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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support keeping the Roadless Rule for Alaska. (Please read)

My name is Gregory Sorenson, I am 71 years old and live in Hope, Alaska. In the 70's I moved to Alaska and worked for Ketchikan Pulp Company. After working for them I became a hand troller in SE Alaska and own property in Edna Bay on Kosiusko Island in Sea Otter Sound. Edna Bay is my dream property and I have taken both my sons to the property so they know the beauty of the area and will keep the property in our family. I support keeping the Roadless Rule for Alaska. I grew up in Coos Bay, Oregon and my dad was a logger. At the time our family had a gypo mill and Coos Bay was the largest lumber shipping port in the world. Yes in the world. Now, if you go to Coos County the largest employer is the #1 golf destination in the USA, Bandon Dunes Golf Course complex with over 400 caddies employed let alone everyone else. The second largest employer in Coos County is The Mill Casino which was named "The Mill" because it sits at a site where there used to be a saw mill. Of all the sawmills that were in Coos Bay, I don't think there are any that operate now. Logs are peeled and sent overseas or are made into chips and sent overseas. My point is, the economy of the USA and world is changing. The old farts like Don Young and others are clinging to old antiquated ideas of the economy and growth and can not comprehend the new economies of recreation and entertainment. These old farts need to quit spending american citizen's taxpayer money in order to try to support logging when that horse has already fallen, got a broken leg and needs to be put out of it's misery. The new economy is the beauty and recreation opportunities that are abundant and compatible with fishing and tourism. Before white men came to SE Alaska, the native population was larger than the number of people who live in SE Alaska now. They survived with the abundance of the land and we should not destroy forests just to provide a few jobs for loggers who many live out of state. Logging is changing too and riding the ferry last time down to Seattle I couldn't believe a logger going back to Oregon who was wearing "jammy bottoms" around the boat like a goof ball from the city. A good book, an excellent book to read is on the art work of Charles Edenshaw by black dog publishing in london uk. Remember that in 1862 smallpox almost destroyed the Haida culture, reducing the population from upwards of 30,000 to less than 600 people. Preserve the roadless rule.

[Position]