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Comments:

I understand the the Forest Service has a historical relationship to logging, but I think we need to be clear-headed and realistic about the current reality of the Tongass. Old-Growth logging provides very few jobs and very little economic value to the region, at the expense of fishing, tourism, subsistence and ecosystem health. The practice of using tax-payer dollars to subsidize the hell out of old growth logging, for the sake of a few logging jobs and lining the pockets of logging corporations isn't going to work anymore. The Tongass is an incredibly valuable forest. It is the backbone of Southeast Alaska's commercial fishing and tourism industries. It has never been a profitable timber forest. It has always required massive subsidies in the form of dead-end roads and useless infrastructure. How is POW supposed to realize the actual value of the Tongass if you keep cutting it down? How many decades is it going to take for the Forest Service to wake up from it's delusions of Tongass timber? The time to transition to young growth logging is right now! I sincerely support much of the work the FS accomplishes in the Tongass. Habitat restoration, recreational infrastructure and pre-treatment of young-growth stands are all important services you provide to the Tongass. Do what is valuable. Ditch the old-growth logging.