

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 6/18/2018 10:26:00 PM

First name: Ryan

Last name: Scates

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email: defenders@mail.defenders.org

Phone:

Comments:

Protect the Tongass National Forest

Jun 19, 2018

Forest Service

Dear Service,

I encourage you to choose a path forward on Prince of Wales Island that protects wolves, deer, the Prince of Wales flying squirrel, and other forest dwellers dependent on old-growth habitat. The U.S. Forest Service is proposing a massive clear-cut on Prince of Wales Island in the Tongass. The current proposal would result in habitat loss for some species on the island approaching an unsustainable 80%. This island has been heavily impacted by past logging activity, making the remaining rare old-growth forest habitat crucial to support irreplaceable wildlife including wolves, bears, and endemic flying squirrels, as well as wild salmon that are the lifeblood of local communities and the economy. This sale will threaten the persistence of Alexander Archipelago wolves, Sitka black-tailed deer and the endemic Prince of Wales flying squirrel on Prince of Wales Island in the Tongass National Forest. We cannot let one of the world's most ancient wildlife havens and one of the richest, most biologically diverse forests on Earth have its history erased through the clear-cutting of its old-growth trees. In the face of widespread habitat destruction and climate change, wildlife cannot afford to lose the remaining ancient forests of the mighty Tongass. Please begin to restore balance on the Tongass by transitioning away from destructive old-growth clear-cuts as quickly as possible and by striving to protect and restore wildlife habitat instead.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ryan Scates
4834 Trinidad Dr
Land O Lakes, FL 34639-5648
(813) 388-3709
scates_ryan@yahoo.com