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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Trout Unlimited's Alaska Program statement regarding egregious Kuiu Island old-growth timber sale

Irresponsible old-growth timber sale jeopardizes fish and wildlife protections that thousands of Alaskans support.

JUNEAU, AK — The Forest Service recently put up for sale 30 million board feet of old-growth timber from 866 acres within the “Tongass 77,” which is a collection of the Tongass’ most productive and valuable salmon and trout watersheds. Several thousand Alaskans recently weighed in during the Forest Plan Amendment process, and expressed overwhelming support for protecting fish and wildlife habitat in the “Tongass 77” because of its importance for Southeast Alaska’s vital tourism and fishing economies. These protections are slated to be to go into effect once the forest plan amendment is finalized.

The statement of Trout Unlimited's Alaska Program is as follows:

“Trout Unlimited is deeply concerned that the Forest Service is fast-tracking this irresponsible old-growth timber sale from some of the best salmon habitat on the Tongass National Forest. The Forest Service is improperly relying on outdated environmental analysis to prop up unsustainable logging at the expense of the region’s important fishing and tourism industries without meaningful opportunity for public participation. By allowing 100% of the timber to be exported, the Forest Service is also shipping local manufacturing jobs overseas. This controversial sale flies in the face of recommendations made by the Tongass Advisory Committee, the Forest Service’s own on-going forest plan amendment, and the thousands of Southeast Alaskans that have voiced their support for stronger protections for the Tongass 77. We urge the Forest Service to honor the wishes of the many diverse Alaskan residents and businesses that support the Tongass 77 by cancelling this poorly-conceived timber sale and working instead to finalize its forest plan amendment.”

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Trout Unlimited Alaska is the nation’s oldest and largest coldwater fisheries conservation organization. In Alaska, we work with sportsmen and women to ensure the state’s trout and salmon resources remain healthy far into the future through our local chapters and offices in Anchorage and Juneau. Follow TU on [Facebook](#) or visit us online at tu.org. Learn more about our work to conserve high-value watersheds of the Tongass National Forest for salmon and trout at americansalmonforest.org