

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/31/2022 3:58:30 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Since moving to south-east Alaska in 1993, I have sought out and enjoyed the many delights of the Tongass Forest. Over 29 years I have spent time accessing a whole range of ecosystems and public designations and private land and waterways, from Refuge, Wilderness, National Park, and State Park, to canals, bays, rivers, channels, mountains, and estuary's. What stands out in recreating, harvesting, visiting and hunting, by trail, kayak, ferry and road, are areas of Old Growth Forest remaining on Federal lands. I can recall every visit in old growth and host guests in returning there.

Old growth and mature forests sustain mammals of bear and deer, all varieties of salmon, and complex vegetation in their understory. Ecological diversity spurs multiple uses of recreation, tourism, subsistence, even promoting the arts, creative writing, and scientific field study.

I am interested to track Executive Order #14072, and ultimately request the Forest Service within the USDA, recognize the value of old and mature forests and take action to protect and foster access to them by the wider community.