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Comments:

HC6393

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I support Alternative 1, the no action alternative, upholding the roadless rule for the Tongass. Here are the reasons why:

- 1- In the effort to combat climate change its imperative not to cut any more old growth.
- 2- The Tongass is the biggest carbon sink in the entire national forest system.
- 3- In tact ecosystems have a better chance of surviving extreme climate events than fragmented compromised ecosystems.
- 4- 99% of the regions economy have nothing, to do with logging or round log exporting.
- 5- Exporting non processed logs in the round is bad for the local economy and an irresponsible practice
- 6- Tourism is dependent of the roadless areas
- 7- Fisheries are dependent on the roadless areas
- 8- Subsistence hunting and gathering need the roadless areas
- 9- Local communities are dependent on roadless areas
- 10- Roadless areas support important recreational activities
- 11- The USFS already has a road maintenance backlog of 8.4 billion dollars
- 12- There are still thousands of *red pipes[text in quotes for emphasis]* obstructing fisheries habitat
- 13- The USFS prioritizes new clearcuts for round log exporting over fixing *red pipes[text in quotes for emphasis]* from old timber sales
- 14- Roads, and the accompanying clearcuts, are bad for all old growth dependent species.
- 15- Designating roadless areas was a late-in-the-game compromise to offset 60 years of reckless industrial logging. Without the designation, the industry will lay waste to the last best undisturbed blocks of wildlife and fisheries habitat in the Tongass.
- 16- 15+ years ago the USFS lied to this region saying they were halting sales of old growth. There is no effort to conclude cutting old growth.
- 17- The Tongass deserves full protection of the roadless rule because, in addition to mass clearcutting on federal lands, the ecosystem has suffered clearcutting on adjacent state, mental health, university, and native corporation lands.
- 18- More roading doesn't bring more prosperity. Prince of Wales Island, with its 2500 miles of road, has become impoverished as a direct result of logging.
- 19- Logging and roading in the Tongass costs the tax payers approx. 54 million dollars a year. Subsidizing a paltry number of jobs and huge profits to overseas multinational corporations.

20- It is wrong to deprive future generations of these important wildlands. This generation has taken more than its fair share.

21- Anywhere industrial logging and roading has occurred in the Tongass, future opportunity has been eliminated. Old growth is not a renewable resource. If it was, industry would be clamoring for 2nd growth. The truth is it took hundreds and hundreds of years to create this forest. It won't replicate again for hundreds of years, if ever.

22- The majority of the comments (over 90%) that USFS received following its notice of intent to change the roadless rule, supported upholding the status quo.

23- The public process has been a sham with a top down dictate from our governor, senators & president. The preferred alternative 6 in no way reflects the public's preference of no action. Public process for public lands should not come with predetermined outcomes. There has been nothing democratic or collaborative about this process. Its a disgrace and disrespectful of the public participants. I deeply resent the USFS' waste of the publics' time, energy, and responsible participation.

24- Global warming needs to receive front and center consideration when planning the future of our public forests. The era of log it to death resource extraction needs to end immediately.

25- The roadless rule is working in the Tongass.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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