

Alaska Chapter SCI
PO Box 770511
Eagle River, AK 99577
(907) 980-9018



February 3, 2013

Mike Pool, Acting Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street N.W., R.M. 5665
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Pool,

For the past four years, Safari Club International Alaska Chapter has worked with Alaska's Congressional Delegation in an effort to resolve the long standing claims Sealaska Corporation has to lands in the Tsongas Forest. As a leading chapter in the world's largest hunting conservation group, SCI Alaska Chapter consistently worked to ensure that the ability of the public to access and use the public lands in the Tsongas would be preserved by any legislation passed by Congress. We strongly supported Sealaska's claims; however, we also continually worked with Senator Lisa Murkowski's office to ensure that those claims would not unduly jeopardize public access. We also worked to ensure that any claims would not create new precedents that would create a platform for other Native Corporations or groups to seek further concessions.

It has been four years since Sealaska was granted an opportunity to modify its land selections through legislation. We believe the time has come to finalize the selection of lands made by Sealaska under the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act (ALTA) of 2004. Further delay in this process should be viewed as unacceptable to all parties involved. Sealaska had 4 years to achieve a modified selection without any meaningful progress. It is time to resolve this issue so that Alaskans can move forward with their lives. Further attempts to modify the selections made under ALTA will only cause continued disruption among those Alaskans who have a keen interest in seeing Sealaska's land selections finalized under the conditions outlined in their June 10, 2008 letter to BLM.

Mr. Pool, it is time to lay this controversy to rest. You have the authority to do so and we beseech you to act. Alaskans and the American public deserve no less.

Thank you for your time and consideration on our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Gary H. Gearhart', is positioned above the typed name.

Gary Gearhart
President

Cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Mark Begich
Congressman Don Young
Governor Sean Parnell