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Comments: Dear Tongass National Forest Leadership,

The proposed Twin Mountain II old-growth logging initiative stands in stark contrast to our shared goal of moving away from such practices in the Tongass National Forest. These ancient trees are invaluable and irreplaceable, offering far more as living ecosystems than as timber.

The pristine old-growth forests of the Tongass are crucial. They provide vital habitats for unique species like the Queen Charlotte goshawks, Alexander Archipelago wolves, and all five Pacific salmon species. These forests also play a key role in carbon storage, a critical function in our fight against climate change. Continuing to log these carbon-rich areas undermines responsible forest stewardship and public expectations for conservation.

Moreover, these forests support Alaskan communities through healthy fisheries, subsistence resources, and sustainable tourism. Further logging would not only fragment habitats and degrade watersheds but also weaken the forest's ecological balance, which has yet to recover from past logging activities.

Therefore, I implore the Forest Service to abandon plans for Twin Mountain II and preserve the remaining old-growth forests in the Tongass.

With determination and hope,

S[acute]bastien Arcaya