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Comments:

In the 1970s and 1980s, I lived on Prince of Wales Island and am quite familiar with the acres and acres and many square miles of clear-cuts one sees there. POW Island has had way more than its share of industrial clear-cut logging. Clear-cutting of old growth timber is an old, outmoded, way of decimating a thriving, living forest.

The Tongass is a world class temperate rain forest large enough to affect world climate. Removing another 200 mbf of old growth forest will render the Tongass nearly incapable of maintaining its ecological needs. Climate change is here and happening now, and it needs the help of more trees, not less.

In the forest as in the world, everything is related. Salmon that we love to eat are dependent upon the streams flowing out of the forest. Wildlife needs mature forest to survive. Mankind needs the forest for subsistence food gathering, and recreation. Resources are for everyone--we can't simply trade one (salmon) for another (logging)--everything is related and dependent upon everything else. A balance is needed, and with another 200 mbf "harvest" looming, things are far out of balance.

Between the USFS and Sealaska Corp., POW Island has seen enough logging for its lifetime. The Tongass is a national treasure but clear-cut logging is leaving it looking literally, like a war zone. There is no reason why cutting old growth timber should be the #1 priority, when the fisheries, the climate, and humanity are also depending on the forest.

Lets try to think of the future and of leaving a forest legacy for generations to come. Once, the entire country was covered with trees. Alaska is now about the last place remaining in a near-natural state. Strangely enough, millions of tourists are visiting Alaska and the Tongass because of that natural state! Sending irreplaceable, huge, round logs to the orient is short-sighted. The Tongass has so much more value as a living, breathing, breeding, and biologically rich, ecosystem. Please, no more clear-cut logging on Prince of Wales Island. Thank you.