

**CITY OF COFFMAN COVE
RESOLUTION No. 24-01**

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROJECTED LAND SELECTIONS ON PRINCE OF WALES
ISLAND

WHEREAS, the City of Coffman Cove has reviewed the Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Compensation Act, S. 3269, an act allowing five Alaska Native communities of Southeast Alaska to form urban corporations and receive land entitlements, and

WHEREAS, Prince of Wales is home to four Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) village corporations located in Craig, Klawock, Kasaan and Hydaburg which have approximately 129,000 acres of land selections on the island, and

WHEREAS, Wrangell and Ketchikan are shareholders represented by the regional corporation of SEALASKA but do not have traditional or historic ties to Prince of Wales, and

WHEREAS, SEALASKA currently has approximately 207,000 acres of land selections on Prince of Wales, and

WHEREAS, in addition to federal land selections, Prince of Wales has had thousands of additional acres transferred to the Alaska Mental Health Trust, University of Alaska and other state-related entities, thus affecting issues such as federal transfer payments, rural subsistence opportunities, and watershed protection, and

WHEREAS, the potential selection of land at Lake Bay near Coffman Cove is one of the main entrances to a watershed area encompassing over 50 square miles of forest, lakes, ponds, rivers and streams that are critical salmon habitats and subsistence areas, and

WHEREAS, the City of Coffman Cove opposes the projected land selections on Prince of Wales Island and Heceta Island, and supports Wrangell and Ketchikan corporations selecting suitable national forest lands closer in proximity to their home communities, and

WHEREAS, the unpredictable pattern of reducing public land access by distant communities not located on Prince of Wales creates a future precedence that will ultimately limit residents' voices in important decision making of where they live.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the city of Coffman Cove is in favor of Ketchikan and Wrangell Corporations choosing land selections closer to their communities, without impacting the livelihoods and outdoor recreations of the residents of Prince of Wales Island.

Adopted by a duly constituted quorum of the City of Coffman Cove, Alaska this 21st day of September 2023.

Mayor, Jack Mulcare

Clerk, Soiyor Fitzpatrick