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Comments: Thank you for listening to Southeast Alaska Tribes, municipalities and small business owners who requested that the USDA drop the language in the Notice of Intent that would have exempted the Tongass National Forest from the protections provided to other forests. However, it appears that the preferred alternative in the Draft EIS does not provide adequate protections. Without explicit language on exceptions, the updated language in the preferred alternative is ambiguous enough to allow large-scale logging of old-growth.

With the purpose of the National Old Growth Amendment to conserve old-growth forest conditions and recruit new old-growth in response to climate change, protection of the Tongass National Forest should be a top priority. Additionally, large-scale commercial logging harms fish and wildlife habitat and has negative impacts on cultural and recreational uses.