

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/15/2018 4:25:33 PM

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Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I would urge the forest service to consider the high public value, and long term benefits of old- growth forests before permitting roadbuilding and old-growth logging that will only provide interim economic benefits to a select few. I remain unconvinced that the benefits of this amendment will outweigh its external costs to habitat connectivity and complexity. Having worked in the TNF on stream restoration and fisheries monitoring projects, I have heard the same recurring theme throughout the ranks; that in order to achieve greater economic sustainability, we need to figure out how to transition to harvesting second growth timber. The reason that I call Southeast Alaska my home is because of the symbiotic relationship between the people that live their and the plentitude of natural resources. Although I recognize that we need timber and desire vibrant rural economies, I think there are many other alternative economic opportunities that don't place the last remaining old growth stands in such jeopardy. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and for your continued stewardship of the Tongass.