

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-13

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA SUPPORTING EXPANDING
RECREATIONAL AND TOURISM RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE
TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST**

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Sitka supports expanding recreational and tourism related activities in the Tongass National Forest as the budget for recreation directly impacts our industries and businesses; and

WHEREAS, over the last six years, the level of funding Congress has set nationally for the Forest Service to manage recreation in the country's 155 national forests has dropped by 15 percent; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Sitka relies on the Forest Service to administer special use permits, maintain safe trails, and work with us *and other entities* to accommodate the growing demand from our guests for experiencing the Tongass National Forest; and

WHEREAS, on average the Forest Service allocates 10 percent of its discretionary budget to the Tongass Recreation, Wilderness, and Heritage program, trails, and visitor facilities. By comparison, recreation is the agency's largest money maker generating, on average, about half of the Tongass National Forest's annual revenue. This money is collected from commercial outfitter and guide operations, visitor centers, and other recreation facilities like cabins and campgrounds; and


WHEREAS, a million visitors are expected to visit southeast Alaska this summer. According to the Alaska Department of Commerce, the visitor industry provides 20 percent of employment in southeast Alaska. Overall, the tourism industry supports 10,800 jobs in southeast Alaska, while contributing \$1.09 billion in visitor spending and \$405 million in annual labor income to the region; and

NOW, THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka supports expanding recreational and tourism related activities in the Tongass National Forest.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, on this 14th day of July, 2015.


Mim McConnell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sara Peterson, CMC
Municipal Clerk