Krueger@matsugov.us](mailto:Emerson.Krueger@matsugov.us)>; Christian Munar <[Christian.Munar@matsugov.us](mailto:Christian.Munar@matsugov.us)>Cc: Eric Phillips <[Eric.Phillips@matsugov.us](mailto:Eric.Phillips@matsugov.us)>

Subject: Fwd: MSB007991 Long Lake Rd Timber Harvest

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]**

Neighbors gave me your email addresses, so thought we'd forward what we sent to the "LMB" mailbox yesterday.

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: MSB007991 Long Lake Rd Timber Harvest

Date: Tue, 14 Mar 2023 09:54:10 -0800

From: Jill & Georgia <[cubbiehole@gci.net](mailto:cubbiehole@gci.net)>To: [LMB@matsugov.us](mailto:LMB@matsugov.us)

Good morning.

We have many questions and concerns regarding the Public Notice of Timber Harvest (MSB007991).

Our lot (19N04W29B006) is one of the smallest in the area where the proposed timber harvest will take place. Our property has had issues in the past with break-ins and thefts. We are concerned this timber harvest will enable easier access to our property by ATVs and snowmachines, putting us at an increased risk of reoccurrence. The Public Notice states a "Certain number of trees per acre will be retained to enhance the aesthetic quality of the area ..." What is that certain number? Who decides which trees are considered aesthetic?

By the statement in the Public Notice for "... the reduction of birch stocking, as well as the removal of beetle-killed spruce trees," exactly how much of the birch will be reduced? There are little-to-few beetle-killed spruce in this area, so the forest management proposal for this area is questionable. Why not clear the underlying brush and leave most of the birch for reducing the threat of wildfire, as was done within the last several years on West Long Lake Road?

When will this timber harvest take place? How long will the harvest take to complete? Has someone already been awarded a contract to harvest the timber? Who will oversee the work being done to ensure its integrity in meeting prompt reforestation?

Our driveway crosses Borough land. Will we be cut off or restricted access to our property at any time during the proposed harvest? Also, the road that provides access to all private properties in this area is known as Honey Lynne Road (see <https://www.google.com/maps>). The map in the Public Notice shows it as West Abbey Road. Your map assumes that West Abbey Road, from the Parks Highway, continues to and beyond the public landing at Lynne and Honeybee Lakes, which it currently does not, due to private owners blocking access by the public. In any case, the road on your map shown as West Abbey Road crosses private, borough, and unknown land ownership. Will people be cut off or restricted access to their properties or the public landing between Lynne and Honeybee Lakes at any time during the proposed harvest? This road is fragile at best. How will potential damage by logging trucks be addressed or mitigated? Or will that road be bypassed altogether?

Last, but not least, by the statement to "... improve potential access for future Borough land sales," is there a planned land sale opportunity for this area at any time in the future?

Respectfully,  
Georgia Holton and Jill Cubbedge

IM 23-079  
RS 23-041



## RE: MSB007991 Long Lake Rd Timber Harvest



Christian Munar

To: Jill &amp; Georgia

Cc: Emerson Krueger; Eric Phillips

Reply Reply All Forward

Thu 3/16/2023 10:36 AM

Hi Georgia and Jill,

Thank you for taking the time to express your concerns and submitting your questions regarding the potential timber harvest along Long Lake Road. We are also sorry to hear of the break-ins and theft that has occurred in your property.

As for the birch stocking, the Borough will determine the number of trees per acre once we have gathered enough data by conducting a forest inventory and analysis, and site evaluations. The proposed timber harvest will retain all live spruce within the proposed harvest boundary.

The type of harvest/forest management activities vary by tree species. Ideally for white birch, natural regeneration is best promoted by opening the forest canopy. Additionally, reducing the stocking could also minimize tree competition, which will enhance the growing conditions for the residual trees. However, we do not recommend implementing a plan to clear the area of trees but rather lean towards a silviculture treatment called a shelterwood harvest. The shelterwood method creates an environment that supports the growth of new cohort of trees, while also preserving the aesthetic value of the forest by leaving behind some of the original trees. The residual trees will vary in size class. Preferably, you want to retain trees with good vigor and with little to no defects to populate the stand. It's also important to note that while it's good to leave behind the "best" trees, the timber harvest will also retain one to two cavity trees/snags per acre as habitat for birds, insects, and other wildlife.

Though the area may not harbor enough beetle-killed spruce, the thin, paper-like bark of birch trees is very flammable and could act as a ladder for the fire to reach the forest canopy. We believe that by reducing the birch stocking, we could create a fuel break and widen the escape route through the 60' Public Use Easement if a wildfire were to occur.

David Poppert from Poppert Milling has expressed an interest in harvesting the timber in the area, and the Borough is willing to accommodate Poppert Milling if they agree to the borough's management plan. A date for approval will be determined once we have gathered all the data we need to move forward. If approved, forest operations will take place in the fall or next winter.

The borough's Natural Resource Manager, Emerson Krueger, and the Land Management Specialist, Christian Munar, will be overseeing the timber sale contract on behalf of the borough. The performance bond and reforestation bond are intended to be held as financial incentives for the loggers to comply with the contract and state regulation requirements.

State Forestry will be overseeing the timber harvest for compliance with the Alaska State <https://forestry.alaska.gov/forestpractices> : <https://forestry.alaska.gov/forestpractices>.

There are operational impact restrictions both in state and local code requirements. Borough code places limitations on the off-site impacts from timber harvest in MSB 28.60: [Chapter 28.60 TIMBER HARVEST \(codepublishing.com\)](#). The code restrictions include regulatory limits on noise, artificial lighting, buggers and general public safety.

Access to your property will not be restricted at any time during the proposed harvest. The borough will do its best to include and emphasize this in the timber sale contract. No logging trucks will go through W Abbey Rd north of the Borough parcel. Due to the low value of timber in the area, using W Abbey Rd. may not be feasible as it would be costly for the borough and the contractor to maintain or improve. Therefore, most of the traffic from this proposed timber harvest will occur on Long Lake Rd. A 100 ft. buffer will be established to protect property lines and minimize any impacts this proposed harvest may have on wetlands and the neighbors bordering borough land.

Four out of the five parcels are destined for land sale (19N04W29C005, 19N04W29C006, 19N04W32B001, 19N04W32B002).

