August 8, 2022

FROM : Wanda J Culp, Coordinator, Tongass Forest Women’s Earth & Climate Action Network

TO : SOI-Bureau of Land Management

RE : Comment for Executive Order 14072 Sec. 2(b) Define Old-Growth

The Circle of Life requires wholistic long-term nurturing, deep love, and forever caring.

I am a 74-year-old**-growth** human with two developed stages in my wake**:** **Mature** children and **Young** grandchildren. Alaska Indigenous bloodline ancestry arose from and is guided by the force and grace of nature, aka Mother Nature.

To develop policies into today’s sickened realities, focusing on survival into the near future must be RED FLAGED and PRIORITIZED! No more chopped up regulated mandates to the negative side of interpreting applicable words.

Pull out the ***Webster’s Dictionary*** (any version) and seek current political “*buzz words*” that dictate last century’s destructive consequences upon all natural living families to favor big business exploitation across Alaska. That approach minimized local human existence and made invisible all historic and natural drives that makes Alaska the most unique state in the nation as the true “*last frontier*”.

There can be no universal definition for America’s national forests other than identifying that they are “*wild and non-agricultural in nature”.* The affects of GLOBAL WARMING CRISISes eliminate the luxury of make-believe planning across diverse ecosystems to accommodate the outdated colonial-based claims that dominate today’s imbalanced way of living for all families of life.

No more “*status quo*” from a century past – America cannot afford it.

**RECOMMENDATION**:

Scrap any definition(s) that eliminate positive thinking and inclusion of Indigenous, scientific, and local solution-based importance to the National “*public interest*” voice process mandated in the **1980 ANILCA law** and the Environmental Protection Act.

Globally, the **YOUTH** have been forcing adults into fair and clear thinking towards decision-making, pointing that the solutions are up to us **Adults**. Today’s worldwide **YOUTH uprising** sees complacency of short-sighted lawmaking directly dooming their future through the manmade ***extermination policies*** against Indigenous inhabitants, wildlife protections, and healthy environmental mandates.

**STOP** the politically-driven destruction of America’s “*LAST FRONTIER*” under outdated and heavily influenced politicking control and disadvantages against all family life including humans.

**REPAIR** **operations** must prevail within the all-inclusive definition of *“wild habitat*” previously destroyed through big outside Wall Street corporate business priorities dominating over the **1971** legal findings to the hard-fought **Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act** (**ANCSA**). Alaska Native legal status is politically dominated by congressional declaration that **Alaska Native Villages** are “***nuisance******communities***” within the political and AK legislative realms of short thought - bought and paid for by huge lists of corporate $$ stepping all over civil liberties as non-existent/priority importance. Belief that “***corporations are people*”** above individual shareholder owner rights to favor “*white supremacy”* *is* misperceived authority.

Alaska Natives, **under ANCSA**, are the 3rd largest “private property landowner” in the state. Old-growth Forest definitions must require site-specific data reflecting today’s geographical ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS. Disturbances of regional changed forest composition to site-specific assets productivity must be wholistically examined without borders for the benefit of all concerned.

**REPAIRING** must become a clearly stated priority that will involve Indigenous Villages and local resident communities for solution-building and on-the-ground scientifically needed data towards immediate response to GLOBAL WARMING crisis conditions.

The unique biophysical character of America’s nine USFS regions have been systematically diminished through big $$$ corporate influence without balanced considerations to rarity, clean up and repair, vitally importance to natural healthy modes of sustainable life required in Nature’s realm.

Today’s human intelligence cannot ignore the RED FLAG conditions of EARTH!!!

Full and appropriate definition of “***old-growth***” and ***“mature***” forests so obviously exclude the vital security to the circle of life: ***YOUNG/New GROWTH*** anchors to “***mature***” and “***old-growth***” remains is their foundation. Even after our death, new life will recycle itself naturally feeding into the future of our children and grandchildren bloodline families. The “*deadwood*” of political terminology is blatantly disrespectful to well-established new generational growth behind ourselves in **Nature’s *“circle of life***”.

Think simple. Think reality. Think positive for our children!

Enforce POSITIVE THIHKING into this century’s REALITY CRISIS capable of reversal!

**STOP** the misinterpretation through words favoring the purchased political industrial dominance over the citizenry. **Stop** the bastardization of the U.S. Constitution through narrow favor of big (R)-influence take-over of PUBPI8C LAND as if we have no legal status.

Corporations are not People**!** We Indigenous Women speaking out today repents the solid and prevailing foundation to strength and innate intelligence that has guided consciousness throughout time against yesterday’s delinquent corporate purchase.

Thank you for your listening.