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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have lived in SE Alaska for 40 years. I came as an employee of the Forest Service working as a Tech doing p line surveying for logging sales. After finishing a season that ended in a stand of old growth spruce, I suddenly realized what I had participated in and I resigned. I lived in Humboldt Co during the 70's and went to many hearings and demonstrations against clearcutting the old growth redwoods. My husband and I were commercial fishers for 15 yrs out of Petersburg and appreciate the value of intact forests and their contribution to healthy salmon populations. It's a privilege to live in the largest temperate rainforest in the world which provides a vibrant habituate for apex predators such as brown bear and on down the line: deer, wolves, porcupine, marten, mink, snowshoe hares, etc. I fought to end the 50 yr contract with the Japanese that was created to subsidize the logging industry in SE (at something like 97c to the \$1) and I watched as old growth spruce were loaded on ships in places like Kake and shipped to Japan to be buried in the mud or turned into expensive instruments. The logging industry in SE benefits a few to the detriment of many. It's not an economically viable industry here because of the cost of doing business, i.e., materials for road building, access to markets, etc. The mills have largely been shuttered except for Viking on Prince of Wales Island. The wood is not milled or sold here so the secondary jobs and markets don't help this region. Please do not repeal the Roadless Rule!!! Haven't we learned by now that the greater value of this intact ecosystem is for the animals that rely on it, the recreational uses of the citizens of this country who pay taxes, and the role the trees play in contributing to a healthy environment. We worry about carbon footprints but an old growth tree stores a tremendous amount of carbon. You can't replace something that takes hundreds of years to create. A healthy forest, especially one as large as the Tongass, plays an invaluable role in tempering global warming. Please don't do this just because you can or because a few people want to be able to say they have a logging industry and we're open for business. Our children and grandchildren will pay the price.

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