

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/22/2025 6:00:19 PM

First name: Valerie

Last name: Ryder

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor Frank Sherman,

RE: Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan Revision #64039

My first visit to the Tongass National Forest in SE Alaska was in 1996 with my parents and sister on a small ship cruise. I have fond memories of that introduction to the beauty of the area and its importance to First Nations people. My husband and I have visited the Tongass twice since then, also on small ship cruises, and further appreciate the richness of the area as a natural resource that should be protected.

I think the Forest Service is heading in the right direction with the draft assessment that highlights Alaskans' interest in the uniqueness of our remote forested island archipelago, the importance of the Forest as homelands to Native Alaskans, for customary and traditional uses, for salmon, and for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. These local voices accurately capture the important values that are shaping our region and our economy.

I strongly urge the U.S. Forest Service to keep this momentum going and to work with our communities to prioritize fish and wildlife habitat, trails, recreation, and tourism management.

Sincerely,

VJR