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Date: MAY 08 2019

The Honorable Mark Jensen
Mayor of Petersburg
Post Office Box 329
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Dear Mayor Jensen:

Thank you for your letters of November 6, 2018, and April 16, 2019, regarding the June 2016 U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service review of two Tongass National Forest timber sales. I apologize for the delayed response.

I share your interest in a consistent, sustainable timber sale program on the Tongass National Forest that supports the local economy while adhering to strong policy, management, and financial controls.

On April 20, 2018, Christopher B. French, Acting Deputy Chief, National Forest System, requested a formal audit of the Alaska Regional timber program by the Forest Service Chief Financial Officer, including its cruise and appraisal programs. A team of auditors from the Forest Service Audit and Assurance Branch has visited Alaska, conducted a thorough review of timber sale documents, and interviewed Agency personnel. The team of auditors are preparing a comprehensive program review of the timber program. When the report is compiled, we will review the results and make changes if warranted. We look forward to sharing with you those actions aimed to address any findings identified by the audit.

Again, thank you for writing and for your interest in management of the National Forests. If you have further questions, please contact Christopher B. French, Acting Deputy Chief, National Forest System at (202) 205-1689.

Sincerely,

VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN
Chief

