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Comments:

A new Tongass Forest Plan should focus on protecting the wild salmon and wild places that drive prosperity in Southeast Alaska, so I strongly oppose this one that fail to do so and would destroy the area's economy as written.

Wild salmon are essential to life and to the economies of Southeast Alaska. In writing the plan, the Forest Service should analyze the contribution of wild salmon to commercial fisheries, sport fishing, subsistence harvest, and as food across all alternatives. The Forest Service should also analyze a salmon-focused alternative. The Tongass National Forest is inextricable to wild salmon's presence and success in this place. The plan must not only recognize wild salmon, but prioritize them. It should also analyze the impact other kinds of resource development, such as clearcutting, would have on our fisheries, and prioritize the restoration of streams. Any logging that does occur should ensure rigorous stream buffers and updated aquatic habitat standards for all our salmon habitat. In addition, key watersheds should be protected. It is very concerning that wild salmon, which drive a billion dollar economy and create thousands of jobs in Southeast Alaska, are barely mentioned.

I support a transition away from old growth logging that puts more focus on wildlife habitat. Please analyze forest management alternatives that end large-scale commercial old growth logging. Additionally, the Forest Service needs to identify species of conservation concern and describe a strategy for conserving deer habitat.

Subsistence access and Indigenous stewardship is indeed very important, and I am glad to see that recognized in the Notice.

For decades, Tongass management has focused on timber first. It's time for the agency to broaden the scope of its work and to focus on Southeast Alaska's true economic drivers and best performing assets: fisheries and wild places. Withdraw this proposal and do the essential and missing analyses to use to write one not so unjustifiably harmful.