

Wildlife Needs In Forest Management

Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society
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Mr. Thomas M. Franklin
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RE: Review of Draft Position Statement: Wildlife Needs In Forest Management

The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society (Chapter) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the referenced draft position statement published in the November-December 2004 issue of *The Wildlifer*. In March 2004, The Wildlife Society (TWS) Council appointed a subcommittee to update and consolidate two existing TWS position statements: Management and Conservation of Old-Growth Forests and Recognition of Wildlife Needs in Forest Management into a single statement. The Council requested input on the new position statement. Based upon this request, the Chapter appointed a committee chair and solicited comments from our members via an announcement in our February 2005 newsletter. This letter represents the position and recommendations of the Chapter.

We support the Council's decision to revise and update issues and recommendations presented in the existing position statements. However, we do not support the draft position statement as currently written because of the near complete disregard of the issues, status, and conservation of old-growth forests. The Chapter's specific comments and recommendations are included below. We appreciate the opportunity to review the document. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to write (eric_taylor@fws.gov) or call (907-786-3846).

Sincerely,

Eric J. Taylor

Eric J. Taylor, President
Alaska Chapter, The Wildlife Society