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Title:

Comments: We moved to Thorne Bay 18yrs ago and since that time, have watched with increasing dismay the over-logging of this area. The landscape is no longer the picturesque "Scenic Highway" it once was. Many of our neighbors feel the same way. Had we know this would happen, we may have chosen to buy property somewhere else. Loosing local residents to other areas certainly would affect the local economy negatively, much more than the loose of a few jobs from logging this area. Hunting and wildlife populations in our area have been effected negatively as well from the intense logging activity over the last 15yrs. It is apparent that because POW is more easily accessible then other areas of the Tongass National Forest, our island has taken the brunt of the logging contracts that should be spread out thought the Tongass.

Furthermore, I support the following statements:

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be prepared and not the currently proposed Environmental Assessment (EA).

A young growth sale that results in round log export is not in line with goals from the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy (SASS) and isn't in the best interests of Southeast Alaska communities.

Current plans look short on wildlife and restoration priorities in a large project area.