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First name: LeAnn
Last name: Magee
Organization: Abita Springs Ready for 100
Title:
Comments: To whom it may concern,I was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, camping at National Parks, attending Girl Scout camps, and Methodist Church Summer camp. I have traveled throughout the Northwest, including Canada and Alaska. My Bachelor of Science degree, from Portland State University, is in Northwest Coast Archaeology. Having witnessed the biodiversity and ecological fragility of this amazing environment, I feel I can attest to the importance of its preservation. Historically, this area is an important cultural resource for native populations and the cultures who rely upon the coastal waterways and inland forests. Logging creates erosion which causes an influx of sediments into waterways, destroying fish habitat. Micronutrients from the soul are then lost to washouts, and microorganisms havent the capacity for survival. This destruction of topsoil doesnt allow for healthy regrowth. It is scientifically proven that ancient trees support an ecosystem which is highly specialized but imperative the health of surrounding wildlife communities. Removal of just one old growth Sitka Spruce leads to the chain of events in which entire niches are rendered inactive. This kind of logging affects far more than its geographic location. It affects the entire forest and the people who live there. It also affects surrounding populations through the tremendous release of carbon which in turn raises the temperature of the forest beyond sustainable limits.

I urge you to protect the Tongass Forest from degradation through logging, and maintain the road-free status that ensures its pristine state exists for generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration of this exceptionally important matter.

Sincerely,

LeAnn P MageeChair, Abita Committee for Energy Sustainability

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