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Comments:

I have worked in the tourist industry in the Tongass National Forest since 1996. I currently Captain a 12-passenger vessel in Glacier Bay National Park and throughout the Tongass from April-September. I can tell you from over 20 years of experience guiding guests from around the world, what a precious, unique & pristine resource the Tongass represents. When we encounter areas where there has been clearcutting in the past (or recently, Sealaska on the Cleveland Peninsula), less wildlife is encountered and people are outraged as to why this is still happening. It is clearly known how salmon habitat is destroyed, tourism impacted, and it will take a minimum of 400 years to approximate the beginning stages of an old-growth ecosystem. The financial studies have all shown that logging & mining over the long-run return a fraction of the economic benefit as does fishing & tourism. Not to mention the other benefits to humans to have some authorities who have a vision to the future, as opposed to short-termed gains. I strongly urge you to oppose clearcutting and logging in the Tongass and think about your children, grand-children and future generations who will be able to say your name proudly as one who stood for the protection of this invaluable resource. Thank-you.