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Comments:

Clear cutting old growth forests on Prince of Wales island will have minimal short term benefits but prove to be most costly in both the short and long term. Habitat quality will be diminished for the Alexander Archipelago wolf which is already endangered (fewer than 1,000 animals) and deer numbers will decline. Declining deer populations will stimulate more pressure by local hunters and trappers for reducing wolf numbers. The expanding road system will further increase hunting and trapping pressure on local wolf populations. The Tongass' stands of 700-year-old trees provide vital habitat for salmon, bears, Sitka black-tailed deer, goshawks, and the Alexander Archipelago wolf. Abundant fish and wildlife form the basis of the Tongass' \$2 billion fishing and tourism industries.

Southeast Alaska and the Tongass National Forest with its beautiful old growth forests is one of the last gems on the planet, but certainly in the United States. More money could be brought in through developing tourism and protecting the salmon industry than by the short term gains of clearcutting.