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Comments: In the light of the current climate change crisis old growth forests have a critical role to play in carbon sequestering. Carbon sequestering replacement by logged and replanted forests does not match the performance of old growth forests. The process of road building and logging also puts carbon from fossil fuels into the environment. In addition, nearly all of America's old growth forests have already been harvested. We need to preserve the small remanent that remains as a precious heritage.

The Tongas National Forest is also home to endangered species that need continued protection. While the state of Alaska may desire the temporary benefit of logging and adding recreational facilities in this forest, the long term costs of such action for the future of the country and our planet far outweigh fleeting economic gains. Roadless Rule protection should be continued for Tongass. It is the best plan for long term environmental as well as economic benefits for Alaska and the American people who jointly own National Forest Land.

[Position]