



Forest Service  
Alaska Region  
P. O. Box 21628  
Juneau, Alaska 99802



**Twitter:** @AKForestService  
**Web:** <http://www.fs.usda.gov/r10>

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**Contact:** Rosann Fillmore, Public Affairs Specialist  
Phone: 907-228-6200 Email: [rdfillmore@fs.fed.us](mailto:rdfillmore@fs.fed.us)

**Forest Service clarifies Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan Review and Objection processes**

KETCHIKAN, Alaska—July 20, 2016. In light of inaccurate information appearing in some media reports regarding the recent release of the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (Plan), Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), and Draft Record of Decision (ROD), the U.S. Forest Service is clarifying the FEIS review and objection processes.

On July 1, 2016 the FEIS was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and made available for public review, as required by regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1506.10). This required 30 day review period is not a formal comment period, but is running concurrently with the 60-day objection filing period for the Draft ROD. The objection process provides an opportunity for members of the public who 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. A written notice of objection, including any attachments, must be submitted to the Reviewing Official, Regional Forester Beth Pendleton, within 60 days of the July 1, 2016 notice publication date in the *Ketchikan Daily News*. The notice published in the *Ketchikan Daily News* is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection (36 CFR 219.56(b)(3)). Information regarding where and how to submit objections can be found on the Forest Service web site at: [http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd507566.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd507566.pdf).

Objections will be accepted only from those individuals or organizations who have previously submitted substantive formal comments related to the amendment of the Tongass Plan during the opportunities for public comment. For more information about the Tongass Plan Amendment and to view legal notices, please visit: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/R10/Tongass/PlanAmend>.

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