I hope this information has been helpful. Please let us know if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
**Christian Munar**  
Land Management Specialist  
Mat-Su Borough  
(907) 861-7863

IM 23-079  
RS 23-041



Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
Community Development  
Land Management Division  
350 East Dahlia Avenue  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Re: Public Notice for Timber Harvest (MSB007991)

March 22, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to oppose the timber harvest as described in the MSB007991 Public Notice.

As property owners directly to the north of Tax ID 19N04W29C007, we feel the announcement for this timber harvest has been vague at best. Neighbors have received conflicting answers via emails and calls to the Borough about the specifics of this plan. An email response we received did not leave us confident there is a well thought out plan in place for how or when this project will proceed, or how it will be overseen to ensure project integrity with no clear cutting. There is timber harvesting, and there is fuel reduction, and we believe the Borough's intent is timber harvesting by a private company for monetary gain, rather than fuel reduction to reduce the risk of wildfire to the community, and we are not in favor of that.

Mr. Gregory Jones, another property owner in the area, submitted comments to the Borough dated March 15, 2023, regarding his "Objection to Long Lake Timber Sale." His points are valid: very few details on short notice; this area is by no means remote; no flow of information between the Borough and the public; that the land has been for sale for several years, yet no neighbors have been aware of this; the fundamental difference in lots proposed for logging; the downside of logging a popular hill in the midst of home and cabin owners; and fire danger mitigation in an area that has very few spruce trees and instead is comprised of mostly birch.

We agree that widespread logging in this area will cause more harm than good, and it is our hope that the Borough decides instead to "... engage in dialogue with the adjacent property owners and the Willow community ..." before taking any action.

Respectfully,  
Georgia Holton & Jill Cubbedge

PO Box 671772  
Chugiak, Alaska 99567  
(907) 688-4231  
cubbiehole@gci.net

1M 23-079  
RS 23-041

17 March 2023

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
Community Development  
Land Management Division  
350 East Dahlia Avenue  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Ref: MSB 007991 Long Lake Rd Timber Harvest

I agree with the removal of beetle-killed spruce trees but would not like the removal of old growth spruce and birch trees. I question what control the borough will exercise over the contractor in the selection of trees to be retained. I would like the following issues to be addressed before a contract is issued:

1. Damage caused to existing access roads by the contractor to include not only W Abbey Rd (also known as Tourre Rd) and the roads leading to properties on Lynne Lake identified as B7, B8, B10, A8, A9, and A10. As far as I know these are not borough maintained and contractor should be required to repair any damage caused by harvest activities.
2. The map provided indicated harvest activities encompassing two areas of the roads leading to Lynne Lake properties identified in number 1 above. The buffer zone should apply to these existing access roads.
3. A buffer of 100 feet is not sufficient. The buffer zone should be increased to 100 yards.
4. The area directly west of properties identified as B7 and B8 is marsh land and should be identified as such.
5. Contractor should be required to remove all slash/dead spruce for off site disposal.

Thank-you for considering my comments.



Richard D. Allen  
P.O. Box 111842  
Anchorage, AK 99511-1842  
19N04W29B007 & 008

IM 23-079  
RS 23-041

Barbara Laucius & Robert Hancock  
28458 W Long Lake Rd  
P.O.Box 527, Willow Ak 99688  
907-965-4545  
907-965-4038  
[pelagix@yahoo.com](mailto:pelagix@yahoo.com)  
[hancock@boateam.com](mailto:hancock@boateam.com)

To:

Edna DeVries, Mayor, Matsu Borough

[Edna.DeVries@matsugov.us](mailto:Edna.DeVries@matsugov.us)

Emerson Kreuger, Community Development, Land Management Division, Matsu Borough

[Emerson.Kreuger@matsugov.us](mailto:Emerson.Kreuger@matsugov.us)

Stuart Leidner, Superintendent, Alaska State Parks, Finger Lakes/Copper Basin

[stuart.leidner@alaska.gov](mailto:stuart.leidner@alaska.gov)

Tracy Smith, Alaska Department Fish and Game

[tracy.smith@alaska.gov](mailto:tracy.smith@alaska.gov)

Dear Sirs and Madams,

RE: Objection to Timber Harvest MSB 007991 Proposal

We are voicing the following concerns regarding this proposal:

- Lack of communication to persons directly impacted by this timber sale
- Lack of detail regarding this timber sale
- Vague, illogical reasoning regarding the purpose for this timber sale
- Disruption of stable rural neighborhood, recreational, and State Park lands
- Disruption of harmonious eco system of flora, fauna
- Contributing to increased fire hazard – see attached document
- Making deals with a commercial sawmill without due process of open bidding
- Indicating there is a thru road to the Parks highway when there is no road , only a primitive “road” and dead ends mid way at private property and the ADFG stocked lakes
- Incorrectly stating the proposed timber sale land has been RECENTLY listed for sale
- Not including this timber sale on your current timber sale 2021-2025 list

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West Abbey Rd or Honey Lynne Rd (depending on the document viewed) is not a thru-road from the Parks Highway to W Long Lake Rd. It has two different characteristics. From W Long Lake Rd to the Honeybee/Lynne Lake access, it is an "easement", at best a primitive "road" that is currently NOT maintained. There is no gravel base. It has characteristics of a 4-wheeler trail. From the Parks Hwy to the private property near the two lakes - this road is Abbey Rd, not West Abby Rd. This road has a 3" gravel base similar to other borough maintained roads and is borough maintained. It starts at the Parks Hwy and ends near the lakes. This is for clarification. Mr Munar referred to W Abbey Rd and the north end of W Abbey Rd, which is incorrect.

West Abbey Rd EASEMENT from W Long Lake Rd to the ADFG signs at the Lynne Lake/Honeybee Lake access, cuts through my property – adjoining lots #D16 and #D15 (19N04W30D015, 19N04W30D016). The easement going through my property is approximately 1375'. We also have a common border with the proposed timber sale lot that is 1321.49'.

The West Abby Easement is very soft in spring and would be destroyed by any heavy equipemnt or logging vehicles

In winter, the easement is used for snow machines, nordic skiing, and snowshoeing

Improving the easement in summer or plowing the easement in winter would potentially increase traffic and subject dwellings to increased easy access for crime which has been a real problem for recreational cabin owners as well as full time residents.

The area is a great habitat for animals and birds alike. Road noise and heavy equipment will have a direct impact on this natural balance.

It is my understanding that the spirit of this easement was to provide ADF&G access to stock Honeybee and Lynne Lakes and provide sportsmen access to these same lakes.

