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Comments:

As our nation has has dwindling critical ecological areas, these invaluable resources must be preserved for future generations. There will always be economic excuses for eliminating National Forests, however, the key word id "national forests" not narrow economic interests. Once these areas are developed (another word for ruined) they will never be returned to their original state.

We cannot as a nation continue to yield to short-sighted objectives at the expense of our natural environment. It has been shown many times that an intact ecosystem yields far more (economically, biodiversity, recreational) than a "developed" one.

Just ask the American people, including natural scientists, what they think, not folks with vested interests.

I sincerely hope that this ecologically harmful proposal by the Forest Service for this invaluable piece of Alaskan wilderness is reconsidered for many reasons.

Sincerely yours,

James K. Dooley, Ph.D., Professor of Biology

Member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Consultant for the United Nations Food & Agricultural Organization (FAO)