

Notice of Objection Filing Period
Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment

Responsible Official: M. Earl Stewart, Forest Supervisor
Name of Reviewing Officer: Beth G. Pendleton, Regional Forester
Time Zone: Alaska Daylight Time (AKDT)

Earl Stewart, the Forest Supervisor for the Tongass National Forest, Alaska Region, has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and draft Record of Decision (ROD) for the Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment. The draft ROD selects Alternative 5 for implementation.

The FEIS, draft ROD, and Plan are available on the forest's website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/R10/Tongass/PlanAmend>. A hardcopy and further information is available by contacting Susan Howle, Plan Amendment Project Manager, Tongass National Forest, Federal Building, Ketchikan, AK, 99901-6591, (907) 228-6340, showle@fs.fed.us.

The draft ROD is subject to objection under 36 CFR Part 219, Subpart B. A written notice of objection, including any attachments, must be submitted (regular mail, express delivery, messenger service, fax, e-mail, or hand delivery) within 60 days of the publication date of this notice in the newspapers of record, the *Juneau Empire* and the *Ketchikan Daily News*. This notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection (36 CFR 219.56(b)(3)). An electronic scan of this notice will be posted on the website noted above. Those wishing to object to the draft ROD should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Objections must be submitted to the Alaska Regional Forester, Beth Pendleton, who is the Objection Reviewing Officer, at:

Postal Delivery
USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region
Attn: Tongass Objections
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802-1628

Express, Messenger, or Hand Delivery
USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region
Attn: Tongass Objections
709 W. 9th Street
99801-1807

Electronically Filed
E-mail: objections-alaska-regional-office@fs.fed.us
Fax: (907) 586-7840

The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered objections are 8:00 AM to 5:00 pm (Alaska Daylight Time), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted in a commonly used format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx). For electronically mailed objections, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgment from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgment of the receipt of the objection, it is the

sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means. Timeliness will be determined as indicated in 36 CFR 219.56 (c). The regulations prohibit extending the length of the objection filing period.

The objection process provides an opportunity for members of the public who have participated in the planning process for the forest plan amendment to have any unresolved concerns reviewed by the Forest Service prior to a final decision by the Responsible Official. Under 36 CFR 219.53(a), objections will be accepted only from those individuals or organizations who have previously submitted substantive formal comments related to this amendment of the Tongass Forest Plan during the opportunities for public comment provided for this amendment. Objections must be based on previously submitted substantive comments attributed to the objector, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for public comment. (36 CFR 219.53(a)). In addition, objections must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 219.54(c).

Any objection must include the following (36 CFR 219.54(c)):

- 1) The objector's name and address, along with a telephone number or email address if available;
- 2) Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);
- 3) Identification of the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an objection.
- 4) The name of the plan amendment being objected to, and the name and title of the Responsible Official;
- 5) A statement of the issues and/or parts of the plan amendment to which the objection applies;
- 6) A concise statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the draft plan decision may be improved. If the objector believes that the plan amendment is inconsistent with law, regulation, or policy, an explanation should be included;
- 7) A statement that demonstrates the link between the objector's prior substantive formal comments and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment; and
- 8) All documents referenced in the objection (a bibliography is not sufficient), except as noted at 36 CFR 219.54(b).

All objections are open to public inspection and will be published in the newspapers of record and posted to the Forest Service website (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/R10/Tongass/PlanAmend>).

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Please publish in the July 1, 2016 edition of the Ketchikan Daily News.