

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

First name: Andrew

Last name: Thoms

Organization: Sitka Conservation Society

Title: Executive Director

Comments: Dear Tongass National Forest:

Please see the below comments highlighted which we would like to submit for the Wilderness Suitability Comment period for the Tongass land Management plan revision process.

These comments were previously submitted but since this is a new comment period, we wanted to make sure that there is a record of them in this process also.

The specific areas are the Ushk Bay and Poison Cove area on the Southern portion of Chichagof Island bordering Peril Straits and Hoonah Sound that are adjacent to the current Wilderness Boundary. In the map released at this link

(<https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=d0ffdc62eb354b1aa4c47292637380d4>), these areas are identified as Inventory ID#21394. For the areas within this ID# that are currently designated as LUDII, we are not proposing changing from LUDII to Wilderness but rather keeping those areas as LUDII.

Thank you,

Andrew Thoms

Dear Delilah:

Thank you for the presentation on the Forest Planning Process. In consideration of the early stages of the process for the evaluation of Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers, Sitka Conservation Society would like to pass along some materials and a couple requests for consideration:

1. West Chichagof Wilderness: The Sitka Conservation Society was the entity that originally proposed the West Chichagof Wilderness Area. The full extent of the area that we proposed was not included in the eventual Wilderness designation. The full area still has Wilderness characteristics and we would like to request that that full extent be considered for a Wilderness study area or whatever land management direction can be included in the plan for managing that area as a Wilderness. Attached is a map from one of the original pamphlets that Sitka Conservation Society printed describing that wilderness area. Below is a link to the original Wilderness proposal for that area. Both of these are historical documents. We will send you one of the original pamphlets by mail so you have a physical copy if you would like.

1. West Chichagof Proposal: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-gYMgzx1Gah6M2bhHb-\\_gCpXPYkpZ7Vd/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-gYMgzx1Gah6M2bhHb-_gCpXPYkpZ7Vd/view?usp=drive_link)

2. Lisianski River (South of Pelican in the Lisianski Inlet on Chichagof Island): The Lisianski River is currently identified as a Wild/Scenic/Recreational River in the land management plan. We aren't quite sure what that LUD means in the current plan but this river is one of a limited number that has that designation. SCS has an interest in that river because it is a place where we do active social and ecological monitoring and it is a river that many of our members use and depend on. We also know that it is a very important river and watershed for the residents of Pelican, Alaska for subsistence harvest and other activities. We would request that this river be

considered for study as a wild and scenic river also and that management direction for that river to be managed as wild and scenic. As needed, we would be happy to give more information on that river and also connect you with some of the local stewards of that river who help us with monitoring.

Thank you,

Andrew Thoms