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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC3016

I would thank the forest service for the opportunity to provide my opinion, but it is clear the agency is not acting in good faith. Instead the agency is putting on a horse and pony show and telling us to smile and pet the pony.

The forest service is violating the basic tenets of democracy, a word which literally means rule of the people. Sonny Perdue is acting as a tyrant with the full support of the Forest Service an agency entrusted with safeguarding the peoples land.

In regards to subsistence I support the no action alternative. As a former resident of Mitkof Island I have seen first hand the damage wrought by the Forest Service's policy of clearcut logging. As a resident of Mitkof Island my subsistence rights were stolen by failed management. As a result of industry logging deer populations crashed to unsustainable levels with very few hunt opportunities. Residents are forced to take dangerous journeys across exposed waters in winter conditions for days at a time to access Admiralty Island, the nearest area with substantial old growth remain. Those without the resources to own a boat are simply out of luck.

I also rely on salmon, a fish that relies on healthy old growth. We've watched salmon fisheries collapse up and down the coast as a result of failed exploitative management regimes. These protections will be even more important as climate change excellerates.

For a commercial salmon fisherman like me, it is a double [illegible] because as my cash income is reduced my subsistence rights will also be impinged upon.

The Tongass is our home and our pantry. It is the source of food of last resort for a region with a poor food distribution network. The Tongass is more than a place to turn into toilet paper.

[Position]