

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/13/2019 11:00:00 AM

First name: Jonathan

Last name: Heifetz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Project Manager Central Tongass LLA,

I am a 37 year resident of Southeast Alaska. My son is an avid angler who worked as a local flyfishing guide during summers to make money for college. Many of the watersheds we fish and hunt are in forested areas that have not been logged. We relish the opportunity to catch wild trout and salmon in a natural setting. We often boat to local streams in old growth areas and hike up - catch and releasing dolly varden and sea run cutthroat trout. Unlike the lower 48, a major reason we're not in a costly and crisis mode of trying to restore our wild fish populations is largely because much of the old growth forest habitat is intact in the Tongass

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I write to ask you to prioritize protecting and restoring important salmon and wildlife habitat and ending the outdated and damaging practice of large-scale old-growth logging.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and subsistence resources are all important values to residents and visitors and should take precedence over outdated industrial old-growth logging.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

Jonathan Heifetz