Who will be responsible to monitor that no muddy water runoff enters the private lands, lakes, and wetlands?

Who is responsible to monitor for potential petroleum product spills from logging equipment on private lands, lakes and wetlands?

We never received public notice for this timber sale – either by email or USPS mail; neither did my closest affected neighbors, the Piaskowskis.

I have tried to contact Emerson Krueger 907-861-7867 and to date, have not received a reply. I have even gone to the extent of having a yellow postit placed on his desk that he did not respond to.

Based on several phone conversations with Christian Munar 907-861-7863, I understand this timber sale is for 137 acres with expected potential borough earnings of \$5/cord on an estimated 1000 – 1500 cords, or \$5K – \$7K!

The borough goal to reduce fire hazard by the removal of Beetle Kill spruce trees - this is not an accurate assessment of this property. It is my estimate that less than 1% of trees on this lot are spruce and there is little or no evidence of beetle kill.

I was told by Mr Munar that the timber harvester is required to leave a 100' border of trees on borders of private property. My property is directly impacted by your plan. I understand a timber

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harvester is required to leave 15 trees/acre for birds to seek refuge – that my friends is not Birch Stocking.

Why wasn't this lot included in the proposed five-year timber harvest schedule 2021-2025?

I was told by Mr Munar the borough was approached by the owners of Poppert Mill.

If this isn't the case, where are the other bidders. This smells like a back door – good old boys arrangement between the borough and Poppert Mill.

What are the time limits of this project? Is it open ended?

My experience as a land owner in SE Alaska in the Tongass National Forest is that there are contract periods in place as well as clean-up requirements.

I was told by Mr Munar that this timber sale property had *recently* been for sale with NO BIDDERS. There are no records of this land being listed recently. In fact, there is no evidence of this land being listed for sale by the borough at any date.

If the borough Silviculture treatment "stocking" is similar to the devastation on the Yoder Rd Timber Sale, Talkeetna, this is not an example of Birch Stocking. This is as close as you can get to *clear cut*.

In response to comments by Mr Munar to Jill and Georgia regarding the high flammability of birch trees, see the attached document that debunks his response.

The borough is asking for the community's graces for this harvest without providing consistent , credible details of what this project entails.

Based on the information provided, we find this timber sale to be a misguided venture offering little benefit to the borough and long term financial and quality of life damage to the local community.

Sincerely,

Barbara J Laucius

Robert Hancock

**NOTE: The borough indicates comments regarding this timber sale proposal need to be submitted to the borough by MARCH 24, 2023**

LINK TO THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT PDF

[https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/formain15744/\\$FILE/tree-species-impact-wildfire-aug03-2012.pdf](https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/formain15744/$FILE/tree-species-impact-wildfire-aug03-2012.pdf)

IM 23-079  
RS 23-041



# How different tree species impact the spread of wildfire

## Needles or leaves?

It is easy to see that different types of trees look different from one another and require different conditions for growing. Did you know they are also unique in their response to wildfire? As a general rule, trees with leaves (deciduous) don't burn nearly as fast or as intense as trees with needles (coniferous).

However, there is one small exception to this rule. Deciduous trees can be extremely flammable in the early spring just before their new leaves emerge. During this period of time the moisture levels in the trees are low, increasing their flammability until their leaves emerge.

## Why do trees with needles burn so fast?

Coniferous trees have a large amount of sap in their branches. This sap burns very quickly, and supports fast-moving wildfires. These types of trees also tend to grow much closer together than deciduous trees. Being more tightly packed makes it easier for fire to burn effortlessly through an area of coniferous forest by simply moving from tree top to tree top.

Over time, dead branches and needles accumulate on the forest floor. This debris can provide fuel for wildfires. Since many coniferous trees have low-lying branches, wildfires can easily move from the forest floor to the forest canopy.

Lodgepole pine, black spruce, white spruce and balsam fir are all prominent coniferous species in Alberta. These evergreen trees burn anywhere from five to 10 times faster than other species of leafy trees.

## Why do leafy trees burn slower?

Fire behaves differently in different forest cover types. Deciduous stands often act as natural fuel breaks. In the boreal forest, crown fires typically drop to the ground when they enter an aspen stand. Fire spread is dependent on the amount and type of understory plants and shrubs. Because of the usual absence of ladder fuels in deciduous stands, fire does not get carried to the high crowns of these trees. The physical properties of aspen also resist intense fire behaviour; high crown base height, higher moisture content of the leaves and stems, and tight, smooth bark. In coniferous stands, the rough, loose bark can act as a ladder allowing fire to climb into the canopy. It can also produce embers that are carried ahead of the fire front.

Trembling aspen, balsam poplar and white birch are commonly found throughout Alberta. Since the characteristics of these trees do not readily support fast-moving wildfires, they make ideal species to plant in and around FireSmart communities.



August 3 2012

Alberta Government

IM 23-079  
RS 23-041



# Harvesting and wildfire

## A forest as fuel

Forest fuels are classified into four categories:

- ☞ Ground fuels (includes fine fuels referred to as the litter layer, fine fuels starting to break down referred to as the fermentation layer, and undistinguished organic material referred to as the humus layer).
- ☞ Surface fuels (coarse woody debris, and ground-level plant biomass).
- ☞ Understory fuels (live and dead shrub and sapling biomass).
- ☞ Overstory fuels (live and dead standing trees).

## How does harvesting impact the spread of wildfire?

Cut blocks provide a break in what would otherwise be a contiguous expanse of forest, and the openings harvesting creates in the canopy limit the potential for crown fire spread. These factors can help to slow the advance of a wildfire.

However, if the cut block is in an early succession stage, the open areas will be dominated by grasses and seedlings. Woody debris will also be present. Exposed surface fuels can dry more quickly than vegetation in dense stands. When surface fuels are dry, sparks will ignite more easily and wind can push flames quickly through the open area.

Fire behaviour potential can be managed to a large extent by changing the fire environment.

## How are harvested sites being managed to reduce the risk?

- ☞ One way to change the overall fire environment is through harvest sequencing. For example, harvesting insect-killed trees will reduce the potential intensity of a wildfire.
- ☞ At the site level, varying the size and layout of the cut block can also impact the fire environment. Post-harvesting site preparation and slash management are important considerations, reducing the volume of woody debris and available fuel.
- ☞ Road access planning and construction can provide important access for a fire-fighting crew, which enhances on-the-ground suppression capability.

