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First name: Merle Last name: Stewart Organization:

Title:

Comments: Opening Tongass to commercial development is .

It will impact all Alaskans with detrimental ecological fallout, and is another example of government choosing selective ignorance by denying common sense and scientific facts about climate change for political and financial gain, with no regard to the needs of the state, the will of it's residents, and our future.

We are already suffering from climate change. Tourism is a major economic product of the state. What will happen to this major industry and the income it brings for our state? How many tourists will pay to come here, bolstering state and local economies, to see decimated old-growth forests, eroded and denigrated coastlines, pit mines and miles of dead sea mammals and birds?

The Forestry Service should make impartial decisions based on accurate, scientifically substantiated information, with local input. The decision made to open Tongass to development is a political decision, made to benefit politicians, not Alaskans.

Protect our lands and our future.

[Position]