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Comments: I am writing to let you know that as an Alaskan and as a tour guide who works on the Tongass National Forest, I support a revision plan that preserves old growth tree stands, areas of high biological productivity, and expands protections and buffers around salmon streams. I hope to see the Forest Service promote small-scale, sustainable logging, focused on second growth areas.

I live in Seward, Alaska, but for the last ten years have worked as a guide and expedition leader for UnCruise Adventures, a small expedition cruise company based in Juneau. I have spent ten years working on the Tongass National Forest, and helping visitors to appreciate the beauty and importance of the coastal temperate rainforest, as well as the wildlife that depends on it.

I would like to see more maintenance done on the trails in the Tongass, many of whom have gone so long without maintenance that they are hardly deserving of the word 'trail'. The Bailey Bay Hot Springs trail (where a person I was hiking with broke her wrist in 2017 when a section of dilapidated boardwalk broke underneath her, causing a fall) and Orchard Creek trail in the Ketchikan Ranger District come immediately to mind. The recent work done on the Cascade Creek trail and Lake Eva trail has been marvelous, and I hope that as funds and support become available, more of the fantastic trails in the Tongass can receive the same sort of attention. I would also, frankly, support increased fees for commercial users if the end would result in a greater number of safe, walkable trails with which to access the Tongass land areas - and allow for a heavier concentration of use in areas with trails developed to withstand that amount of foot traffic without becoming boggy. I am definitely aware of areas, such as Fox Creek in Idaho Inlet, where increased off-trail use from commercial boat users has resulted in degraded areas of muskeg - obvious social paths, and areas trampled by enough visitation that even to a visitor's eye it looks 'trampled'. For that matter - a small, well-thought-out trail system in the existing Fox Creek large group area would go a long way to alleviating the issues with muddy, tracked-up social trails in an area frequently used by expedition cruise ships due to its proximity to Glacier Bay.

Beyond trail maintenance issues - I hope the upcoming Revision plan will prioritize protecting the remaining old-growth forest, expanding buffers around salmon streams, and banning logging in high-productivity, large-tree riparian environments such as the back of Skanax Bay. I also want to state my complete, vocal, and intense support for retaining Roadless Rule protections for all such areas within the Tongass. According to the Alaska DOT, there are already 1500 miles of roads on Prince of Wales Island. Other parts of the Tongass should NOT be crisscrossed by new lumber roads - benefiting one industry but with decidedly mixed effects on other forest users - as has already happened to Prince of Wales.

I hope that the Forest Service's draft revision plan takes these comments into consideration. I also wish to express my support for all US Forest Service employees, including those recently laid off, and those continuing to work with increased or impossible workloads due to the departure of their colleagues.

Mareth Griffith