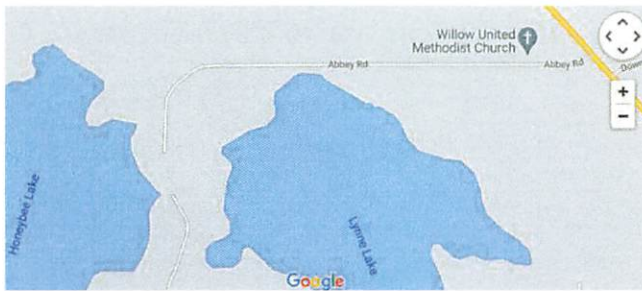
The more that is learned about fire behaviour, the more preventive practices can be adopted for all forest management activities.



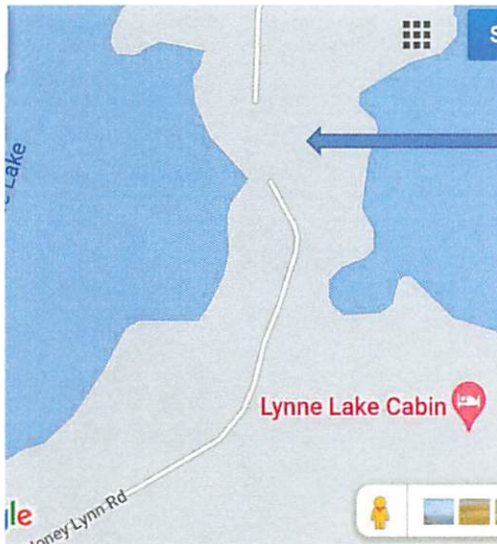
August 3 2012

Alberta Government

IM 23-079  
RS 23-048



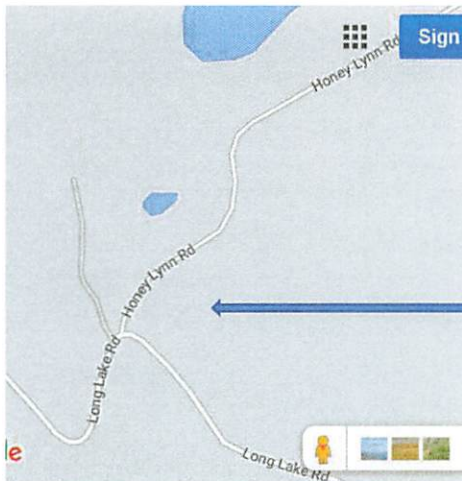
Abbey Rd is a maintained Borough Rd that starts at the Parks Hwy and deadends at private property near Honeybee and Lynne Lakes



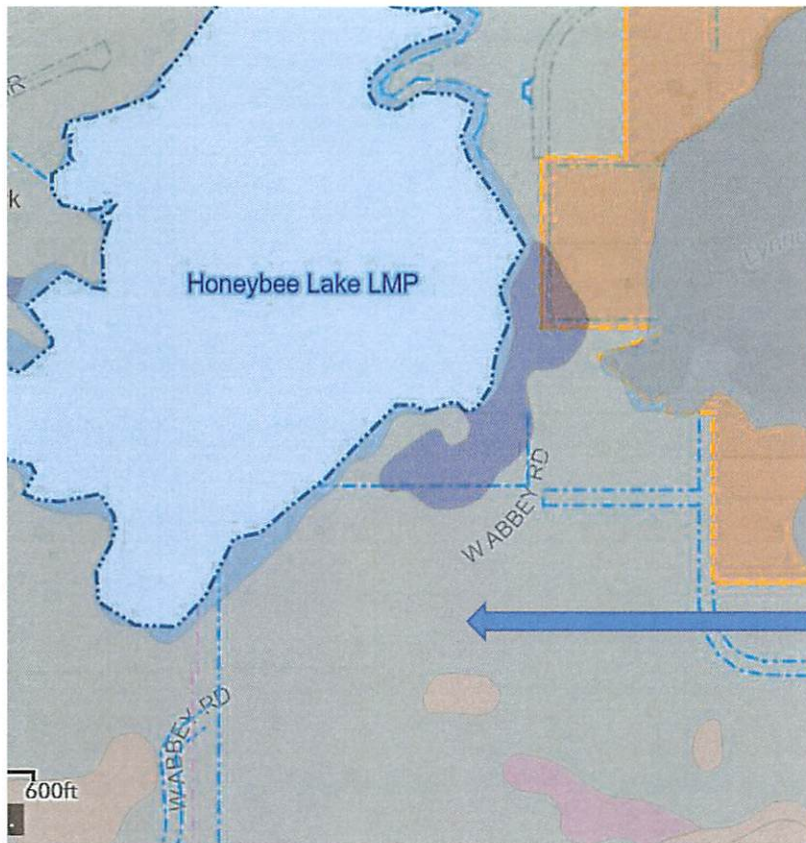
Abbey Rd deadends at private property near the two lakes.

Honey Lynne Rd also called West Abbey Rd ( easement ) deadends at the ADFG signs at the two lakes.

The strip of land between the two lakes is narrow, low, and often wet.



Honey Lynne Rd (W Abbey Rd) (easement) starts at W Long Lake Rd and deadends at the ADFG signs at the two lakes access.



Note – On borough maps,  
Honey Lynne Rd (W Abbey Rd)  
(Easement) appears as a dashed  
line or primitive rd

IM 23-079  
RS 23-04



Emerson Krueger or Christian Munar  
Land Management Division  
Mat-Su Borough, Ak

18 March 23

RE: MSB007991 Long Lake Rd Timber Harvest

Emerson Krueger or Christian Munar, we would like to file an objection to the over-the-counter timber harvest MSB007991 Long Lake Rd. We would ask you to consider the following:

The Public Notice is very vague and we were not able to find details confirming where access would be granted to the five parcels nor the number of trees per acre that would be retained. We think it is misleading to include a key goal of removing beetle killed trees on these parcels. We observed the State Division of Forestry conduct spruce tree clearing along Long Lake Road and Nancy Lake Road in the last four years to help create a firebreak, but such trees do not make up the majority of the trees on these parcels. We have recreated over four of these parcels since 2003, when we first bought property on the SE Shore of Honeybee Lake and then a parcel on Lynne Lake. I do not know if anyone from the MSB has walked these parcels, but some are very steep and include a hill that is visible by many of the houses and recreation properties in the area. Additionally, they contain some wetlands that it appears the Harvest Area figure attempts to designate, but I suspect have not been delineated by someone on the ground. That should cause all of us concern as once the wetlands are damaged, the typical result is a small fine, but never full restoration.

