



October 21, 2024

Carey Case, District Ranger
USDA Forest Service
Tongass National Forest
Petersburg Ranger District
PO Box 1328
Petersburg, AK 99833

Re: Support for the Thomas Bay Stewardship Proposal

Dear Petersburg District Ranger Case,

The Petersburg Borough Assembly supports the Petersburg Ranger District's Thomas Bay Stewardship Proposal.

The proposed work activities align with many of the needs of our community and include:

- Harvesting young-growth timber to increase the viability of young-growth harvest and processing capacity for the benefit of local economies,
- Providing early seral forest habitat for the area's deer and moose populations while maintaining forest connectivity,
- Removing temporary road prism to restore fish access and reestablish downstream flow,
- Thinning young-growth stands for wildlife and riparian habitat benefits,
- Replacing log culvert near Thomas Bay Marine Transfer Facility with a permanent structure to maintain aquatic organism passage.

We also suggest adding additional trail opportunities that allow for expanded use of the area for residents of the Borough and visitors to our region.

Thank you for considering our comments and for your commitment to responsible management of timber harvests and forest restoration needs in our region.

Respectfully,

Mark Jensen, Mayor