

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/21/2024 3:52:12 AM

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Comments: Nancy Hilding

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Thanks to the Forest Service for doing this DEIS and to President Biden for setting it in motion.

I believe that old growth is very special and important part of our forests and must be protected, especially on the Tongass.

I believe that logging, especially logging designed to prevent or curtail insects, disease or fire should not be allowed in old growth or in mature forests dedicated to becoming old growth.

The Black Hills has less than 1% old growth left. We very much need for the forest service to protect replacement old growth with enforceable standards - replacement old growth can't be logged.

I believe that logging is a much greater threat than insects, disease or fire. I believe the Forest Service staff brains are hard wired to cook up endless reasons to justify cutting more trees. I have watched this for over 30 years. The excuse to cut trees changes by the decade but there is always a multiple-use excuse, claiming the cause for cutting is something else rather than timber jobs/revenue. This may be to get out from under the Cumulative Mean Annual Increment.

Please create very strong protections that are STANDARDS. Please protect old growth.