

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

First name: Tom

Last name: Boyd

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Project Manager Central Tongass LLA,

As a gamefish researcher, author, writer, and consultant with 45 experience studying the Salmonidae Family, I have personally witnessed the incredible damage done to wildlife in general, and specifically salmon, trout, and char with ill advised logging operations. If the government condones the severe timber cutting practices in the Tongass, especially the Petersburg and Wrangel areas it will bring devastation to the wildlife and salmonids of this beautiful and unique area. The damage is irreparable and will adversely impact the recreational and commercial fisheries that rely on the critical spawning areas of Kadake Creek, Port Camden, and Security Bay. The further assault on our already greatly diminished old growth forests is irreparable and beyond the comprehension of a reasonable person. The long term disruption of the substantial contributions of tourism, fishing, nature, and the quality of life the logging would accomplish are all for greedy short term gain for the few. The many of us want our voices heard and adhered to to stop this travesty of justice. Tom Boyd

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I write to ask you to prioritize protecting and restoring important salmon and wildlife habitat and ending the outdated and damaging practice of large-scale old-growth logging.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and subsistence resources are all important values to residents and visitors and should take precedence over outdated industrial old-growth logging.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,

Tom Boyd