

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 12/19/2019 10:29:22 PM

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Comments:

I support Alternative 2, in particular for the Timber Harvest and Recreation activities proposed. I am very happy with the USFS's timber experts who have determined how much young growth will come available when - and the importance of harvesting certain sections to avoid mass disease spread, etc. I work in the transportation industry, and realize the difficult time the POW timber industry has, at the moment, in being able to compete with any lower 48 young growth timber opportunities. This alternative 2 has the appropriate mix of old and young growth over time to meet the bare minimum needs of the local industry, while planning ahead for the future need and hopefully economic viability of the young growth harvest. I was present at POWLAT meetings as the timber harvest plans were negotiated and I feel this was a very acceptable solution to all who attended. As a 26 year resident of POW, I and my family have used the forest on a weekly basis for all sorts of recreation and subsistence activities. I like the planned recreation activities. I especially encourage the maintenance of existing trails, and look forward to additional development at El Cap. The only part of the other alternatives that might make sense to me is the possible, limited use of herbicide treatment, just realizing the extreme cost and time needed to deal with the invasives in other manners. I would defer to the USFS biologists to use their best judgement on where it is used. I appreciate that the Tongass Forest has many wilderness acres and non-touchable harvest areas already set aside -- i feel those numbers are not advertised nearly enough in news reporting about proposed harvests.