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Comments: Southeast Conference would respectfully like to submit the following comments on the Thorne Bay Basin Integrated Management Project #62854:

We are concerned about any forest management plan that lacks biomass removal as a core tenant of the proposal.

For the timber industry in Alaska to evolve and be sustainable, each component must become fully integrated, which includes the removal of slash and fiber that could be used in biomass processing. If biomass is not included in the strategy for this project then biomass removal will never be incentivized or practiced which will impact the economics of the industry as well as the health of the forest.

Southeast Conference is in the process of installing a small 8000 ton per year pellet mill in southeast Alaska. There is discussion about adding another mill of the same size to be placed on Prince of Wales Island. The organizers of this mill are seriously considering location in Thorne Bay due to both proximity to shipping and the a fiber source. The Thorne Bay Basin Integrated Management Project would be ESSENTIAL to providing the fiber to both of these mills.

Please revise this plan to included all levels of biomass removal. Specifically; on site chipping operations, removal of slash from logging operations, yarding of cull logs to the roadside for ease of collection, second growth management to include removal of thinned material and any other appropriate removal of biomass. We look forward to discussing this further and working with the USFS to implement our shared goals on the Tongass.