

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/22/2025 5:37:27 PM

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Comments: Thank you for receiving public comment at this important juncture for the future of the Tongass National Forest. Please consider the following thoughts on issues that I do not see adequately addressed in this Draft Assessment. I include recent sources that deserve to be meaningfully integrated in Tongass Land Management Plan.

1. The Tongass is an Indigenous place of global significance, and clear, enduring protections for old growth forests, roadless areas, and biodiversity should be prioritized.

DellaSala, D.A., Gorelik, S.R., and Walker, W.S. 2022. The Tongass National Forest, Southeast Alaska, USA: A Natural Climate Solution of Global Significance. *Land* <https://doi.org/10.3390/land11050717>

Vynne, C., Dovichin, E., Fresco, N., Dawson, N., Joshi, A., Law, B.E., Lertzman, K., Rupp, S., Schmiegelow, F. and Trammell, E.J. 2021. The Importance of Alaska for Climate Stabilization, Resilience, and Biodiversity Conservation. *Front. For. Glob. Change* 4:701277. doi: 10.3389/ffgc.2021.701277

2. The islands of the Tongass support a disproportionate number of endemic taxa compared to other high-latitude terrestrial ecosystems, and the Species of Concern Draft List is missing several mammals worthy of inclusion (Androski et al, 2024). The ecology of the Tongass is increasingly vulnerable to climate change and anthropogenic activity, and revisions of the Tongass Land Management Plan need much stronger commitments to the documentation and protection of its biodiversity, especially its endemic and understudied species.

Androski, A., Wiens, B.J., Cook, J.A., Dawson, N.G., and Colella, J.P. 2024. Phylogeography of mammals in Southeast Alaska and implications for management of the Tongass National Forest. *Journal of Wildlife Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jwmg.22627>

Smith, W. P., and E. A. Flaherty. 2023. Wildlife studies on the Tongass National Forest challenge essential assumptions of its wildlife conservation strategy. *Journal of Wildlife Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jwmg.22450>

Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to participating as the revision process continues.