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First name: Jim Last name: Tuttle Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for allowing public comment on this matter:

The Tongass is arguably the best example of USFS stewardship in the country, and has retained a vast amount of productive timberland available for commercial harvest. It is time to finally make more of that productive timberland available to actually PRODUCE timber!

The United States has huge areas of protected wildlands and forested areas - enormous areas of wilderness and other non-harvestable areas. Let's not continue to make areas of the Tongass Forest noneconomical timber sales and set-asides. As a retired private timberland forester from southeast Alaska, I know very well the quantities and qualities of the timber stands that the Forest Service is sitting on in that region, and I know in the past they have made some of it available for viable commercial harvest. But I also know they make many of their timber sales uneconomical by restricting the volume available to a degree that makes the remote operating characteristics there impossible to overcome. I know you can make timber sales economically viable, so let's do it.