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Organization:

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Comments: Hi Erin.

Haven't heard from you so I thought I'd check in.

Thought you might find this information below useful. It comes from page 2 of Southeast Alaska Conservation Assessment - Chapter 6.6 by John Schoen.

Look forward to hearing from you. Thanks.

Winston

Flying squirrels fill a distinctive ecological niche in Southeast and may play a key ecological role in nutrient cycling within the temperate rainforest by dispersing spores of mycorrhizal fungi, which are important vectors for nutrient transfer to conifer roots (Maser et al. 1978, Maser and Maser 1988, Mowrey 1994, Carey et al. 1999, Smith et al. 2005). Flying squirrels are also important prey for hawks, owls, and small carnivores (Mowrey 1994, Smith et al. 2005). Flying squirrels were a "design" species for small size old-growth reserves (<10,000 acres [4,050 hectares]) in the 1997 Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (TLMP) (U.S. Forest Service [USFS] 1997a) because of their assumed "dependency on the forested habitats" (Suring et al. 1993). The subspecies *G. s. griseifrons*, endemic to the POW Island complex (Fig 3), has been listed as a subspecies of ecological concern in the Tongass National Forest (West 1993) and as potentially endangered in the Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan for North American Rodents prepared by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (Hafner et al. 1998).