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First name: Natalie

Last name: Watson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to you today regarding a the Tongass Draft Assessment findings

Dear Tongass Plan Revision,

I am a lifelong Alaskan writing to express my strong support for maintaining an intact, healthy Tongass National Forest through the upcoming Revision Plan, and for specific components of the draft assessment centered around this goal. A well-preserved Tongass is essential to my way of life and that of my community, sustaining fish, wildlife, and biodiversity. The plan must protect intact land and water resources to ensure long-term ecosystem health, in addition to supporting resilient, thriving cultural resources, economies, and communities in the region.

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

- Homelands, sacred places, and traditional harvesting grounds of Alaska Native people- we are in their homelands and need to show our respect
- Subsistence - both customary and traditional uses. This is important now and will be even more important for future generations.
- The temperate rainforest archipelago and ecosystems, which support a huge number of animals
- Salmon runs and other wildlife habitat, which are sensitive and vulnerable to over-development and pollution
- Recreation and scenic beauty, which is why I live here

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

Sincerely,

Ms. Natalie Watson