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Organization: Defenders Of Wildlife

Title: Senior Representative

Comments: On behalf of 7195 individuals, I submit the following letter to the USFS

Dear Ben Case,

I applaud your response to the public comments made in the fall on the proposed Thomas Bay project Sale to meaningfully create two new project alternatives to better implement the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy (SASS). I urge you to approve alternative 4.

Alternative 4 best meets wildlife habitat restoration objectives while maintaining economic feasibility. As compared to alternative 3, alternative 4 would have a smaller footprint by 210 acres, fewer roads, better habitat connectivity, and more diverse forest structure.

Old-growth dependent species like Alexander Archipelago wolves, Sitka-black tailed deer, Queen Charlotte Goshawks, and many others benefit most by alternative 4. By providing for the most wildlife-friendly mix of restoration practices and young-growth harvest, Alternative 4 best reflects the Forest Service's commitment to sustainability, restoration, and resilience as directed by the SASS.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.