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Comments:

"Dear Service Forest,

I urge you to reject the logging proposed in the Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis project in the Tongass National Forest.

For decades the Forest Service allowed the logging industry to clear-cut thousands of acres of Prince of Wales Island. The agency should not allow the industry to decimate what little old-growth habitat remains.

Additional logging of Prince of Wales Island old-growth forest is unsustainable. It would destroy irreplaceable habitat for species unique to the island, as well as bears, salmon, Sitka black-tailed deer and Alexander Archipelago wolves.

The U.S. Forest Service must shift its management of Prince of Wales away from the controversial and costly industrial-scale old-growth timber sales and instead focus on restoration of wildlife habitat and watersheds, tourism and recreation.

I ask that the U.S. Forest Service act swiftly and strongly to protect the Tongass National Forest by quickly transitioning out of industrial-scale old-growth logging in this national treasure.

For decades the logging industry has talked about sustainable harvesting. On Prince of Wales Island more than 94% of the original growth has already been removed, far beyond any credible claims of sustainability.

Regards,

Rick Simkin

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