



File Code: 1950
Date: April 20, 2015

Dear Reader,

Enclosed is your copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Commercial Harvest of Spruce Tips on the Sitka Ranger District, Tongass National Forest. This document describes one no-action alternative and one action alternative for the commercial harvest of spruce tips from NFS lands.

As the Responsible Official for this project, I will decide whether the commercial harvesting will occur on the Sitka Ranger District at this time; if so, where and how it occurs, and what mitigations measures are required. A completed EA and draft decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is expected to be published in August 2015.

The EA is available on-line at: <http://goo.gl/FW536B>. The EA is also available for review at the Sitka Ranger District office. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from: Thomas Witherspoon, 204 Siginaka Way, Sitka, AK, 99835, 907-747-4213 and/or tjwitherspoon@fs.fed.us.

Specific written comments on the proposed project will be accepted for 30 days following the date of publication of the Legal Notice in the Sitka Sentinel, the newspaper of record for the Sitka Ranger District. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for a proposed action documented in an EA. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Only individuals or entities who submit timely and specific written comments about this proposed project or activity during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection. Comments must be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. Persons submitting comments must provide the following information: name and address; title of the proposed project; specific written comments; and signature or other verification of identity upon request. Other requirements to be eligible to submit an objection are listed at 36 CFR 218.25(a)(3). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted.

Specific written comments for the Responsible Official may be submitted via mail, other delivery service, email, fax, or in person to: Thomas Witherspoon, Project Leader, Forester, 204 Siginaka Way, Sitka, AK, 99829, tjwitherspoon@fs.fed.us, or

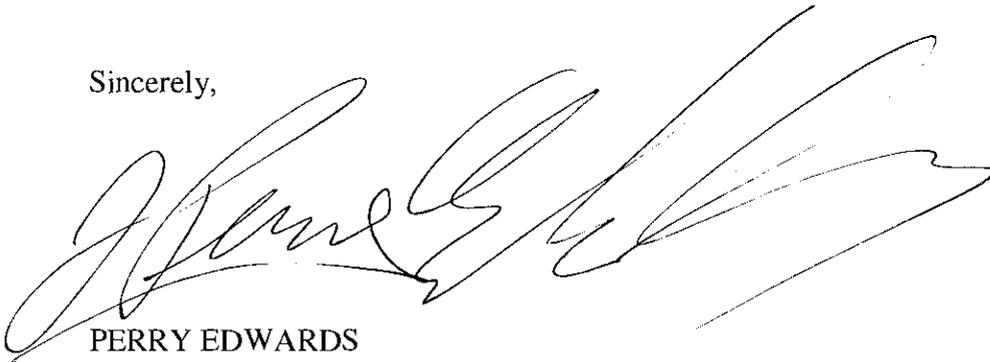


alaska-tongass-sitka@fs.fed.us, FAX at 907-747-4253, or Phone at 907-747-4213.

Business hours for hand delivered comments are: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays. Electronic comments shall be in a format that is compatible with the current version of MS Word.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this process. Your comments and involvement are important to me. If you have questions about this project, please contact Thomas Witherspoon at the Sitka District office at 907-747-4213.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Perry Edwards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

PERRY EDWARDS
District Ranger