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Comments: To whom it may concern:

I am a 20 year resident of Wrangell, Alaska and have reviewed the Central Tongass LLA DEIS. I ask that the US Forest Service choose the no-action alternative due to the fact that the Central Tongass LLA does not specifically identify timber units in the project area, yet proposes cutting approximately 150 MMBF of old growth timber.

I support small local mills on the Tongass, like Mike Allen's operation and Icy Strait Lumber out of Hoonah. I do not support, and am opposed to clear-cut logging of old growth on public land for large companies that send logs out of our communities minimally processed or in the round. The amount of old growth logging proposed in the Central Tongass LLA would most likely go to a large operation, be exported out of state, and have little economic benefit locally, while leaving those of us in Wrangell left with more clear-cuts in the places where we hunt and spend time in the woods.

It is difficult to specifically comment on the Central Tongass DEIS since the LLA process does not indicate where exactly old growth forest would be cut. This new type of process is flawed by keeping the public uninformed as to where exactly clear-cuts would be - what slopes they would be on, which water sheds they would be in, and seems to undercut much of what NEPA intended to do in regards to allowing the public to comment specifically on environmental impacts on federal lands.

While I do fully support restoration of stream and forest habitat that this project may include, and very much support recreation project work that may be included in this DEIS, I urge the US Forest Service to decouple these projects from large scale, old growth clear cut logging for the reasons that I have stated above. I urge the US Forest Service to let restoration and recreation projects stand on their own merit, and not be attached old growth logging that often is not economically viable, and degrades deer-wintering habitat.

For the reasons above, I urge the US Forest Service to choose the no-action alternative in the Central Tongass DEIS.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Stephen Todd