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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for soliciting comments.

I have lived in Sitka for 40 years and use the Tongass Forest for a variety of subsistence activities (fishing, hunting for venison, berry and mushroom foraging), for recreation (hiking, using Forest Service cabins) and for personal renewal. I love this forest. It is probably the primary reason I will never leave this area.

I don't want any more logging of old growth forest, unless for a rare canoe or other traditional cultural use. Enough has already been cut; trees 500 years old do not regrow in my lifetime or in those of my descendants for many generations to come.

In fact, I don't want any logging if it is for export purposes. A small amount of selective logging for local SE uses should be the only permitted logging. I suspect any other type of logging doesn't make economic sense these days anyway.

I was so surprised when attending the informational meeting in Sitka at the Centennial Building to see no mention of fishing. Fishing is important for our subsistence and is a commercial driver in Southeast. So the revised forest plan must reflect this. Fisheries is a priority; logging is not. At least 300' buffers on all salmon streams should be maintained. Watersheds must be protected. Areas that have been previously degraded should be restored.

I request that the roadless rule be continued.

I am puzzled by the terms "high commercial use" and "low commercial use". Most Sitkans did not choose to become a cruise ship town. In fact we as a community voted against a city owned deep water dock on two occasions. But we now have a private deep water dock and some of us feel overwhelmed by the large numbers of cruise ship visitors. Do we now have to hand over pristine wilderness to large groups of visitors?

Shoals Point should not be a high use commercial area. All the area around Mt. Edgecumbe should be protected. There should be no further high use commercial development. Tongass is a natural treasure and high use commercial development will destroy the essence of the Tongass.

I have no idea what the term "community use" on the maps designates. I don't find this helpful. Does it mean that those areas could become high commercial use areas? I would be opposed.

In this era of rapid climate change, it is especially important to move slowly. Preserving the Tongass may be very important in mitigating effects of climate change.

I am disappointed that the Forest Service is moving so rapidly on this important topic, and that community input is being sought after maps have already been drawn up and terms already defined in ways which may not reflect community needs and desires. Please provide more time for plan development.

Thank you.