

KONCOR joint venture has promise for corps.

By NANCY FREEMAN
From the Kodiak Times

Les Anderson of Kodiak has been named general manager of a company which has the potential for becoming one of the largest forest management and marketing firms in Alaska.

He has accepted the helm of KONCOR a joint venture of Natives of Kodiak and Ouzinkie Native Corporation who have pooled more than 45,00 acres of commercial timberland. The enterprise represents assets of more than 100 million dollars.

Anderson says the purpose of KONCOR is joint forest resource management to gain greater economies of scale not only in field staffing but in all areas of marketing and long-range use

planning.

KONCOR will be the managing entity for forest resources: land use planning with respect to roads; harvesting blocks; marketing; regeneration and sicultural treatments are but a few of the concerns."

When an organization comes to us with a timber resource, for example, this resource will become a part of a management pool. Profit and loss for individual corporations will be allocated on the percentage of commercial timber which they have contributed to the venture."

"We are not going to initiate any cut and get out programs. We are going to use the land, not abuse it. We are only interested in a sustained yield; sustained meaning it will produce forever. Management will increase production."

The 45,00 acres pooled by Kodiak Natives and Ouzinkie is only a start, Anderson says, "The door is open for any other corporation which has timber resources. Other village corporations have also expressed an interest in joining KONCOR."

Lumber market conditions are on an upswing right now, Anderson says. "The future for the wood products industry looks like very firm markets for the next several years. We're coming into this with very proper timing."

It appears Anderson is ready-made for the job as general manager. After he served with US Navy, Anderson was foreman of a large nursery which produced seedlings to regenerate units which the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, had harvested.

"From a prairie land we turned it into the model nursery in the United States. I became so intensely interested in forestry and forest management that I realized I wanted to go back to school."

He and his wife, Ann, decided it would be worth the struggle so Les returned for four and a half years of college, graduating from Washington State University with a bachelor of science degree in forestry with a management option.

At WSU Anderson was president of Honor Society and the Forestry Club, graduated in the top 5 per cent of his class; and that year ranked in the top 5 per cent of forestry graduates nationwide as well.

During his college summers Anderson worked for the US Forest Service. For two years he has been employed as land director for Koniag, Inc., and currently serves as a Kodiak Island Borough assemblyman.

Of the last two years, Les says, "It wasn't an easy decision for me to leave Koniag. The experience I've received here has been extremely valuable. Koniag is a progressive and innovative organization."

Anderson says his immediate goals for KONCOR are to establish an office Kodiak, conduct inventories of the lands which are now in the resource pool, explore the best markets available, solicit involvement of other timber-holding entities, and—finally—enter into actual production.

The people taking part in KONCOR, Anderson says, "are more concerned than anybody about environmental issues. All of our management planning and activities will be with the highest regard for the environment."

As general manager of the joint venture, Anderson says he is not only interested in generating the highest possible return for stockholders but wants to protect the integrity of the land on a unit basis as opposed to the piece-meal approach."

"Environmentally this makes much more sense."

"Big is best in this industry."