

Yakutat Tlingit Tribe

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RESOLUTION 2024.04.30-5

URGING THE INCLUSION OF THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST IN THE NATIONAL OLD GROWTH FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT RULE

WHEREAS, the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) holds federal recognition as an Indian Tribe under United States law; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe is the Yakutat Tlingit Tribal Council (the “Tribal Council”); and

WHEREAS, the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe embraces a future where our community is enriched with opportunities aligning with our vision that *Yaakwdáat stands as a powerful Tlingit community, deeply rooted in our cultural values and continually striving to improve the well-being of our people, community, and traditional homelands, waters, and air by embracing the richness of our identity and the world around us*; and

WHEREAS, the Tongass National Forest is critical to the Tribe’s cultural practices, subsistence activities, and ecological health, serving as a vital habitat for diverse species and a source for traditional foods and materials; and

WHEREAS, the preliminary proposed action by the Department of Agriculture excludes the Tongass National Forest from prohibitions on commercial old-growth logging, which is contrary to the goals of the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy and undermines efforts to preserve these critical ecosystems; and

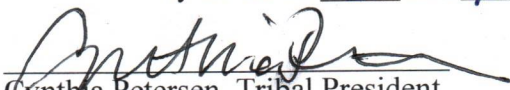
WHEREAS, the exemption proposed for the Tongass allows for old-growth logging under the guise of the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy, which could have detrimental effects on the ecological balance and cultural heritage of the region;

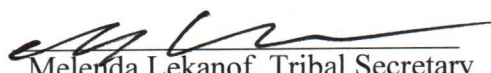
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe urgently requests the removal of the Tongass exemption in the proposed rule, advocating for the full protection of old-growth forests and supporting the exception for culturally significant uses, which is crucial for the continuation of traditional tribal stewardship;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe will work with other Tribal Nations in the Tongass to determine the best way to voice these concerns collectively as deemed appropriate by each Tribal Nation.

CERTIFICATION

Adopted at a duly convened meeting of the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, at which a quorum of members was present, by a vote of 5 for, 0 against, and 0 abstained, this 30th day of April 2024.


Cynthia Petersen, Tribal President


Melenda Lekanof, Tribal Secretary