I, Randy, first recreated off Zero Lake Road in 1982 and have seen timber harvest in this area. I have also seen the more recent attempts in more populated areas such as on Church Road. My experience is that you can certainly reduce fire danger by removing trees and you might even get some small value from birch, but you will also get second hand effects of reduced small game and will never see reforestation in any of our lifetimes in this Zone. Note I am very aware of reducing old growth to enhance moose browse, but I do not expect this could be the intent since this populated area is not a moose hunting area.

I have not done enough research to see what value the MSB is anticipating from the Timber Harvest Sale, but I am certain it is much less than the unavoidable property tax loss. Specifically, I expect all current assessed values in the surrounding area to reduce as the aesthetics of the area are degraded. I know this sale will cause me and likely others to reconsider building projects that would have increased assessed values. I'm not an economist, nor tax assessor, but I am a registered professional engineer with knowledge of land development and have much experience in the area.

So, likely wetlands damage, minimal fire hazard reduction, minimal birch value, reduced small game, not a moose browse project, MSB property tax loss; what is happening behind closed doors to push such an action? This Timber Harvest Sale should absolutely be reconsidered.

Thank you,  
Randy and Meghan Bowker  
23128 Lynne Lake Road  
Willow, Ak  
(907)382-2597  
4bowkers@mtaonline.net

IM 23-079  
RS 23-041

**From:** Josh Lonn <[josh.lonn@gmail.com](mailto:josh.lonn@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 10:58 AM  
**To:** Land Management <[Land.Management@matsugov.us](mailto:Land.Management@matsugov.us)>  
**Cc:** Katelyn Lonn <[katelyn.lonn@gmail.com](mailto:katelyn.lonn@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** MSB 007991 Long Lake Rd Timber Harvest

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Mr. Krueger and Mr. Munar:

As owners of B010/Government Lot 32, we concur with and support the removal of beetle-killed spruce trees in the area. However, we do not support the removal of old growth spruce and birch trees and are concerned about the discretion the borough and its contractor will use in the selection of trees to be retained. We would like the following to be addressed before work commences:

1. We would like the borough and its contractor to commit to repairing any damage to existing access roads, including W. Abbey Road/Honey Lynn Road, and the roads leading to properties along Lynne Lake identified as B7, B8, B10, A8, A9 and A10. The roads leading to these properties are not borough-maintained. We would also like the borough and its contractor to repair any damage caused by harvest activities.
2. The map provided indicates harvest activities encompassing two areas of the roads leading to the Lynne Lake properties identified in the preceding item. The buffer zone should apply to these \_\_\_\_\_ existing access roads.
3. A buffer zone of 100 feet to protect property boundaries and rights of way is not sufficient. The buffer zone should be increased to at least 100 yards.
4. The area directly west of the properties identified as B7 and B8 is marsh land and should be identified as such.
5. We would like the borough and its contractor to remove all slash/dead spruce for off-site disposal.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Josh & Katelyn Lonn  
907-764-5674  
19N04W29B010

IM 23-079  
RS 23-041

PO Box 975 Willow AK  
12879 N. Hillier Way  
Willow AK 99577

Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
Land and Resource Management Div  
350 E. Dahlia Ave.  
Palmer, AK 99645

RE: MSB 007991

Please send me a map so I can figure out where this proposed salvage timber harvest may be.

I live near Long Lake Road. I am also concerned about the impact on the Sunshine Community Health Center, 24091 Long Lake Rd, Willow, AK 99688.

Question: If this project happens, what is planned to be done with all the debris (branches, limbs, trunks, stumps)?

Sincerely,

*Melitta White*

Melitta White

IM 23-079  
RS 23-041





## **MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**

### **Community Development Department**

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-7869 • Fax (907) 861-8635

E-mail: [lmb@matsugov.us](mailto:lmb@matsugov.us)

[www.matsugov.us](http://www.matsugov.us)

March 21, 2023

Mrs. Melitta White  
PO Box 975  
Willow, AK 99677

Dear Mrs. White,

Thank you for reaching out to us with your concerns and questions regarding the proposed timber harvest on Long Lake Road. Please find the attached public notice for MSB007991 which highlights the harvest boundary, location, and acreage of the proposed timber harvest on Borough parcels 19N04W32B001, 19N04W32B002, 19N04W29C005, 19N04W29C006, and 19N04W29C007.

Based on the address you have provided in your letter, the Land and Resource Management Division has determined that your property is approximately three miles north of the proposed timber harvest area and Sunshine Community Health Center is about four miles away.

Regarding concerns about the debris during the forest management activities, please be assured that the Land and Resource Management Division will oversee operations before, during, and after the timber harvest. Tree stumps, tops, and branches will be cut as low to the ground as possible, while merchantable tree trunks and limbs will be utilized by the contractor for personal and commercial purposes. These details will be outlined in the timber sale contract and will be discussed with the contractor upon approval.

Thank you again for expressing your concerns and questions about the proposed timber harvest. We hope that we have satisfactorily addressed your concerns and questions on this matter. Please feel free to reach out if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Christian Munar

Land Management Specialist  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
(907) 861-7863

*Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community.*

IM 23-079  
RS 23-041

**From:** [Land Management](#)  
**To:** [Emerson Krueger](#); [Christian Munar](#)  
**Subject:** FW: MSB007991 Long Lake Rd Timber Harvest - Questions and Objection  
**Date:** Friday, March 24, 2023 8:39:54 AM

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**From:** inletlights@gmail.com <inletlights@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 23, 2023 12:25 PM  
**To:** Land Management <Land.Management@matsugov.us>; Edna DeVries <Edna.DeVries@matsugov.us>; Emerson Krueger <Emerson.Krueger@matsugov.us>; stuart.leidner@alaska.gov <stuart.leidner@alaska.gov>; tracy.smith@alaska.gov <tracy.smith@alaska.gov>; Christian Munar <Christian.Munar@matsugov.us>  
**Subject:** MSB007991 Long Lake Rd Timber Harvest - Questions and Objection

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

To whom it may concern,

I own two parcels on West Long Lake Road and have questions concerning, and am opposed to, the proposed MSB007991 timber harvest.

