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Comments: I feel like I have been fighting for the Tongass for almost my entire 46 years in Sitka. My husband and I fished these waters commercially for over 40 years. The result of logging efforts in the early days here left the streams degraded, culverts were inadequate and buffers were laughable. Now as we see streams warming more in the summer, probably this year in particular as they talk of extreme El Nino weather, it becomes more critical than ever that stream buffers are more than the token 50 or 100 feet that we have had to fight for in the past.

The economic importance of commercial fishing in SE Alaska has always been massively undercounted and you continue to do so today. Certainly, I know that my family has made a reasonable living fishing and my daughters bought their own boat and fished successfully for a number of years putting themselves through college and allowing them to remain in Sitka and be economically productive in addition to appreciating the bounty of the woods and ocean here in the Tongass.

I recommend that you read carefully the testimony put forward by Katie Riley of Sitka Conservation Society. I support everything in her statement. I won't be able to state it as well and in as much detail, but the Tongass is crucial to our existence. In the early 80's friends of ours worked to replant areas that had been harvested. They were from the Pacific NW and stated that techniques that were successful in the NW, just did not work here. They said that the soil content was too low and growing conditions were too tough to sustain repetitive forest crops. Other plant out-grew the planted trees and it was economically unfeasible.

We survived the pulp mills but barely. We fished near Sitka to see black blobs of sludge drifting past our boat in the early 80s and the fish we were catching often had tumors on their flanks. Sitka's economy has diversified from timber harvest and the lucrative stands of old growth are gone. The remaining old growth needs to be preserved for cultural use and habitat for wild life.

This draft of the Tongass Management Revision is not clear, I went to the meeting in Sitka and strongly want to see this work clarified and revised to include the economic benefit of a robust fishing industry and small scale tourism. Kruzof Island is vital to Sitkans. The SW corner must be protected and not logged or developed for large scale tourism.

Logging is increasingly detrimental as we experience more landslides and flooding. Timber harvest and particularly clear cutting exacerbate these conditions .

Your forms are difficult to use and it seems to me that you are not truly interested in what people have to save, but the Tongass is vital as a carbon sink, as a recreation site, for habitat, for the life and well-being of those who live here particularly Natives who have been here for many thousands of years and who will suffer tremendously if this revision is not significantly altered . And personally, as an artist, I draw my inspiration from the Tongass.