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First name: Cale

Last name: LaDuke

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: PO Box 1216

Address2:

City: Sitka

State: AK

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 99835

Country: United States

Email: caleladuke@gmail.com

Phone: 9077388000

Comments:

Dear Forest Service,

I'm 36 years old and I've lived in Southeast Alaska my whole life. I have worked and lived on Prince of Wales & Hoonah in areas where heavy logging has happened. I've hiked all around Sitka and have seen the effects of logging years later. The reason that I live in Sitka and want to spend my life here is that it's beautiful. We have probably the most pristine forest left in all of America. If these forests were to be logged, it would be deeply depressing. I would hate to see that happen. It would make me consider moving away.

I enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking. I am about to have a child and I would like for my child to experience the natural beauty of this place. I also make a living off of commercial fishing for salmon. I believe that it's very important for the forest to stay healthy for the salmon to stay healthy as well. I also plan on starting an eco-tour business and I would prefer not to show clients clear cuts. We have a very small amount of old growth forest left in the world and I think we should leave it alone.

At a minimum, I support keeping the original roadless rule in place, but I would also support increasing restrictions on what development can be done on the Tongass. I think overturning the roadless rule to pursue new logging and new roads is a waste of tax payer dollars. If we need to maintain our logging industry, I think we should start by putting more effort into logging second growth forests. In addition, I would like to see thinning done on areas that were previously clear cut, as it's pretty obvious that most of the areas have not been thinned properly. We should not log around Sitka or places where people live. I would also like to see an economic analysis done that compares the cost of new clear cutting and road building versus the profits that come out of it, not including the subsidies. This analysis should be shared with the public, so that people can weigh the value for themselves.

The old growth trees that are left will never grow back in our lifetime if they are logged. Even the second growth ones won't. Please keep our forest as pristine and ancient as possible.

Thanks,

Cale LaDuke