United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Tongass National Forest
Alaska Region
648 Mission Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
907-225-3101

File Code: 1920
Date: August 13, 2020

Planning Participant
Electronic Mailing List Recipients

Dear Interested Party,

I have decided to amend the Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) after consideration of the need for change, public and agency input, resource specialist recommendations, and applicable laws and regulations. Enclosed is the final Decision Memo for the Tongass National Forest Moderate Vulnerability Karst Forest Plan Amendment.

My decision changes Forest Plan components related to karst and cave resources for young growth management on the page 5-6 of the Forest Plan. Forest Plan Standard S-YG-KC-02 is now removed, Forest Plan Standard S-YG-KC-03 has been amended as shown in the enclosed Decision Memo, and new Management Approaches for Karst and Caves were written to respond to comments received on the project.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 219.17 (a)(2), this plan amendment is effective immediately upon publication of a legal notice in the *Ketchikan Daily News*, the newspaper of record. The Need for Change, Response to Comments, and other supporting documentation can be found on the project webpage at https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55198.

Sincerely,

M. EARL STEWART
Forest Supervisor, Tongass NF

Decision Memo for Moderate Vulnerability Karst Forest Plan Amendment