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First name: Siddharth

Last name: Mehrotra

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Siddharth Mehrotra <2siddharthmehrotra@gmail.com>

10:15?AM (3 minutes ago)

to janelle.crocker, bcc: paul.robins

To Whom It May Concern,

We, the undersigned, are in opposition to logging in the remaining old-growth portion of the Tongass Forest. In the first place, because old growth is not necessarily superior as wood, except for aesthetic reasons (now arguable to be obsolete), to second-growth, plantation trees, recycled wood, or compressed material. Furthermore, in your own assessment, the timber to be harvested from the old growth supplies only three years' worth of material, and is therefore far from cost-effective.

In the second place, extensive logging is positively co-related with higher rates of erosion, as your own Service has admitted in remarking the risk of live trees falling prematurely "is high due to its exposure to winds coming off Red Bay and adjacent past harvest".

In the third place, the loss of old growth is also co-related with the loss of indigenous avifauna, and therefore with a net loss of scientific data, encompassing ornithology, zoology, biology, genetics, population studies, accurate statistics, and even botany and entomology, with consequences for all future operations in the region.

In the fourth place, old growth sequesters more carbon from the atmosphere than secondary growth, and for that reason is a vital asset in the effort to reduce pollution.

For these and other reasons, we respectfully request the delay, for the foreseeable future, of logging in Twin Mountain II and Unit 346.

Yours sincerely,
Siddharth Mehrotra