Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/13/2025 5:41:51 PM
First name: Jim
Last name: Rehfeldt
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I am writing to you today regarding a the Tongass Draft Assessment findings

Dear Tongass Plan Revision,

I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining an intact, healthy Tongass National Forest through the upcoming Revision Plan, and for specific components of the draft assessment centered around this goal. A natural Tongass is essential to my way of life and that of my community, sustaining fish, wildlife, and biodiversity. The plan must protect intact land and water resources to ensure long-term ecosystem health, in addition to supporting resilient, thriving cultural resources, economies, and communities in the region.

The draft assessment highlights several priority areas for me personally that are also areas which require robust protection, including:
- Homelands, sacred places, and traditional harvesting grounds of Alaska Native people
- Subsistence - both customary and traditional uses
- The temperate rainforest archipelago and ecosystems
- Salmon runs and other wildlife habitat
- Recreation and scenic beauty

I share in the draft plan's endorsement of stronger protections for these areas and encourage the Forest Service to retain these sections of the plan.

I would like to see meaningful change in the timber industry, and the entire region would directly benefit from the transition away from archaic clear cutting to truly sustainable logging practices.

The new Tongass Forest Plan must prioritize protections that uphold the integrity of the Tongass's vast ecosystems and align with the draft assessment's findings as well as local knowledge and support for a balanced approach. By doing so, the Forest Service will safeguard the long-term sustainability of this vital forest.

Thank you for considering my input. I urge you to prioritize Tongass protections in this forest plan revision.

Sincerely,
Mr. Jim Rehfeldt
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