



*Your Land.
Your Voice.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 2017

Contact: Corey Himrod

Tel: 202-544-5205 or Email: corey@alaskawild.org

GAO decision puts Tongass National Forest, its wildlife and SE Alaska's economy at risk

Anchorage, Alaska - Yesterday, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued its determination that the U.S. Forest Service's 2016 Tongass Land Management Plan Amendment is a "rule" and therefore subject to the Congressional Review Act. Congress now has 60 legislative days from the GAO's determination to decide whether to pass a joint resolution of disapproval and overturn the TLMP amendment.

Statement by Andy Moderow, Alaska Director, Alaska Wilderness League:

"The 2016 Tongass management plan amendment reflects a broad regional and national consensus that it is time to finally transition away from destructive old-growth clearcutting in the Tongass National Forest.

While the GAO's decision might open the door to review under the Congressional Review Act, the Tongass amendment is not some last-minute rule passed in the final days of an administration. This was a years-long process and thousands of Alaskans – including representatives from local government, timber, Alaska Natives and conservationists – spoke out in favor of transitioning away from old-growth logging and instead supporting the region's sustainable industries that rely on a healthy forest.

Allowing Congress to kill that transition would hurt the Tongass, its wildlife and the economy of southeast Alaska, and would be nothing more than another scheme by the Alaska delegation to ram unpopular policies through without true consideration or debate."

###



www.AlaskaWild.org

122 C St NW, Ste 240, Washington, DC 20001 * Tel: 202-544-5205 * Fax: 202-544-5197