First, no notice was sent to me, or to my knowledge, many of my West Long Lake neighbors, hence the late response in this opposition email. Why the lack of transparency?

Next, the public notice states "These include the reduction of birch stocking, as well as the removal of beetle-killed spruce trees. Certain number of trees per acre will be retained to enhance the aesthetic quality of the area and improve potential access for future Borough land sales while reducing the overall threat of wildfire."

How much birch will be removed? What is the criteria and how many trees exactly will be left? How is the aesthetic quality determined - by the timber company or the surrounding land owners? I can only imagine our views will be vastly different.

There is very little spruce on these properties, much less beetle-killed spruce. Therefore, how can this be a criteria for this timber sale?

Why is there need to improve future access to this area? Theft and vandalism has inly increased in the last few years. I personally have had theft on my property and I know other neighbors have as well. Increasing access can only increase crime in this area.

In addition, the Matsu borough Five-Year timber harvest schedule MSB 007621 does not include any of the properties mentioned. Why is West Long Lake even considered when it was not included in any public documents?

My properties were purchased because of their location to these densely forested birch properties and for their proximity to Nancy Lake State Park. I have been told by many individuals that these

IM 23-079  
RS 23-041

birch forests are some of the most beautiful in the state. Nancy Lake State park is highly regulated (snow machines, ATV's etc...) in order to protect the habitat and wildlife. How does deforesting this area protect the beautiful forests and the wildlife? Have any studies been conducted on the effect this proposal will have?

In addition, deforesting the area between Nancy Lake Parkway and our properties can only decrease the value of the existing landowners property. The value of these properties is partly based on the beautifully forested birch groves. If the intent of the borough is to ultimately sell these lots, removing the trees is shortsighted as the land value will decrease if this proposal goes to fruition.

I have many other questions about the logistics if this proposal is accepted, but I am hopefully there is no need to ask them at this point.

I am adamantly opposed to the proposed Long Lake Road timber sales.

Respectfully,  
Debora Summers  
27977 and 27831 West Long Lake Road  
Willow, AK

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

IM 23-079  
RS 23-041



## Emerson Krueger

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**From:** Land Management  
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2023 8:42 AM  
**To:** Emerson Krueger; Christian Munar  
**Subject:** FW: Reference MSB007991 LONG LAKE RD TIMBER HARVEST

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**From:** David Kelly <dgkelly@att.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2023 12:03 PM  
**To:** Land Management <Land.Management@matsugov.us>  
**Cc:** Cathy Kelly <cathymkelly@att.net>  
**Subject:** Reference MSB007991 LONG LAKE RD TIMBER HARVEST

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

In reference to Long Lake Rd Timber Harvest, I respectfully request that the Borough withdraw its plans to sell timber from the subject property.

Last year my wife and I completed the construction of a new home on Lynn Lake. Our home sits directly across from Abbey Hill on the north shore of Lynn Lake. Our view from our house is Abbey Hill, and any logging in the area would adversely affect the property values of our new home and adjacent properties. not enhancing them. It is apparent, even at first glance, that this makes little sense.

Abbey Hill itself contains a small percentage of black space, so fire danger mitigation shouldn't be a factor. The need to 'manage' the old growth birch forest is questionable at best. Arbitrarily expanding the scope of the logging to include Abbey Hill without allowing time for input from those affected is not reasonable.

Logging, even when done responsibly and in a remote area, can be highly impactful. This area is far from remote, and is a valuable asset in a thriving community. Please help us keep it that way.

Regards,

David and Cathy Kelly  
23278 Abbey Road  
907-748-5271(cell)

## Emerson Krueger

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**From:** Land Management  
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2023 8:41 AM  
**To:** Emerson Krueger; Christian Munar  
**Subject:** FW: Concerns and objection to MSB007991 Long Lake Rd Timber Harvest

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**From:** Leslie Piaskowski <lapiask@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 23, 2023 10:28 AM  
**To:** Land Management <Land.Management@matsugov.us>; Edna DeVries <Edna.DeVries@matsugov.us>; Emerson Krueger <Emerson.Krueger@matsugov.us>; stuart.leidner@alaska.gov; tracy.smith@alaska.gov  
**Cc:** Caleb Piaskowski <calebpiaskowski@gmail.com>; gjones@gci.net; cubbiehole@gci.net; hancock@boeteam.com  
**Subject:** Concerns and objection to MSB007991 Long Lake Rd Timber Harvest

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]**

As residence and adjacent land owners we would like to express our concerns to the motives and process behind the boroughs proposed timber harvest on Long Lake Road.

The following was stated in the boroughs response to Mr. Bowker's objection letter

"Right now, we are targeting areas with dense stands of dead spruce and over-mature birch for harvest as a means to reduce the threat of wildfire. Timber harvest is the most economic means available to remove fuels from the forest. The last two similar timber harvests have occurred in similar areas, one at the intersection of Church and Seldon Road and one off of Yoder Road. Zero complaints were received for those timber harvests. The borough is working with the small local timber operators, who work these smaller harvests at a pace that doesn't not generate much traffic."

Firstly, as full-time residence and owners of two parcels in the area of question, who maintain a local physical address and PO Box, we find it strange that all of our tax assessments and bills seem to make their way to our PO BOX but no notice of this land harvest was ever received. Was this also the case for the land owners in the Yoder Road harvest? Not giving an avenue to complain seems like a good way to not receive any complaints. If the Yoder Road harvest is a great example of the harvest proposed on our back door, we have strong objections to your plan. See attached pictures of the scarred landscapes which show the "completed" results years after completion (listed in the 5 year Timber Harvest Schedule 2013-2017).

As such, our primary concern is the reduction in property values of this beautiful forested area due to the harvest. The borough stated that the harvest was proposed as a means to improve the potential land sale opportunities for the parcels off long lake road. We do not see how clearing the forest will improve the potential for land sale except to reduce its value and thus the price, marketing it to a demographic of people who can only afford to purchase logged, baron lands. All of the land owners, both full time and cabin owners, purchased our large swaths of land bordering a densely forested State Park. The proposed area for harvest borders both these land owners and the state park. Nancy Lake Park is a scenic destination that is highly regulated for 4wheelers and snowmachiners, to protect natural habitat and wildlife. Of the 22,685 acre State Park, the north side, which is the site adjacent to this proposed harvest, is the most highly regulated (non motorized) of the entire park. Members of this community willingly travel an addition 60 miles round trip outside of Wasilla in order to live in this tranquil forest densely populated with birch and wildlife, it is not right for these land owners to be subjected to a stretch of land between them and the park that has been deforested by the borough after the community and borough tax base has voiced its opposition to this plan.

