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Comments:

Dear Forest Service Plan Revision Team,

We urge the Forest Service to support the following key priorities in the final Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan Revision.

1. **Align Forest Management with Community Values:** Southeast Alaska's economy is driven by fishing, recreation, and subsistence. The Plan should prioritize forest management to support these industries and communities.
2. **Maintain Key Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** The Tongass supports significant fish and wildlife populations essential to Southeast Alaska's culture and economy. The Plan should maintain habitat safeguards for T77 watersheds and TNC/Audubon priority conservation areas that will benefit blacktail deer winter cover and salmon spawning habitat, and in turn, recreational, commercial, and subsistence users.
3. **Prioritize Habitat Restoration:** With degraded fish and wildlife habitats, such as culverts blocking salmon streams and poor deer forage in old clearcut areas, restoration is crucial. The Plan should focus on restoring these areas to benefit local communities through improved flood resiliency, water quality, hunting and fishing opportunities, and job creation.
4. **Support Outdoor Recreation and Visitor Industries:** Southeast Alaska's visitor industry is vital to the economy. The Plan should address issues like capacity, infrastructure, and user conflicts, balancing the growth of tourism with the needs of local recreation industries and ensuring sustainable use of forest resources.
5. **Manage Timber Resources Sustainably:** We support a transition to a young-growth forest products industry that prioritizes local employment and sustainable practices. The Plan should integrate forest management that balances restoration, thinning, and responsible timber harvests, benefiting both wildlife habitats and local economies.

We urge the Forest Service to adopt these priorities for the long-term health of the Tongass and the communities that depend on it.

Thank you for your service to our nation's public lands and waters and for considering our priorities in the Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan Revision.