

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/9/2019 11:00:00 AM

First name: Joan

Last name: McBeen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Project Manager Central Tongass LLA,

As a 45 year resident of southeast Alaska, I have seen many changes in the environment including acres of clearcuts, receding glaciers and significant changes in the weather. Salmon were jumping by the hundreds daily and spawning in the rivers of Tenakee Inlet where I moved 42 years ago. Now I may see 4 or 5 a day. I have a long history of fighting to keep our inlet pristine and available for all to share. The Tongass is the largest temperate rain forest in the US and has to remain intact for the health of the world environment.

Dear Troy Heithecker, Acting Tongass Forest Supervisor,

I write to ask you to prioritize protecting and restoring important salmon and wildlife habitat and ending the outdated and damaging practice of large-scale old-growth logging. Fishing and tourism, which rely on healthy fish and wildlife habitat and beautiful scenery, account for 26 percent of jobs in Southeast Alaska and combine to contribute \$2 billion to the regional economy. Fishing, hunting, outdoor recreation, and subsistence resources are all important values to residents and visitors and should take precedence over outdated industrial old-growth logging.

While the timber industry was once an important part of Southeast Alaska, the forest products industry now supports less than 1 percent of local jobs. The Forest Service must keep up with the times. Planning another 150 million board-feet of timber over thousands of acres is simply too much given previous old-growth logging. Young-growth logging should avoid the Tongass 77, including areas within Kadake Creek, Port Camden and Security Bay. On North Kuiu Island, in particular, past failed timber sales demonstrate another old-growth timber sale is unwanted even when propped up with millions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies.

Rather than adding to the sprawling clear cuts and spider web of logging roads, the Forest Service should focus on salmon and deer habitat restoration, repairing places where existing roads impede salmon migration, and promoting recreation and subsistence opportunity.

Thanks, Sincerely,

Joan Mcbeen