Large numbers of migratory Sandhill Cranes, many of whom are the same mates, return annually to the same nests in the wetlands and swamps all throughout the area designated for proposed timber harvest. This area contains steeply elevated terrain, as

seen in the topography map, logging will cause severe erosion into the surrounding lowlands impacting the wetlands shared with the park and private property owners in this area.

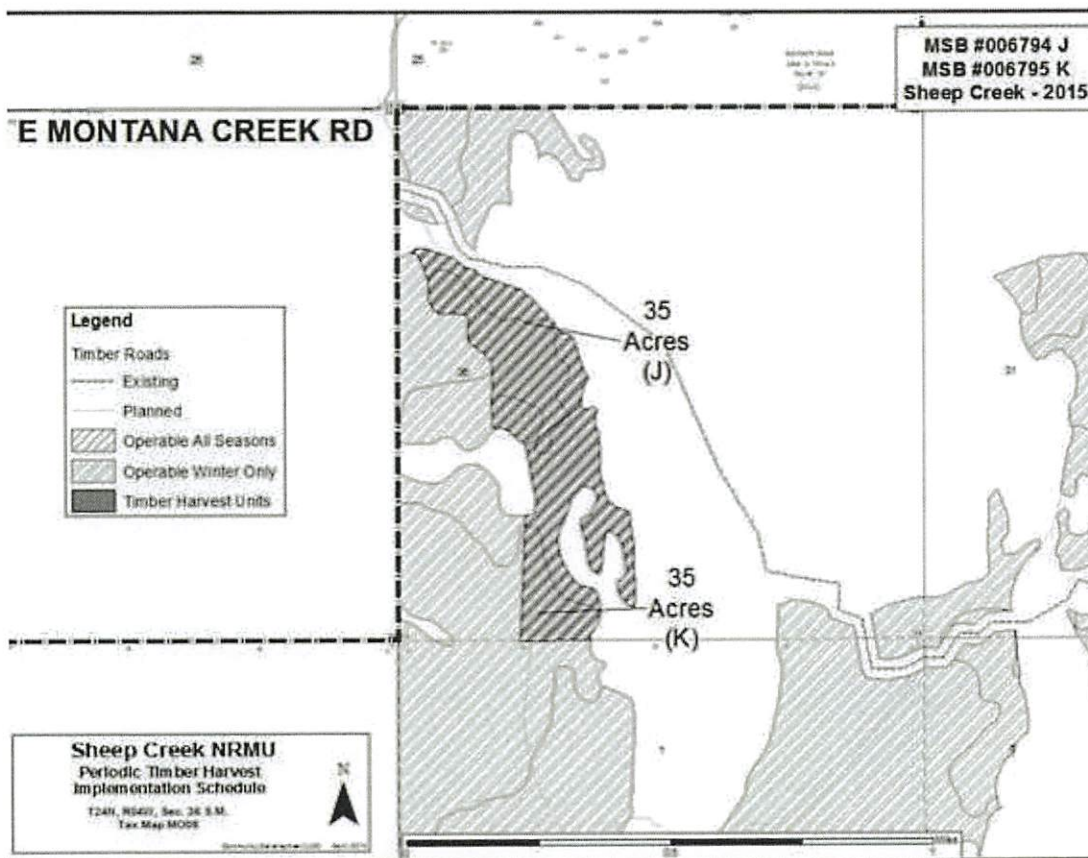
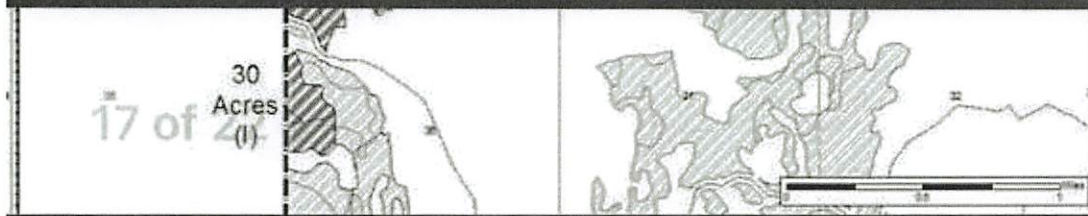
Another concern is the inconstancy and changes in answers we as a community have received from the borough employees. We have observed changes of the access via Abbey Road/West Abbey/trail, these parcels were previously listed for sale, spruce beetle kill, logging terms, reasons for why and how this land was identified to be logged, not identified on any of the predetermined parcels posted for remote harvest. A quote from borough employee showing the low value of the logged timber. "Given the low value of the timber, it is difficult for the borough to dictate operational parameters for the loggers." This brings into question the motive and process by which this land was chosen to begin with. As the community presses on the borough, we are seeing changes and inconsistency in the plan and program, bringing to light that the bgh has no foresight or attention to detail and that the project for the proposed location is not condoned by the community.

Mr. And Mrs. Piaskowski



11:05

LTE



11:55

LTE

I want to...

rd



S24N04W36

S24N04W35

IM 23-079  
RS 23-041



11:56

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I want to...

