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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wrangell Island Project

July 11, 2016

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to express our dismay at your preference of Alternate 2 for the Wrangell Island Project. This is despite the Forest Service's declaration that industrial-scale old-growth logging will be decreased in the Tongass.

This, instead, appears to perpetuate an unsustainable and economically unfeasible practice that has long been discredited. It has been years since logging has served as the foundation of our region's economy. Fishing, tourism and outdoor recreation are now major drivers. How will tourists react to the "mass wasting", clearcut and roadbuilding described in your factsheet? How do the practices outlined in Alternative 2 benefit local, small-scale timber companies? How will timber cutting above the Institute impact a proposed boarding school and house sites being discussed for that valuable property and how will the destruction of important deer habitat help Wrangell families? How, particularly in the present economic era, can the Forest Service justify building road and selling off timber at a near-loss?

It seems to us that the Wrangell Island Project is an attempt by the Forest Service to appease strident large-scale timber companies, and perhaps our Congressional delegation, instead of truly addressing the needs of the people of Southeast Alaska, its wildlife and environment.

We support Alternative 1 and ask that you reconsider your selection.

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