

Tongass Haa Aaní
litl' Tlagaa Laxyuubm
Working Group Meeting
February 1, 2011
Temple Sukkat Shalom

Co-chairs: Rob Sanderson and Rosita Worl

Working Group Participants: David Beebe, Joe Mehrkens, Norman Arriola, Olivia Sinaiko, Buck Lindekugel, Tricia O'Connor, John Sisk, Brad Fluetsch, Chad VanOrmer, Lindsey Ketchel, Wanda Culp, Jaleen Araujo, Barb Cadiente-Nelson, Jennifer Hanlon, Ryan Olson, Marlene Johnson, Norman Cohen, Carol Anderson, John Sisk, Bill Martin, Todd Antioquia, Rico Worl, Marti Marshall, Laura Baker, John Martin, Ron Wolfe, Clarence Jackson, Fred Bill, Cecelia Tavoliero Craig Fleener

Actions taken:

1. Changed the name of the working group from "Unique Role of Native People in the Tongass" to "Tongass Haa Aaní----- Litl' Tlagáa----- Laxyuubm"
2. Approved a resolution in response to the discussion on suicide prevention

TITLE: Sustaining Native Lives and Communities

WHEREAS, Alaska Natives suffer from a high suicide rate; and

WHEREAS, suicide is caused by multiple of reasons, including a sense of uselessness, hopelessness, and alienation from families, communities, and land; and

WHEREAS the Tongass has contributed to the well-being of Southeast Alaska Natives since time immemorial.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tongass Haa Aaní----- Litl' Tlagáa----- Laxyuubm Working Group recognizes the severity of suicide problem among Alaska Natives and recommends to the Tongass Futures Roundtable that it adopt as a basic tenet that suicide can be alleviated by ensuring that the Tongass continues to sustain Native lives and communities.

Adopted unanimously.

3. In response to the discussion of how land use designation can better facilitate or balance; traditional way of life; economic opportunity; ecology the working group set out the following for further discussion:
 - a. Need to go back to the drawing board on how land use designations are determined;

- b. Need for Native participation in land designation decision-making (e.g., understanding the relationship between fishing regulations and food);
 - c. Need for recognition of traditional use areas and traditional ecological knowledge;
 - d. Need to settle the five landless Native communities aboriginal land claims and the Veterans' land allotments; and
 - e. Need for recognition of the existence of differential perception and treatment of Alaska Natives, and
 - f. Need to review the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and how it may used to address land use designations.
4. In response to the discussion of estuaries, the Working Group recommends:
- a. That the Tongass Futures Roundtable take action to support the reauthorization of the Alaska Coastal Management Program, and restore local coastal district planning and regulatory authorities.
 - b. The working group is interested in further discussions on estuaries, including traditional ecological knowledge as well as learning more about contaminants, diseases, and reduced sea life within estuaries.
5. The working group is interested in finding areas of common ground between the Native community of Southeast Alaska and conservation groups.