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Comments: Monday, June 8, 2026

Tongass National Forest Supervisor's Office

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Subject: Cancel the Twin Mountain II timber sale. Save the Tongass's remaining old-growth forests. -- Twin Mountain II Timber Sale #58626

To Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz, Alaska Regional Forester Jerry Ingersoll, and Tongass Forest Supervisor Monique Nelson:

I strongly urge the U.S. Forest Service to abandon its plan to resume the Twin Mountain II old-growth logging project in the Tongass National Forest. The intact old-growth forests slated for clear-cutting are far more valuable left standing.

"It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment."

-- Ansel Adams

Old-growth forests provide essential, irreplaceable habitat for unique species. The old-growth forests of the Tongass support local communities in Alaska and store vast quantities of carbon, which is extremely important as climate change worsens. The Tongass is one of the world's last remaining old-growth temperate rainforests and one of America's most important carbon sinks.

"Our duty to the whole, including to the unborn generations, bids us to restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations. The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose and method."

-- Theodore Roosevelt

The proposed Twin Mountain II Timber Sale project on Prince of Wales Island would open approximately 1,655 acres of old-growth forest to logging, damaging these ancient forest ecosystems and threatening critical habitat for wildlife like the Alexander Archipelago wolf. When old-growth forests are chopped down, they can take centuries to recover.

"Our government is like a rich and foolish spendthrift who has inherited a magnificent estate in perfect order, and then has left his fields and meadows, forests and parks to be sold and plundered and wasted."

-- John Muir

The Alexander Archipelago wolf is one of the rarest wolf subspecies in North America, and the Tongass National Forest is the only place it calls home. The island wolves are still recovering from a deadly hunting season that eliminated 97% of their population. Logging in wolf habitat would push this endangered species closer to extinction.

"Every man who appreciates the majesty and beauty of the wilderness and of wild life, should strike hands with

the farsighted men who wish to preserve our material resources, in the effort to keep our forests and our game beasts, game-birds, and game-fish-indeed, all the living creatures of prairie and woodland and seashore-from wanton destruction. Above all, we should realize that the effort toward this end is essentially a democratic movement."

-- Theodore Roosevelt

Both the wolf population and the forest habitat on Prince of Wales Island need protection, not destruction. And 290,000 acres of Prince of Wales has already been logged. Logging will seriously damage the Tongass by further fragmenting habitat, degrading watersheds, and diminishing the ecological integrity that people and wildlife rely upon.

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

-- Aldo Leopold

For these reasons, I strongly urge the U.S. Forest Service to not authorize any logging of old-growth trees on Prince of Wales Island, to cancel its plans to revive the Twin Mountain project, and to instead select the no action alternative (Alternative 1). Please protect the Tongass from old-growth logging (which is inherently destructive) and keep the Tongass's remaining old-growth forests intact.

"The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children."

-- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,
Christopher Lish
San Rafael, CA