

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/16/2019 5:15:22 PM

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Comments: I've just returned from an extended trip in Glacier Bay National Park and the Tongass National Forest. I'm greatly concerned about the proposed project on a number of levels:

1. This subtropical rainforest is a major part of the lungs of the planet. With the Amazon on fire and being attacked, for decades, for farming and development, the Tongass may end up as the largest, pristine, remaining forest on the planet, capturing substantial amounts of carbon and producing enormous amounts of oxygen.
2. The Tongass provides habitat for a great number of species of plants and animals. Since clear-cutting is the most economical method of logging, it could easily lead to loss of habitat as well as erosion and runoff that will pollute the adjacent streams and inlets.
3. I've read that logging is a minor player in the overall economy of Alaska and a small portion of the work force. So will the addition of logging jobs offset the jobs potentially lost in the fishing and tourist sector? Who wants to visit an area that includes clear cut spaces. This is already an eyesore in California, Oregon and Washington.
4. Referring to number 3 above, will the tax revenue to the State offset that lost from tourism and fishing?
5. These are public lands. Does the public benefit from this project? Who profits from this project? Will this be another case of the powerful few gaining at the expense of the public? Are there not other, already managed forests in the lower 48 that are an alternative? Do we really have a lumber shortage?

As the Tongass is a National Park and protected by existing laws and policies, it is an asset that every American should cherish and preserve for future generations.