

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/17/2025 9:00:00 AM

First name: Bob

Last name: Claus

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 support for maintaining an intact, healthy Tongass National Forest through the upcoming Revision Plan. A well-preserved Tongass is essential to my way of life and that of my community, sustaining fish, wildlife, and biodiversity.

The draft assessment highlights several priority areas for me personally that are also areas which require robust protection, including:

- The temperate rainforest archipelago and ecosystems, essential for climate change resistance and resilience, including the carbon sinks of big trees and muskegs
- Salmon runs and other wildlife habitat
- Recreation and scenic beauty
- Traditional homelands and subsistence opportunities for the original peoples of the Tongass

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 urge the Forest Service to integrate Indigenous Knowledge and subsistence rights into the plan. Traditional Ecological Knowledge strengthens conservation and ensures resilience for future generations. A co-stewardship model for managing the Tongass honors the rights and sovereignty of Tribal Governments. Direct relationships with these governments is essential for the success of the plan.

Southeast Alaskans want to see meaningful change in the timber industry, and the entire region would directly benefit from the transition away from wasteful 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 an approach that emphasizes the role of local tribal governments.

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

Sincerely,

Mr. Bob Claus