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First name: Evan

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My concerns regarding the Wrangell Island Timber Sale

Forest Supervisor Stewart,

Dear Forest Supervisor Stewart:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Wrangell Island Timber Sale. While I was encouraged by the recent forest plan amendment that proposed new protections for the Tongass 77 and other conservation priority areas, the Wrangell Island Sale runs counter to this. The sale units in Thoms Lake and in important deer winter habitat are particularly troubling and should be removed from the sale. In addition, ecosystem functioning will be harmed by continued old-growth timber harvest. As an ecologist with much experience in old-growth Pacific Northwest forests, harvesting virgin timber is harmful and unnecessary, both for wildlife and the fact that how the forest functions is altered for hundreds of years.

In addition, I am concerned that by the Forest Service's own estimate the project will not be economically viable and will cost taxpayers money. I encourage you to halt planning this project and redirect the Forest Service's limited resources toward more productive projects that better suit the needs of Southeast Alaska.

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