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Organization:

Title:

Comments: See attached file(s)

The following text was copy/pasted from an attached letter. The system cannot display the formatting, graphics, or tables from the attached original.

Opening up national forests to deforestation is a particularly poor idea. The Tongass National Forest is an area that should be protected, but if it were to be opened it has to be logged in very safe ways as to make sure the forest is not completely wiped and destroyed. As a person who enjoys the outdoors and recreation, I hope that a forest like this, which provides great habitat for plenty of fish and game, is protected and allows for people to continue to enjoy the area for recreation. The development of the forest could cause serious repercussions for the areas around it and kill lots of wildlife. Another risk to go around with the deforestation of trees could cause clean oxygen to also be on the decline. The development of forested areas could affect the water in the area. Tongass National Forest is home to lots of clean and clearwater that could be ruined if the trees were to be cut down similar to what has happened at other areas where heavy logging has occurred. I think that the forest has to remain protected because the opening of Tongass could be the gateway for lots of other deforestation that will affect the US as a whole and not just the deforested locations. Another reason I oppose the deforestation of Tongass national forest is because it will hurt biodiversity. Tongass is part of the boreal forest type and is rather rare. It is host to lots of interesting species that are hard to find other places, so if the forest were to be destroyed then a large part of biodiversity in the boreal forests will be removed. I think the destruction of Tongass national forest would also lead to deforestation in other areas, possibly closer to me. The loss of national forest would affect the beauty of the US and remove another form of revenue, tourism. A large number of people come to the US every year just to experience the expansive national forests that the US boasts as important landmarks. The opening of Tongass could just be a gateway to destruction of more US national forests. I am not totally opposed to logging in the Tongass national forest though. I respect that the logging process can create jobs and bolster the American economy, but it has to be done right. Safe logging practices like planting after cutting has to be practiced, the worst problem with logging is that most of the time it is clear cutting. A safe logging practice could go a long way towards helping the forests as well. As long as dead trees are removed as well as trees that can be strategically removed as to not destroy the health of the forest. Safe logging practices are used around the world and are effective, but they still are dangerous to the forest if they go unchecked. Above all I wish for the forests to be protected so people can enjoy the forests for recreation and protect the biodiversity of North America.

[Position]

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