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IM 23-079  
RS 23-041



11:45

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IM 23-079  
RS 23-041



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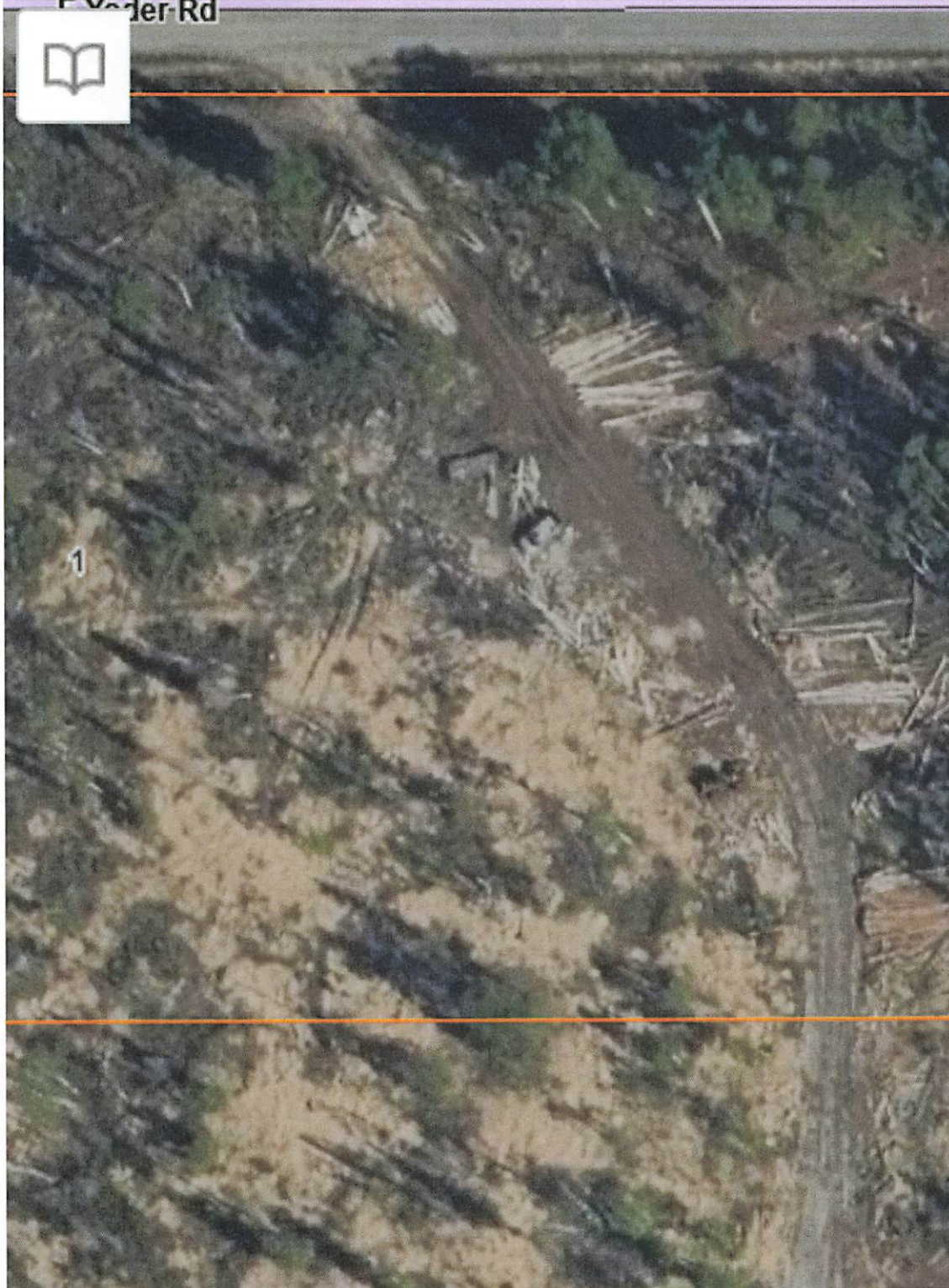
LTE

I want to...

rd



Yoder Rd



IM 23-079  
RS 23-041

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

From: Dean Alvord <deanoalvord@icloud.com>

Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 8:12 PM

To: Land Management <Land.Management@matsugov.us>

Subject: Deforestation of properties along LongLake Rd. MSB007991

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Why do you think that piles of dried branches will be less fire hazard than green live trees? There are minimal spruce beetle kill in the proposed areas.

It is beginning to look like Bourough overreach and an attempt to fill somebody's pockets since there is virtually no resale value for the Birtch that will be destroyed except for firewood. I live here because of the beauty of the living forest around me and the natural plant life ( much of what I harvest for food ) that grows underneath the canopy provided by these trees you plan on destroying. You sneak in without notice and stab us in the back by killing off our natural food source, then you say you are trying to protect us. How ironic, you are the ones we need to be afraid of with your back room deals done in private for somebodies profit. Count me in as one of those apposed to the logging off of what few natural resources the still exist.

Sent from my iPhone



From: [garyc@piercecawright.com](mailto:garyc@piercecawright.com) <[garyc@piercecawright.com](mailto:garyc@piercecawright.com)>

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 3:03 PM

To: Land Management <[Land.Management@matsugov.us](mailto:Land.Management@matsugov.us)>

Subject: MSB007991 Long Lake Rd Timber Harvest

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

3/29/23

To: Emerson Krueger or Christian Munar

I have two lake front properties on Lynne Lake, with homes (Parcels #62957 & 67367) that face directly at Abbey Hill which is on your proposed lumber sale. I very much OPPOSE this project! This would impact our views in a very negative way and impact our property values. This hill and general areas are surrounded by weekend cabins and full-time homes. This is not a remote area that should be logged. We live in the valley in order to have a more rural way of life and being part of the surrounding nature. Looking at a naked logged hill as our main sight line would impact this lifestyle in a very negative way. There must be other areas to log that are not right next to subdivisions and lake cabins. I have missed the deadline for commenting since I did not get a public notice, as my property is not right next door to the project but recently found out about this proposal so wanted to give my input to you. Thanks hopefully for listening.

Sincerely,

Gary Cartwright

Willow resident

*Gary Cartwright*

C: 907-230-2395

IM 23-079  
RS 23-041

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From: McCoy, Shane M CIV USARMY CEPOA (USA) <[Shane.M.Mccoy@usace.army.mil](mailto:Shane.M.Mccoy@usace.army.mil)>  
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 1:18 PM  
To: Land Management <[Land.Management@matsugov.us](mailto:Land.Management@matsugov.us)>  
Cc: Johnson, Shannon L CIV USARMY CEPOA (USA) <[Shannon.L.Johnson@usace.army.mil](mailto:Shannon.L.Johnson@usace.army.mil)>; McCoy, Shane M CIV USARMY CEPOA (USA) <[Shane.M.Mccoy@usace.army.mil](mailto:Shane.M.Mccoy@usace.army.mil)>  
Subject: MSBoo7991 Long Lake Rd Timber Harvest

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Sorry, I see this was expected before March 24, 2023.

Please be advised There may be waters of the US on the parcel and activities that would result in placement of fill into those waters may need authorization from the USACE, Alaska District Regulatory program. Placement of fill includes direct dumping, side casting and mechanized land clearing if material is pushed into or through WOTUS. This is not a jurisdictional determination, just advisory in nature. If you would like more information about the program, please visit our website at: <https://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/>

Respectfully

Shane McCoy  
South Section Chief  
907-753-2715

IM 23-079  
RS 23-041