



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE
CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Resolution EC 26-04

Title: Affirming Indigenous Forest Stewardship, Conservation, and Climate-Responsive Management Across Tlingit & Haida Homelands

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 38,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Tlingit & Haida Constitution, the Executive Council is the governing body of Tlingit & Haida when the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida is a sovereign Tribal nation with inherent rights and responsibilities to steward its traditional lands, waters, and resources according to Indigenous Knowledge, cultural values, and customary and traditional use practices; and

WHEREAS, large tree old-growth forests within Tlingit & Haida homelands are foundational to cultural identity, Alaska Native subsistence uses as recognized under federal law, which are inseparable from Tlingit & Haida ways of life, spiritual practices, wildlife habitat, salmon-producing watersheds, and climate resilience; and

WHEREAS, industrial clearcut and large tree old-growth logging have caused long-term ecological degradation, habitat fragmentation, and adverse impacts to cultural and subsistence resources, while restoration of old-growth forest characteristics is uncertain, prolonged, and not guaranteed under current management regimes, particularly under accelerating climate change; and

WHEREAS, scientific research and Indigenous Knowledge demonstrate that intact old-growth forests provide critical carbon sequestration and buffering against climate and anthropogenic impacts to cultural-ecological systems relied upon by present and future generations; and



WHEREAS, federal authorities including the Tribal Forest Protection Act, Secretarial Order 3403, Public Law 93-638 authority, stewardship contracting authority, co-stewardship and co-management agreements, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Tribal Consultation Policy provide mechanisms for Tribal leadership in forest and watershed management;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska supports the cessation of old-growth and clearcut logging across Tlingit & Haida homelands and a transition to forest management prescriptions that mimic natural disturbance regimes in space and time, including practices that promote all-aged, mixed-species stands; reflect the composition and structure of adjacent unharvested forests; prioritize restoration of old-growth characteristics; and enhance habitat connectivity for cultural and subsistence species; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida supports a durable transition to young-growth active management that prioritizes restoration and enhancement of habitat for cultural trees and their priority habitat, subsistence species, enhances access to traditional ways of life, expands opportunities for Tribal co-stewardship and co-management, and creates pathways for workforce development, youth engagement, and culturally aligned forest bioeconomies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida affirms the protection, conservation, and co-stewardship of lands and waters with traditional and customary use characteristics, including but not limited to hunting, fishing, and gathering areas that sustain subsistence, cultural, and community well-being; old-growth red and yellow cedar stands essential for carving, weaving, and restoration of traditional structures; cultural and historic sites; old-growth forests with high carbon sequestration capacity as defined by Tribes; salmon-producing watersheds essential to customary, commercial, and recreational harvests; and culturally and spiritually significant landscapes identified by Tribal governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida supports Tribal led restoration of previously logged or degraded areas particularly those adjacent to old-growth reserves and traditional use areas with desired conditions and restoration strategies defined by the Tribe(s) in whose territories degradation has occurred or their designated appointees, utilizing funding and authorities including co-stewardship and co-management agreements, stewardship contracts, Tribal Forest Protection Act projects, and Public Law 93-638 contracting and compacting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida supports watershed-scale management approaches that center Indigenous Knowledge and address cumulative and indirect impacts on cultural-ecological systems, including ecological buffer zones to accelerate old-growth regeneration and protect priority salmon-bearing watersheds, and culturally aligned thinning in previously managed stands to promote structural diversity and wildlife habitat recovery; and

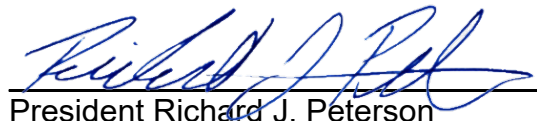
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida supports full protection of tribal identified sacred and culturally significant areas under the 2001 Roadless Rule, as reaffirmed in the Traditional Homelands Conservation Petition, while ensuring maintenance of critical access infrastructure necessary for continued customary and traditional use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida supports the development of climate-responsive forest economies that prioritize cultural values, sustainability, and a triple bottom line of environmental health, social well-being, and economic resilience, including diversification away from extractive models and recognition of heritage trees such as old-growth red cedar, yellow cedar, and Sitka spruce as potentially non-renewable resources under current climate and management pressures;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Executive Council directs the Tlingit & Haida President or designee to transmit this resolution to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), USDA Forest Service and other relevant federal agencies, and calls upon those agencies to fully utilize existing authorities and cooperative agreements to implement these priorities in coordination with sovereign Tribal governments, consistent with the USDA Tribal Consultation Policy and applicable federal law.

ADOPTED this 16th day of January 2026, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 0 absences.

CERTIFY


President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST


Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata