

August 30, 2016

Dear Forest Supervisor Earl Stewart and Regional Forester Beth Pendleton,

We, the undersigned businesses, organizations and individuals, are writing you to express our deep concern over the North Kuiu timber sale and to encourage you to withdraw the sale. This project would clearcut more than 800 acres of old-growth timber from some of the most important fish and wildlife habitat on Kuiu Island, an area already hit hard by past logging and road building. This sale would degrade some of the best fish and wildlife habitat in the region at the expense of outfitters and guides, hunters, anglers, subsistence users, and recreationists.

1. The Sale will have Unacceptable Impacts to Fish and Wildlife and Local Users. This sale will have huge consequences for Kadake Creek (VCU 4210) and Security Bay (VCU 4000), which are two of the top salmon-producing watersheds in the region and highly productive areas for black bears and Sitka black-tailed deer. These areas support growing fishing and tourism companies that serve as the backbone of the regional economy. As recognized by the Tongass Advisory Committee (TAC) and the many thousands of Alaskans that spoke out in favor of stronger protections for the Tongass 77 during the several plan amendment comment periods, these areas should be off limits to new old-growth logging and managed so fish and wildlife come first.

2. The Sale is based on Out-Dated and Incomplete Environmental Analysis. The North Kuiu Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was completed in 2007 and the Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in 2008. Neither of these documents, nor the recent Supplemental Information Report, adequately consider changes to the nearby land base from the recent Sealaska Lands Bill or changes to state lands at Rowen Bay and No Name Bay, the economic ramifications of adopting a 100% export policy, the changing social and economic values in the region that recognize the importance of increased protections for the Tongass 77, the cumulative effects to watershed health, or the conflict between this timber sale and the proposed forest plan amendment. These significant oversights, along with the staleness of the FEIS and ROD, demand the Forest Service prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

3. The Sale has no Economic Justification. By adopting a 100% export policy for this sale, the Forest Service virtually guarantees the sale will support no milling and manufacturing jobs and decreases by nearly half the total number of timber-related jobs supported by the sale. Additionally, because this sale will cost taxpayers more than it will return in timber receipts, we are subsidizing a sale that threatens important fish and wildlife habitat supporting the region's vibrant fishing and tourism economies. Fishing and tourism account for nearly 25% of private-sector employment in the region and should not be traded away for this poorly-conceived timber sale.

For the above reasons, we ask you to cancel the North Kuiu timber sale and move as quickly as possible to finalize the forest plan amendment and implement its proposed protections for all of the Tongass 77 watersheds and other important conservation areas.

Travis Peterson
Owner
Alaska Charter Service
Sitka

Brad Elfers
Owner
Alaskawawa Fly Fishing Goods
Juneau

Jim Leslie
Owner
Alaska Waters Inc.
Wrangell

Dan Kirkwood
Campaign Manager
Alaska Wilderness League
Juneau

Christine Smith
Northwest Navigation Co.
M/V David B
Bellingham

Emma Deats
Commercial fisherman, SE IDEA
Field Rep
Self and Galena City School District
Juneau

Davey Lubin
Owner & Wildlife/wilderness
guide
Esther G Sea Taxi
Sitka

Paul Davis
Gallant Adventures
Sitka

Kara Berg
Glacier Bay Sea Kayaks
Gustavus

Alisha "Mutts" Decker
Alaska Master Guide
Glacier Guides Inc.
Gustavus

Zach Decker
Alaskan Hunting Guide/Business
Owner
Glacier Guides Inc.
Gustavus

Dave Lesh
Gustavus Inn
Gustavus

Marc Cappelletti
Lindblad Expeditions
New York

Steve Merritt
Commercial fisherman
Craig

Megan Gahl
Professor
Minerva Project
Douglas

(Continued)

Ann-Marie Parker
Big Game Guide
Sitka

Bruce Parker
Big Game Guide
Sitka

Scott Jorgensen
Managing Partner
Lone Eagle Resorts/ Pybus Point
Lodge
Juneau

Richard Rogers
Commercial Fisherman
Kake

Sophie Nethercut
Andrew Thoms
Sitka Conservation Society
Sitka

Dan Liden
Commerical Fisherman
M/V Snow Goose

Dennis Montgomery
South Passage Outfitter LLC
Elfin Cove

Hans Baertle
Registered guide & Owner,
Southeast Alaska Guiding
Juneau

Stephen Van Derhoff
Spirit Walker Expeditions
Gustavus

Chris Erickson
Tok River Outfitters
Hoonah

Nelli Williams
Trout Unlimited Alaska Program
Anchorage

Sue Rooney
Uncruise Adventures
Seattle

Roland Wirth
Commercial Fisherman
Sitka

Tom Melvin
Director of Sales/Alaska Program
Director
Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures
Bozeman