

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/6/2019 9:00:00 AM

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Organization:

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Comments: I lived in Ketchikan, AK from 1996-2000. It's important to remember that we may need certain natural resources in the future, and harvesting them now likely means we don't have them later. Yes, forests do grow back, but not as strong or as healthy. It's shortsighted to look for quick, short term financial gain from lumber sales. We should not be cutting down our trees and shipping them overseas. Does no one remember the famed cedars of Lebanon? If land is removed from the national forest, it should be returned to the Alaskan Natives such that they may determine what to harvest and when, as well as glean any profit. There was good reason to restrict logging in the Tongass in the past and those reasons should be revisited before committing a grievous error. At any rate, it is better to proceed with care and moderation, rather than opening up very large tracts of land for harvest. Also, there may be potential to designate previously logged land as managed forest that can provide timber indefinitely, but I am wholly against cutting any more old-growth forests.

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